

SC To Take Up Art-370 Petitions From Today

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear from August 2 a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud will conduct day-to-day hearing from Wednesday.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, had on July 11 fixed July 27 as the deadline for filing written submissions and convenience compilations by different parties.

The five-judge bench had said the hearing will be held on a day-to-day basis except on Mondays and Fridays, which are days for hearing miscellaneous matters in the apex court. Only fresh petitions are taken up on these days for admission hearing and regular matters are not heard.

It had appointed two lawyers -- one each from the petitioners' and the government's side -- to prepare convenience compilation and file it before July 27, and made it clear that after the said date no documents will be accepted. A convenience note gives the court a snapshot of the entire case to assist it in quickly appreciating the facts.

It had said the | [More on P10](#)

LG Pays Obeisance At Shrine Of Alamdar-e-Kashmir

- Discusses Measures To Harness Charar-e-Sharief Tourism Potential
- Committed To Establish Branch Of Shaikh-Ul-Aalam Centre For Multidisciplinary Studies Of KU At Charar-e-Sharief
- Tourism Dept To Coordinate With Experts Of NIT To Restore Khanqah To Its Original Glory

Observer News Service

Budgam: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his administration has been successful in establishing a peaceful and prosperous ecosystem in the Union Territory and gave credit of this achievement to the support and cooperation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha made these remarks during his visit to the shrine of Sufi Saint Sheikh Noorud-Din Wali, also known as Sheikh-Ul-Alam, at Charar-e-Sharief in Budgam district on Tuesday.

During his visit, the LG interacted with the spiritual leaders, public representatives, and locals and discussed the measures to harness the tourism potential and to give a boost to spiritual tourism at Charar-e-Sharief, an official spokesperson said.

Extensive deliberation was also held on infrastructure and modalities to address the immediate requirements.

Responding to the demands, Sinha



6 SHAIKH-UL-AALAM'S LIFE IS BEST EXAMPLE OF INDIA'S UNITY IN DIVERSITY. His teachings of brotherhood, love, harmony continue to inspire the world."

said the UT administration is working with the right intent to meet the developmental needs and aspirations of the people. He assured that

all the important works will be taken on priority. The LG reiterated the commitment of the administration to establish the branch | [More on P10](#)

'1.27 Cr Tourist Arrived In J&K This Year So Far'

Charar-e-Sharief- Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that this year so far 1.27 Crore tourists have visited the UT and the number is all set to cross previous year's record. Addressing a gathering here on Tuesday, the LG said that a peaceful atmosphere is prevailing in Kashmir as business remains on throughout the year and schools and colleges are functioning normally.

"I keep on saying always that nothing is possible without peace. No development is possible unless peace is established. There was a time when a shikara owner, a hotel owner and a common autorickshaw owner would suffer a lot due to uncertainty. We have come out of that phase," the LG said. | [More on P10](#)

India Dismisses Pak's Talk Offer

Calls It A Ploy To Please Global Lenders

Agenceis

New Delhi: India has turned down offer of talks made by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that this is standard Pakistani tactics at a time of crises when they have to assuage the international community in order to codge funds from it, a Chandigarh based newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Sharif had earlier offered to hold talks with India to address all serious and outstanding issues as he said that "war is not an option" for both countries as they fight poverty and unemployment.

Sharif made the remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the Pakistan Minerals Summit here. The meeting, organised under the slogan of 'Dust to Development', aimed at bringing foreign investment to the cash-strapped country.

"We are prepared to talk with everyone, even with our neighbour, provided that the neighbour is serious to talk serious matters on the table because war is no more an option," the prime minister said, in an apparent reference to India.

Prime Minister Sharif's comments came amid continued strain in ties between India and Pakistan on a number of issues including | [More on P10](#)

PDP In Damage Control Mode After Parra's Outburst

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A day after Waheed Parra launched a scathing attack on his political opponents during his party's foundation day, the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) on Tuesday downplay the youth leader's remarks, saying the party has taken a conscious decision to be part of the PAGD and set aside political differences for the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In what could spell trouble for the opposition unity in Jammu and Kashmir, Parra, who is PDP's youth president, on Monday said most of the political parties, including the National Conference, have limited their demands to holding elections or seeking

concessions from the BJP.

Trying to downplay Parra's comments, PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said, "I really don't know in what context those words came in. This could have been a reaction for any NC leader from the PDP as there have been instances when NC leaders have spoken against PDP. However, we have to understand that both NC and PDP are two separate political parties which do have differences of opinion, political differences or else it would have been a single party."

Having said that, he said, the party has taken a conscious decision to leave its political differences aside at the current juncture for the larger interest of the rights and | [More on P10](#)

Fundamentalist Muslim Cannot Be Equated With Extremist Or Separatist: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A fundamentalist Muslim cannot be equated with an extremist or a separatist, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said while quashing detention order under PSA against a youth from Pulwama.

"Fundamentalist an adherent of fundamentalism pertaining to a Muslim who is a fundamentalist is merely someone who believes in the fundamentals of Islam and steadfastly pursues the same. It cannot have a negative bearing on his personality," said a bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan, adding, "The same is as a fundamentalist Muslim

cannot be equated with an extremist or a separatist."

Therefore, the court said, the contention by detaining authority, District Magistrate, was vague and has been used "lucidly without proper understanding."

The detaining authority had said the youth is having a fundamentalist ideology and has become a "hard core fundamentalist" and voluntarily agreed to work as Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the TRF (The Resistance Front) which according to government is an outfit of the erstwhile of LeT.

"The usage of the phrase 'fundamentalist ideology' by the District Magistrate, does not necessarily mean that the detainee possess an extremist or separatist ideology. The Oxford 'Fundamentalist ideology is part and parcel of the Abrahamic faith where the adherents have to necessarily believe in certain fundamentals of the religion to be accepted as the adherents of that religion," the court said, adding, "Therefore, someone who steadfastly pursues or follows the fundamentals of an Abrahamic faith, is undoubtedly a fundamentalist but there is | [More on P10](#)



Terror Incidents, Infiltration In J&K On Decline: Govt

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Terrorist violence and infiltration have declined in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years, Union minister Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, noting that 26 incidents of terror violence and no net infiltration have occurred this year till June-end.

Rai said there were 125 terror-related and 14 infiltration incidents in 2022, and 134 terror and 34 infiltration incidents in 2021.

The minister said the measures taken by the government to curb terrorist violence include proactive counter-insurgency operations against terrorists, identification and

arrest of over-ground supporters of terrorists, deployment of police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and night patrolling and area domination.

Attachment of properties belonging to terrorists and their associates under relevant sections of the law, sharing of intelligence inputs amongst all security forces on a real-time basis and intensified Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) are undertaken to thwart any terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, he said in a written reply to a question.

Further, Rai said, the government has adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged strategy to tackle cross-border infiltration. | [More on P10](#)

SPICEJET SHOCKER!

Kashmiri Woman Books Flight To Srinagar, Lands In Pune

Izhar Nazir Ali

Srinagar: Low-cost airline SpiceJet has again landed itself in an embarrassing situation after boarding a Kashmiri woman on a wrong flight to Pune, instead of Srinagar.

Wasifa Jan, in her thirties, had taken a SpiceJet flight from the Srinagar International Airport last weekend to the national capital with one of her relatives. She had booked her return flight in Spicejet for July 31 through her travel agent. However, instead of landing in Srinagar, she found herself lost in Pune, over 1066 miles away from her destination.



"She was waiting at the Terminal 3 to board her SpiceJet flight SG 8963 to Srinagar that was to depart at 10:40AM. In the meantime, someone from

the ground staff of SpiceJet approached her and boarded her on a Pune bound flight," Saleem Ismail, her travel agent told Kashmir Observer. | [More on P10](#)

NGO FUNDING CASE

NIA Raids 7 Spots In Kashmir, Papers; Devices Seized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches in four districts of the Kashmir Valley in a case related to NGO militant funding.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that extensive raids were conducted at seven locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Kupwara and Pulwama districts, at the premises of trusts and individuals associated with Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS), an NGO involved in raising funds for banned terrorist organisations. The statement reads that

raids were also conducted at locations associated with the NGO programme coordinator Khurram Parvej and his associate Irfan Mehraj.

"Both Parvej and Mehraj were arrested by the NIA in March this year after investigations revealed their role in raising funds for the JKCCS from various charities based abroad, and utilising these funds to foment trouble and terror in Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequent investigations revealed that the NGO and the two arrested accused were actively involved in instigating and funding stone-pelting in an organised manner in the Valley. They had | [More on P10](#)

'LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND'

J&K Has Set Up 20 Child Welfare Committees: Irani

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Union Territory government has constituted twenty Child Welfare Committees in Jammu and Kashmir and supported under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme for the protection of children, Minister of Women and Children Development Smriti Zubin Irani informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme meant to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'. | [More on P10](#)

SHORT TAKES

Militant's Property Attached In Kupwara

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached property of a militant operating from Pakistan in Kupwara district of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. "A land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marla belonging to one Adul Rashid Qureshi @Farooq Qureshi, a resident of Kachama, Kralpora Kupwara who is operating from Pakistan was attached by the SIU Kupwara following investigation of an FIR" reads a statement.

"Following extensive intelligence gathering and | [More on P10](#)

Landmine Found Near LoC

A landmine was detected during the cutting of wild grass near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said. The landmine was noticed by a group of porters engaged by the Army to clear the border fence area of wild grass in Balakote sector around this afternoon, the officials said. They said the whole area was immediately cordoned off by the troops and the Army's bomb disposal squad was summoned to neutralise the landmine.

OGW Slapped With PSA

An overground worker of militant outfits has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Tuesday. Mohammad Shabir, a resident of Draj village in Kotranka tehsil, is the second overground worker to be detained under the Public Safety Act in the border district within a week. On July 26, Akbar Hussain of Marutha-Kanthol village was detained under the administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to | [More on](#)

Sarpanch Lands In ACB Net

The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped a Sarpanch from Manigam area of Central Kashmir for demanding and accepting a bribe from a man to settle a property dispute. The police station of ACB in Srinagar received a written complaint from a man alleging that Muzaffar Ahmad Rather, Sarpanch Manigam-A, was demanding bribe for settlement of property dispute between him and his sister, an ACB spokesperson said. The siblings, he said, had | [More on P10](#)

2 Chargesheeted In Loan Fraud Case

The Crime Branch on Tuesday produced a charge-report against two people for their alleged involvement in preparing fake and forged revenue extracts to avail a bank loan. The chargesheet was filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EoW) against two unnamed people in a case FIR No. 60/2016 of police station Crime Branch Kashmir, was filed before the Anti-Corruption Court, Srinagar for judicial determination. Giving details of the case, an official spokesperson said that CB Kashmir, now known as EoW | [More on P10](#)

Will Locate Missing Soldier: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir's top cop on Tuesday said the government forces have got clues about the missing Army soldier in Kulgam district and expressed confidence that the soldier will be located. "Few days back, an army jawan, who was on leave, has been reported missing. Police and security forces are carrying out operations and, in view of the clues that are with us, we will be able to locate him," DGP Dilbag Singh told reporters here. Meanwhile, the search operations to trace soldier | [More on P10](#)



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 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

اجتماعی فائز خوانی



یہ خبر نہایت دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے تحت جگر سجاد احمد ولد غلام حیدر بٹ ساکنہ قصبہ یار شادی مرگ پلوامہ اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئے،

انکالہ و انکالہ راجیون۔

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فائز خوانی یعنی دعا مجلس 03 اگست بروز جمعرات ان کے آبائی قبرستان "قصبہ یار پلوامہ" میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ انشاء اللہ۔ تمام دوست احباب رشتہ داروں سے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ کسی بھی قسم کا میوہ اپنے ساتھ نہ لائے۔

سوگوار اہلخانہ: غلام حیدر بٹ

ph

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I intend to change the name of electricity connection from Abdul Rashid Bangroo to Muzafar Ahmad Zogi. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK 05f5623. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehraj Ud Din Rather
 S/O Ab. Salam Rather
 R/O Chandehama Pattan

FKO

IN THE COURT JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE SHOPIAN

In The Case of
 Shabir Ahmad Gojer Seer
 V/S
 U.T of J & K through registrar Births and Deaths
Notice To Public at Large

whereas the above titled etition has been filled by the applicant in this court for seeking direction to the non applicants for registration of particulars of the applicant's Son namely Imran Ahmad Gojer Seer S/o Bashir Ahmad Gojer R/o Amshipora Shopian Who was born on 03/03/2013 at home. Whereas through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of Birth particulars of the applicant's Son namely Imran Ahmad Gojer Seer S/o Bashir Ahmad Gojer R/o Amshipora Shopian by the non applicant. They/he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 15 days from the date of issuance of this publication. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken up on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this office on 10/07/2022

Chief Judicial
 Magistrate Shopian

fko

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

It is information for the general public that in School Records my wards name was wrongly entered as MOVIZ. while actual name is Mueeza Tariq. Now i want its correction, if any body having any objection in this regard may contact Principal Delhi.Public.School Budgam within a period of 7 days. No objection entertained after that.
Tariq Ahmad Pandit
 F/o Mueeza Tariq
 R/o Sheikhpura Budgam Kmr. Cell. 6005866671.

mcb

COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE BUDGAM

Name of the petitioner:
 Mohammad Muzaffar Parra S/O Abdul Ahad Parra
 R/O Gondipora, Tehsil Beerwah District Budgam

Versus
 Name of the respondents:
 Public at Large and others

In the matter of:

Application for appointment of guardian and manager of person and property of allegedly disabled person namely Abdul Hameed Para Para S/O Abdul Ahad Parra R/O Gondipora, Tehsil Beerwah, District Budgam

CORAM: Khalil Ahmad Choudharv
 UID No.: JK 00068
 Notice to Public At Large

Whereas the petitioner has filed the above titled petition before this court for judicial inquiry of physical and mental health and appointment of Guardian and manager of person and property for the allegedly visually and mentally disabled person namely Abdul Hameed Parra S/O Abdul Ahad Parra R/O Gondipora, Tehsil Beerwah, District Budgam. The petition is pending disposal before this court and is fixed for hearing on 10-08-2023.

Public notice is hereby issued informing all and sundry, through the medium of this proclamation and if anyone has any objection for appointment of petitioner as Guardian and manager of the person and property of the allegedly visually and mentally disabled person namely Abdul Hameed Parra S/O Abdul Ahad Parra R/O Gondipora, Tehsil Beerwah, District Budgam, he/she/they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 10-08-2023 failing which he petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same.

In case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
 Given under my hand & Seal of this court on 01-08-2023.

Principal District And Session
 Judge Budgam

nj

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Pr. District Judge Budgam

In the case of:-
 1. Owais Ashraf Shah
 S/O Mohammad Ashraf Shah
 R/O Charar-i-sharif, Budgam A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk, Nowgam, Tehsil B.K.Pora, District Budgam.
 2. Massarat Jabccn D/O Mohammad Ashraf Shah W/o Alamgir Ali Bandy
 R/O Beerwah, District Budgam, A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk, Nowgam, Tehsil B.K.Pora, District Budgam.
 3. Alamgir Ali Bandy S/O Zaffar Hussain Bandy R/O Beerwah, District Budgam
 A/P Khanday Colony, Pahroo-Chowk, Nowgam, Tehsil B.K.Pora, District Budgam

(Caveators)

V/S
 Public At Large

(Non-caveator)

In the matter of:-
 Caveat petition under section 148-A CPC.
 May it please your Honour:-
 The Caveators humbly submit as under:-
 1. That the Caveators are the domiciles of UT of J&K, thus have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection and enforcement of their legal rights.
 2. That the caveators have every apprehension that the non-caveator may file an application, suit or any other like proceedings against the caveators and may succeed in obtaining an ex-parte order in their favour and the same will run harsh against the rights and interests of the caveators.
 3. That this Hon ble court before passing any ex-parte order in the eventuality of any institution by the non-caveator against the caveators, may hear the Caveators, so that the Caveators are not condemned unheard.
 4. That the caveators submit this caveat petition for securing the rights and interests and pray that they may be put to notice before passing any order in the event of institution of any suit, application or other like proceedings by the non-caveator against the caveators.
 5. That the Caveators have published copy of this caveat petition in daily newspaper and the newspaper cutting is annexed herewith.
 Accordingly in the premises it is therefore humbly prayed that in the eventuality of institution of any suit, application or other like proceedings against the caveators, this hon'ble court may be pleased to afford a chance of being heard to the caveators before passing any order against the caveators. That will secure the ends of justice.
 Dated:01-08-2023
 Caveators
 Through Counsel
 Advocate Ahsan Gull Shah

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Shakil-ul-Rehman Ganaie while my correct name is Shakil-Ul-Rehman 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 Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained
 Shakil-Ul-Rehman
 S/o Gulam-Ud-Din Ganaie
 R/o Adina Magam

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass discharge certificate. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Girls High School Narbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Arfiat Rehman
 D/o Abdul Rehman
 R/o Kawoosa Khalisa Narbal

BMG

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Special Sub Division Uri

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No.33 of 2023-24/2143-52/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering DATED: 01-08-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
01	Arrangements for celebration of 15th August (Independence Day) 2023.	1.74	200/-	3500/-	02 days	07.08.2023	DEE	3054 M&R

Project Authority: Chief Engineer Kashmir

Position of funds: Available

Position of AAA/ TS /Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.08.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.08.2023 to (10:00 AM) to 07.08.2023 (2:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	01.08.2023 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	07.08.2023 (2:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.08.2023 (03:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

4. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor or.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form..

