

Army Gives Up Srinagar's Tattoo Ground; Amusement Park to Replace Garrison

Defence Ministry Sign Pact With Ministry Of Home Affairs Through J&K Govt For Transfer Of 139.04 acres Of Defence Land

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development, the army has finally given up the prime land spread over 139.4 acres in Srinagar as Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through the UT government.

The land called Tattoo Ground in Batmaloo quarter of the city will be used for the tourism promotion now and J&K administration is all set to come up with a first ever world class Amusement Park on it, official sources said.

MoD signed MoU with MHA through UT government for



6 WE WILL MAKE HONEST AND DEDICATED EFFORTS TO FULFIL ALL THE CONDITIONS of the MoU and develop tourism and other related activities in such a way that the tourists visiting Kashmir valley find Tattoo ground as one of the most attractive destinations.”

transfer of defence land measuring 139.04 acres land at Tattoo Ground Srinagar for the promotion of tourism, an official spokesman said adding J&K LG Manoj Sinha presided over the MoU signing ceremony at Rajbhawan Srinagar.

Official sources said that the MoU was represented through

Local Military Authority of Tattoo Ground Garrison and Defence Estate Officer Kashmir Circle Srinagar. “The land will be handed over by the Ministry of Defence within the period of 120 days. The LG hailed army’s cooperation and termed the decision as a momentous occasion for developing | More on P10

Intruder Shot Dead In Arnia Sector: BSF

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force personnel along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday in the second such incident in a week, officials said.

The intruder was gunned down by the alert border guards when he ignored the repeated warnings and tried to flee after managing to cross the border fence near Jabowal border outpost in Arnia sector around 1.45 am, they said.

Confirming the incident, a BSF spokesman said, “In the intervening night of July 30-July 31 July, the vigilant troops observed suspicious movement across the International Border (IB) in Arnia border area.

“An intruder was observed approaching towards the BSF fence and the troops neutralised him and | More on P10

Phenomenal Transformation In J&K In Last 4 Yrs: LG

- Says Discriminatory Policies Imposed For 70 Years Is Gone
- ‘People Have Freedom To Live Their Life As They Desire, Rather Than Dictated By Others’



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stating that the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir in less than four years has been phenomenal, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday that discriminatory policies imposed for 70 years are gone and citizens are getting equal opportunities for development in the Union Territory.

He made these remarks while addressing a roundtable discussion on development scenario in J&K organised by India Foundation. He also reiterated his administration’s resolve in establishing peace rather than buying it.

“The transformation of J&K UT in less than four years has been phenomenal. We have decimated discriminatory systems prevalent for almost seven-decades and implemented inclusive policies that fostered development and touched the lives of millions. People have freedom to live their life as they desire, rather than dictated by others,” Sinha said.

In his address through video conferencing, the LG shared the stellar journey of Jammu Kashmir towards peace, prosperity and unprecedented development. He highlighted the reforms introduced by the government to establish a peaceful and conducive environment empowering the citizens of Jammu Kashmir.

“For the first time after independence,

the common citizen of J&K can think freely and express their feelings without any fear from separatist-terrorist networks. It is one of the biggest transformations common man is witnessing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” he said.

Apart from fast economic development and unparalleled growth with equity, Sinha said, there is a rapid social change which is reflected in day to day lives of common citizens.

“There is a growing aspiration in the society to excel,” he said.

“Peace is the first step in the journey of development. And, we do not believe in buying peace but in establishing peace. There is no distinction in policy and intent. Discriminatory policies imposed for 70 years are gone and citizens are getting equal opportunities for development,” he added.

Referring to some major events held this year, the LG said that the peaceful conduct of the G20 meeting, Muharram procession being taken out in Kashmir after 34 years, revival of cinemas, besides unprecedented tourists visiting the Union Territory has sent the message that J&K is on the move.

Ram Madhav, President India Foundation; B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog; Alok Bansal, Director, India Foundation; Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), eminent personalities, experts, senior functionaries and | More on P10

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Search For Missing Soldier Cops Quiz People, Examine Call Records To Find Clue

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police questioned a dozen persons and examined the call details of armyman Javid Ahmad Wani who went missing a couple of days ago from his native Kulgam district while on leave, officials said on Monday. The soldier, posted in the Ladakh region, was supposed to join work on Sunday. His car was found abandoned at Paranhall.

A dozen of people have been questioned and the call records are being examined as the search operation to locate the missing soldier continues, officials said.


Wani’s father has appealed to those who might have abducted his son to release him alive since he was the only breadwinner of the family.

“I appeal to all the brothers to let him



go alive. If he has troubled anyone, I apologise for that. If they want I will get him to quit his job as well,” Mohammad Ayoub Wani told reporters on Sunday.

Wani said his son had gone out to buy meat on Saturday evening as he was to go back to his place of posting on Sunday. | More on P10

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'He Tied Their Hands: Mehbooba On PDP-BJP Coalition Govt

Says Mufti Sayeed Took Assurance From BJP Govt That Art- 370 Will Not Be Touched

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had put a precondition before Prime Minister Narendra Modi for government formation in Jammu and Kashmir in 2015, seeking an assurance that Article 370 of the Constitution will not be removed by the Centre, party president Mehbooba Mufti claimed on Monday.

Addressing a gathering on the 24th foundation day of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) here, Mufti said her father Sayeed was not power hungry and wanted to deliver Jammu and Kashmir from its problems and troubles.

"When Mufti sahib had 28 seats (in the 2014 Assembly polls), he met Modi and gave his list of conditions for government formation. He took the assurance from the BJP government (at the Centre) that (Article) 370 will not be touched. He tied their hands. He was not after power, otherwise he would not take three months to form the (coalition) government (in Jammu and Kashmir)," she said.



Mufti alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) backtracked from its commitments and accused it of trying to pressure on the people of Jammu and Kashmir into subjugation.

"The BJP wants us to throw in the towel. We will not do it... If all of us -- Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Gujjars, Paharis -- stand

united, we will make the BJP give up," she said.

Mufti, the only woman to become the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said her father had the courage to stand for people.

"Despite having only 16 MLAs (in the 2002 Assembly polls, Mufti sahib told the Congress (which had 20 seats) that he

would form the government only if talks were held with Pakistan and separatists," she said.

Mufti said her father did not believe in misleading people and firmly believed that Jammu and Kashmir's future was with India.

"Despite being the (Pradesh) Congress president, he accepted the decision taken by Indira Gandhi in 1975 to bring back Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah into the mainstream," she said.

Mufti said during her father's first term as chief minister, significant progress was made on both the reconciliation and development fronts in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Advani-Hurriyat talks were held, the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road was reopened and development work got a fillip," she said.

Mufti asked the BJP what did it achieve by doing away with the special constitutional provisions regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

"What have you achieved in Kashmir? Jawaharlal Nehru came to Lal Chowk and unfurled the national flag with thousands of Kashmiris present. Today, you hoist the tricolour and there is

no Kashmiri there, only security people," she said.

Mufti alleged that the BJP is trying to convert the entire country into Manipur and appealed to the opposition parties to stay united in order to counter these attempts.

"Manipur is just a trailer, the film is yet to start. The BJP wants to turn the entire country into Manipur. My appeal to the opposition is to stay united if they want to save India. Do not get into number games," she said.

More than 160 people have lost their lives in Manipur in ethnic clashes that have been going on for almost three months.

Mufti hit out at the government for making a provision for nominating Kashmiri migrants to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, instead of reserving seats for the community.

"You have kept a provision for nominating Kashmiri Pandits. If you have the courage, you should reserve the seats and we will vote for them just like we have done in the past. Constituencies with a Muslim population have elected Pyare Lal Handoo. | More on P10

Employees Attending I-Day Event To Be Treated On Duty

Independence Day order to Govt employees: Selfies with flag as DP



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday ordered all its employees to participate in the August 15 function.

"Independence Day is an important national event celebrated on 15th August every year. All government employees are duty bound to participate in commemorating such an important turning point in the history of our Nation," reads a government order.

"...all the officers/officials in the Union territory stationed at Srinagar/Jammu are therefore enjoined upon to attend the main function of the Independence Day Celebrations, 2023 at the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Sonawar, Srinagar/Maulana Azad Stadium,

Jammu respectively, as part of their official duty," it said, adding, "Any absence shall be only permissible with prior permission of their immediate superior."

Earlier directions were issued in a meeting chaired by chief secretary A.K. Mehta in Srinagar on Wednesday, July 26 asking Govt employees to change their display pictures (DPs) on their social media handles with selfie images of 'Jhanda, Mitti and Diya' (flag, soil and earthen lamp).

Employees have been directed to change DPs on their social media handles ahead of August 15 so that they join the Centre's Meri Mitti Mera Desh campaign this Independence Day.

"All government officers and the public at large will hoist the Tricolour over their houses. | More on P10

Govt To Deploy CoBRA Commandos In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: In a move aimed at hot pursuit of militants in the forest areas of Kashmir Valley, the government of India has given nod to deployment of elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) commandos in rural areas of Kashmir Valley.

CoBRA also known as 'jungle warriors', is a specialized force which was raised by the government of India for guerrilla and jungle warfare type operations to deal with Maoists.

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer told Kashmir Observer that the 205 CoBRA battalion, currently stationed in Bihar where Naxal activities have been low, is being prepared for counter-terrorism operations in Kashmir region.

He further said the



commandos, who arrived here a few months ago, went through the training in different centres and are ready to be deployed in the north and southern part of Kashmir.

"Since Naxalism is shrinking, the CoBRA commandos have been shifted to the Valley to assist the existing counter-insurgency grid," said the official.