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (the date of challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related document set must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bills as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any other specified project there relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.

13. Instruction to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.

b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. and correspondence address.

c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.

d. All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration form.

e. All bidders shall upload GSTIN No. and PAN card.

f. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearance certificate Form GST-3B for the Proceeding Month/proceeding in January - March

14. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

15. All documents relating to the bid shall be in English Language.

16. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No documents (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidder shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copy if needed arises.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 1 of 2023-24 issued under No:-350-70 dated: 20.04.2023 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the

Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No.:-SSDU/2023-24/2143-52

DIPK-6134/23

Dated: 01-08-2023

Sd/=

Executive Engineer,
 R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Flood Control Division

KAKAPORA (I & F C DEPARTMENT)

Notice inviting E-Tender

E-NIT No: -09 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on percentage (%) basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with the J & K Government for the following works to be opened by the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora;

S.No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (in lakh)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in .)	M.H of Account	Time of Completion	Class of contract
01	Construction of F.P work by way of laying of crate work on right side of River Jehlum at Khunbugh RD 37160m (Part B).	38.85	77700/-	2000/-	4711- UT Capex	45 Days	AAV/BEE
02	Construction of F.P work on right side of Sasara Nallah by way of crate work and stone pitching at village Dumpora from RD 12000m to 12500m Part -A.	15.00	30000/-	1000/-	4711 UT Capex	25 Days	BEE/CEE DEE
03	Construction of F.P work by way of laying of toe crates on right side of Arupal Nallah at Batagund upstream Bridge RD 6500m.	14.104	28208/-	1000	4711- UT Capex	25 Days	BEE/CEE/ DEE
04	Construction of F.P work by way of laying of toe crates on right side of Arupal Nallah at village Gulab Bagh RD 9200-10000mts at spots.	11.23	22460/-	1000	4711- UT Capex	20 Days	BEE/CEE/ DEE

No of works:- 04 No's

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No Kmr. I&FC/DB/45 of 10/2019, SE/Hyd/Spn/33 of 10/2019, SE/Hyd/Spn/64 of 03/2022

Technical Sanction: Accorded

Position of funds: Budgetary Provision 2023-24 (50 % available)

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01/08/2023 from 1800 Hrs
2.	Date of start of downloading	01/08/2023 from 1800 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/Financial	01/08/2023 from 1800 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission end date	16/08/2023 up to 1800 Hrs.
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders (online)	17/08/2023 at 1100 Hrs.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non-Refundable/ Non-transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0070 OAS-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt (mentioning therein NIT No, S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) & date on it must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice, and Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised cost) in the shape of the CDR at the time of tendering, both to be pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.

Unbalanced Bid:- In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced i.e below than advertised cost, the bidder shall have to produce additional Performance security in any shape i.e CDR/FDR for any schedule or Nationalized Bank as per following break-up:-

S. No.	%age of unbalance bid viz AT PAR cost on account of low rates	Additional performance Security
1.	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3.	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4.	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

4. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

4.01 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.

4.02 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

4.03 The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

4.04 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at S. No. 1.

4.05 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

5. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of tender due to any reason/ reasons.

6. Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/ receipt & Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora, enlistment card duly renewed, G. S. T No., latest Quarter GST Return, PAN Card, Bio Data.

7. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

8. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.

9. Penalty for Delay on account of Contractor: in case of delay not justified & caused due to the faults of the Contractor a penalty upto max. of 10% of the contract value will be imposed.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

Sd/-
 (Er. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar)
 Executive Engineer
 Flood Control Division
 Kakapora

No. FCDD/CS/2147-62
 DIPK-6194/23 Dated:-01-08-2023

'Meri Mati Mera Desh'
Fortnight Celebrations
Inaugurated In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner State Taxes Department (STD), Dr. Rashmi Singh today inaugurated fortnight celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the theme 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' as part of 76th Independence Day celebrations at Excise and Taxation Complex, Solina here.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool Yattoo; DC Enforcement (Central), Parvaiz Ahmad Raina, DC Appeals, DC Recovery, Assistant Commissioners, State Taxes Officers and other staff members of the department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony, Rashmi Singh highlighted the significance of Independence Day, and encouraged officials to actively participate in

the various cultural, social, and educational activities planned for the celebrations on a day to day basis.

The fortnight program of STD aims to commemorate the 76th Independence day and foster a spirit of unity and patriotism among the citizens during which the department will hold various activities. These activities include Swachhta Abhiyan, Restoration Drive at Doodhganga, cleanliness drive at Nilnag, GST awareness drive, skit on the theme 'Impact of haphazard mining and Brick Kilns on people's lives and loss of tax revenue as a result', selfie with Tiranga, plantation drive (Vriksharohan Abhiyan), seminar on the issue of sustainable development and, photo exhibition on the theme 'Growing Sustainably, Taxing Responsibly- Kartavya, and other related events.

Tiranga Shikara Rally
Organized At Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: 'Tiranga shikara' rally was organized at the Dal Lake here on Tuesday as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations in the run-up to Independence Day. The event was organized by a New Delhi-based NGO.

The rally, in which about 150 people participated, took place from Nehru Park to SKICC, from where it went on to Char Chinari, before culminating at the SKICC.

"This is the first time that a Tiranga Shikara rally has been conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolution of 'Har Ghar Tiranga', the youth of the Union Territory has decided that the campaign will continue from August 1 to 15," president of J-K Salute Tiranga, Muzaffar Hussain Kalal, said here.

He expressed gratitude to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir for participating in the rally.



Slueths of National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducts raid at Peerbagh locality in uptown Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Special Summary Revision MER-2023
DC Srinagar Finalizes Action Plan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review preparations for Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Srinagar Municipal Corporation electoral roll and finalize the action plan for smooth conduct of SSR in the district.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ERO), Syed Shabir Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ERO), Syed Ahmad Kataria; Joint Commissioner SMC (ERO), Syed Abul Qasim; Joint Commissioner SMC (ERO), Riyaz Ahmad and Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO) Srinagar, Shakeel Hussain, the meeting was attended by Election Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registra-

tion Officers (AEROs), Nodal Officer Colleges, Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Official from District Election Office Srinagar and ERONET Operators of all 8 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar district.

At the outset, the DEO took a detailed review of the Action Plan for smooth and successful conduct of the Electoral Roll Revision of the Urban Local Body (ULB) to register all eligible electorates in all 08 Assembly segments of the Srinagar District. He also discussed the steps required to update and finalize the Municipal Electoral Rolls in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO emphasized the EROs, AEROs and other officials of District Election Authority to put in coordinated efforts to ensure the exercise for Electoral Roll Revision regarding ULB is conducted in all the eight Assembly Constituencies of the district as per laid guidelines of Election Authority.

The DEO directed the Officers to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the ECI guidelines as per schedule and complete the process within the given timeline. He exhorted upon the concerned Officers to take extra care while making the addition of new voters, left out voters, deletion of absent/shifted/deceased electors and modification in the particulars of already registered voters to improve the health of Electoral Rolls and making it error free.

The DEO also asked the EROs and AEROs, Nodal Officer SVEEP and other concerned to remain proactive during conduct of Special Summary Revision to build awareness and activate all their resources for successful conduct of all SVEEP programs/activities regarding ongoing Revision of Municipal Electoral Rolls across all Assembly segments of the Srinagar district.

He also asked them to create momentum regard-

ing the exercise from the day first and supervise the process with focused attention to ensure 100% registration of all eligible and ensure no elector is left unregistered keeping in view the limited time period to conduct the exercise.

On the occasion, the DEO was given a detailed overview about the exercise and it was given out in the meeting that the Electoral Roll Revision with July 01, 2023 as the qualifying date is commencing from August 01 with the publication of Draft Electoral Rolls.

Giving activity wise details, the DEO was informed that the period of filing claims and objections for Additions, Deletions, Corrections and Transpositions is from 01-08-2023 to 11-08-2023. It was also informed that 2 Special Camps for Electoral Registration will be organised at all the Polling Stations of the District on August 6, 2023 (Sunday) and August 10, 2023 (Thursday).

- 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)

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
14 Muharram
1445

FAJR	4:06
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:31
Magrib	7:35
ISHA	9:07

This Day In History

- 338 BC - Macedonian army led by Philip II defeats combined forces of Athens and Thebes in the Battle of Chaeronea, securing Macedonian hegemony in Greece and the Aegean
- 216 BC - Second Punic War: Battle of Cannae - Carthaginian army lead by Hannibal defeats numerically superior Roman army under command consuls Lucius Aemilius Paullus and Gaius Terentius Varro
- 257 - St Stephen I ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1057 - Frederik van Lotharingen elected as 1st Belgium Pope Stephen IX [X]
- 1100 - King William II of England (William Rufus) is killed by an arrow shot by Sir Walter Tyrell while hunting in the New Forest
- 1542 - French troops leave Flanders
- 1552 - Treaty of Passau: Emperor Charles V accepts Lutheran religion
- 1701 - Great Peace of Montreal signed between New France and North American Indian nations at urging of Huron chief Kondiaronk
- 1718 - Austrian joins Triple Alliance
- 1798 - Battle of the Nile: British Royal Navy under Admiral Horatio Nelson further decimates the French fleet
- 1858 - Government of India transferred from East India Company to the British Crown
- 1903 - Unsuccessful uprising of Macedonians against Turkey
- 1914 - Germany & Turkey sign secret treaty of alliance
- 1914 - Russian troops invade Eastern Prussia
- 1916 - World War I: Austrian sabotage causes the sinking of the Italian battleship Leonardo da Vinci in Taranto.
- 1918 - Japan announces that it is deploying troops to Siberia in the aftermath of World War I.
- 1922 - China, hit by a typhoon; about 60,000 die
- 1928 - Benito Mussolini signs peace treaty with Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1932 - Carl David Anderson discovers and photographs a positron, the first known antiparticle

Dead Body Recovered
From Nigeen Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Body of an elderly man was recovered from Nigeen Lake near Pokhribal area of Sri-

nagar on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

An official said the body was spotted by some locals, who later informed the police.

He said that a rescue

team along with police rushed to the spot and retrieved the body.

He has been identified as Nisar Ahmad Qureshi (54) son of Mohamad Yousf Qureshi of Batamalloo.

J&K Bank
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Srinagar M A Road, Srinagar 190001 J&K
T +91 (0)194 248 2658 F +91 (0)194 245 2659
E iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002
Whereas Mr. Basharat Ahmad Bhat, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 23.02.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/O Mohammad Maqbool Bhat R/O Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar (Proprietor & Mortgagor of M/S EMM CO Marketing Agency & M/S EMM Co Fabrics) to repay an amount of Rs.2,82,82,794.92 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Two Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four and Paise Ninety Two only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that I, Pervaiz Ahmad Mir being Authorized Officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken physical possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 26th July 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.2,96,48,965.58 (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Six Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five and Paise Fifty Eight only) together with future interest thereon from 01.07.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immoveable Property

Mortgage of house property along with land underneath measuring 2145 sft falling under Khasra Number 204 min of Khata Number 732 (Old 542) and Khewat Number 521 (Old 157) situated at Buchwara Dalgate Tehsil South Srinagar and District Srinagar standing in the name of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat.

Dated: 26.07.2023
Place: Srinagar
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@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2366/23 DATED: 01-08-2023

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti
(PHE) Division Sopore

Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No. 12 of 2023-2024 Dated: 31.07.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible, contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. for the following works:-

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
01	Contract for varied JJM support activities under the jurisdiction of Jal Shakti PHE Division Sopore	Rs. 20000.00	Up to March 2025	CEE/DEE	1000/-	JJM	Executive Engineer

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from :-

1.	Publishing date	31.07.2023	10.00 AM
2.	Download Date Starts	31.07.2023	10.00 AM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	31.07.2023	10.00 AM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	07.08.2023	04.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	08.08.2023	10.00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission". To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids in SINGLE COVER in electronic format with digital signature. Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (3&4) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore. (NIT No and Work No to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:

- i). Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR
- ii). Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card with renewal of 2023-2024
- iii). Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration in FORM GST-3B of the preceding month/ quarter.
- iv). ALL BIDDERS SHALL MANDATORILY UPLOAD VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE FROM THE CONCERNED ISSUING AUTHORITIES OF ENLISTMENT REGISTRATION CARD. NONSUBMISSION OF THE SAME SHALL BE RENDER THE BID NON-RESPONSIVE
- v). BoQ.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debared from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least one year.

No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (www.jktenders.gov.in)

The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee constituted by the competent authority.

No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISIONSOPORENO: 4415-20

DIPK-6185/23 Dated: 01-08-2023

From KO Archives

Officer Shifted For 7th
Time, Goes On Leave

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent transfers and postings in the state administration. The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday. During the two-and-a-half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted \$ax times from her posts. Before the coalition government came to power, Sonali Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education, on May 1, 2002.

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November

2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday's revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years.

Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 August, 2005)



Pakistan Sees 18 Suicide Attacks In First Half Of 2023: Think Tank Report

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, which is grappling with a surge in suicide attacks, reported 18 such incidents in the first seven months of 2023 that killed more than 200 people and left over 450 others injured, according to a think tank report. The report was published by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), a day after an Islamic State suicide bomber triggered a powerful blast that killed at least 54 people at a political convention of a hardline Islamist party in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Pakistan experienced 15 suicide attacks in the entirety of 2022, significantly less than the number of suicide attacks witnessed in the first seven months of this year, Dawn News cited Monday's report by the Islamabad-based think tank.

The report said the most severely affected region was the restive tribal districts of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, accounting for half of the total suicide attacks in 2023.

The nine attacks in the area claimed around 60 lives, while over 150 others sustained injuries, the report said.

However, Sunday's attack during a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) JUI-F gathering was the deadliest in the tribal belt this year so far.

The attack on the JUI-F rally was claimed by the banned militant group Islamic State.

"Mainland" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced its own share of devastation, with four suicide attacks causing the deaths of more than 110 people and leaving 245 injured, the report said.

Balochistan, which also experienced a troubling wave of violence, encountered at least four suicide attacks within the first seven months of 2023, killing 14 people and injuring 27 others. Separately, one suicide attack was reported in Sindh, claiming five lives and injuring 18 persons.

Complete Breakdown of Constitutional Machinery in Manipur: SC

Press Trust of India

Observing there is complete breakdown of law and order and constitutional machinery in Manipur, the Supreme Court Tuesday rapped the state police for "tardy" and "lethargic" probe of incidents of ethnic violence, especially those targeting women, and summoned the DGP to answer its queries on August 7.

Excoriating the law enforcement machinery over unbridled ethnic violence, it said the state police have completely lost control over the law and order situation, and sought details from the state government in a "tabulated format" segregating cases involving murder, rape, arson and loot, destruction of house and property, places of worship, and outraging of modesty of women.

The Centre, represented by Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, urged the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that instead of the two FIRs related to a video showing women being paraded naked by a mob, all 11 out of 6,523 FIRs linked to violence against women and children may be transferred to the CBI and tried out of Manipur.

Hearing a clutch of petitions on the mayhem in the north-eastern state, a bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said it was con-



sidering setting up a committee comprising former high court judges to monitor the probe and the subsequent trial in all FIRs as it will be difficult for the CBI to handle them alone.

"At the present stage, the material which has been disclosed before the court is inadequate as there is no segregation of 6,523 FIRs into the nature of the offences to which they pertain. The state must carry out the exercise of segregation and inform the court on how many FIRs pertain to cases involving murder, rape, arson and looting, destruction of house property and outraging of modesty and destruction of places of religious worship," the bench said in its order.

"Based on the preliminary data submitted before the court, it does prima facie appear that the investigation has been tardy. There has been a considerable lapse between the occurrence and the registration of FIRs, recording of witness statements and even the arrests have been few and far between," the order said.

Haryana Violence Spreads: Gurugram Mosque Set on Fire, Imam Shot Dead



Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM/CHANDIGARH: A mob attacked a mosque in Gurugram and killed its naib imam, taking the toll in the violence that erupted over an attempt to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession in Nuh district to five, police said on Tuesday.

Authorities on Tuesday imposed a curfew in Nuh where four people, including two home guards, were killed and many others injured on Monday, as Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij claimed that the violence was "engineered".

In Gurugram's Sector 57 area, the 26-year-old imam was killed and a mosque set ablaze as the violence spread from neighbouring Nuh, the police said.

The mob opened fire in which two people were injured. The imam, identified as Bihar native Saad, died during treatment, a senior officer said.

According to the police, the mob reached the Anjuman Masjid in Sector 57 after

midnight. Some people in the crowd opened fire at the people present in the mosque and also set it ablaze.

In Nuh, two more people injured in the violence on Monday succumbed to their injuries. The victims are home guards Neeraj and Gursewak and Bhadas village resident Shakti. The identity of the fourth victim is still to be ascertained.

Ten policemen were among 23 injured in the violence in Nuh. The police have registered 11 FIRs in the district and detained 27 people in connection with the rioting.

At least 120 vehicles were damaged during the violence in the district. Of these, 50, including eight belonging to the police, were set ablaze.

Vij on Tuesday said a curfew has been clamped on Nuh district.

Alleging that the violence was "engineered", he told PTI Video, "Somebody masterminded it (the violence) but I do not want to reach any conclusions. We will investigate this and every single person

responsible will be brought to justice." As news of the violence in Muslim-dominated Nuh spread on Monday, mobs in Sohna set ablaze four vehicles and a shop, apparently belonging to people from that community.

The situation in Nuh and Sohna continues to be tense. However, there were no reports of any fresh violence on Tuesday. Police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in large numbers in Nuh and the other affected areas, the police said.

According to officials, the situation is under control in Nuh. Thirteen companies of central forces have already reached the district, while six others will reach soon.

Police conducted flag marches in Nuh and the district administration has appealed to the public to maintain peace.

Peace committee meetings were held in Nuh and Sohna districts with people assuring the administration to maintain peace, a press release said.

"Dirty Politics": Opposition Slams Haryana Government Over Nuh Violence

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Opposition Congress and INLD on Monday targeted the BJP-JJP government in Haryana over the Nuh violence, alleging that the ruling combine has failed on the law and order front.

"BJP-JJP has proved to be a complete failure in maintaining law and order in the state. The violence in Nuh is the result of failure of this government," said Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Leader of Opposition in Haryana Assembly.

"The government should understand its responsibility and do everything possible with sensitivity to maintain peace," Mr Hooda said in a tweet in Hindi.

The former chief minister said people should keep a close eye on provocations and rumours and cooperate with each other in establishing love and brotherhood.



Two home guards were killed and at least 15 others, including several policemen, were injured Monday as a mob in Nuh district tried to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession, pelting stones and setting cars on fire.

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) also targeted the Khattar government.

INLD leader Abhaya Singh Chautala said that the BJP-led government in Haryana has ruined the law and order situation.

"For the last two days, reports were coming that

there might be a riot in Nuh. Even after that why did the BJP government deliberately remain silent? A person accused of kidnapping and killing two Muslim men from Rajasthan's Bharatpur district posted a video on social media saying that he would reach the Braj Mandal Yatra.

"When the BJP government already knew that riots could break out if the accused reaches Nuh, why were concrete arrangements not made by the police and the administration to deal with it?" Mr Chautala asked.

'Have To Win More Seats This Time': PM Modi At NDA Meet

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs concluded on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

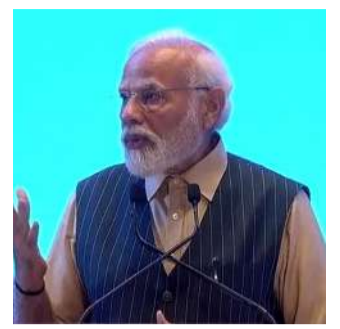
MPs from Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal were present at the meeting. In the meeting, a target was set to make India more developed in the next 25 years and to win maximum seats in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar while talking to ANI said, "Today there was a meeting of NDA MPs from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Two videos related to each state were shown in the meeting, in one video development works done by the central govt in these states were shown and in the second video corruption done by these state governments was shown...Through this video, it was shown how development works were being done in non-BJP-ruled states with the help of the central government."

"PM Modi said that we have to win more seats this time and make India a developed country in the next 25 years..." Mr Majumdar added.

MP Sukanta Majumdar said that during the UPA, 32 per cent of the central government tax collection was given to Bengal, but after the Modi government came, it was increased from 32 to 42 per cent.

He told that there was no discussion on the strategy of the opposition in the meeting. Along with this, he expressed



confidence in the formation of Narendra Modi's government for the third time in a row.

In the meeting, a video featuring development plans done by the NDA government in West Bengal in 9 years and a video of the violence in West Bengal was also played. "During the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that till now the name of UPA was associated with the corrupt policy of the UPA government such as 2G, 3G, Coalgate, jijaji scams, so now its name had been changed to I.N.D.I.A. They were not able to carry forward the name UPA so it was renamed as I.N.D.I.A. Now I.N.D.I.A is the second form of UPA and it has been made only to mislead the public," Mr Majumdar said.

With only a few months left for the Lok Sabha elections, the meeting of the NDA group is crucial in many ways. The NDA meetings are scheduled to run from July 31 to August 10. The Lok Sabha elections and the strength of the NDA were discussed in the meeting. While giving the mantra of victory in the Lok Sabha elections, PM Narendra Modi directed the MPs to visit their constituencies as much as possible and make the public aware of the achievements of the central government.

ISIS Claims Responsibility For Pakistan Suicide Blast That Killed 54

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic State group on Monday claimed responsibility for the Bajaur suicide blast in Pakistan that killed 54 people, including 23 children, according to Al Jazeera.

The bombing targeted an election rally in Pakistan's border district of Bajaur on Sunday in which nearly 200 people were wounded.

"A suicide attacker from the Islamic State [ISIL] ... detonated his explosive jacket in the middle of a crowd" in the town of Khar, the armed group's news arm Amaq said in a statement, according to Al Jazeera.

A bomber detonated an explosives-packed vest near the platform as some 400 members of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) party, a significant government coalition partner led by hardline politician Fazlur Rehman, awaited the start of the speeches.

The gathering was hosted near a market beneath a huge tent, but Rehman chose not to go. Rehman has previously escaped at least two explosions that occurred at political rallies in 2011 and 2014, Al Jazeera reported.

Police took testimony from some of the injured on Monday at a hospital in Khar, the biggest town in Bajaur. The provincial minister of information, Feroz Jamal, stated that police were "investigating this attack in all aspects."

A First Information Report on the blast was filed with the Counter Terrorism Department on Monday as the initial investigation, according to the police, indicated that the terrorist group ISIS was responsible for the suicide attack.

The suicide bomber detonated explosives when JUI-F members and supporters gathered in the town of Khar, near the border with Afghanistan.

The convention started at 2 pm, and the explosion happened at 4:10 pm, according to the official. The FIR has been filed by the KP CTD against unidentified persons on suspicion of terrorism, murder, attempted murder, and other offences, as per Geo News.

According to Shokat Abbas, additional inspector general for the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), nearly 10-12 kg of explosives were used in the blast.

NEWS MAKERS

4 Nigerian Migrants Survive 14 Days On Ship's Rudder, Rescued In Brazil

Agencies

SAO PAULO: On their tenth day at sea, the four Nigerian stowaways crossing the Atlantic in a tiny space above the rudder of a cargo ship ran out of food and drink.

They survived another four days, according to their account, by drinking the sea water crashing just meters below them, before being rescued by Brazilian federal police in the southeastern port of Vitoria.

Their remarkable, death-defying journey across some 5,600 kilometers (3,500 miles) of ocean underlines the risks some migrants are prepared to take for a shot at a better life.

"It was a terrible experience for me," said 38-year-old Thankgod Opemipo Matthew Yeye, one of the four Nigerians, in an interview at a Sao Paulo



church shelter. "On board it is not easy. I was shaking, so scared. But I'm here." Their relief at being rescued soon gave way to surprise.

The four men said they had hoped to reach Europe and were shocked to learn they had in fact landed on the other side of the Atlantic, in Brazil. Two of the men have since been returned to Nigeria upon their request, while Yeye and Roman Ebieme Friday, a 35-year-old from Bayelsa state, have ap-

plied for asylum in Brazil.

"I pray the government of Brazil will have pity on me," said Friday, who had already attempted to flee Nigeria by ship once before but was arrested by authorities there.

Both men said economic hardship, political instability and crime had left them with little option but to abandon their native Nigeria. Africa's most populous country has longstanding issues of violence and poverty, and kidnappings are endemic.

Yeye, a pentecostal minister from Lagos state, said his peanut and palm oil farm was destroyed by floods this year, leaving him and his family homeless. He hopes they can now join him in Brazil.

Friday said his journey to Brazil began on June 27, when a fisherman friend rowed him up to the stern of the Liberian-flagged Ken Wave, docked in Lagos, and left him by the rudder. To his surprise, he found three men already there, waiting for the ship to depart. Friday said he was terrified. He had never met his new shipmates and feared they could toss him into the sea at any moment.

Once the ship was moving, Friday said the four men made every effort not to be discovered by the ship's crew, who they also worried might offer them a watery grave.

Engineer Arrested For Forging Cheques, Cheating Bank Of ₹5.2 Crore In Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A 56-year-old civil engineer was arrested for allegedly forging cheques and cheating a public bank of ₹5.20 crore, police said on Monday.

While ₹1.52 crore was withdrawn in cash, the remaining was diverted to different accounts of shell firms, they said.

A complaint was received from a public bank at Sansad Marg in Delhi regarding the fraudulent withdrawal of money from the account of a private university.

In August 2019, three cheques purportedly issued from the university were presented in the bank for clearance, a senior police officer said.

Two cheques were presented for clearance through a bank and the same were cleared. An amount of ₹5.20 crore was transferred to two different accounts, one in Vadodra, Gujarat and another in Betul, Madhya Pradesh.

The third cheque was presented through a different bank, but the amount was stopped during the process, police said.

The amount was diverted from the account of a first-level beneficiary to the account of five shell firms in Delhi. It was then diverted to different accounts, the officer said.

During the investigation, it was revealed that a cheque of ₹2.5 crore was credited to the account of NS Infrastructure in Vadodra, Gujarat, and another of ₹2.7 crore was credited to the account of an NGO in Betul, Madhya Pradesh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (EOW) Vikram Porwal said.

Further, ₹2.07 crore was again diverted from the account of the NGO to the account of NS Construction. Both the firms were found registered in the name of Sangeeta Nagre, the wife of Sharad Nagre, the DCP said.

The cheated amount of ₹4.16

crore was further transferred to Delhi in the account of five alleged shell firms by the accused using his mobile. He kept ₹42 lakh from the cheated amount as his share, Porwal said.

The alleged five shell firms do not exist at the addresses mentioned in the bank accounts. Further, on scrutiny of the account statements of the five alleged firms, it was revealed that an amount of ₹1.52 crore had been withdrawn as cash, police said.

The accused was arrested on Saturday, the DCP said.

Nagre disclosed that the details of bank accounts of shell firms were provided by Amit Aggarwal, who has already been arrested, and Ashok, they said.

Forged cheques purportedly issued by the victim bank were used to withdraw the amount which was diverted to different accounts. From these accounts, the amount was diverted to the accounts of shell firms.

Srinagar Airport Is 3rd Highest Prof-Making Airport For AAI

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Srinagar airport is the third highest profit-making airport for the Airport Authority of India (AAI) which maintains 133 airports across India. According to details, Srinagar airport is the third highest profit-making airport for the AAI after Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport, Kolkata and Pune airport.

Srinagar airport generated profit of Rs 20.16 crore for AAI while Kolkata and Pune airports generated profit of Rs 145.28 crore and Rs 39.13 crore, respectively.

These details have been laid bare in the department-related parliament standing committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

According to the report, the Ministry of Civil Aviation told the parliamentary committee that there are only profit-making airports with AAI.

"As regards profitability of airports, the Ministry highlighted that there are 133 airports with

AAI including JVC and PPP Airports. Out of 130 AAI airports (excluding 3 JVC airports), 9 airports operated by AAI are profit-making airports," reads the report.

As per report, the profit-making airports include Behala, Jammu, Jamnagar, Kanpur Chakeri Flying Club, NSCB Airport, Kolkata, Leh, Pune, Srinagar and Darbhanga.

Jammu and Leh airports have respectively generated profit of Rs 0.09 crore and Rs 2.82 crore.

After enquiring about reasons about less number of airports making profits, the parliamentary panel said that it agrees with the fact that an airport in general becomes profitable when adequate traffic flows from the airport.

"The committee feels that the Ministry should work towards increasing the share of air transport for cargo movement as the same would help generate revenue for the airports. AAI should also work with airlines to attract new routes and increase frequency on existing routes to attract maximum passengers," the committee said—(KNO)

Pak Sending "Gift" Of Drugs To Youth In J&K: DGP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Tuesday said Pakistan is gifting drug addiction to the youth of the Union Territory just like the neighbouring country did with Punjab at the end of militancy. "This (drug supply) conspiracy is from Pakistan. In Punjab, drugs were introduced by Pakistan after the end of militancy. Police are eradicating militancy here and Pakistan is sending the same gift to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir as well. The need is to stay alert and defeat this conspiracy," Singh told reporters here.

The DGP said the police have taken stringent action against the narco-terrorism trade in Jammu and Kashmir and have registered 2,000 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psy-



chotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested more than 3,000 persons involved in these cases.

"We have got successes against the narco-terror and weapon trade that is being run from Pakistan. We have intensified our operations. For the first time, such a large number of arrests have been made under the NDPS Act, people in-

involved in this are detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA), and the properties accumulated through narco-terror trade are being targeted," Singh said.

He said the civil administration and police were making efforts to help rehabilitate the youth who have fallen victim to drug abuse.

"I want to appeal to the children to stay very far from this menace as it is deadly and harmful to society. The ill effects will be felt for a long time," he added.

Asked about the presence of foreign militants in Kashmir, Singh said they have been neutralised to a large extent.

"Last year, 40 of them were killed and the remaining will also be dealt with. A large number of terrorists killed at the border while infiltrating into Kashmir were foreigners of Pakistani origin," he said.

Number Of Amarnath Pilgrims Crosses 4-Lakh Mark



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The number of pilgrims who have performed the Amarnath Yatra this year crossed the four-lakh mark on Tuesday as more than 2,500 devotees paid obeisance at the cave shrine till noon, officials said.

The total number of pilgrims who performed the Yatra till Tuesday noon stood at 4,00,132, the officials said.

The Amarnath Yatra this year has already seen more

pilgrims than last year's 3.65 lakh with nearly a month still to go for the annual pilgrimage to conclude.

The annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas began on July 1 from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

This year's Yatra has been distinguished by its seamless arrangements, unwaver-

ing services, and meticulous management, garnering widespread acclaim and nurturing a sense of harmony among people hailing from diverse backgrounds, the officials said.

According to the officials, 43 persons, mostly pilgrims, died due to various reasons during this year's pilgrimage.

This year, the Yatra has also witnessed a significant increase in the number of foreign pilgrims visiting the holy shrine.

Jammu-Based Newspaper In Dock For Carrying "Fabricated" News Report

Court Issues Arrest Warrant Against MD For Ignoring Repeated Summons Of Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A local court in Srinagar has issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against the managing director of a Jammu-based newspaper for publishing a "false" and "fabricated" news report regarding sale of question papers of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

According to a local news agency KNO, Judge Small Causes Srinagar today directed the police to arrest Mohit Mehra, Managing Director, Jammu Jottings and produce him before SHO Sadder police station before August 22 in connection with investigation of the case registered by police on complaint of SSB.

The Court issued the non-bailable warrant after SSB approached it, saying that the MD of the newspaper didn't appear before police in connection with investigation of the case despite three notices U/S 41 A CrPC were issued to him.

"The news item published is therefore false, fabricated and malicious, and aimed to tarnish the image of the Board. The act on part of the daily newspaper has a sense of conspiracy against the Board which has caused criminal intimidation and criminal defamation," the SSB said.

It further said the report was without any iota of investigation and research and same has tendency to cause fear or alarm to the public.

NC, PDP Condemn Communal Violence In Haryana's Nuh

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The PDP and the National Conference on Tuesday condemned the communal violence in Haryana, claiming it was part of a series of attacks on minorities and not an isolated incident.

Five people have been killed in the violence. Four people, including two home guards, died and many others injured in Nuh, where mobs tried to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession, while a naib imam was killed at a mosque in Gurugram.

Suhail Bukhari, chief spokesperson of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), said, "There is a pattern that is happening not only in Haryana but across the country. The dispensation at the Centre is hellbent on creating and strengthening the fault lines among communities in this country because, for them, the only way to secure their political benefits is to divide people on communalism."

He also accused the BJP of trying to break India's unity.

"They are trying to break the unity of this country, that is what we have seen over the last nine years. We are seeing the current situation in Manipur and now in Haryana where both have the BJP in government," he said.

"I would not say that they have miserably failed ... Essentially, their ideology is to create the distinction for creating hatred among communities and that is what we are seeing happening on the ground," Bukhari added.

Imran Nabi Dar, the National Conference spokesperson, called the violence in Haryana

unfortunate.

"It is very unfortunate and the National Conference condemns it in unequivocal terms. Unfortunately this communalism is happening in different parts of the country. Day before yesterday, a cop killed three Muslims on a train on the basis of racial profiling," Dar claimed.