He further said that the com-

20-Month Wait Is Over Magray Family Offers Prayers At Grave Of Slain Son In Kupwara

Press Trust of India

Jammu: After a protracted legal battle, the Magray family of Ramban district visited the grave of their slain son Amir Magray in north Kashmir's Kupwara and offered special prayers.

Magray was among four people killed in Hyderabad on the outskirts of Srinagar on November 15, 2021. Police had claimed that they were militants and buried their bodies in a graveyard in Kupwara.

His father Mohammad Latief said the family feels relieved after offering prayers at the grave of their son.

A compensation of Rs 5 lakh, handed over to the family from the Jammu and Kashmir administration, was termed



by Lateif as washing away the "blot of terrorism" on his head.

Latief, his wife and eight other relatives performed 'Fateh Khawani (special prayers)' at the grave in the Wadoora village of the Handwara belt in north Kashmir on Sunday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police in 2020 decided that it would not hand over the bodies of "terrorists" to family members and instead bury them at different places to avoid a law-and-order situation. | More on P10

HC Quashes Govt Order To Take Over Kishtwar Madrasahs

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed a government order to take over some madrasahs in Kishtwar district, saying an official order issued last year cannot be universally applied to all such institutions in the Union Territory.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar passed a three-page order last week after hearing a petition that challenged a July 3 order of the Kishtwar additional deputy commissioner, directing the management of Charitable Educational Trust



to immediately hand over the possession of their madrasahs (Islamic seminaries) to the administration.

The petitioners informed the court that the impugned order was violative of the principles of natural justice as no

opportunity of being heard was given to them.

Besides, the trust has no links with the Maulana Ali Miyan Educational Trust, Bathindi, the functioning of which was taken over on the orders of the Jammu divisional commissioner on June 14 last year for misusing funds received from foreign NGOs, they said.

The government lawyer confirmed that the madrasahs run by the petitioners are different from those of the Maulana Ali Miyan Educational Trust.

However, he submitted that an investigation | More on P10

MHA Extends Basant Rath's Suspension

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The suspension of IPS officer Basant Rath, who served the Jammu and Kashmir Police in various capacities, has been extended by six months till January 2024, according to an order issued here.

The Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 2000 batch was placed under suspension in July 2020 for allegedly displaying insubordination to his superiors despite a court order.

As per the order issued by

the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Rath shall continue to be under suspension for a further period of 180 days from July 31, 2023.

"...the President, after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the recommendations of the Central Review Committee, has come to the conclusion that Shri Basant Kumar Rath, IPS (AGMUT: 2000) shall continue to remain under suspension for a further period of 180 days beyond 31.07.2023 i.e., up to 27.01.2024," the order dated July 28 said. | More on P10

Govt Finding Ways To Transform Lives Of Pastoral Community: LG

Press Trust Of India

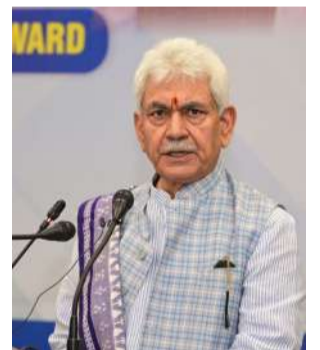
Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is working to find ways to transform the lives of the pastoral community in the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on pastoral challenges and the community's role in tackling the rangeland degradation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Recently, one of the secretaries has taken part in a meeting regarding this community which I saw as an opportunity, which is promoting sustainable pastoral livelihood, preservation of bio-diversity and tackling climate change that can help in improving the socio-economic status of J-K," Sinha said.

Shahid Chaudhary, CEO of Mission Youth, said the 2026 is being declared as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

It is to take actions on making policies that will support these communities, he said.



Rashmi Singh, a core member of the South Asian Regional Support Group for International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, said the workshop aims to understand the lives of the pastoral community and find solutions to their problems.

"It is being held in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Culture. It has two major components - to understand the culture, problems and struggles of Gujjar, Bakarwal and Chohan communities and to find the solutions to their issues," Singh said. Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, an | More on P10

S H O R T T A K E S

Soldier Shoots Self Dead

An army man on Monday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

S Surendra shot himself while on duty at an army camp in Baramulla town in north Kashmir, they said, adding that he died due to the gunshot injuries.

This is the second such incident in the last two days. A police constable shot himself with his service rifle in the Rajbagh area of the city on Sunday night.

Landmine Destroyed In Poonch

A rusted landmine was found near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said. An Army patrol party detected the landmine which was apparently washed away by rains at Phawari Gali in the vicinity of the border fence in Mankote sector, they said.

The officials said the landmine was destroyed by the bomb disposal squad in a controlled explosion without causing any damage. The forward areas near the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system.

2 Men Injured In Bear Attacks

Two people were injured by wild bears in two separate attacks in North Kashmir's Baramulla and Kupwara districts. 38-year-old Manzoor Ahmad Ganie was attacked and injured by a black bear on Monday morning in his native Muqam Shaheed Mir village in Sopore area of Baramulla district, reports said. Ganie was removed to the nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to sub-district hospital, Sopore for advanced treatment.

In a similar attack, | More on P10

Elderly Man Found Dead

An elderly man was found dead on Monday along a water body in Khudwani area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. The locals of Khudwani area on Monday morning spotted the body of an elderly man floating inside Veshow Nallah, reports said. A police team immediately reached the spot after the villagers passed information to them. The body, reports said, was retrieved by the policemen and taken for identification. The deceased has been identified as Nazir Ahmad Sofi (65), son of | More on P10

3000 Eye Flu Cases In Jammu In A Week

Jammu has witnessed a sudden rise in cases of conjunctivitis, commonly known as eye flu, with nearly 3,000 infections reported in just over a week, officials said on Monday. Doctors are advising the infected patients to isolate themselves at home and avoid public places.

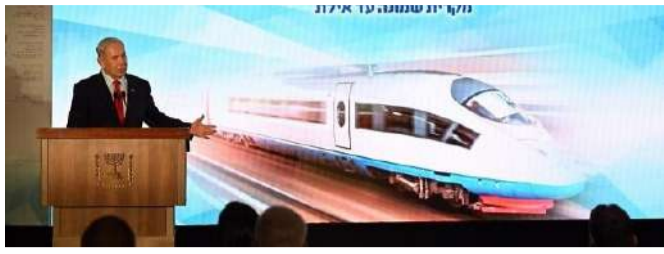
"Nearly 3,000 cases of eye flu have been reported in Jammu over the past one week. At least 200 to 250 patients with eye flu symptoms visit the outpatient department (OPD) daily. Out of them, 70 to 80 percent are | More on P10

1,550 Pilgrims Leave Jammu For Amarnath

A batch of 1,550 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar camp here on Monday for the twin base camps in Kashmir to undertake the onward journey to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine.

A record number of over 3.88 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the shrine since the beginning of the 62-day-long annual pilgrimage on July 1. The yatra will conclude on August 31. Of the 1,550 pilgrims in this smallest batch to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp, 1,068 are performing the yatra through the traditional 48-km | More on P10

Israel Hopes \$27bn Rail Line Will Reach Saudi Arabia



Agencies

Israel will build a \$27 billion rail expansion that will connect its outlying areas to metropolitan Tel Aviv, with the hope of extending the line all the way to Saudi Arabia in the future, Reuters reported on 31 July.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made the announcement following a trip by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan to Saudi Arabia last week to promote a normalization agreement between Tel Aviv and Riyadh based on the framework of the Abraham Accords.

During his weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu promoted the "One Israel Project," which seeks to allow Israelis to reach government and business centers from anywhere in the country in under two hours. The new rail line is planned to link the northern city of Kiryat Shmona to the Red Sea resort of Eilat in the far south.

"I would like to add that in the future, we will also be able to transport cargo by rail from Eilat to our Mediterranean, and will also be able to link Israel by train to Saudi Arabia and the

Arabian peninsula," Netanyahu said.

Earlier this month, Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Washington was promoting a plan to build a railway connection from the Gulf to Israel and from there to Europe.

The Hebrew paper also reported that plans were underway to connect the Gulf countries to Israeli via road in an effort to increase trade and reduce shipping costs by truck.

The "land bridge" would stretch between Israel and the UAE, passing through Saudi Arabia and Jordan before reaching Israeli ports on the Mediterranean.

A Foreign Ministry document obtained by Yedioth Ahronoth stated that, "The Abraham Accords have changed the political reality in our region and opened up new transportation routes. A regional land connectivity project between the Gulf states and Israel will be a game-changer that will upgrade global trade in the Middle East, improve Israel's position as a hub for transporting goods from the Far East to the Western world and highlight the role of the United States in the region."

Denmark Searches for Legal Loophole to Outlaw Qur'an Burnings

Agencies

COPENHAGEN/STOCKHOLM: More Qur'an burnings took place in Sweden and Denmark on Monday as the governments of the two Nordic countries said they were examining ways to legally limit such acts in a bid to de-escalate growing tensions with several Muslim countries.

Denmark and Sweden have seen several protests in recent weeks where copies of the Qur'an have been burned, or otherwise damaged, prompting outrage in Muslim countries, which have demanded the Nordic governments put a stop to the burnings.

The Danish government said on Sunday it would seek to find a "legal tool" that could enable authorities to intervene in such protests, if deemed to entail "significant negative consequences for Denmark, not least with regard to security."

"The fact that we are signalling both in Denmark and abroad that we are working on it will hopefully help de-escalate the problems we are facing," Rasmussen told journalists following a meeting with foreign policy speakers of parliament on Monday.

"It is not because we feel



pressured to do so, but it is our political analysis that it is in the best interest of all of us," Rasmussen said, adding: "We shouldn't just sit and wait for this to explode."