RPF constable Chetan Singh allegedly shot dead his senior -- Assistant Sub-Inspector Tikaram Meena -- and three passengers near Palghar station on Mumbai's outskirts, officials said on Monday.

Two of the passengers have been identified by the Railway Police as Abdul Kadarbhai Mohammed Hussain Bhanpurwala and Asgar Abbas Sheikh while the third victim is yet to be identified.

Dar said there is an ecosystem promoting violence and these incidents are the physical manifestations of the statements from the top leadership.

"If they let go of this like it is happening, the situation will be worse. Places of worship are also targeted and even a mob of 200 people set a mosque on fire. They shot the imam as well," Dar added.

He also appealed to the state government to immediately act against the perpetrators.

"If these incidents are not stopped, it will embolden the perpetrators and such incidents will be repeated in other parts of the state as well. Another worrying fact is that this state is near the capital -- Delhi. I am hopeful that the authorities will deliver justice to the unarmed civilians that were killed last night," he added.

Police Conducts I-Day Security Review In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has conducted a security review of Kishtwar district in view of Independence Day, officials said on Tuesday.

Potential security challenges and the formulation of a robust security plan for the safety of citizens, dignitaries, and visitors were discussed during a meeting, they said.

The meeting was chaired by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khalil Poswal on

Monday evening.

The officials reviewed security measures, including strategic deployment of personnel, crowd management, traffic control, and emergency response protocols to maintain law and order during the celebrations.

"We are committed to working in collaboration with multiple agencies to effectively mitigate any security risks," the SSP said. During the meeting, officials also stressed on maintaining close coordination with intelligence agencies.

Poor Air Quality Behind Rise In Lung Cancer Cases Among Non-Smokers: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On world lung cancer day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said lung cancer cases are on rise among people who have never smoked because of increasing exposure to toxic air.

"Poor air quality is behind spike in lung cancer cases among non-smokers," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said evidence has shown that polluted air is as-

sociated with increased risk of lung cancer which is the most prominent cancer in Kashmir.

A new ground breaking study conducted at Francis Crick Institute and University College London has revealed that poor air quality can increase the odds of lung cancer in individuals who do not smoke. "Researchers have found that increased exposure to fine particles - typically seen in vehicle exhaust and smoke from fossil fuels trigger inflammation which causes cancerous

state in lung cells," he said.

The DAK President said the air quality in Kashmir has been constantly deteriorating for the past few years due to the increasing number of vehicles, constructions, brick kilns, cement and other factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute the air.

"And this is contributing to enormous burden of lung cancer in the valley," he said.

Dr Nisar said while smoking continues to be an important risk

factor for lung cancer, in Kashmir many people who have never smoked are diagnosed with lung cancer and air pollution is a big factor.

"It is a wakeup call about the damaging impact of air pollution on human health. We cannot ignore climate health. If we want to address human health, we have to address climate health, he said. "There is an urgent need to control air pollution to reduce the burden of lung cancer in the community and save precious human lives," he added.

IAF Chopper Airlifts Private Chopper Near Amarnath Cave

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A military transport helicopter Tuesday came to the rescue of a private operator providing heli-services for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims after its single-engine copter developed some snag at the Panchtarni helipad of the pilgrimage, officials said.

A Mi 17 V5 helicopter of the Air Force successfully recovered an AS-350 helicopter operated by a private operator from the Panchtarni helipad, the officials said.

They said the challenging mission involved a complex underslung operation from a helipad located at a dizzying elevation of 11500 ft.

After lifting the underslung helicopter, the Mi-17 V5 pilots had to skilfully manoeuvre within steep and narrow gorges in the vicinity of the Amarnath cave shrine, with a very limited margin for error, the officials said.



The crew displayed immaculate planning, systematic preparation and exceptional flying skills in recovering the damaged helicopter, they said.

As a result of the removal of the AS-350 helicopter, the Panchtarni helipad has been made available for use during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, they added.

Teen Girl From Border Village Attends ISRO Young Scientist Programme

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A teenage girl from a border district in Jammu and Kashmir has garnered admiration among the people in her village for her participation in an ISRO-sponsored young scientist programme.

Bhupinder Kaur, a student of class 10 at the government high school in Abtal village -- a village barely two kilometres from the International Border -- attended YUVIKA or Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (Young Scientist Programme) at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun. The programme was initiated in 2019 to spark interest in space science among the youth. Around 350 students from across the country visited the research institute as part of the programme.

"ISRO organises the Yuvika young scientist program every year. I didn't know anything about it. My teacher helped me in filling up the forms," Bhupinder told PTI. "I went to IIRS, Dehradun, where I learnt a lot of things. I got to know the techniques behind building a rocket," Bhupinder said.

Her selection for the programme has received a lot of attention in her border village and has made her family proud. "We are really happy of her achievements and the whole village is proud that she got selected. Her teacher who helped her a lot is really happy -- I would say more than us. She has made all of us proud," Bhupinder's mother Amarjit Kaur said.

"The sky is the limit for her and we really want her to achieve more and make the whole country proud. She will be a role model for other kids in the village," State Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) vice president Gurmail Singh said.

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE DESIGNATED NIA COURT FOR KULGAM-SHOPIAN KULGAM

Subject: Proclamation under section 82 of Cr. P. C against Yawar Bashir Dar

1. Whereas, application has been made before me that one Yawar Bashir Dar S/O Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Redwani Balla Kulgam is suspected to have committed offence in case FIR No. 51/2022 of PS Qaimoh under section 302 IPC, 3/4 Exp. Subs. Act, 16, 18, 38 UA(P) Act, dated 13.08.2022, it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Yawar Bashir Dar S/O Bashir Ahmad Dar R/O Redwani Balla Tehsil Qaimoh, Kulgam cannot be found, and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Yawar Bashir Dar S/O Bashir Ahmad Dar R/O Redwani Balla Tehsil Qaimoh, Kulgam has absconded or is concealing himself, to avoid the service of said warrant issued vide order No. 214/FTC/KGM dated 17.05.2023. Proclamation is hereby made regarding said Yawar Bashir Dar S/O Dar R/O Redwani Balla Tehsil Qaimoh, Kulgam by is required to appear before this Court at Kulgam or investigating Officer i.e. CIO-SIU-Ist Kulgam, or before SHO of Police Station Qaimoh, on or before 15th September 2023.

Dated this 22th day of July 2023.

Announced
22.07.2023

Special Judge
Designated NIA Court for Shopian - Kulgam
Kulgam

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (DESIGNATED COURT UNDER NIA ACT) KULGAM

Subject: Proclamation under section 82 of Cr. P. C against Irfan Yaqoob Lone.

1. "Whereas, application has been made before me that one Irfan Yaqoob Lone S/O Mohd Yaqoob Lone R/O Hawoora Kulgam is suspected to have committed offence in case FIR No. 51/2022 of PS Qaimoh under section. 302 IPC, 3/4 Exp. Subs. Act, 16, 18, 38 UA(P) Act, dated 13.08.2022, it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Irfan Yaqoob Lone S/O Mohd Yaqoob Lone R/O Hawoora Kulgam cannot be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Irfan Yaqoob Lone S/O. Mohd Yaqoob Lone R/O Hawoora Kulgam has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant issued vide order No. 213/FTC/KGM dated 17.05.2023

2. Proclamation is hereby made regarding said Irfan Yaqoob Lone S/O Mohd Yaqoob Lone R/O Hawoora Kulgam by which he is required to appear before this Court or Investigating Officer i.e. CIO-SIU-Ist Kulgam, or before SHO of Police Station Qaimoh, on or before 15th September 2023

Dated this 22th day of July 2023.

Announced
22.07.2023

DIPK-6176-22
DT: 01/08/2023

Special Judge
(Designated Court Under NIA Act)
Kulgam

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM
Wednesday | 02-08-2023

Towards Normalcy

In the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a phenomenal transformation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday while speaking about the situation in the union territory since the withdrawal of Article 370. At a round-table discussion organized by India Foundation. The LG highlighted the abolition of the "discriminatory policies" that had been in place over seven decades. As a result, citizens, according to the LG, now enjoy equal opportunities for development.

As evidence, the LG explained how common citizens of J&K can freely express their thoughts without fear. Sinha said his administration is committed to establishing peace rather than seeking to buy it, an approach that on ground has meant zero tolerance for separatist voices. He mentioned the revival of Muharram processions in Kashmir after 34 years, the reopening of cinemas, and an unprecedented influx of tourists to the Union Territory.

At the discussion, experts, eminent personalities, and senior functionaries praised the initiatives taken by the UT administration for promoting equal and inclusive development in J&K. It is true that the situation in J&K has changed beyond recognition since 2019. This is also borne out by a report by Ministry of Home Affairs early this year. On the development front, the report says that the BJP government at the centre has brought an investment of Rs 56,000 crores in just three years. Under the Prime Minister's Development Package in Jammu, the report mentions, J&K got about 63 projects in hydroelectricity at a cost of Rs 80,000 crore.

Security-wise also, the situation has transformed to a large extent. This has happened incrementally over the period with violence declining sharply, reaching its lowest last year. Earlier, an MHA review highlighted the progress made in J&K over the last year on economic and security fronts. The union territory, the report said, witnessed "a 54 percent reduction in terrorist incidents, a 22 percent drop in recruitment of militants and 84 percent decline in the deaths of security forces." In real terms, the militancy related violence has decreased from 417 incidents in 2018 to 229 in 2021 while the number of slain security personnel had reduced from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021.

One biggest indicator of the new normalcy, as highlighted by the home minister, has been the growth of tourism. And last year is said to have broken all previous records. According to the tourist officials, the number of tourists Kashmir received last year is the highest so far, beating by far even the pre-turmoil period record. This has generated employment for the thousands of people who had lost their jobs during Covid pandemic. Going forward, the situation looks set to only improve further, hopefully with all other political and social drivers of the place remaining unchanged.

OTHER OPINION

Devour all

Israel's halo as a rare, robust democracy in the Middle East has always been limited by its treatment of its Arab citizens and of Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, West Bank and the blockaded enclave of Gaza. Now, even the democratic image that Israel's Jewish citizens could recognise is crumbling. The far-Right coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed a bill through Israel's legislature, the Knesset, this week that aims to fundamentally alter the power balance between the executive and the judiciary. The law curtails the authority of courts to pronounce verdicts on policies and could set the stage for further erosion of judicial powers. The passage of the law followed months of protests in which tens of thousands of Israelis came out to the streets against the so-called judicial reforms. Serving soldiers, police officers and diplomats publicly demanded that the government withdraw the proposed legislation, risking their professional careers to oppose what they argued was a strike at the heart of Israeli democracy. Undeterred, Mr Netanyahu — who was briefly hospitalised and operated upon just before the vote — went ahead; he now has the law that he wanted. Yet his battering ram approach threatens to only deepen Israel's political fissures.

Opposition groups have said they will continue and even intensify their protests against Mr Netanyahu and the new law, which threatens to erode key checks and balances on the power of the executive. With neither side backing down, Israel's future direction is unclear. But none of this should be surprising. Decades ago, Yeshayahu Leibowitz, one of Israel's leading thinkers, warned that the country's brutalisation of Palestinians, its illegal occupation, would eventually come back to bite those who believed they were safe from the State's racism. Today, that prophecy appears to be coming true. And therein lies a lesson for other democracies pursuing majoritarian agendas. It is easy for those in the majority to tell themselves that State-sponsored discrimination against a minority community would not hurt them and might even be in the interest of a faux national project sold to them by those in power. But a State apparatus built on violence and impunity is never satiated; it invariably seeks new victims and devours those who thought they were safe. It knows no other way. Today, Israel stands at a crossroads because for far too long, too many of its citizens, including those protesting today, ignored Leibowitz's warning. Citizens of other democracies must not repeat that mistake.

Telegraph India

'INDIA' versus NDA

The opposition alliance appears to be a credible challenger to the ruling BJP, at least on paper



Twenty-six Opposition parties have come together under the formal coalition of 'Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance' (INDIA) for upcoming elections. Source: PTI

RIYAZ WANI

Seat-sharing will be a technocratic process guided by electoral arithmetic. Each party is likely to get seats equivalent to a measure of its popularity and geographical footprint based on its performance in the last election. The exercise will understandably be a big hurdle to surmount for the newly-launched alliance

After being in the works for over a year, Opposition unity has finally materialized in India. INDIA, as the grouping of more than a dozen parties calls itself, has already held a couple of successful meetings. And on paper, the alliance is shaping up to be a credible challenger to the ruling BJP. It comprises a diverse array of regional and national parties, which have historically been rivals but have set aside their differences for a common cause: to take on the BJP's nationalist platform, which appears now more entrenched than ever in its reign of the past nine years.

As the INDIA grouping moves forward, it plans to create a coordination panel and name a convener to further streamline its efforts. One challenge the alliance will face is deciding on the allocation of seats for each party to contest one-on-one against the BJP. A successful seat-sharing will be critical in maximizing their chances of victory in the national elections. Would parties be able to work out this complicated arrangement? The coming weeks and months will make things clear on this score.

That said, seat-sharing will be a technocratic process guided by the electoral arithmetic. Each party is likely to get seats equivalent to a measure of its popularity and geographical footprint based on its performance in the last election. The exercise will understandably be a big hurdle to surmount for the newly-launched alliance and as such will be a test of its strength. In fact, the real challenge for the BJP will begin only after this exercise is carried out smoothly.

Comprising 26 parties, the INDIA has some formidable regional parties apart from the national party like Congress. More worrying for the BJP is the resur-

gence of the Congress following Rahul Gandhi's 4000 kilometre padyatra, which ended in Srinagar this year. Ever since Congress has won Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka which shows it might finally be getting back into public favour. However, the outcome of the upcoming Assembly elections will make things further clear. Around nine such polls are scheduled to be held before the national polls. Among them, the elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana will be very consequential. The BJP will hope to win all of them. Should the party suffer reverses in the majority of these states, this may not bode well for its 2024 chances. But despite the reverses, it could still carry the day as happened in 2019 when the saffron party secured a landslide in general elections despite losing state polls in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

As for regional parties, the BJP is expected to face a tough fight from the TMC in West Bengal, JDU-RJD combine in Bihar, Samajwadi party in Uttar Pradesh, AAP in Delhi and Punjab, Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising Congress, Pawar's NCP and Shiva Sena in Maharashtra, DMK in Tamil Nadu, Bharat Rashtira Samiti in Telangana and communists in Kerala. These are all very strong parties and if the INDIA alliance sticks together and ensures a one-on-one contest with the BJP, this is certain to make things difficult for the BJP, if not unmanageable.

Despite being in power for over nine years, the prime minister Narendra Modi remains very much the overarching, pan-India leader without even a distant competition from any other leader either within the BJP or in Opposition. True, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with two successive terms under

his belt, has become a darling of a section of Hindutva base and is thus being touted as a potential rival. But he is still far from matching the appeal of the PM Modi.

In the opposition, there is still no one who comes even close to Modi charisma. After yatra, Rahul Gandhi has certainly come a long way. He has shed his papu image to a large extent. But he isn't still there yet. As for his makeover, it still seems to be a work in progress. His statements are largely about some of the BJP's governance failures, not about the overarching ideological challenge posed by the saffron party. Hence the persisting absence of a cogent political narrative from the Congress.

But the Karnataka win has certainly gone some way to boost his political cachet - albeit, the party's performance in the state owes itself in major part to the efforts of its local leaders who harnessed deep anti-incumbency against the BJP to their advantage.

As for the regional parties, there is no leader with a pan-India appeal. But some of them like Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Akhilesh Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal etc have a formidable following in their respective states. With Congress apparently on the rebound, 2024 is unlikely to be a walkover for the BJP the way 2019 was. That is, unless some election time crisis once again works to the advantage of the BJP. Perhaps in a nod to this evolving reality, the BJP has felt the need to dust off the NDA to take on the opposition's INDIA.

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

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Spelling Champions

Spelling Bees, who take part in the prestigious annual Scripps National Spelling Bee competition in the U.S., have become synonymous with the height of this intellectual contest, which has transmogrified over the years. The journey to the competition typically begins at the local level, where students compete in school and community spelling bees. Winners of these contests move on to regional com-

petitions, which serve as qualifying rounds for the national stage. Once at nationals, they are pushed through three rounds before making it to the final round. Through each stage, the field of spellers gradually narrows until a select few spellers make it to the Championship Finals.

Significantly, for years the competition, which is loaded with plenty of excitement and nail-biting moments, has been dominated by chil-

dren of Indian origin, who comprise just about 1% of the total US population. If the 14-year-old Harini Logan from Texas was crowned champion in 2022, (her final winning word was "moorhen" - a female red grouse), this year it was the turn of Dev Shah from Florida to win the contest with the word "psammophile" (a plant or an animal that thrives in sand). In a research, exploring the amazing success rate of Indian-American stu-

dents at the Spelling Bee, it has been revealed that exceptional quality of memorization and networks give these students an edge over others. It is completely a normal scenario in an Indian-American household to see kids knowing not one, but multiple dictionaries by heart, astoundingly by the age of 12!