Even so, Qur'an burnings took place in both countries on Monday. In Stockholm an Iraqi refugee behind several protests in recent weeks appeared to burn a copy of the Qur'an outside the Swedish parliament. In Denmark, anti-Muslim protesters burned the Qur'an outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in Copenhagen, with several more planned for later in the day.

The Nordic countries have deplored the burnings of the Qur'an but cannot prevent it under constitutional laws protecting freedom of speech. However, both govern-

ments have now said they are considering legal changes that would allow authorities to prevent further burnings in special situations.

The Swedish government said this month it is examining a similar solution but right-wing parties in both countries have denounced the initiatives, with some saying freedom of speech cannot be compromised.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said on Monday that he had sent letters to all 57 countries in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to explain Sweden's right to assembly and condemned islamophobic acts.

OIC foreign ministers will convene in an extraordinary session on Monday to discuss the recent developments.



ISIS Behind Suicide Blast At Political Rally That Killed 44 In Pakistan: Police

Press Trust of India

Police in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said on Monday that an initial probe has suggested that the banned terrorist group ISIS is behind the suicide attack on a political convention of a hardline Islamist party that killed at least 44 people and injured over 100.

The attack took place on Sunday when more than 400 members of the conservative Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) party, known for its links to hardline political Islam, had gathered for a meeting under a canopy in the town of Khar, which borders Afghanistan.

"We are still investigating and gathering information on the Bajaur blast. The initial probe shows that banned outfit Daesh (ISIS) was involved," Geo News quoted police officials as saying.

The police said they were gathering details of the suicide bomber, while the bomb disposal squad team was collecting evidence from the site.

District Police Officer Nazir Khan said three suspects have been taken into custody.

Provincial police chief Akhtar Hayat Khan said 10 kilograms of explosives set off by a suicide bomber were used in the blast. He said the bomber was among the attendees seated in the front rows of the convention.

Local police said the attacker detonated explosives near the convention's stage.

According to police and witnesses, the blast occurred as soon as JUI-F District Amir Maulana Abdul Rasheed reached the stage.

The deceased included JUI-F Tehsil Khar Maulana Ziaullah Jan, Navagai Tehsil General Secretary Maulana Hameedullah, District Information Secretary Mujahid Khan and dozens of party workers.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) caretaker health minister Riaz Anwar said on Sunday night that 44 people lost their lives while more than 100 were injured in the attack.

MP Police Sees 'Int'l Conspiracy' in Anju's Visit to Pakistan

Press Trust of India

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said the state police will examine the "international conspiracy" angle in the episode involving a 34-year-old Indian mother of two children who travelled to a remote village in Pakistan to marry her Facebook friend.

Anju - who now goes by the name of Fatima after converting to Islam - on July 25 married her 29-year-old friend Nasrullah, whose home is in the Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She has also received some money and a piece of land as gifts for embracing the religion.

The two became friends on Facebook in 2019.

On Saturday, Mohsin Khan Abbasi, the chief executive officer of a real estate company based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, visited Anju and Nasrullah at their residence.

He presented Anju a cheque, the amount of which was not known, and a land document

in the presence of her husband to make her feel at home in Pakistan.

Anju's father Gaya Prasad Thomas, a resident Bouna village near Tekanpur town in MP's Gwalior district, last week said she was as good as dead for her family back home.

Asked about the woman's case, Mishra on Monday told reporters, "The fact that Anju is being welcomed in Pakistan and getting gifts is raising several doubts. That's why I have directed the special branch of police to examine the case minutely, whether it is an international conspiracy or not?"

The minister said he has told the officials to keep the "conspiracy angle" in focus as the matter is related to the state's Gwalior district.

Anju's father Thomas last week said, "The way she ran away leaving her two children and husband behind...she did not even think of her children. If she wanted to do this, she should have divorced her husband first. She is no more (alive) for us."



Manipur Video 'Horrendous', Don't Want State Police To Handle It: Supreme Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday termed as "horrendous" the video of two women being paraded naked in Manipur and sought information about steps taken so far in the FIRs lodged, saying now it will not want the state police to probe the matter as they virtually handed over the women to the rioting mob.

The top court said it may constitute an SIT or a committee comprising former judges to monitor the situation in the strife-torn state subject to hearing the law officers representing the Centre and Manipur on Tuesday.

The Bench, which listed a clutch of pleas on Manipur violence for hearing on Tuesday, said though the incident of stripping and parading these women came to light on May 4, why the Manipur police took 14 days to register an FIR on May 18.

"What was police doing?"



Why was an FIR in video case transferred to magisterial court on June 24, that is after one month and three days," asked the bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

"This is horrendous. There are media reports that these women were handed over to mob by the police. We also do not want the police to handle it," the Bench said.

When Attorney General R Venkataramani sought time for responding to the que-

ries, the Bench said it was running out of time and there was "a great need" for giving a healing touch to the state, for those who lost everything including their loved ones and their homes.

The Bench asked the state government to provide the details about the number of 'zero FIRs' registered in the state torn by ethnic violence and the arrests made so far.

A zero FIR can be filed in any police station regardless of whether the offence was committed within its jurisdiction.

'Baby Will Be Born Alive': Court Rejects Abortion For Girl, 17

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has refused permission to a 17-year-old girl to abort her 24-week pregnancy, saying it was the result of a consensual relationship and the baby would be born alive at this stage.

A division bench of Justices Ravindra Ghuge and Y G Khobragade, in its order on July 26, noted the girl would turn 18 this month and that she was in a consensual relationship with the boy since December 2022.

The bench in its order said the victim girl and the accused boy had developed physical relations several times. The girl herself brought a pregnancy kit and confirmed the pregnancy in February this year, it noted.

"Therefore, it appears that the petitioner victim is not innocent and she was having full maturity of understanding. If the petitioner was not interested to carry the pregnancy she could have sought permission for termination soon after confirmation of the pregnancy," the HC said.

The girl had filed the petition in

the HC through her mother, seeking to terminate the pregnancy claiming she was a "child" within the meaning of provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, a court's permission is required to terminate pregnancy beyond 20 weeks, if it is found the pregnancy poses a threat to the life or health of the mother or the child.

The plea claimed the pregnancy would cause grave injury to the mental health of the petitioner who wishes to study to become a doctor in future.

The high court took note of a report submitted by the medical board after examining the victim girl, which said there was no anomaly in the foetus and the growth was normal.

The medical board opined that a child born if pregnancy is aborted at this stage would show signs of life, but would not be capable of independent survival. "If a baby is born alive even after forcible delivery considering the request of the mother to terminate the pregnancy then it would lead to an underdeveloped child with chances of deformities," the HC said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HORTICULTURE OFFICER GANDERBAL

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QUOTATION NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed Dasti-Quotations affixed with revenue stamps of Rs. 2/- are invited for the year 2023-24 from reputed registered Govt. & Private Service Providers for repairment of various Departmental Farm Machinery in District Ganderbal. The interested persons are advised to visit on spot for check/verifying of said Departmental Machinery. Dasti Quotations, sealed properly in envelopes, without cuttings are to be deposited in the office of Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal, by or before 07.08.2023 upto 03:00 pm during office hours, the Quotations will be opened on 08.08.2023 at 11:30 am in the office of CHO Ganderbal, in presence of quotationers who wish to be present.

S.No	Name of Nursery/Orchard	Particulars of Machinery	Quantity / No.
01.	FPN Wussan	Brush Cutter	01 No.
		Weeder Below 8 BHP	01 No.
		Big Weeder Tyres	02 No.
		Small Electric Motors	02 No's for Semi-Hi-Tech PG House.
02.	FPN Tehsilbagh	Power Weeder 8 BHP	03 No's
		Motor Power Sprayer	01 No.
		Chain Saw	01 No.
		Brush Cutter	01 No.
03.	Model Vine Yard Kralbagh	Power Weeder	01 No.
		Brush Cutter	01 No.
		Motor Power Sprayer	02 No.
		Irrigation Pump Set	02 No.

In case of any sub-standard/damaged item fitted in the farm Machinery during the repairment the concerned agency/ person shall be completely responsible.

DIPK-6114-23
DT: 31/07/2023

Sd/-
Chief Horticulture Officer,
Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN RECRUITMENT BOARD YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & REHABILITATION CENTRE WANGANPORA EIDGAH SRINAGAR 190010, TEL-0194-2455064

Selection list / Waiting list of candidates for the temporary post of Medical Officer, Pharmacist (for Drug De-Addiction Centre Anantnag) and Peon (for Youth Development & Rehabilitation Centre Eidgah, Srinagar) advertised vide Advertisement Notice dated 16-04-2023.

Selection list:-

S.No.	Name, parentage, address	Post	Monthly Honorarium	For Drug De-addiction Centre
1.	Bashir Ahmad Najar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Najar R/o New Qazibagh, Anantnag	Medical Officer	Rs.27,500/-	Anantnag
2.	Mohammad Asif Sheikh S/o Abdul Gani Sheikh R/o Damhal Anantnag	Pharmacist	14,300/-	Anantnag
3.	Adil Nazir Dar S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o Gawkadal, Srinagar	Peon	7,000/-	YD&RC Eidgah, Srinagar

Waiting list:-

S.No.	Name with parentage	Post	Education Qualification / experience
1.	Humaira Jan D/o Jan Mubarak Ahmad R/o Bugam Kulgam	Medical Officer	MBBS, MCI, FMGE
2.	Asif Iqbal Lone S/o Mohammad Iqbal Lone R/o Hariwath Kulgam	Pharmacist	10+2 with 02 years Medical Assistant / Pharmacist Diploma.
3.	Danish Ali Dar S/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Hanjiwera Pattan	Peon	10th Pass

The recommendation of the aforementioned candidates is subject to genuineness of all academic certificates and character verification from Police / CID.

DIPK-6076-23
DT: 31/07/2023

Sd/-
Deputy Inspector General of Police,
CKR Srinagar

Yateem Foundation Commemorates 23rd Annual Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The speakers at the 23rd Annual Day commemoration on the theme "Social Service: Beacon of Hope", held at Tagore Hall Srinagar called for fool proof protection to the public institutions from grabbing by unscrupulous elements besides skill based education, utilization of expertise of learned senior citizens and comprehensive contribution for the welfare of orphans, widows, destitute and other vulnerable sections of the society.

They also emphasized the need to safeguard the monetary and material resources donated by common people for the upliftment of economically weaker sections particularly orphans and widows.

Addressing the sizeable gathering of volunteers, donors, well wishers, students and representatives of various voluntary organizations, former Principal Secretary to Govt of J&K Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest, urged the NGOs and voluntary organizations to refrain from misappropriation of Zakat and other donations to avoid wrath and punishment from Allah.

Dr Smaoon strongly advocated skill based education of the poor and needy students supported by J&K Yateem Foundation and other humanitarian organisations for which the UT and central governments have launched hundreds of such schemes. He said the managements of welfare organizations should avail the benefits of such schemes to put the downtrodden students on the path of progress, dignity and self-reliance.



A group of female tourists posing for a selfie at Hari Parbat fort in Srinagar amidst pleasant weather. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Missing Women Row Police Foils NC Women's Wing Lal Chowk March

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Monday foiled National Conference (NC) women's wing march to Lal Chowk against the mysterious disappearance of 10,000 women in J&K since 2019.

Scores of NC women's wing activists led by their State President, Shamima Firdous took out a protest rally from party headquarters Nawai-Subh against the alleged mysterious disappearances of 10,000 women in J&K since 2019.

Demanding the whereabouts of the missing women, protesters asked the government to hold an impartial probe into their mysterious disappearances and bring the perpetrator to justice.

They were shouting slogans against UT and central government's for allegedly being unable to trace the missing women, who they alleged have either been kidnapped or put on sale in outside states.

As soon as the marchers, amid sloganeering, reached near Tourist

Reception Center (TRC) Crossing, a posse of police deployed in advance prevented them from moving ahead. The marchers later dispersed peacefully.

Talking to the reporters, NC Women's Wing State President and former MLA Habakadal, Shamima Firdous while lamenting over the alleged inability of the government to trace the missing women, said why was the government silent on such a grave issue for the last five years.

She said the LG government on one hand claims

that the situation has normalized in the valley since the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A while on the other, 10,000 women are reported to have gone missing since the center revokes constitutional autonomy of the erstwhile state.

"We demand an impartial probe into the mysterious disappearances of our 10,000 sisters since 2019 in J&K. If the government makes tall claims of normalcy in J&K then why do these issues of major concern take place in our valley," she added.

- 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
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
13 Muharram
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:04
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:36
ISHA	9:09

This Day In History

- 30 BC - Octavian (later known as Augustus) enters Alexandria, Egypt, bringing it under the control of the Roman Republic
- 527 - Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire
- 607 - Ono no Imoko is dispatched as envoy to the Sui court in China (Traditional Japanese date: July 3, 607)
- 902 Aghlabid emir Ibrahim II of Ifriqiya destroys Taormina, Sicily
- 1021 - Synod of Pavia: emperor Henry II convicts married priest
- Declaration of War
- 1177 - Peace Treaty of Venice: Emperor Frederik I and Pope Alexander III
- 1203 - Alexius IV Angelus appointed co-regent of Byzantium
- 1291 Everlasting League forms, basis of Swiss Confederation (Independence)
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus lands on "Isla Santa" (Venezuela)
- 1664 - Battle at St Gotthard: Earl Raimondo Montecuccoli beats Ahmed Kiprulu
- 1690 - Battle at Staffarda: French army beats Victor Amadeus of Savoy
- 1714 - Monarch Georg Ludwig becomes King George I of England
- 1717 - Nicholas Rowe is appointed British Poet Laureate by George I
- 1732 - Foundations laid for Bank of England
- 1759 - Battle at Minden, Westfalen: Ferdinand van Brunswick beats France
- Historic Invention
- 1774 - Joseph Priestley, English theologian, chemist and author discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state
- 1780 - Sweden declares neutrality
- 1781 - British army under general Cornwallis occupies Yorktown, Virginia
- 1785 - Caroline Herschel becomes 1st woman to discover a comet
- 1789 - US Customs begins enforcing Tariff Act
- 1793 - France becomes 1st country to use the metric system
- 1798 - Battle of the Nile: British Royal Navy under Admiral Horatio Nelson attacks and decimates the French fleet at Aboukir Bay off the Nile Delta, Egypt

From KO Archives

Kashmiris Take To Soccer For Relief

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As peace slowly takes root in Kashmir, people are taking to soccer to forget the sound of gunshots and grenade blasts.

Football used to be played in the picturesque valley uptill the advent of militancy. Now, with the threat of this menace dwindling, hundreds of fans recently turned up at a polo ground to see a game of soccer.

The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) is taking the lead in organising matches so that traumatised people can forget their miseries.

"I think that people are getting a better opportunity and finding relief by watching these matches after two-three years," claimed Zameer Thakur, the president of the association Residents welcomed the resurgence of soccer in the valley.

Sayed Ahmad, a resident, said that for the past two years these matches were being organised and there was enjoyment around.

Over 300 budding players between 8-15 age groups participated in a JKFA championship in May, organised with Brazil's Troia's International Sports Academy

(Kashmir Observer, 01 August, 2007)

Public Notes

The mother's name of my Daughter in school records has been wrongly written as Romana Jan while her correct name is Nadiah Ramanah 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 Principal Gd Goenka School Sadrabal Srinagar within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.
Nasrullah Jan F/O Hurmat-Ul-Nissa Jan R/o Malik Sahib Safa Kadal Srinagar Kashmir

Public Notice

I intent to change the name/parentage in in my passport which were wrongly written previously. My correct name is Hafsa D/o Zainab and Muhammad Hidayatullah Mir. Anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before regional passport officer Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Hafsa, D/o: Zainab and Muhammad Hidayatullah Mir, R/o: Bandipora

Public Notice

My name and my mothers name has been wrongly spelled in my passport bearing number 36073696 as Ayesha and Zainub Begum respectively though my correct name as per my certificates is Aisha while my mothers name is Ziya Begum. Now I want to change the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the regional passport office, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Aisha D/O Mohammad Hidayatullah Mir and Ziya Begum R/O Bandipora

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: **Admission to the 10th Based (FMPHW/MMPHW) Paramedical Courses, 2023--Removal of deficiency in the documents thereof.**

- Reference:
- Notification No.025-BOPEE of 2023 dated 26-04-2023.
 - Notice No.010-BOPEE of 2023 dated 26-05-2023.
 - Notice No. 016-BOPEE of 2023 dated 21-06-2023.
 - Letter No. SC/491-10th Based Paramedical Diploma/2494 dated 15-06-2023 issued by the J&K Sports Council.

Notification No: 046 -BOPEE of 2023
Dated: 31-07-2023

It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned candidates that in order to prepare and notify the Provisional Merit List without any further delay, the Board has felt it necessary to give an opportunity to all such applicants listed in **Annexure-A** to this Notification to submit their deficient documents (as mentioned against their names) physically at the BOPEE Office Jammu/Srinagar by or before 04-08-2023 (upto 03:00 p.m) positively during the working days only, failing which their name(s) shall not be included in the Rank-wise Merit List, at their own risk & responsibility and shall not be considered for the counseling process. Further, no claim whatsoever in this regard shall under any circumstances be entertained by the Board.

Note:

- Any candidate who fails to submit his/her deficient documents upto the last date i.e 04.08.2023 till 03:00 p.m, his/her candidature shall be automatically cancelled.
- The candidate(s) who have uploaded their Expired/Invalid Category Certificates or more than one Category Certificates, are advised to submit their Valid/Renewed Category Certificate issued by the Competent Authority, physically at the BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar upto 04.08.2023 subject to the condition that their Category Certificate should have been issued by the Competent Authority by or before the last date i.e. 02-06-2023, fixed by the Board for filling up of the Online Application Forms as mentioned in various Notification/Notice/e-Information Brochure available on official website of the BOPEE, failing which they shall be automatically converted into Open Merit Category, if otherwise, found eligible under the said category.
- The candidature of the candidates appearing in the **Annexure-A** who have not been found eligible by the Board, is hereby rejected.
- No documents shall be accepted through the E-mail or Whatsapp format.
- The **Annexure-A** to this Notification shall remain only available on the official website of the Board viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in
- All the candidates are advised to remain in constant touch with the J&K BOPEE website for latest updates regarding counseling schedule and other important information with regard to the said course in their own interests as no E-mail or SMS shall be communicated from the Board in this context.

The other Terms & Conditions shall remain the same as notified by the Board through various Notifications /Notices/Information Brochure from time to time in this regard.