Ranganathan Sivakumar

My Triumph Over Tinnitus

Shahid Qureshi

Life isn't linear. It may land us into unforeseen territories we could never have prepared ourselves for and yet it is only in these darkest times that we can discover in ourselves an indomitable human strength and resilience.

I too was positive about my future, full of hopes and ambitions. I had milestones to cross, destinations to reach, vision to fulfill and dreams to realize. My eyes were always on the end of the road as if life would be just what I had envisioned. I was sure about myself, confident and full of pride. I could never have in my wildest dreams imagined that life would abduct me into a traumatic dungeon to struggle with an awful enemy within. I can recall the words of JK Rowling, author of Harry Potter "talent and intelligence never inoculated anyone against the caprice of fates" and I can no longer naively suppose even for a moment that life of other people has been an enjoyment of untroubled privilege and ease. There are stories of struggle, of success and of achievement but only the ones which strike and catch our eyes under the glare are sung. Some who make it to headlines and rightfully so are swarmed around for a bite or beelined by fans for an autograph become icons, role models or superheroes. However beyond them are many unsung heroes who grapple all alone. In darkness and in silence with nobody around to pat them on their back.

Tinnitus, an invisible enemy, became my constant companion, disrupting the symphony of silence. Its relentless whispers tormented my ears, stealing away moments of peace and replacing them with a cacophony of ringing, buzzing, and hissing. Sleepless nights trans-



formed into weary days, as my mind battled against the unyielding intrusion.

Socially withdrawn in sequestered places, every aspect of my social life, interest at workplace, things I had been passionate about, commitment to dreams and aspirations once cherished, the way I would dress up and even attitude towards people around and towards my own life, everything suffered.

But amidst the darkness, I found

strength. I embarked on a journey to understand and conquer this affliction that had taken hold of my life. I sought solace in the stories of others who had faced the same struggle, finding comfort in their resilience and triumphs. The American biographical drama "A beautiful mind" screening the successful struggle of great American Mathematician, John Forbes Nash who fought and came out of the tenacious grip of much severe Schizophre-

nia infused new strength and enthusiasm into me. Armed with knowledge and determination, I decided to confront my own demons.

Days turned into weeks, weeks into months, as I explored various treatments and therapies. Each step forward carried a glimmer of hope, a belief that liberation from this relentless noise was within my reach. Meditation became my refuge, a sanctuary where I could find moments of

respite from the constant auditory assault. And then, a breakthrough. A therapy that resonated with my being, a melody that harmonized with my soul. Sound therapy, carefully crafted to drown out the discordant tones of tinnitus, breathed new life into my world. The gentle whispers of nature, the soothing melodies of music became my allies in this battle.

As time passed, the volume of the intrusive sounds diminished. The symphony of silence began to reemerge, gradually filling the void left by tinnitus. I rediscovered the beauty of quiet moments, the serenity of a tranquil evening, and the joy of uninterrupted sleep.

My victory over tinnitus did not come without scars. The emotional toll it took on me was profound, leaving behind a trail of anxiety and vulnerability. But through this struggle, I found resilience within myself that I never knew existed. I emerged stronger, with a newfound appreciation for the delicate harmony that exists in the absence of noise.

Today, I stand as a testament to the power of perseverance and the indomitable human spirit and victory of hope over suffering. Though the whispers of tinnitus may occasionally return, they no longer hold me captive. I have reclaimed my life, refusing to let this relentless cacophony define me.

To those still fighting their own battles, I offer a hand of solidarity. Know that you are not alone in your struggle, and that there is hope on the horizon. Let us stand united, warriors against the tyranny of tinnitus, knowing that within us lies the strength to overcome and emerge victorious.

The author is an educator by profession shahidlangate@gmail.com

PARENTAL BURNOUT When Parenting Becomes Too Much

Noam Shpancer

Burnout is a syndrome characterized by mental and physical exhaustion, depersonalization, and a decreased sense of fulfillment and self-efficacy. It tends to result from chronic exposure to emotionally draining environments. While not a formal clinical diagnosis, burnout has been recognized by the World Health Organization as "an occupational condition...resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed."

Traditionally, burnout has been most associated with the workplace, particularly the helping professions (physicians, social workers) and high-pressure work environments (law, finance). The Covid-19 pandemic, however, brought renewed attention to the less well-studied phenomenon of parental burnout, which occurs when parents "chronically face parenting stressors without the resources needed to handle them." Indeed, the pandemic resulted in increased parental stress and isolation, particularly for parents who had to keep working during that time. Daycare services closed, and grandparents, who serve as parental support for many families, were suddenly unavailable, leaving parents under increased parenting burden while decreasing their access to coping resources. Consequentially, research found that over 60% of parents experienced some level of burnout during the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic, contemporary parenting has become a strained and contradictory undertaking. On one hand, our culture lauds parents as role models, children as precious, family values as cherished, and parent-child relationships as foundational. On the other, our culture does not offer much support for parents, while demanding a lot from them.

For one, non-parental childcare, an essential resource for working parents, is expensive, low quality, and often unavailable. Moreover, in a culture that weighs everything by money, parenting is quite a raw deal: It's long, hard work that takes a lot of your time and siphons a lot of your money. Additionally, the tasks that constitute the role are often rote, frustrating, and lonely. And while few people openly regret having children, few report being happier on ac-



count of becoming parents. Further, like so many other things in the US, parenting has become highly competitive, a test of one's dedication and competence and a way to gratify oneself—and signal one's worth—vicariously through one's children. Alas, when parents feel social pressure to prove their worth by raising perfect children, they tend to become more anxious and controlling. Parental anxiety tends to affect children adversely, as does controlling parenting, which has been linked in research to child maladjustment. Facing high expectations and inadequate support, it's no wonder that, even in non-pandemic times, stress and exhaustion levels can escalate to the level of burnout for as many as 20% of parents, and the rates are higher for parents of children with chronic illnesses.

Mentions of parental burnout in the science literature go back to the late 70s, with early research focusing on parents of autistic children. Parental burnout research has since identified several core features that tend to progress in order. First is exhaustion, both physical and emotional, as the daily grind of parenting wears down parents. Emotional distancing tends to emerge next, followed by a loss of fulfillment and pleasure in parenting, and with that a sense of guilt, shame, and self-discrepancy (distress over failing to be the parent one wanted to be).

Parental burnout varies by parental circumstances, but also by culture. Gen-

erally, western, individualistic cultures are more vulnerable to experiencing it than parents in collectivist cultures. A recent (2023) meta-analysis of the parenting burnout literature by Belgian researcher Moira Mikolajczak and colleagues found that contrary to expectation, the number and ages of children are not strong predictors of PB. Neither is being in a blended family, or a single parent (particularly if single parenthood is chosen).

The best predictors identified in the literature involve family disorganization, low emotional intelligence and lack of social support, social pressures toward perfection, co-parenting disagreement, and work-family conflict. Unemployment, financial insecurity, and a lack of leisure time have all been associated with an increased risk for parental burnout. Predictors, however, may differ by culture. "For instance, single parenthood is a vulnerability factor in Iran, a neutral factor in Belgium, and a slightly protective factor in France."

Finnish researchers Matilda Sorkkila and Kaisa Aunola (2020) found that a strong risk factor for burning out was "socially prescribed perfectionism," and its effects were exacerbated in parents who also reported a high level of self-oriented perfectionism. The authors also found a gender effect: "The relationship between gender and parental burnout was mediated via perfectionism: mothers reported more socially prescribed

and self-oriented perfectionism than fathers and, consequently, were also more burned out as parents."

Personality matters as well, on both sides of the equation. French psychologists Sarah Le Vigouroux and Celine Scola (2018) found that "Parental meticulousness and lack of emotional control were both risk factors for developing parental burnout. By contrast, agreeableness and perseverance were protective factors." Moreover, "having children they perceived as having a high level of neuroticism reduced parents' sense of parental accomplishment and increased their emotional exhaustion and distancing. The opposite relationships were found for agreeableness and conscientiousness."

Likewise, recent (2023) research by Polish psychologist Konrad Piotrowski and colleagues found that personality traits associated with resilience, namely low neuroticism and high conscientiousness, agreeableness, and extraversion, are linked, unsurprisingly, to a lower incidence of parental burnout. They found that the effects of personality on burnout are more pronounced early, before children reach school age.

What are the consequences of PB? The meta-analysis authors list several consequences, including undermined mental and physical health of the parents, increases feelings of guilt, as well as escape and suicidal ideations. Life satisfaction and well-being also appear to decrease.

Research has also documented a link between PB and increased cortisol (i.e., stress hormone) levels, and with that, increased somatic complaints. Moreover, increased parental stress, coupled with emotional distancing, has consequences for children as well, in part through increased parental anger, neglect, and even violence.

What can be done to treat PB? The researchers note that "Despite the dramatic consequences of PB, the literature is extremely scarce on treatments." They cite one recent study showing that short-term group interventions to either directly address the defining features of PB or offer a setting in which people are heard and understood without judgment were both effective in significantly reducing behavioral and emotional symptoms, as well as cortisol levels in parents.

Yet, targeted treatment protocols and effectiveness data are lacking in this area. Moreover, the authors found no studies of prevention, which, they note, is a shame "given that it is only in the second phase of PB, i.e., emotional distancing, that its most deleterious consequences peak."

Finnish researcher Kaisa Aunola and colleagues recently (2021) developed a brief measure of parental burnout that may help prevention efforts by identifying exhausted parents and intervening before they are fully burnt out, thus sparing them and their children the worst consequences of the condition. Recent work has suggested that treatments targeting parental conflict may help, since co-parenting disagreements are strong predictors of burnout. A cognitive reappraisal intervention targeting co-parenting cognitions has also shown promise. Research has also found that teaching parents "informal mindfulness practices" aiming to enhance the awareness of the present moment using the five senses and awareness of body sensations may help reduce the risk of burnout.

In sum, parental burnout is a common—and commonly overlooked—condition that carries adverse consequences for both parents and their children. Clearly, more data are urgently needed about how to measure, prevent, and treat it effectively.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Anaemia: Women And Children Progressed Slower Than Adult Men

Press Trust of India

Compared to men, twice as many women were found to have anaemia in 2021, with the prevalence factor being more than three times during their reproductive age, new research published in The Lancet Haematology said.

Anaemia affected nearly 2 billion people in 2021, the study covering three decades of global anaemia data (1990-2021) said. Regionally, Western sub-Saharan Africa (47.4 per cent), South Asia (35.7 per cent), and Central sub-Saharan Africa (35.7 per cent) revealed the highest anaemia prevalence.

Further, women and children showed

much slower rates of progress relative to men, the study conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), US, and its Global Burden of Disease anaemia collaborators said.

"We know the global picture around anaemia has improved, but there are still wide disparities when you narrow the focus on geography, gender, and age," said Nick Kassebaum, senior author of the study.

Globally, in 2021, 31.2 per cent of women had anaemia compared with 17.5 per cent of men.

Comparing men and women in their reproductive ages, anaemia prevalence in women was 33.7 per cent versus 11.3 per cent in men.

The researchers modelled 37 underlying causes for anaemia, which they said

were important for clinicians to treat in parallel to the anaemia itself.

"We hope they use these data to design more comprehensive intervention and treatment plans, especially for the most vulnerable - women of reproductive age, children, and the elderly," said Kassebaum.

That adult men fared better than women (aged 15-49) and children younger than 5 years presented a "nuanced situation that revolves around access to nutrition, socioeconomic status, unmet need for contraception, and the ability to identify and treat underlying causes of anaemia," said Will Gardner, IHME researcher and lead author of the paper.

Dietary iron deficiency was revealed to be the leading cause of anaemia in 2021, ac-

counting for 66.2 per cent of the total cases. However, the study said, many other conditions are major drivers of anaemia along with an inadequate intake of iron.

Among women of reproductive age, gynaecological disorders and maternal haemorrhage were important contributors to anaemia burden.

"For many young women and girls, there's an education gap about blood loss during menstruation, inadequate options for effectively managing menstrual problems in those who have them, and not enough knowledge about how to manage and/or reverse anaemia when it occurs," said Theresa McHugh, scientific writer at IHME.

Previous studies have shown anaemia to be associated with increased rates of

anxiety and depression and higher rates of preterm labour, postpartum haemorrhage, low birthweight, short gestation, stillbirth, and infections for both the child and the mother.

For children younger than 5 years, the main cause of anaemia was dietary iron deficiency, but haemoglobinopathies (presence of abnormal blood proteins), other infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, and malaria were also important contributors in geographic locations where these diseases are prevalent.

"This (study) speaks to the need for a shift to multisectoral approaches and improved cultural awareness to make sure women and children are not left behind," said Gardner.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh E-NIT No. 46 of 2023-24 Dated 31.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Contractors with J&K UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Additional Facility to Swimming Pool at RSGC.	4.00	8000/- in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Secretary RSGC	800 /- Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-0229040100012341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	40 days	DEE Class	5452 Tourism

Position of AA: Accorded
Special conditions:-
No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee.
The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2023-24 /PAN/GST registration with latest renewal for the month of June 2023 OR 1st Quarter (i.e Apr to June 2023). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Cost of Contract pledged to Executive Engineer as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 03days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc, if any found during e- NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.
However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.07.2023 4:00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31.07.2023 to 10.08.2023 (4.00PM on wards)
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	31.07.2023 4:00 Pm on wards
4.	Bid Submission End Date	10.08.2023 upto 03:00
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	11.08.2023 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:

- The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any unavoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
- The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in addition to EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non responsive.
- The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
- The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The Contractor is bound to supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within 3 days from the date of issue of LOI/Allotment.
- In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.
- No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor.
- The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 15 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
- All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be referable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties
- The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc
- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
- The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
- Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
- The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than Eighteen Months.
- No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

No: RSGC/EE/2023-24/ 552-54
DIPK-NB-2349/23
Dated: 01/08/2023

Office of the Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir
J&K Sports Council Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 37 of 2023-24
DAT ED: 31.07.2023

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender documents	Administrative Approval No. & date	Time of Completion
1	Development of Play field at Manzgam Kulgam	99.77	AAY Class	Rs.199,540/-	Rs. 1600/-	Sports Council Order No: 555 of 2023 dt: 06.07.2023	180 days
2	Construction of Outside Boundary of Indoor Hall Rajoura Pulwama	8.00	CEE/DEE Class	Rs. 16,000/-	Rs. 300/-	Sports Council Order No: 609 of 2023 dt: 26.07.2023	30 days
3	Development of Play field by way of Change Room, Washroom, and allied works at Malshahibagh Ganderbal.	20.00	BEE/CEE Class	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 800/-	Sports Council Order No: 609 of 2023 dt: 26.07.2023	60 days
4	Development of playing field at Baghi Buchoo Anantnag	24.85	BEE/CEE Class	Rs. 49,700/-	Rs. 900/-	Sports Council Order No: 609 of 2023 dt: 26.07.2023	60 days
5	Development of Playing field by way of Change Room/ Wash Room and allied works at Warpooh Ganderbal.	19.99	BEE/CEE Class	Rs. 39,980/-	Rs. 700/-	Sports Council Order No: 609 of 2023 dt: 26.07.2023	120 days
6	Development of playing field by way of filling, fencing, Change Room at Wakura Ganderbal.	19.99	BEE/CEE Class	Rs. 39,980/-	Rs. 650/-	Sports Council Order No: 609 of 2023 dt: 26.07.2023	120 days

Position of Fund = Under Capex 2023-24
Position of TS = Accorded

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
- Critical Dates Table

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	31.07.2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31.07.2023 from 6.00 PM to 11.08.2023 upto 4.00PM.
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	02.08.2023 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid submission End Date	11.08.2023 upto 04.00 PM
5.	Date & Time of opening of Bids(online)	12.08.2023 at 10.00 AM in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar. (or any convenient date)

- The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

1) Name of Bank	=	J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title	=	Executive Engineer, Construction Div. KmJ, KSC
3) Account No	=	CDG-0365010200000842
4) Branch	=	Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code	=	JAKAOSBOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.

Ex. Engineer, CDK
J&K Sports Council
Srinagar

DIPK-NB-2344/23
DATED: 01-08-2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare
Office of the Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Sumbal Sonawari
Irrigation Colony Sumbal-193501

Phone: 01954230324 Email: sdaosonawari@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notice.

Tenders are invited from the registered/reputed dealers/suppliers on the letter heads fixed with stamp of Rs 2/= for supply of below mentioned seeds as requirement during 2023-24 (including hi Tech Sumbal)

The tender must reach to this office of Sub Divisional Agriculture office Sumbal by or before 08/08/2023 in the office chamber of u/sd. The Tender shall be opened on 09/08/2023 in presence of purchasing committee framed for financial year 2023-24.

The details are as under.