E & O E

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-19/2023

DIPK-NB-2323/23

Dated: 31-07-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Pulwama

E-AUCTION NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Pinjora, Shopian, the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No complaint" basis" on 21.08.2023 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd, Branch Pinjora, Shopian. The description of property, reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:

Description of the mortgaged properties (Put on sale)	Reserve Price
1. Land measuring 01 Kanal 03 ½ Marlas falling under Khasra No. 176 (11 M), 320 (12 ½ M), Khata No. 56 and Khewat No. 13 situated at Nully Poshwari, Tehsil and District Shopian standing in the name of Mr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat s/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Nully Poshwari, Shopian.	Rs.135,459 lacs
2. Land measuring 10 Kanals falling under Khasra No. 53 min (05 Kanals), Khata No. 56 and Khewat No. 13 and Khasra No.456/5 (05 Kanals), Khata No.116 and Khewat No. 25 situated at Nully Poshwari, Shopian standing in the name of Mr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Nully Poshwari, Shopian.	Rs.13,54,590/-
3. Land measuring 03 Kanals 12 ½ Marlas falling under Khasra No. 696 min, Khata No. 164 and Khewat No. 30 situated at Heff, Chitragam, Shopian standing in the name of Mr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Nully Poshwari, Shopian.	

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net (Contact Persons: Mr. Ram Sharma (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 - 6813 6844.). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 16.08.2023 upto 4.00 PM. The e-auction will be held on 21.08.2023 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat (Authorized Officer) Mobile No. 9541483385 & Mr. Syed Arshid (Branch Manager Pinjora, Shopian) Mobile No. 7006877036.

This publication is also a 15 days' Notice in terms of sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 to the borrower, mortgagor and the guarantors to pay the total outstanding of loan along with interest and other expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any, remaining outstanding along with interest and expenses will be recovered from them.

Dated: 28.07.2023
Place: Shopian
Sd/-
Bashir Ahmad Bhat
Authorized Officer
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com
DIPK-NB-2317/23 DATED: 31-07-2023

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 01-08-2023

Kashmir's Tourism Surge

After a prolonged hiatus, Kashmir is once again witnessing a remarkable surge in international tourist arrivals. From January 1 to June 19 this year, over 15,000 foreign tourists have flocked to the Valley. The surge in international tourists is a big leap from the figures of the previous year when only 4,028 foreign visitors arrived during the same period. The increase in numbers is being hailed as a positive sign of Kashmir's resurgence in the global tourism map.

Local administration has been working tirelessly to revive the tourism industry after a challenging three-decade long period of uncertainty. This has given a boost to tourism sector and local businesses. The renewed interest in Kashmir as a travel destination is expected to have a positive ripple effect on various industries, including hospitality, transportation, and handicrafts.

As the year progresses, authorities are optimistic that the numbers will continue to climb, and Kashmir will once again reclaim its position as one of the prominent destinations for holiday makers on the global travel map.

Last year, J&K witnessed a record over one crore tourists, contributing 7 percent to its GDP. To sustain this growth, the government has identified 300 new destinations for promotion, emphasizing green tourism, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the active participation of local communities. Such initiatives will not only enhance tourism but also contribute to the region's overall development. The rise in the number of movies filmed in J&K further reveals the region's increasing popularity and the positive impact it has on the local economy and people's lives.

Recently, the LG Sinha also set an ambitious goal of hosting two crore tourists in the UT in 2023. But the administration needs to focus on building and upgrading the infrastructure before bringing more tourists to the region. This includes improving transportation infrastructure, providing quality accommodation, ensuring basic amenities, and addressing security concerns. Only then can the UT truly capitalize on its potential as a tourism destination. Over the last three years, Kashmir Valley has been largely peaceful, paving the way for the spurt in tourism. But tourism shouldn't be the only indicator of peace and the government knows it very well. So, we need more steps to ensure the gains of the past three years are consolidated and enjoyed by all people. For example, it is about time that the central government takes steps to hold Assembly polls in the union territory.

OTHER OPINION

Global growth is looking up

In the July update of its world economic outlook, the International Monetary Fund has raised its forecast for global growth this year, signaling that the underlying economic momentum is stronger than previously believed. The IMF now expects the world economy to grow at 3 per cent in 2023, up 0.2 percentage points from its estimate in April. This upward revision reflects improving prospects across both advanced economies as well as emerging market and developing countries. Alongside, the Fund now expects global inflation to fall from 8.7 per cent in 2022 to 6.8 per cent in 2023, and further to 5.2 per cent in 2024. Core inflation, though, is expected to fall more gradually — from 6.5 per cent in 2022 to 4.7 per cent in 2024. This does suggest that, in parts of the world, interest rates are likely to be higher for longer.

The Fund's forecasts show that even though growth for advanced economies has been revised upwards for this year, it will slow down from 2.7 per cent in 2022 to 1.5 per cent in 2023. In comparison, emerging economies are expected to sustain their growth momentum — the IMF expects them to grow at 4 per cent this year as well. But, with several economies witnessing significant upward revisions to their growth estimates — for instance, Brazil's growth forecast has been revised upwards by 1.2 percentage points, Spain by 1 percentage point, Russia by 0.80 percentage points, and UK by 0.70 percentage points — it does indicate that economic activity has across the board proven to be more resilient than previously believed.

The IMF now expects the Indian economy to grow at 6.1 per cent in 2023, up 0.2 percentage points from its earlier estimate. Growth is expected to edge upwards to 6.3 per cent in the year after. The upward revision is premised on continuing momentum from the stronger than expected growth in the last quarter — a consequence of healthy investment activity. Data from the National Statistical Office had shown that investments rose by 8.9 per cent during January-March, up from 8 per cent during October-December. The IMF isn't alone, however. Fitch has recently raised its forecast for the Indian economy to 6.3 per cent, from 6 per cent earlier. And the Asian Development Bank has retained its growth forecast at 6.4 per cent. But considering the downside risks to growth, in an uncertain global and domestic environment, the priorities for policy makers, as the Fund has also underlined, remain the same — bring down inflation, maintain financial stability and rebuild fiscal buffers.

The Indian Express



LG Sinha Joined Zuljanah Procession In Downtown on 8th Muharram, July 29, 2023/ File Photo

What the Historic Muharram Procession Foretells

The historic muharram procession being allowed via Lal Chowk after 34 years is an achievement of LG Manoj Sinha and is also an indication that now is the right time to hold Assembly elections as well as to restore J&K's statehood

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Back in 1987, as a school boy from valley's Tyndale Biscoe School, I had seen the Muharram procession for the first time in Lalchowk - Srinagar's city centre. It was the 8th Muharram and while rushing to catch my bus from the SRTC bus stand, I made way for a huge procession. I followed thousands of protestors who were led by Maulana Abbas Ansari. The memory is vivid, even now, perhaps because since 1989, no such muharram procession ever passed through the heart of the city.

I would always wonder why the 8th Muharram procession wasn't allowed. That is until I grew up and found political reasons surrounding it.

Successive governments in J&K had given the impression that if allowed, the procession would lead to law and order problems. Thus, political leadership would always rely on police and security clearance for it. In hindsight, there were indeed challenges for the authorities as they suspected separatist groups could hijack the event. Nonetheless, the governments could have taken up this challenge. For 33 years they were indecisive on it.

Procession passes via Lal Chowk

Now, after a thirty-four-year-long ban, Shia mourners were finally allowed to take out the 8th Muharram procession through the traditional route from Guru Bazaar to Dalgate via MA Road. Due credits need to be given to the J&K administration led by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for this bold decision.

Until the night of 7th Muharram, there were speculations that the procession may not be allowed, as the walkout of Imran Ansari from the Muharram meeting with LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary had exacerbated the issue. But the last minute change of heart has not only brought great relief to devout Shia Muslims who were craving for this day but also laurels for the LG administration for this bold and historic decision. And that was not all. The decision by Lieutenant Governor to personally participate in the 10th Muharram procession in the old city Srinagar was indeed a bold move. Wearing a black kurta Mr Sinha drove to downtown Srinagar and joined crowds of thousands becoming the first constitutional head to do so.

There were also top brass of the government, including Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners who all wore black.

Symbolism has great value in our part of the world and by this move, LG admin has outsmarted all politicians who had preceded him.

Testimony to Normalcy

LG Manoj Sinha while paying glowing tributes to the Karbala martyrs said:

"I bow to the martyrs of Karbala and recall sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain and his ideals. Today is a historic occasion for Shia brethren in Kashmir valley as after 34 years 8th Muharram procession is taking place on the traditional route"

He further said that it was also a testimony to change and normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir

regimes before him that claimed the procession had the potential to disturb peace. He thanked LG administration for lifting the unjustified ban saying Shias were not an ungrateful community to not thank those who took this decision after 34 years as previous regimes only used force to curb it. He acknowledged the situation in Kashmir has improved.

Addressing 9th Muharram gathering at Alamgiri Bazar, Molvi Masroor Abbas also gave credit of 8th Muharram procession to the youth who struggled all these years and paved the way for its restoration through the traditional route. He said that the Government should not suspect that any sectarian clashes will take place in Srinagar or that anti-national elements will seek political benefits from it. Neither should any political party use it for

“Successive governments in J&K had given the impression that if allowed, the procession would lead to law and order problems. Thus, political leadership would always rely on police and security clearance for it. In hindsight, there were indeed challenges for the authorities as they suspected separatist groups could hijack the event

and the entire world was witnessing the commitment and determination of the government to ensure a peaceful environment, freedom, love, compassion and harmony in society.

While giving credit to LG administration for allowing the 8th Muharram procession, former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah and National Conference leader welcomed the decision taken by the administration headed by LG Manoj Sinha. He, however, said that authorities must also take some more steps to restore actual normalcy in J&K. He said there should be no restrictions at the Srinagar Jamia Masjid and Friday and Eid prayers should be allowed. He also appealed to the Govt to lift all the restrictions on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq so that he can fulfil his religious obligations at Jamia Masjid Srinagar by participating in Friday prayers.