S.No	Name of Seed	Variety
1	Red Cabbage	Red Ruby
2	Cauliflower	Infinity
3	Knol khol	Smart
4	Broccoli	GS-105
5	Onion	Platinum

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The bidders are asked to quoted the rates for each of the above items inclusive of all taxes adhered.
- The Quotation/bid validity is 07 days from the date of published of the quotation entertained after due date and time.
- The rates should be quoted item wise mentioned the standard /quality/brand to be supplied.
- The u/sd reserves the right to accept/ rejected any quotation or any part of quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer
Sumbal

DIPK-6189/23
dated: 01-08-2023

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.

FAX: 01957-225533. e-mail: ee_rnb_bandipora@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No: (41) of 2023-24 DATED: 31-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on percentage age basis from approved and eligible Civil registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Supply and Installation of below mentioned items on the Eve of Independence day 15th August at S.K Stadium Bandipora from 10-08-2023 to 15-08-2023.	5.86	300 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	1720.00	06 days	08-08-2023 at 10:30 AM	"CEE" "DEE"	3054 Normal Maintainace

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	31-07-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31-07-2023 4:30 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start date	31-07-2023 4:30 PM
4.	Bid Submission End date	07-08-2023 upto 4:00 P.M.
5.	Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e- Challan/Treasury 0059. However the successful bidders will submit the same after the opening of Bids online. Note:- All bidder must upload EMD in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora @2% of advertised Cost
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	08-08-2023 at 10:30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora.

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents under MH-0059 in shape of Treasury Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority). Indicating S.No of Nit, Name of work and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).
- The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender inviting authority) and the 2% EMD shall be Released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 3% performance security.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be fortified, if:-
a. Any bidder/ tendered withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in in acquit bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital certificate from any approved vendor.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para -1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/ photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post/ through courier before the date specified in para-1
f. The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora Tender issuing authority and the 2% EMD shall be released only after the receipt of the same.
Note: Scan all the documents on 100Dpi with black & White Option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora and Earnest Money in shape of CDR / FDR applicable pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Receipt (Cost of tender documents), CDR / FDR (earnest money / bid security) & relevant bid documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by registered post / courier / by hand before due date of submission of tender / as per time schedule specified.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills for the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My documents" are in their user on R&B e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB).
- All Bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
Principal place of Business.
a) PAN No. along with the latest self-attested certificate by the bidders to the effect that he has no sales tax liability / arrears, GST Registration with clearance of Latest Quarter or preceding Month.
b) The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of Bid.
c) All documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.
13.5 All bidders shall mandatory upload verification certificate from the concerned Issuing Authorities of enlistment registration card along-with registration Card and (online renewal of Registration card as the case may be) non submission of the same shall be render the bid non responsive.
1. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/ quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.
C) Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
D) All other terms, conditions are as per PWD Form-25 (Double agreement)

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Bandipora

No:-EE/R&B/Bandi/2428-35
DIPK-6163/23 Date: 01-08-2023.

Advisor Bhatnagar Chairs 54th AGM, 69th BoDs Meet Of JKAIDCL



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Tuesday chaired the 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and 69th Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited (JKAIDCL) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Public Works department, Shaileendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Managing Director, JKAIDCL, Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas; Director General Codes, CGM NABARD, Director Agriculture, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Horticulture, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu/Kashmir, representative of department of Agri Cooperative Farmers Welfare, Gol and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

While chairing the AGM,

Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the management of corporation to take steps for enhancing and diversifying the business of the corporation. He asked them to prepare 'Business Management Model' of all units of the corporation for their effective utilisation and development.

During the AGM, the BoDs approved the Director Report and Annual Accounts for financial year 2021-22 for its onward submission.

Meanwhile, in the BoDs meeting, the Board took some significant decisions for improving the overall functioning and performance of the corporation. Various critical matters concerning the organization's operations were also discussed in detail during the BoDs meet. The Board also held robust discussion on the corporation's business activities and strategies and also deliberated on future plan for the Corporation to make it profit centric.

Tourism Directorate Organises Interactive Session With Stakeholders On Promotion Of Jammu Tourism



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu today organized an interactive session on the promotion of Jammu tourism with stakeholders, along with a felicitation ceremony for participants of Heritage Walk held on 15th April 2023 during 'Basoa Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023'.

More than 60 participants of Heritage Walk, along with key stakeholders including students, College Professors, Travel Agents, Tour Operators and hoteliers were felicitated at the event. The aim of the event was to fortify the tourism industry and explore innovative strategies to showcase the true beauty and charm of Jammu.

During the interactive session held in the Conference

Hall of Tourist Reception Centre Jammu, detailed discussions were held regarding showcasing Jammu's untamed beauty, celebrating its vibrant culture, unveiling historical treasures, and exploring eco-friendly approaches to ensure the preservation and conservation of Jammu's pristine environment through sustainable tourism practices.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, highlighted the importance of building a strong network of passionate individuals and organizations committed to making Jammu a prominent destination. He emphasized the need to create an unforgettable experience for travelers while empowering local communities and preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage.

Top 50 Wilful Defaulters Owe Rs 87,295 Crore To Banks

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry on Tuesday said top 50 wilful defaulters including Gitanjali Gems Limited, Era Infra Engineering Limited, REI Agro Limited, and ABC Shipyard Limited owe Rs 87,295 crore to banks and financial institutions.

Of this, top 10 wilful defaulters owe Rs 40,825 crore to schedule commercial banks (SCBs), Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

SCBs have written off an aggregate amount of Rs 10,57,326 crore during the last five financial years (RBI provisional data for FY 2022-23), he said.

"The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has apprised that the amount owed by top 50 wilful defaulters in SCBs was Rs 87,295 crore as on March 31, 2023," he said.

Fugitive Mehul Choksi's Gitanjali Gems is the biggest wilful defaulter owing Rs 8,738 crore to banks. It is followed by Era Infra Engineering Limited owing Rs 5,750 crore, REI Agro Limited Rs 5,148 crore, ABC Shipyard Limited Rs 4,774 crore, and Concast Steel and Power Limited Rs 3,911 crore.

Other wilful defaulters are Rotomac Global Private Limited



Rs 2,894 crore, Winsome Diamonds and Jewellery Limited Rs 2,846 crore, Frost International Limited Rs 2,518 crore, Shri Lakshmi Cotsyn Limited Rs 2,180 crore and Zoom Developers Private Limited Rs 2,066 crore.

Karad said the provision enabling banks to enter into compromise settlement in respect of borrowers categorised as fraud or wilful defaulter is not a new regulatory instruction and has been the settled regulatory stance for more than fifteen years.

"RBI had advised IBA, vide letter dated May 10, 2007, that, banks may enter into compromise settlement with wilful defaulters/ fraudulent borrowers without prejudice to the criminal proceeding underway against such borrowers and all such cases of compromise settlements should be vetted by Management Committee/Board of banks," he said.

Further, he said, compromise settlement with borrowers classified as wilful defaulters or fraud is also covered in RBI's Master Circular on Wilful Defaulters dated July 1, 2015 and Master Directions on Frauds dated July 1, 2016.

The compromise settlement, however, is not a matter of right for borrower but is a discretion to be exercised by lenders based on their commercial judgements, he said.

As per RBI's circular dated June 8, 2023, he said, regulated entities may undertake compromise settlements or technical write-offs in respect of accounts classified as fraud or wilful defaulter without prejudice to the criminal proceeding underway against such borrowers, and all such proposals need to be approved by the board.

GST Revenues Rise To ₹1.65 Lakh Crore In July On Anti-Evasion Measures

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST collection rose 11 per cent to over ₹1.65 lakh crore in July as a result of anti-evasion measures and higher consumer spending.

This is the fifth time since the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime that monthly collections have crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark -- making it the new normal.

"Gross GST revenue collected in July is ₹1,65,105 crore of which CGST is ₹29,773 crore, SGST is ₹37,623 crore, IGST is ₹85,930 crore (including ₹41,239 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹11,779 crore (including ₹840 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said in a statement.

Revenues for the month were 11 per cent higher than GST revenues in July 2022, when it was about ₹1.49 lakh crore.

July 2023 is the second consecutive month when revenues from taxes paid on goods sold and services rendered showed an increase month-on-month. It was ₹1.61 lakh crore and ₹1.57 lakh crore in June and May, respectively.



The record high collection of ₹1.87 lakh crore was witnessed in April.

During July, revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 15 per cent higher than revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

"A N Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said increased consumer spending for homes, cars, vacations, and other consumer items is also ensuring higher monthly GST collections.

"The strong GSTN network has ensured detection of tax evaders at early stages. Hence, on regular basis the department has been cracking down on tax evaders and fake invoicing entities. Further the periodic clarifications on industry issues by the GST Council are also ensuring clarity in law, proper compliances, and higher collections by the authorities," Mehta said.

Record 6.77 Cr ITRs For AY 2023-24 Filed Till July 31; 53.67 Lakh First-Time Filers: IT Dept

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The income tax department, on Tuesday, said a record 6.77 crore income tax returns for the assessment year 2023-24 were filed till July 31, including 53.67 lakh first-time filers.



"The total number of ITRs for AY 2023-24 filed till 31st July 2023 are more than 6.77 crore, which is 16.1 per cent more than the total ITRs for AY 2022-23 (5.83 crore) filed till 31st July 2022," the income tax department said in a statement.

July 31 was the last date for filing income tax returns by salaried taxpayers and those who do not need to get their accounts audited for income earned in the 2022-23 fiscal.

The filing of ITRs peaked on July 31, 2023, (the due date for filing income tax returns by salaried taxpayers and other non-tax audit cases), with over 64.33 lakh ITRs being filed on a single day.

The department also received 53.67 lakh ITRs till July 31, 2023, from first-time filers,

a fair indication of the widening of the tax base, the department added.

Of the 6.77 crore ITRs, 5.63 crore returns have been e-verified, out of which more than 5.27 crore are through Aadhaar-based OTP (94 per cent).

Of the e-verified ITRs, more than 3.44 crore ITRs for AY 2023-24 have been processed (61 per cent) by July 31.

The e-filing helpdesk team handled approximately 5 lakh queries from taxpayers in July. The support from the helpdesk was provided to taxpayers through inbound calls, outbound calls, live chats, Webex and co-browsing sessions, the department said.

Petrol Demand Rises In July, Diesel Sales Fall As Monsoon Ebbs Demand

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's petrol consumption rose in July, but diesel demand fell owing to monsoon rains and floods in some parts of the country, preliminary industry data showed on Tuesday.

Consumption of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, fell 4.3 per cent to 6.15 million tonnes in July compared to the year-ago period.

Consumption had fallen by a steep 15 per cent in the first half of July but picked up in the second fortnight.

Diesel sales typically fall in monsoon months as rains lower demand in the agriculture sector which uses the fuel for irrigation, harvesting and transportation. Also, rains slow vehicular movements.

Consumption of diesel had soared 6.7 per cent and 9.3 per cent in April and May, respectively as



agriculture demand picked up and cars yanked up air-conditioning to beat the summer heat.

It started to taper in the second half of June after the monsoon set in. Month-on-month sales fell 13.7 per cent, when compared with 7.13 million tonne of diesel consumed in June.

Petrol sales however rose 3.8 per cent to 2.76 million tonne in July when compared with the same period last year.

Consumption had dropped 10.5 per cent in the first fortnight of July but picked up in the latter half.

Sales were down 4.6 per

cent month-on-month, the data showed.

Both the manufacturing and services sectors in India have been in expansion territory to support oil demand for over one year.

This led to petrol and diesel sales rising since the second half of March. For the year, India's oil demand is forecast at 0.2 million barrels per day year-on-year, according to oil cartel OPEC's monthly oil bulletin.

Consumption of petrol during July was 16.6 per cent more than in COVID-marred July 2021 and 20.8 per cent more than in pre-pandemic July 2019.

RBI Says 88% Of ₹2,000 Notes Valued ₹3.14 Lakh Crore Returned To Banks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: As much as 88 per cent of the ₹2,000 currency notes have either been deposited or exchanged at banks, and only ₹42,000 crore worth of such notes are with public as on July 31, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said today.

The last date to exchange/deposit ₹2,000 denomination notes is September 30. In value terms, ₹2,000 notes in circulation has come down to ₹42,000 crore as on July from ₹3,56 lakh crore on the day of announcement of withdrawal on May 19.

In a statement, the RBI said out of the total banknotes in ₹2,000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The central bank, in a surprise move, on May 19 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 demonetisation when old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the ₹2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender till September 30.

The total value of the ₹2,000

banknotes in circulation, which amounted to ₹3.62 lakh crore on March 31, 2023 had declined to ₹3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023.

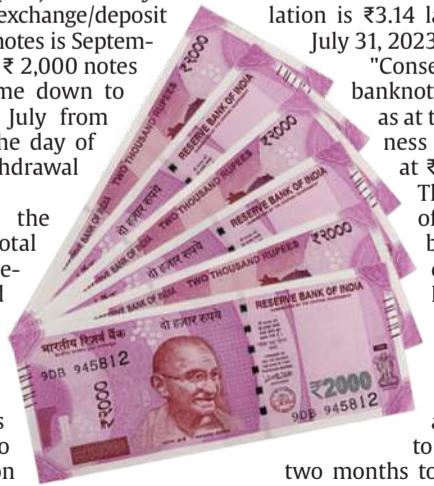
According to the data received from the banks, the total value of ₹2,000 banknotes received back from circulation is ₹3.14 lakh crore up to July 31, 2023, the RBI said.

"Consequently, ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as at the close of business on July 31 stood at ₹0.42 lakh crore. Thus, 88 per cent of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," it said.

The RBI also asked the public to utilise the next two months to deposit and/or exchange the ₹2,000 banknotes held with them to avoid any rush in the last few days before September 30, 2023.

It may be noted that RBI has not yet clarified what would be the status of ₹2,000 notes in private hands after September 30.

After announcing demonetisation in 2016, the government had made it an offence to hold the withdrawn ₹500 and 1,000 notes (beyond a specified limit) after expiry of the deposit deadlines.



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Green Campus, Ganderbal - 191201

ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGS - 2023

Candidates having appeared in CUET-2023 and have preferred Central University of Kashmir for admission to any of the POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES offered by the University (as shown below), are hereby informed to register for counselling as per the following schedule:

Registration Link & Detailed Information shall be available on:	https://cukashmircuetsamarthe.cku.in/pg
Registration Link shall be open from:	Saturday - 29th of July, 2023
Registration Link shall close on:	Monday - 07th of August, 2023
Registration/ Processing Fee:	UR = Rs. 200/- OBC/ST/SC/PWD/EWS = NIL

List of Post-Graduate (PG) Programmes;			
S.No	Name of the Programme	S.No	Name of the Programme
1.	M. Tech CS&E	2.	M.A Islamic Studies
3.	M.A. English	4.	M.Sc. Botany
5.	M.A. Urdu	6.	M.Sc. Chemistry
7.	Master of Tourism & Travel Management (MTTM)	8.	M.A Kashmiri
9.	M.Com	10.	Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.
11.	M. A. Convergent Journalism	12.	M.P.Ed.
13.	M. A. Economics	14.	M.A Comparative Religion
15.	M. A. Political Science	16.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)
17.	LLM	18.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)
19.	M. A. Education	20.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)

Note: While registering for counselling, the candidates are required to exercise the same options, as reflected by them in National Testing Agency (NTA) - CUET-2023 application form.

For queries related to registration process, candidates are requested to contact Mr. Siftain Bangi on: +91 70063 23489 during office hours (i.e., from 9:30 AM to 06:00 PM).

No.: CUKmr /Eew/Admissions/2023/398/5166
Dated: 28.07.2023

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations

G20 NORTHEN RAILWAY 75th Anniversary Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

E-TENDER NOTICE

SR.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 22/08/2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
28.07.2023	08.08.2023	22.08.2023 / 15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion
1.	141-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Through Fitting renewal (27.409 Km) of the existing 52 kg/60kg PSC sleepers at KM25.5 to 33 km 35.5 to 37.7 km 63.378 to 64.00 km 74.982 to 75.11 km 75.154 to 76.091 km 78.122 to 77.447 km 77.507 to 77.887 km 77.94 to 78.423 km 79.453 to 81.954 km 81.97 to 83.254 km 83.297 to 84.312 km 84.343 to 85.344 km 85.384 to 86.007 km 86.02 to 87.44 km 87.473 to 87.62 km 90.801 to 92.52 km 92.535 to 93.019 km 93.36 to 96.00 km on PTK-JAT section under ADEN/JAT	46,51,301.44/-	93,000/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work: "Nil".						
2.	142-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Miscellaneous P.way zone works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/Pway/UHP under ADEN/UHP.	45,00,290.54/-	90,000/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work: "Nil".						
3.	143-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Through Fitting renewal (136.290KM) of the existing 52 kg/60kg PSC sleepers at KM 0.00 to 117.890 KM at various locations on OG-BRML section & BAHL-QC section 18.40 KM (from KM 150.30 to 168.70) under ADEN/BDGM.	2,38,77,024.62/-	2,69,400,000/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TRR including raising of track/screening/distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like temping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28"						
4.	145-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	Misc. PWay works for track maintenance in the tunnels in JAT-SVDK section under ADEN/UHP.	44,99,942.80/-	90,000/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work: "Nil".						
5.	146-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Development of freight and goods maintenance facilities at Budgam station on BAHL-BRML section under ADEN/BDGM.	1,05,78,266.32/-	2,02,900/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of work: "Any civil work other than track work".						