Masroor hails LG

Even Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, president of Ittehadul Muslimeen, hailed the decision saying that the peaceful 8th Muharram procession had given a lie to all those

their own benefits.

Conclusion

The credit of allowing 8th Muharram procession definitely goes to the Govt headed LG Manoj Sinha but this must not stop here. The work towards restoring normalcy and democratic institutions has to continue. People can't rely on Govt officers all the time to address their grievances. They need their MLAs to speak for them. The Govt of India now needs to focus on holding Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir as soon as possible.

Holding 8th Muharram procession through its historical route is the validation of the fact that peace has returned to Jammu & Kashmir and now the Govt must start working on giving the people of J&K an elected Government. The Govt of India also needs to take steps to restore statehood as well.

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



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Respecting Women Online

COVID-19 has pushed people to the digital universe, now, more than ever. This, however, does not mean that this proliferation has been entirely positive. With more people on the internet, it has also become a vulnerable space. It is especially true for women.

Women face a number of issues online. Stalking, trolling, harassment

and blackmailing — to name a few.

Trolling, out of all these, is often brushed under the carpet and is trivialised. This trivialisation of trolling helps no one and is absolutely unacceptable. In a country like India, there is every chance that digital abuse can translate into physical harm. Women are already in danger here and add to that the access that

internet gives to possible offenders.

Therefore, we must find ways to collaboratively call out abusive handles and ensure the safety of women on the internet. Additionally, vocal women need to be supported and protected because they're always at the receiving end of hate. Moreover, those who aren't aware of how to use internet safely, should

also be educated.

Students should be taught provisions under law for digital offences from the school level itself. It is imperative to have an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure that we give a safe internet to women.

Ameera Shah

The Digital Addiction

Mohammad Hanief

While a smartphone, tablet, or computer can be a hugely productive tool, compulsive use of these devices can interfere with work, school, and relationships. When you spend more time on social media or playing games than you do interacting with real people, or you can't stop yourself from repeatedly checking texts, emails, or apps—even when it has negative consequences in your life—it may be time to reassess your technology use.

Smartphone addiction, sometimes colloquially known as “nomophobia” (fear of being without a mobile phone), is often fueled by an internet overuse problem or internet addiction disorder. After all, it's rarely the phone or tablet itself that creates the compulsion, but rather the games, apps, and online worlds it connects us to.

Addiction to social networking, dating apps, texting, and messaging can extend to the point where virtual, online friends become more important than real-life relationships. We've all seen the couples sitting together in a restaurant ignoring each other and engaging with their smartphones instead. While the internet can be a great place to meet new people, reconnect with old friends, or even start romantic relationships, online relationships are not a healthy substitute for real-life interactions. Online friendships can be appealing as they tend to exist in a bubble, not subject to the same demands or stresses as messy, real-world relationships. Compulsive use of dating apps can change your focus to short-term hookups instead of developing long-term relationships.

Compulsive web surfing, watching videos, playing games, or checking news feeds can lead to lower productivity at work or school and isolate you for hours at a time. Compulsive use of the internet and smartphone apps can cause you to neglect other aspects of your life, from real-world relationships to hobbies and social pursuits.

Online compulsions, such as gaming, gambling, stock trading, online shopping, or bidding on auction sites like eBay can often lead to financial and job-related problems. While gambling addiction has been a well-documented problem for years, the availability of internet gambling has made gambling far more accessible. Compulsive stock trading or online shopping can be just as financially and socially damaging. eBay addicts may wake up at strange hours in order to be online for the last remaining minutes of an auction. You may purchase things you don't need and can't afford just to experience the excitement of placing the winning bid.

While you can experience impulse-control problems with a lap-



PERHAPS TWEETING, TEXTING OR BLOGGING IS YOUR WAY OF COPING WITH STRESS OR ANGER. Or maybe you have trouble relating to others and find it easier to communicate with people online. Building skills in these areas will help you weather the stresses and strains of daily life without relying on your smartphone

top or desktop computer, the size and convenience of smartphones and tablets means that we can take them just about anywhere and gratify our compulsions at any time. In fact, most of us are rarely ever more than five feet from our smartphones. Like the use of drugs and alcohol, they can trigger the release of the brain chemical dopamine and alter your mood. You can also rapidly build up tolerance so that it takes more and more time in front of these screens to derive the same pleasurable reward.

Heavy smartphone use can often be symptomatic of other underlying problems, such as stress, anxiety, depression, or loneliness. At the same time, it can also exacerbate these problems. If you use your smartphone as a “security blanket” to relieve feelings of anxiety, loneliness, or awkwardness in social situations,

for example, you'll succeed only in cutting yourself off further from people around you. Staring at your phone will deny you the face-to-face interactions that can help to meaningfully connect you to others, alleviate anxiety, and boost your mood. In other words, the remedy you're choosing for your anxiety (engaging with your smartphone), is actually making your anxiety worse.

Smartphone or internet addiction can also negatively impact your life by increasing loneliness and depression. While it may seem that losing yourself online will temporarily make feelings such as loneliness, depression, and boredom evaporate into thin air, it can actually make you feel even worse. A 2014 study found a correlation between high social media usage and depression and anxiety. Users, especially teens, tend to compare themselves unfavorably

with their peers on social media, promoting feelings of loneliness and depression.

One researcher found that the mere presence of a phone in a work place tends to make people more anxious and perform poorly on given tasks. The heavier a person's phone use, the greater the anxiety they experienced.

Using a smartphone for work often means work bleeds into your home and personal life. You feel the pressure to always be on, never out of touch from work. This need to continually check and respond to email can contribute to higher stress levels and even burnout.

The constant stream of messages and information from a smartphone can overwhelm the brain and make it impossible to focus attention on any one thing for more than a few minutes without feeling compelled

to move on to something else. The persistent buzz, ping or beep of your smartphone can distract you from important tasks, slow your work, and interrupt those quiet moments that are so crucial to creativity and problem solving. Instead of ever being alone with our thoughts, we're now always online and connected.

Excessive smartphone use can disrupt your sleep, which can have a serious impact on your overall mental health. It can impact your memory, affect your ability to think clearly, and reduce your cognitive and learning skills.

A UK study found that people who spend a lot of time on social media are more likely to display negative personality traits such as narcissism. Snapping endless selfies, posting all your thoughts or details about your life can create an unhealthy self-centeredness, distancing you from

real-life relationships and making it harder to cope with stress.

There are a number of steps you can take to get your smartphone and internet use under control. While you can initiate many of these measures yourself, an addiction is hard to beat on your own, especially when temptation is always within easy reach. It can be all too easy to slip back into old patterns of usage. Look for outside support, whether it's from family, friends, or a professional therapist.

To help you identify your problem areas, keep a log of when and how much you use your smartphone for non-work or non-essential activities. There are specific apps that can help with this, enabling you to track the time you spend on your phone. Are there times of day that you use your phone more? Are there other things you could be doing instead? The more you understand your smartphone use, the easier it will be to curb your habits and regain control of your time.

Human beings are social creatures. We're not meant to be isolated or to rely on technology for human interaction. Socially interacting with another person face-to-face—making eye contact, responding to body language—can make you feel calm, safe, and understood, and quickly put the brakes on stress. Interacting through text, email or messaging bypasses these nonverbal cues so won't have the same effect on your emotional well-being. Besides, online friends can't hug you when a crisis hits, visit you when you're sick, or celebrate a happy occasion with you.

Perhaps tweeting, texting or blogging is your way of coping with stress or anger. Or maybe you have trouble relating to others and find it easier to communicate with people online. Building skills in these areas will help you weather the stresses and strains of daily life without relying on your smartphone.

If you need more help to curb your smartphone or internet use, there are now specialist treatment centers that offer digital detox programs to help you disconnect from digital media. Individual and group therapy can also give you a tremendous boost in controlling your technology use.

Any parent who's tried to drag a child or teen away from a smartphone or tablet knows how challenging it can be to separate kids from social media, messaging apps, or online games and videos. Youngsters lack the maturity to curb their smartphone use on their own, but simply confiscating the device can often backfire, creating anxiety and withdrawal symptoms in your child.

The author is a regular columnist and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com

Life Is Not Like That For Everybody, Dearie

Asha Iyer Kumar

“Why do you work so hard at this age, aunty?” A darling niece from the other end of the world Whatsapp-ed in reply to my message that detailed my current status of life.

“Deadlines that fall by the wayside and to-do lists that crumble under their own weight.

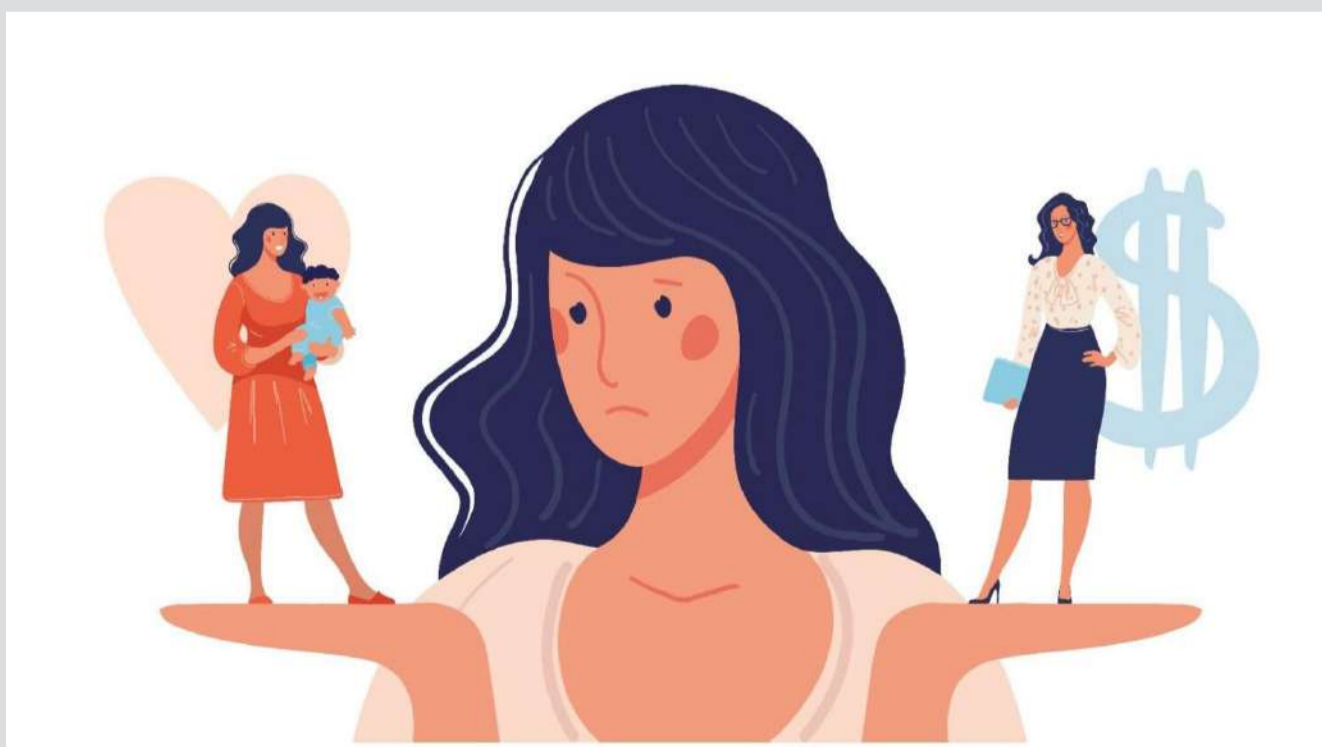
That's my life now, dearie,” I had written to her.

Now if that sounds like a mountain load of work, then it certainly is. No excuses for thinking otherwise.

My niece's question was pertinent. But I felt the phrase ‘at this age’, meaning I am in some fluid stage of life from where the only progression is to vapourise, was slightly out of place and I fished out from the phone my latest selfie to make sure I still had a long way to be over the hill.

Nothing can, however, lighten the significance of the question I was posed by her, and I had an obligation to answer it. For my own sake and hers. Why am I working so hard ‘at this age’ when I should be putting my feet up, sipping filter coffee and watching Lust Stories 2 while secretly wondering what there was to lust about in life, anyway?

Because life is NOT like that. Not all people retire at 58. Not all people who work after 60 do it for passion's sake. Not all people have made enough dough by then to call it a day. And not all people have mastered what philosophers aver is the stairway to happiness – contentment. To feel like a prince when there are only a few pennies in the purse is not everybody's game. Been there,



done that, now happy in their log house, with no care. Like how my dad felt after he retired from service.

Not all people can live a frugal life. For better or for worse, I am someone with slightly bigger agendas in life. My dad spent his life viewing the rolling hills of the Western Ghats from our courtyard. But I want to watch the evening sun melting down the Himalayas. He picked hibiscus and tulsi from our backyard. I

want to pick pine tree flowers in the Alps. He wanted to watch sports and news at home. I want to watch the Northern Lights in Norway.

It is not about greed. It is not about ambition either. It is about living life in a way different from theirs.

Not everyone can be like dad. “I have enough, not excess,” he would often say in a very self-assured manner, and I knew what his ‘enough’ meant. Dad and mum's

needs were small for as long as I could remember. I wonder if they never had dreams, or if they had consigned it very early for want of ample means.

But that isn't the reason why I am working so hard. It's all about the obstinacy of life. You need to stride wider when you are walking uphill. It is the law of nature. Gravity will pull you down and make you crawl on your belly, but you must gather enough muscle in your calves to keep

walking. You can pause for a breather, but not stop and become a stone.

For some people, life throws curveballs in its second half. For some others, it brings windfalls. I know people to whom money is not their primary concern in the later years. I have also seen people past 60 slogging for over 12 hours a day and having encumbrances that their sagging shoulders cannot bear or shrug off. Yet they stay in the boxing ring because life will not let them hang their gloves.

Sometimes, putting food on the table becomes so important that watching Amazon Prime feels like a crime. Not only can't you afford it, but even if you steal some time for a few snatches, it feels like you have committed a heist.

To many in mid-life, to work is the only way to keep the stove burning and the stew simmering. It is how things turn out for a few chosen by the Lord. The only other option for them is to shut shop and cease to exist. And that, I refuse to do, because like love that can happen anytime and can bring a cosmic rebound in a sagging spirit, you never know when dreams can transpire in a desk-bound life.

Perhaps, the next time someone asks me why I stay awake late at night, I must say, “I am looking out my window to catch the Northern Lights. Who knows when it might pass this way.” It might be a more acceptable answer than ‘I need enough money to live a decent life.’

I said, enough, not excess. I needn't explain further. Those who know will know.

– Khaleej Times

GST Evasion Of Rs 14,302 Crore Detected In Current Fiscal Year: Centre

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- As many as 2,784 cases of GST evasion involving Rs 14,302 crore were detected in the first two months of the current fiscal, while Rs 5,716 crore was recovered during the period, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply in the Lok Sabha gave details of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and income tax evasion, as well as detection of outright smuggling by the Customs department.

As per the data, GST evasion of over Rs 2.68 lakh crore was detected in 43,516 cases between 2020-21 and 2023-24 (April-May). A recovery of Rs 76,333 crore was made during the period while 1,020 persons were arrested.

In the current fiscal (April-May), 2,784 cases of evasion of Rs 14,302 crore were detected. As many as 28 persons were arrested and Rs 5,716 crore recovered during the period.

As per the statistics on surveys, searches and seizures carried out by the Income Tax Department in the last 5 years, searches were conducted on 3,946 groups while assets worth Rs 6,662 crore was seized.

In 2022-23 fiscal alone, 741 groups were searched and Rs 1,765.56 crore assets were seized.

In the last four years, 42,754



cases of outright smuggling detected by the Customs Department, involving value of about Rs 46,000 crore.

In April-May period of the current fiscal, 2,986 cases of outright smuggling involving goods valued at Rs 1,031 crore were detected by the Customs department.

About 12,259 cases of commercial frauds were also detected in the last 4 years, having duty implication of Rs 21,225 crore.

Sitharaman said with the availability of information in electronic form, the Income Tax Department has developed a wide range of non-intrusive methods for detecting tax evasion.

Besides, the GST department too is taking a number of steps to tackle evasion, including using robust data analytics and artificial intelligence to identify and track risky taxpayers; sharing of data with partner law enforcement agencies for more targeted interventions; reduction in threshold limit for issue of e-invoice for B2B transactions from Rs 10 crore to Rs 5 crore from August 1, 2023.

Record 6.50 Cr ITRs For 2022-23 Filed, Filing To Go On Till Midnight

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: More than 6.5 crore income tax returns for 2022-23 fiscal have been filed so far, with 36.91 lakh ITRs being submitted on Monday until 1800 hrs, which is the last day for filing of returns by individuals and entities that are not required to get their accounts audited.

The e-filing portal has witnessed more than 1.78 crore successful logins till 6 pm, the I-T department said.

"More than 6.50 crore ITRs have been filed so far (31st July), out of which about 36.91 lakh ITRs have been filed today till 6 pm!" the tweet said.

The last date for ITR filing by salaried persons and entities which are not required to get their accounts audited ends Monday at midnight.

Last year, about 5.83 crore income tax returns were filed till July 31.

To assist taxpayers with ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our helpdesk is functioning on a 24x7 basis, and we are providing support through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions & social media, the department said.

Tax experts said that the rise



in ITR filing is a reflection of a broadening taxpayer base, improved compliance and the efforts taken by the revenue department to check tax evasion.

The income tax department has been extensively using information technology and data analytics tools to identify high-risk cases and initiate enforcement actions in appropriate cases.

It also collects information on Specified Financial Transactions (SFT), above-notified thresholds, relating to cash deposits, credit card payments, purchase and sale of properties, purchase of shares and mutual funds etc.

Such information is collected, collated and analysed for

computer-aided scrutiny and risk profiling of taxpayers, identification of non-filers and stop filers etc, which in turn helps check evasion.

The government is unlikely to extend the due date for filing of tax returns in non-audit cases. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra had earlier this month said that the government is not planning to extend the July 31 deadline.

Corporates and individuals who are required to get their accounts audited have time till October 31 to file tax returns for income earned in 2022-23 fiscal. The gross direct tax collection for 2022-23 fiscal grew 20.33 per cent at Rs 19.68 lakh crore.

Key Infra Sector Growth At 5-Month High Of 8.2% In June

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Output of eight key infrastructure sectors expanded at a five-month high rate of 8.2 per cent in June on healthy performance by sectors such as natural gas and steel, according to the official data released on Monday.

However, production growth was slower than 13.1 per cent recorded in June 2022.

Core sector growth in June is the highest since January 2023 when the key sectors expanded at 9.7 per cent. In May 2023, the growth rate was 5 per cent.

The output growth of the eight sectors slowed down to 5.8 per cent in April-June 2023-24 against 13.9 per cent in the year-ago period.

In June, steel output jumped by 21.9 per cent as against 3.3 per cent in the same month last year. Natural gas production increased by 3.6 per cent during the month under review as compared to 1.2

per cent in June 2022. Coal output growth slowed down to 9.8 per cent in June 2023 as against 32.1 per cent in June 2022.