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No. 141-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR, 142&145-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR & 143 & 146-2023-24-BDGM-FZR Date: 31.07.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2381/23

PM Modi Asks NDA MPs To Reach Out To Muslim Women

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Asserting that his government's decision to ban triple talaq has boosted overall sense of security for Muslim women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked BJP leaders to reach out to them during the upcoming festival of Raksha Bandhan. Sources said Modi made the remarks

at a meeting of BJP-led NDA MPs from West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand on Monday night in which he and other senior BJP leaders highlighted various development initiatives of the central government for different sections of society as the alliance gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Some MPs present in the meeting said Modi emphasised the need to

connect with every section of society and then noted his government's decision to ban the practice of instant divorce among Muslim men. The government has criminalised the practice.

He said this decision has been a big boost for Muslim women, some MPs present in the meeting said, adding that the prime minister asked them to organise programmes during Raksha

Bandhan to reach out to women from the minority community.

Rakshan Bandhan festival - a celebration of the bond between brothers and sisters - will fall on August 30 this year.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill was passed by Parliament in 2019, declaring the practice of instant triple talaq illegal and a crime that could attract a jail term for the husband.

Modi has often highlighted his government's reform measures for Muslim women.

In his recent 'Mann ki Baat' address, he noted that over 4,000 Muslim women performing Haj this year without 'mehram' was a "huge transformation" and asserted that more and more people were getting the chance to go for the annual pilgrimage with the

changes made by his government in the Haj policy over the past few years.

In his speech to the MPs, he noted that opposition parties are making efforts to join their forces under a new name INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) as their earlier moniker UPA was tainted with a slew of scams. People will never accept it, he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

SC To Take Up

Centre's affidavit with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification repealing Article 370 will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench.

On that day the Centre had stripped the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcated it into two union territories.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

LG Pays Obeisance

of Shaikh-ul-Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies of University of Kashmir at Charar-e-Sharif.

"Sufi saint Shaikh-ul-Aalam, also known as Nund Rishi's life, is the best example of India's unity in diversity. His teachings of brotherhood, love, harmony continue to inspire the world," the LG said.

He said the branch of Shaikh-ul-Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies at Charar-e-Sharif will spread his ideas and ideals of humanism and respect to all spiritual streams.

"It will motivate people to march towards the bright future, dedicate themselves for peace and development and to unlock the precious treasure house of our cultural heritage," he added.

On demand of restoration of Khanqah, the LG directed the tourism department to work in close coordination with experts of NIT, analyse the detailed design, architectural drawings and restore the revered structure to its original glory.

He said the construction work on utilities was on hold due to Court's order which has been vacated and the work will be completed soon. Sinha said the work on the District Hospital at Budgam will start soon and on completion, the facility will cater to the healthcare needs of the people of Budgam.

The LG highlighted the reforms introduced in various sectors over the past few years, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, which has brought transformational changes in the growth journey of Jammu Kashmir.

"We have been successful in establishing a peaceful and prosperous ecosystem in the UT. This has been possible because of the support and cooperation of the people of J&K," he added.

Sinha also took appraisal of the ongoing works at the Shrine and adjoining area.

Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Waqf Officials and prominent citizens were also present.

The LG was accompanied by Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department and other senior officials of Police and Civil administration.

'1.27 Cr Tourist

"This year so far 1.27 crore tourists have visited J&K and the figure is much higher than last year. We hope to see record breaking tourist arrivals by the year end" he added

He said when a large number of tourists have started frequenting Kashmir, it was the prime duty of the administration to ensure quality infrastructure.

"We are setting up tourist infrastructure everywhere in the UT to give best facilities to our guests," he said, adding "When large number of guests would keep date with Kashmir, our local shopkeeper, taxi driver, hotel and shikara owner will earn and at the end, our economy will improve."

He said that Kashmir University's full-fledged Centre will come up at Budgam district and he will discuss the issue with the Vice-Chancellor KU shortly. About the district hospital in Budgam, he said that the hospital will offer all major facilities to people.

"I will not make claims of something that can't happen. I won't make hollow promises so that if someone will replace me and will claim this was promised but didn't happen," he said.

The LG said that so far, 30,000 youth got jobs and all were selected through transparent manner. "Recruitment process will once again start from September this year," he said.

India Dismisses

Islamabad's continued support to cross-border terrorism and the Kashmir issue.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. India has also asserted that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will" always be part of the country.

"They have given statements like these earlier too, more to please the international community and build their global image. This time it appears more to please the IMF and the World Bank," The Tribune quoting unnamed sources reported.

Prime Minister Sharif's remarks came as his coalition government is getting ready to face an election at the completion of the five-year term of Parliament on August 12.

It is expected that the National Assembly, the lower house, will be dissolved a few days before the end of the term to provide more time

for the next elections.

The prime minister talked about the history of wars between Pakistan and India. The wars in his opinion resulted in an increase in poverty, unemployment, and lack of resources to finance education, health, and well-being of the people.

He said Pakistan's nuclear capability was for defensive purposes and not for aggression. "Because if there is any nuclear flashpoint, who will live to tell what happened? So (war) is not an option," he said.

Sharif emphasised that Pakistan was well aware of the dark side of a nuclear conflict but India should also realise it.

He also said that relations would not become normal until the "abnormalities" were removed by addressing the unresolved issues.

"It is equally important that our neighbour has to understand that we cannot become normal neighbours unless abnormalities are removed and unless our serious issues are understood and addressed through peaceful and meaningful discussions," he said.

Bilateral relations between Islamabad and New Delhi have been tense since August 2019 when India changed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

On India's ties with Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that it is not possible for India to have normal relations with the neighbouring country until the policy of cross-border terrorism is abrogated.

"We can't allow terrorism to be normalised; we can not allow that to become the basis for getting us into discussions with Pakistan. To me it is a fairly common sense proposition," he said in June.

Earlier, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik, inviting foreign investors to invest in the minerals and mining sector, revealed that Pakistan has estimated mineral reserves of USD 6 trillion, which include gold, copper, coal, and other precious metals.

"We want to increase our exports from USD 1 billion to USD 5 billion and employment in the mineral sector from 300,000 to 600,000 in the next few years," he said.

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir also attended the summit along with several national and foreign dignitaries.

PDP In Damage

dignity of the people of J-K.

"A pivotal role is being played by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti against the current regime. It was done to represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of voicing their concern, resisting on behalf of the people of J-K as a whole and fighting for the restoration of rights and dignity," Bukhari said.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an alliance of various political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the PDP and the NC, was formed after the revocation of Article 370 by the Centre in 2019.

Bukhari said the BJP also knows that "united we are a force that would resist the onslaught on our rights" and it is not just the requirement, it is also the desire of the people of J-K.

Referring to Parra's statement, the National Conference said such remarks from the PDP at a "crucial juncture" were "unbecoming" and it was not expected from the party.

NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the PDP started the blame game of targeting his party even though there has been no trigger from their side.

"We are short of words that why suddenly they are bringing up fake narratives as what they are saying has no legs to stand on. Even we have numerous things we can say about the PDP, but we are not doing anything like that as NC is a disciplined party.

"Right now we are working for a cause -- (seeking) rights of people of J-K that were unconstitutionally taken from them by the current regime. As this is a very sensitive time, we fail to understand what made them say this at this time when the Supreme Court of India is taking up our PIL tomorrow," Dar said.

Earlier, in a tweet, Dar alleged that Parra intended to sow confusion among the opposition ranks.

"If you feel suffocated within the alliance, simply walk away instead of resorting to fake narratives to justify your actions. While we are aware of your historical blunders, our priority was Unity," he said.

The NC state spokesperson said such utterances create confusion as people are worried right now and they have pinned their hopes on the alliance.

"And speaking in such a manner at this crucial juncture is unbecoming and it was not expected from the PDP," he said.

Dar said the ball was in the PDP's court and the party has to come clean on the issue.

NC's additional spokesperson Sara Hayat Shah, while taking to Twitter, said politics is not only the art of impossible but the undercurrents of it are comical too.

"Post August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir needed sincere political leadership to safeguard the interests of people and not to concede ground for the forces that are on to defeat the essence of our Constitution

"Over time, the collective voice against the politics of bigotry has grown stronger and the only reason is the uncompromising stand of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. Pages of history are witness to the fact that this political party has emancipated from grassroots for the people and by the people," she

said.

Lashing out at the PDP, Shah questioned the Mehbooba Mufti-led party's "DNA" and accused it of making "desperate" attempts for its "resurgence by twisting facts".

She said as far as the NC is concerned, "we have made sacrifices and we consider ourselves duty-bound to voice the people's aspirations without fear or favour".

"Politics is not about hashtags or slogans, it's about the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is committed to the people," Shah added.

NC's provincial youth president, Kashmir, Salman Sagar said the PDP was looking for excuses to break the unity efforts of the his party post-August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into Union territories.

BJP's J-K spokesman Altaf Thakur, while commenting over the issue, said the PAGD has already been disintegrated.

"Now there is the coalition of only two families which they are calling as PAGD. Yesterday, these two political parties were agitated with each other as they have understood that neither of them can save J-K which they think is their private property and that their competition is with the BJP," he said.

Thakur said it might be because of the "fear of their incompetence" that both parties have decided to take separate ways.

"BJP, from the beginning, is saying that they are opportunists, they want to save themselves from the scams that they have done which is the reason for their unity. Yesterday, we saw that this alliance has been broken and no kind of alliance can compete with the BJP," he said.

The PDP and the NC neither have any position at the national level nor at the regional level, he said.

"PAGD was the coalition of two parties and now they are also separated. The world knows that the NC did rigging in 1987 elections. NC is the breeder of the terror. The people of Kashmir have also understood all the doings of the NC and the PDP," Thakur said.

Fundamentalist Muslim

no negativity associated with it and it is distinct from an extremist or a separatist."

Ultimately, the court quashed the detention order against the 22-year-old Shahbaz Ahmad Pallawho was detained by Police Station Pulwama, on 8 April 2022 by virtue of the detention order of the same date. "The detenu shall be set at liberty forthwith," the court said.

Terror Incidents,

This includes the tactical deployment of forces at the International Border (IB)/Line of Control (LoC), and the use of technology like surveillance cameras, night vision cameras, heat sensing gadgets, etc.

Multi-tiered deployment along IB/LoC, border fencing, deployment of intelligence personnel to collect advance and target-oriented inputs on infiltration, ambushes and foot patrolling by Army and Border Security Force have also been undertaken.

The establishment of border police posts for generating local intelligence and taking pro-active action against infiltrators are other actions taken by the government, he said.

Kashmiri Woman

Wasifa, Ismail said, was not well read and thus followed the instructions given by the ground staff at the New Delhi airport. Her boarding pass too was not even checked and stamped by the staff in what Ismail said was a big security lapse.

Interestingly, Wasifa was allotted 32B seat on the boarding pass issued to her.

"In the afternoon, she called me up and narrated the entire incident. She was terrified and was constantly crying," he said.

Perturbed by his client's constant calls for help, Ismail shared Wasifa's story on Twitter and tagged Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and SpiceJet in his Tweet

"Hello @DGCAIndia @flyspicejet @manishasinghal Very unfortunate My passenger was travelling from Delhi to Srinagar today flight number SG 8963 but unfortunately my passenger has been put into the wrong flight by spicejet which arrived at Pune airport," the Tweet read

Left red-faced because of the goof-up, SpiceJet officials in Pune booked Wasifa an Indigo flight to New Delhi. Simultaneously, she was transferred to Srinagar in another SpiceJet flight that landed at the Srinagar International Airport on Monday evening.

"It was a nightmare for my client. She is in a state of shock and doesn't want to narrate her ordeal to anyone for now," Ismail added.

Pertinently, last month, the aviation watchdog put SpiceJet under "enhanced surveillance" amid the budget airline facing multiple financial headwinds in recent months.

The move came against the backdrop of various lessors seeking repossession of aircraft leased to SpiceJet and some of the cases have been settled by the airline.

In July last year, DGCA ordered SpiceJet to operate a maximum of 50 per cent of its flights for eight weeks after several of its planes reported technical malfunction recently.

"In view of the findings of various spot checks, inspections and the reply to the show cause notice submitted by SpiceJet, for the continued sustenance of safe and reliable transport service, the number of departures of SpiceJet is

hereby restricted to 50 per cent of the number of departures approved under summer schedule 2022 for a period of eight weeks," the aviation regulator had said in its order on July 27, 2022.

NIA Raids 7 Spots

been working with various banned terrorist organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir," it reads.

It reads that several digital devices and incriminating documents related to financial transactions were seized in today's searches in the case (RC-37/2020/NIA/DLI) registered suo moto by the NIA on 8th October 2020.

It added that the case relates to activities of certain NGOs, trusts, societies and organisations involved in collecting funds domestically and abroad, and transferring the same to separatist and terrorist organisations to sustain terrorist and secessionist activities in Kashmir.

"NIA had earlier conducted searches at 23 locations in this case in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Bangalore," it reads.

J&K Has Set Up

The minister was replying to Hasnain Masoodi, Member Parliament from south Kashmir's Anantnag to the question on the steps being taken by the Government for the implementation of child protection in J&K.

Irani said, "The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) (as amended in 2021), which is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and wellbeing of children in all States/UTs including J&K. It defines standards of care and protection to secure the best interest of child".

Under the JJ Act, 2015 (sections 27-30), the Child Welfare Committees have been empowered to take decisions with regard to the children in need of care and protection, keeping their best interest in mind. They are also mandated to monitor the function of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs), she said.

Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Boards are empowered to take decisions regarding the welfare of children in conflict with law (sections 04-09). At the national and state level, the JJ Act provides the National/State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights to monitor the implementation of the Act (section 109).

Irani further said that the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Mission Vatsalya Scheme in all States/UTs including J&K, for care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances on predefined cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments.

Under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, support is provided for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and funds for Non-Institutional Care. Such children have access to both institutional and non-institutional care and rehabilitation under Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

"Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a workshop on strengthening child protection in Jammu & Kashmir in November, 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of J&K with the participation of the United Nations," reads the response, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

Irani said that the Ministry regularly follows up with the State and UT Governments and various advisories have been issued, so as to ensure the effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

The government also provided district-wise number of Children Homes and Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) including mentally challenged orphans in J&K with each district in the UT having two children homes.

The minister further said that there are over 12 specialized adoption agencies for CNCP children, including mentally challenged orphans in Jammu and Kashmir include one each in Jammu, Srinagar, Bandipora, Rajouri, Kupwara and Baramulla, Shopian and Kulgam, Anantnag and Pulwama, Kathua & Samba, Reasi and Udhampur, Ramban and Doda, Kishtwar and Budgam

Militant's Property

meticulous investigations in case FIR No.276/2022 of Police Station Kupwara registered under sections 120-B, 121, 121-A, 122, 123 IPC & 17, 18, 18-A, 18-B, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(PA), the team of SIU Kupwara Police led to the identification and subsequent attachment of the militant property of land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marlas located at multiple locations within the district at village Kachama", reads the statement.

"This measure taken by the Police aims to disrupt his illicit network and restrict his ability to carry out further acts of terror. It is pertinent to mention that Farooq Qureshi has been a persistent threat to peace and security of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since the time he exfiltrated to Pakistan in early 1990s" reads the statement.

"He is a member of Al-Barq militant outfit and presently operating from PoJK as launching commander. Farooq's strategic involvement in numerous acts of militancy has caused immense suffering and loss of innocent lives in the valley in the past. Jammu and Kashmir Police has been actively pursuing his acts to

bring an end to his destructive activities", reads the statement.

"Police said the attachment of the property serves as a strong message to militants and their supporters that their actions will not go unnoticed or unpunished. It underscores the unwavering commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police to combating militancy at its roots and dismantling its infrastructure", reads the statement further.

OGW Slapped

two years in some cases.

"Shabir is a notorious overground worker and has been detained under the Public Safety Act for his involvement in unlawful activities," a police spokesperson said.

He said Shabir's detention order was issued by the Rajouri district magistrate and executed by a police team on Monday.

The spokesperson said many overground workers in the district have already been detained under preventive sections of the law to check their unlawful activities.

Sarpanch Lands

some dispute over distribution of property and the sister of the complainant approached the Sarpanch for settlement.

"The complainant alleged that Sarpanch has repeatedly been demanding bribe from him for settlement of the issue. Initially an amount of Rs 20,000 was demanded by the Sarpanch, however, after negotiations, he agreed to accept an amount of Rs 9,000 from the complainant," he said.

The complainant, the spokesperson said, did not want to pay a bribe and instead approached the anti-graft body for taking legal action against the accused public servant as provided under law.

On receipt of the complaint, he said, a case FIR No. 13/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, the spokesperson said, a trap team was constituted by the ACB, which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 9,000 from the complainant.

"The money was recovered from the accused on the spot. Further investigation into the case is going on," he added.

2 Chargesheeted

had received a communication from the Tehsildar South Srinagar along with enclosures which, inter-alia, revealed that these accused individuals, in a criminal conspiracy, have dishonestly and fraudulently prepared fake and forged revenue extracts and have produced the same before J&K Bank, Branch Unit Hari Singh High Street, Srinagar for obtaining a loan.

"The Bank authorities had referred the said revenue extracts to the Tehsildar for authentication which on verification were found to be fake and forged," he said.

Accordingly, he said, the instant case under Sections 419, 468, 471, 120-B, 201 of RPC, r/w Sections 5(1) and 5(2) of P.C. The Act was registered at P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in 2016 and investigation started.

"During investigation, the allegations levelled were substantiated and proved," the spokesperson added.

Will Locate

Javaid Ahmad Wani entered the third day on Tuesday as investigating teams questioned more suspects in connection with the alleged abduction case.

The soldier, posted in the Ladakh region, was supposed to join work on Sunday but went missing on Saturday evening. His car was found abandoned at Paranhall.

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.

"He told his brother to drop him at the airport tomorrow (Sunday). Sometime later, we got a call that his car was found abandoned with its doors ajar," the father said.

Eyewitnesses claim that there were blood marks in the car but officials have not confirmed or denied it.

Although it is not clear yet if the missing soldiers has been abducted by militants, he is the fourth soldier to go missing in Kashmir while on leave.

In May 2017, the militants kidnapped Lieutenant Umer Fayyaz from his uncle's house in Shopian district where he had gone to attend a wedding.

The young officer was shot dead and his body was found the next morning.

An army soldier, Aurangzeb, was kidnapped by militants while he was on his way home to Poonch from Pulwama district in June 2018. He was later shot dead and the video of his execution was circulated by the militants.

Another jawan, Sameer Malla was abducted by militants in March 2022 and found dead three days later in Budgam district. (PTI)



FC1 Wins J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: FC1 on Tuesday defeated STFC Natipora 2-0 to lift the 19th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The Director General of J&K Police, Dilbag Singh, attended the closing ceremony and presented the winner's trophy to FC1.

In the Women's final, Kashmir Arrows FC triumphed over

JK FC.

For the first time, the tournament had four Women's teams and 42 teams from DFAs-ZFAs across J&K participating.

The tournament was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme and in collaboration with J&K Football Association and J&K Sports Council.

The tournament started in 1998 in memory of Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad Baba.

DPS U-14s Reclaim Zonal Level Football Championship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar's Under-14 football team secured a sensational victory in the Inter-Zonal Boys Under-14 Football Tournament, winning the tournament two years running.

The tournament, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone Amira Kadal, and held at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Sonwar, witnessed an enthralling display of football talent from various schools.

The young footballers of DPS Srinagar exhibited their prowess and determination right from the opening encounter.

In a thrilling match against Burn Hall, they showcased exceptional skills, securing a brilliant 3-2 victory. Undeterred by challenges, the team continued their dominant form, recording an impressive 7-0 win against Oak Hill School in the subse-

quent match.

With their confidence soaring, DPS Srinagar U-14 boys faced Albani in their third match. Once again, they left no room for doubt, outperforming their opponents with a commanding 5-0 triumph.

The grand finale was a momentous showdown against Oasis Public School, where the young champions displayed unwavering resolve and exceptional football acumen. With a stunning 6-1 score, they defeated their opponents in style, sealing the championship title for the second consecutive year.

The school's principal, Shafaq Afshan, expressed her pride and joy in the remarkable achievement of the U-14 team, while football coach Mudasir Bashir lauded the efforts of the young athletes.

Chairman of DPS Srinagar, Vijay Dhar, also extended his warmest congratulations to the winning team.

DYSS' Zonal Sports Activities Continue In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) Anantnag continued organising different sports activities at various venues across the district.

On Tuesday, several Zonal and District Level competitions were held. Zone Mattan continued its Under 17 Boys cricket tournament at Sports Stadium

Mattan while Zone Doru organized the same tournament Under Age Group of 14.

Zone Achabal organised Quiz with the theme of 'prabhat pheris' along with Tug of war under the Age Group of 14 and 17 Boys. Zone Anantnag also organized Zonal Level Football Tournament under the Age Group of 14 and 17 Boys at Sports Stadium Anantnag.



INDIA PUT UP A FORMIDABLE target of 351 for West Indies to chase down in the deciding ODI of the three-match series. Ishan Kishan 77 (64) and Shubham Gill 85 (92) (in frame) scored an opening partnership of 143. Sanju Samson 51 (41) and Hardik Pandya 70 (52) also chipped in with valuable half-centuries.

Jadeja Hits Back At Kapil's 'Arrogant' Dig

Press Trust of India

TAROUBA: Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja responded to former captain Kapil Dev's dig on the team becoming 'arrogant', saying "people make such comments when India lose matches".

Recently, Kapil said that arrogance has crept in the current Indian team and the players feel they know everything.

Talking to reporters on the eve of the series-deciding third ODI against the West Indies here, Jadeja said the players were only focussed on winning for India and have no personal agenda. "Everyone has their own opinion. Ex-players have full right to share their opinion, but I don't think there is any arrogance in this team," Jadeja said.



"Everyone is enjoying their cricket and everyone is hardworking. No one has taken anything for granted. They are giving their 100 per cent. Such comments generally

come when Indian team loses a match. "This is a good bunch of boys, this is a good group. We are representing India and that is our main aim, there is no personal agenda," he added.

ICC Recce: DDCA To Add 2 New Pitches As World Cup Upgrade

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) will add two more practice pitches to the main square of the Feroz Shah Kotla besides replacing 15,000 old bucket seats for the ODI World Cup, joint secretary Rajan Manchanda said on Tuesday.

A two-member recce team comprising former BCCI general manager and current Delhi Capitals CEO Dhiraaj Malhotra inspected the facilities at the Arun Jaitley Stadium where five World Cup games will be played.

"They would be giving us a final report in a week's time and intimate us about everything they want to be done before the start of the World Cup. From our end, we are adding two more strips to the existing ones on the main turf for convenience of training," Manchanda told PTI on the day.

It was learnt that ICC team was happy with whatever it saw but also gave its own inputs on the facilities.

"Practice pitches is something that DDCA is adding on its own but has agreed to every other stuff it has been



told to upgrade. There is special emphasis on having brand new toilets (male and female) and they have to add four radio commentary boxes along with TV commentary boxes," another DDCA source who spoke to ICC officials informed.

Ahead of the mega event, each and every venue needs to create space for four extra radio commentary boxes as ICC has various audio broadcast partners. As far as the other upgradation is concerned, Manchanda said that things are on course.

"We have informed ICC that

we will completely revamp the toilets. The stadium will have a new coat of paint. We have invited bids from top companies and due diligence will be done as far as tender process is concerned. "The number of seats will remain same but we will have 15,000 new bucket seats," he added. The ICC recce team was very impressed with the preparedness of the venue in Chennai. It will travel to Dharamsala on Wednesday.

The games will be played across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19.



New Zealand Skipper Kane Williamson Back In Nets

Agencies

AUCKLAND: Recovering New Zealand captain Kane Williamson returned to the net on Tuesday to face throwdowns keeping alive his faint hopes of playing the 50-overs World Cup in India later this year. The 32-year-old suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the Indian Premier League and underwent surgery in early April that made him doubtful for the World Cup.

Williamson posted on Instagram a clip of him batting in the nets with the caption: "Nice to

be back in the nets with the bat in hand for a few throws."

New Zealand coach Gary Stead is among those who have not given up hopes of Williamson's participation in the showpiece event in October-November.

Media reports in New Zealand said Williamson, who guided the team to the final of the 2019 World Cup, would still travel to India even if in a mentor's capacity. New Zealand face England in the Oct. 5 tournament opener in Ahmedabad in a rematch of the 2019 final, which they lost on a now-scrapped boundary countback rule.

Pakistan Hockey Team Enters India Via Attari-Wagah Border

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The Pakistan hockey team arrived in India on Tuesday via the Attari-Wagah border to participate in the Asian Champions Trophy starting here on Thursday.

The highly-anticipated match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan will take place on Au-

fore its opening match against China on Thursday. Pakistan, too, will train on the same day.

The Asian Hockey Champions Trophy was first started as a women's teams competition in 2010. After the success of the women's Asian Champions Trophy, the men's competition was held in 2011 with six top teams in the continent. Till 2013, the ACT



gust 9. The Pakistan team is flying into Chennai later tonight after entering Amritsar by road.

Meanwhile, the Harmanpreet Singh-led Indian team too landed in the city on Tuesday morning. The Indian team is scheduled to train at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium at Egmore, the venue for the tournament, on Wednesday be-

was an annual affair. However, from 2016 onwards, the tournament was staged every two years. The 2020 edition was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India and Pakistan have won the tournament thrice, sharing the trophy in 2018. South Korea are the defending champions having beaten Japan in the final of the last edition in 2021.

Fabinho Leaves Liverpool To Move To Saudi Arabia



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool lost another midfielder to the emerging Saudi Pro League on Monday when Brazil midfielder Fabinho joined Al-Ittihad, the team where Karim Benzema and N'Golo Kanté now play.

Fabinho moved for a reported 40 million pounds (\$51.5 million) to end his five-year stay at Liverpool, which he joined from

Monaco. His exit comes a week after Jordan Henderson left Liverpool after 12 years to join another Saudi team, Al-Ettifaq. Roberto Firmino also moved to the oil-rich kingdom after his contract expired at Liverpool.

The Saudi league hopes to raise the profile of soccer in the country by signing some of the world's top players. Cristiano Ronaldo moved to Al-Nassr in December.

McCullum Believes England's Ashes Performances Validate 'Bazball' Blueprint

Agencies

LONDON: England cricket coach Brendon McCullum believes his players' performances in the Ashes further validate the "Bazball" blueprint that has delivered a year-long undefeated streak in test series under the New Zealander.

The English came from 2-0 down in an unforgettable series to draw 2-2 thanks to a narrow victory in the fifth test at The Oval on Monday. They could even have won the series had rain not washed out the fourth test at Old Trafford, which England dominated.

Australia came into the Ash-

es as the newly crowned test world champions and therefore provided the toughest challenge in England's era of "Bazball" under McCullum and captain Ben Stokes.

The Australians might be going home with the urn but McCullum said England played its part in what he described as a "quite incredible" series.

"I think both sides have stayed true to their styles and that's what makes a great heavyweight fight," he said. "It's two different styles and total conviction in them."

"When you look back to when the skipper (Stokes) was thinking, Would we be able to

take on a great Australian team — and they are a great Australian team — and go toe to toe with them? I think the answer is yes and that's a tremendous confidence booster for the group." It was McCullum's first taste of an Ashes series and he said he didn't want it to end.

It was the closest ever five-match test series, with Australia earning its two wins by two wickets and then 43 runs and England winning the third test by three wickets and the fifth test by 49 runs. Three of the four completed tests went deep into a fifth day.

"I think we should go round again and have another five



tests, keep doing what we're doing," McCullum said. "It's been an incredible six weeks and I'm really proud to be sharing a dressing room with the

England boys. "The next (Ashes) is obviously a little way away (in 2025) and there's certainly different challenges to cross before then.

If we look at the growth of the team in the last 14-15 months it has been quite significant." England does not play test cricket again until January, when the team tours India, and McCullum has two holes to fill with Stuart Broad and Moeen Ali retiring.

Even without Broad, there are some veterans in the seam-bowling ranks in James Anderson (41), Chris Woakes (34) and Mark Wood (33).

McCullum hopes there are youngsters coming through who want to be part of this exciting England test revolution where players are given license to be aggressive with bat and

ball, and play with no fear. "Naturally places do come up when guys come to the end of their careers so there will be opportunities there," McCullum said. "We're starting to build some nice depth in batting and bowling as well, so that's encouraging and will pose some good conversations moving forward."

"What you're trying to do is not only inspire the next generation but the layer underneath the top team, to have them understand how we're going to play and work out in their own heads where they fit within that and try to force a place." (AP)

Iran Declares 2-Day Holiday Due To 'Unprecedented Heat': Report



Agenceis

Dubai: Iran has announced Wednesday and Thursday this week will be public holidays because of "unprecedented heat" and told the elderly and people with health conditions to stay indoors, Iranian state media reported. Many cities in southern Iran have already suffered from days of exceptional heat. State media reported temperatures had this week exceeded 123 degrees Fahrenheit (51 Celsius) in the southern city of Ahvaz. Government spokesman Ali Bahadori-Jahromi was quoted by state media as saying Wednesday and Thursday would be holidays, while the health ministry said hospitals would be on high alert. Temperatures are expected to be 39 C in Tehran on Wednesday. Heatwaves have affected large parts of the globe in recent weeks. Scientists have linked them to human-induced climate change.

Indira Gandhi Had Good Relations With Many RSS Leaders, But...: Book

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New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders, and just as the Sangh brass reached out to her for help, she too used it for her purposes but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself, claims a new book. In "How Prime Ministers Decide", journalist Neerja Chowdhury analyses the operating styles of the country's Prime Ministers through the prism of six decisions of historic significance - the strategy that (Indira) Gandhi devised to return to power in 1980 post-Emergency, the Shah Bano case, the Mandal Commission, the Babri Masjid incident, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's nod to nuclear tests, and the Indo-US nuclear deal under Manmohan Singh. The book claims the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had made overtures to Indira Gandhi all through the Emergency. "RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had written to her several times. Some RSS leaders had reached out to Sanjay Gandhi through Kapil Mohan. Now, in 1977, she would have to see how to respond. But she would have to play this one very carefully," Neerja Chowdhury



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writes. "Just as the RSS brass had reached out to her for help, she too used the RSS for her purposes - but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself. For all her opposition to the RSS, she had managed to get it to support the Emergency." Sensing the unhappiness amongst Muslims about the Congress, she wanted to "Hinduize her politics", aware that a silent nudge from the RSS or even a neutral stand by them towards her might help, Neerja Chowdhury says in the book. According to the author, her book is about power and its exercise by those who held the highest public office. The chapters illustrate how the power of the prime ministers played out under majority rule as well as in a coalition government. The book also claims that in 1980, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was trying to secularize his image while Indira Gandhi was trying to Hinduize the face of the Congress. "The RSS helped Indira Gandhi come to power in 1980," Indira Gandhi's close aide Anil Bali is quoted as saying. "She knew the RSS had supported her but she never acknowledged it publicly. She used to admit privately that had it not been for the support by the RSS, she could not have won 353 seats, one more than she had won in her heyday in 1971," Mr Bali claims. He adds that "increased temple going was not lost" on the

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RSS leadership. "RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had once remarked during the course of a conversation, 'Indira Gandhi bahut badi Hindu hai (Indira Gandhi is a staunch Hindu).'" Balasaheb Deoras and his brother saw in Indira Gandhi a potential leader of the Hindus," Mr Bali is quoted as saying. The soon to be launched book, published by Aleph Book Company, also says the RSS in 1971 praised Indira Gandhi for hiving off Bangladesh, and weakening Pakistan. "The then RSS chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, popularly known as Guruji, wrote to her, 'The biggest measure of credit for this achievement goes to you.' In 1974, she won the RSS's admiration again for exploding the nuclear device - the RSS had always advocated a militarily strong India," it says. Neerja Chowdhury also writes that what V P Singh did, no one else who had left the Congress over the years had managed to do. "Neither Chandra Shekhar, nor Sharad Pawar, nor Ramkrishna Hegde, nor Mamata Banerjee, nor Jagan Mohan Reddy. They too had, like VP, severed relations with the Congress leadership in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s in the last century, and also in the 21st century.

Chandrayaan-3 Leaves Earth's Orbit, Next Stop Moon: ISRO



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Bengaluru: The Indian Space Research Organisation on Tuesday injected the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into the translunar orbit. "Chandrayaan-3 has completed its orbits around the earth and is heading towards the moon," the national space agency headquartered here said. "A successful perigee-firing performed at ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network). ISRO has injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit," it said. "Next stop: the moon. As it arrives at the moon, the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) is planned for August 5, 2023," it added. An ISRO official told PTI that

following Tuesday's trans-lunar injection (TLI), the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft escaped from orbiting the earth and is now following a path that would take it to the vicinity of the Moon. In other words, the spacecraft began its journey towards the Moon on Tuesday, after leaving the Earth's orbit following the TLI maneuver, which placed it on 'lunar transfer trajectory'. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had said it would attempt soft landing of the lander on the lunar surface on August 23. Earlier, the spacecraft's orbit was progressively increased five times after the Chandrayaan-3 mission to Moon was launched on July 14.

Quick eats for busy people



Chicken Crispy Burger



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