The growth rate in the production of refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity slowed down to 4.6 per cent, 3.4 per cent, 9.4 per cent and 3.3 per cent as against 15.1 per cent, 8.2 per cent, 19.7 per cent, and 16.5 per cent respectively.

Commenting on the numbers, ICRA Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that the tardy onset of the monsoon contributed to improved performance of electricity and coal.

"With the boost seen in mining and electricity from a dryer-than-normal June, we expect the year-on-year IIP (index of industrial production) growth to print at 4-6 per cent in June 2023, in spite of the moderation in the year-on-year performance of several available high-frequency indicators," she said.

Fiscal Deficit Touches 25.3% Of Full-Year Target At End-June: CGA Data

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first quarter touched 25.3 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Monday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 4,51,370 crore as of end-June, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 21.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of the financial year 2022-23.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2023-24 finan-

cial year. The deficit was 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent.



Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first three months of 2023-24, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 4,33,620 crore or 18.6 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal. The net tax revenue collection was 26.1 per cent at end-June 2022.

The central government's total expenditure in the first quarter stood at Rs 10.5 lakh crore or 23.3 per cent of BE. The expenditure had

touched 24 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, Rs 7.72 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 2.78 lakh crore was towards the capital account.

Of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 2,43,705 crore was on interest payments and Rs 87,035 crore on major subsidies.

Improved Detection, Reporting Bring Down Bank Fraud Cases: MoS Finance

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Improved detection and reporting, along with steps taken to check bank frauds, have resulted in a sharp decline in the occurrence of such incidence, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Sharing data, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said bank frauds have declined from Rs 77,544 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,650 crore in 2022-23.

Comprehensive steps, including measures to address security flaws/loopholes and to strengthen the fraud risk management mechanism in banks, have been taken by the government, RBI and public sector banks (PSBs), Karad said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

Some of the measures include an online searchable database of frauds reported by banks, in the form of the Central Fraud Registry has been set up to enable timely identification, control and mitigation of fraud risk and also to carry out due diligence during the credit sanction process and heads of PSBs have been empowered to issue requests for issuance of Look-Out circulars.

Besides, he said a National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has been launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs to enable the public to report incidents on all types of cybercrimes and a toll-free number has also been operationalised to get assistance in lodging online complaints.

Airtel Prepays Rs 8,000 Crore Spectrum Dues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Telecom major Airtel has prepaid Rs 8,024 crore to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as part of its deferred liabilities for the spectrum acquired in the 2015 auction, the company said on Monday.

The Sunil Mittal-led telecom company informed that the said installments were paid with an interest of 10 per cent, leveraging much lower cost of financing available to it.

"Bharti Airtel...has prepaid Rs 8,024 crore to the Department of Telecom (Government of India) towards part prepayment of deferred liabilities pertaining to spectrum acquired in auction of year 2015," the company said in a release.

Airtel said it continues to focus on financial flexibility via its capital structure, including optimising the cost of financing and capitalising on all opportunities of significant interest savings, like the latest prepayment.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-I)
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SOURA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR FAX: 0194-2403929 (Ext: 2275)
Email Id: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in

E-NIT NO.: SIMS 325 (PI) Tender 06 OF 2023
DATED: 26-07-2023

Subject: Notice inviting e-tenders for exchange of surplus plasma on rate contract basis.

E-tenders under single cover system are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT through Director Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura, Srinagar from Indigenous Plasma Fractionators having valid license for manufacturing plasma derived products for exchange/ collection of surplus plasma from the SK Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura on two year rate contract basis. The tender documents are available at www.jktenders.gov.in.

Description	Tender Fee	Earnest Money Deposit
Outsourcing of Plasma	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 70,000/-

Nomenclature	Schedule
Tender Download Date	27-07-2023
Clarification End Date, if any	29-07-2023 (Up to 2:00 pm)
Online Bid Submission Start Date	02-08-2023 (12:00 noon)
Online Bid Submission End Date	23-08-2023 (upto 6:00 pm)
Last date for submission of original EMD / Demand Draft	24-08-2023 (Upto 3:00 pm)
Technical Bid Opening	25-08-2023 (At 2:00 pm)

Complete bidding process will be online on government e-tendering portal, www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.

No.: SKIMS-MMOP-I/7/2023-PurI-3704-11
Dated: 26-07-2023

Sd/-
DIPK-NB-2331-23
Dt: 31/07/2023

Materials Management Officer
Purchase I

Subject - Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style M/s "GO HOBBO" Situated at Botshah Mohalla Lal Babzar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr./Ms. Yasir Hussain Wani S/o/D/o/W/o Mr. Sana Ullah Wani R/o Zaffron Colony Srinagar Kashmir, intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style M/s "GO HOBBO" Situated at Botshah Mohalla Lal Babzar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id: dtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he/she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Wasim Ali Ganai
Parentage:- Ali Mohd Ganai
Residence:- Chichilora Magam
Registration No : 32391-BC-2013
Certificate/s lost:- Marks Card 3rd Year
Roll No/s:- 89376
Session/ Year Jan-Fab 2017

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

No: F(Duplicate/) KU
inf

Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xnmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject -

1. Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Radiators along with allied works of Central Heating System at Gousia Hospital Srinagar
- II. Providing and Fitting of Oxygen flowmeters, Suction Jars for buffer stockings at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar
- III. Repairs of Central Heating System at Govt. SMHS Hospital Srinagar

Ref :

- i. This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/57/e-tendering Dated 21.07.2023
- ii. This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/58/e-tendering Dated 21.07.2023

EXTENSION

In view of representation(s) received from various bidder(s), the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows: -

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	02.08.2023 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	02.08.2023 (15:00 hrs)

vAll other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No. MHCHD/TS/3695-98,
Dt: - 31-07-2023
DIPK-6116-23
Dt: 31/07/2023

Sd/
Executive Engineer
MHCH Division
Srinagar.

July Has Been The Hottest Month In Humanity's History

July is expected to be the hottest month experienced on earth in 120,000 years – a temperature not felt by human civilization since the end of the ice age.

In a joint report published Thursday by the World Meteorological Organization, the Copernicus Climate Change Service, and Leipzig University, the temperature for the first three weeks of July averaged 62.51 Fahrenheit, breaking the previous record of 61.93 Fahr-

enheit set in 2019.

In parts of the United States, temperatures have risen above 120 degrees Fahrenheit. In Arizona, people have experienced life-threatening burns from falls on hot pavement, in California, inmates swelter as cooling systems fail, and in the Florida Keys, ocean temperatures rose above 100 Fahrenheit this week, the average temperature of a hot tub.

In Asia, which is responsible for 19 percent of the world's food and agri-

cultural exports, prolonged heat waves are claiming lives and threatening food security as two major crops – rice and wheat – are at risk of failing.

The report adds that the heat in July has already been so extreme that it's caused fires around the world including in Italy, Greece and Spain killing 40 people and spreading through 13 countries, while in Canada, the worst fire season in 34 years has led to the destruction of nearly 39-thousand square miles.

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA SRINAGAR 190 015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899
 Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com
 Ref. No. CSK/ELECTION-40/2023-24/2384 Dated: 22-07-2023

ELECTION NOTICE

All the founder & life members of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are informed that the election for the following honorary Office-Bearers of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are scheduled to be held on **19-AUG-2023** at the office of the society 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar: -

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Chairman | One. |
| 2. Vice-Chairmen | Two. |
| 3. General Secretary | One. |
| 4. Joint-Secretary | One. |
| 5. Treasurer | One. |

The dates for process of elections have been fixed as under: -

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Filling of Nominations Papers | : - 02-08-2023-07-08-2023 |
| 2. Scrutiny of Nominations Papers | : - 09-08-2023. |
| 3. Last date for withdrawal of nominations | : - 11-08-2023 |
| 4. Issue of Notification for final list of contestants | : - 14-08-2023. |
| 5. Date of Voting (From 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM) | : - 19-08-2023. |
| 6. Counting of votes and declaration of results | : - (Same Day) 19-08-2023. |

--SD--
 Justice (Retd.) M.Y. Kawoosa.
 Election Authority

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COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES**

OUR MOTTO
 AVAILABILITY OF SAFE, EFFICACIOUS AND QUALITY MEDICAL PRODUCTS TO THE END USERS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

- Overcharging of Medical Products (medicinal preparations and medical devices)
- Refusal of sale of split quantities of medicines by a chemist and sale of split quantity of drugs exceeding the pro-rata price of the formulation. This proviso shall not be treated in derogation to the provisions laid down under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.
- Refusal to provide cash / credit memo by a dispensing pharmacy.
- Information regarding shortage of any medical product.
- Quality related issues observed with naked eye like discoloration of tablets, broken tablets, chipped tablets, cracked tablets or presence of moisture in tablets and noticing any suspended particles / foreign particles in injectable preparations or syrups/ caking in suspensions etc.
- Providing of inputs related to indulgence of any pharma dealer in unethical / illegal sale of habit forming drugs viz. Alprazolam, tramadol, tapentadol, diazepam, codeine phosphate including insulin syringes with an objective to promote drug abuse.
- Stakeholders can lodge complaints related to any clandestine activity viz unlicensed chemist shops / suspected seller of medicinal preparations.

Any delay in disposal of below services

- Licensing / Retention of Retail Drug sale Establishments
- Licensing / Retention of Wholesale Drug sale Establishments.
- Licensing / Retention of Drugs / Cosmetics Manufacturing units.
- Licensing / Retention of Medical Device (Class A & B) Manufacturing
- Registration for exclusive sale of medical devices.

**DRUG & FOOD CONTROL ORGANIZATION,
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