

G20 MEETING IN KASHMIR

PM Modi Rejects Pak, China's Objections

'When G20 Meetings Are Happening, Isn't It Natural That Meetings Will Be Held In Every Part Of Our Country'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said it is natural for India to hold G20 meetings in every part of its territory as he dismissed Chinese objections over some of the events being organised in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.



As part of its efforts to showcase India's cultural and regional diversity at a global stage, the Modi government has hosted G20 events across the country's length and breadth. China, a G20 member, and Pakistan, which is not a member of the bloc, had objected to the decision to hold one of the events in Kashmir. China also disputes India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh. India has already dismissed claims by China and Pakistan. "Such a question would be valid if we had refrained from conducting meetings in those venues. Ours is such a vast, beautiful and diverse nation. When G20 meetings are happening, isn't it natural that meetings will be held in every part of our country," Modi said in an inclusive interview to PTI late last week. **» More On P6**

Tragedy Averted With IED Detection: Army

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Army on Sunday said that its swift action in association with police foiled a "potentially catastrophic" incident along Jammu-Poonch highway.

"In a testament to the unwavering commitment of our armed forces and law enforcement agencies, a potentially catastrophic incident was averted on the Jammu -Poonch Highway in Rajouri district," army said in a statement.

"The joint efforts of the Rashtriya Rifles of Army and Rajouri Police came to the forefront as they successfully identified, cordoned off, and neutralized an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)," the army said, adding "This not only ensured the safety of the local population but also exposed the sinister designs of (militants) aiming to disrupt the upcoming G20 meeting and spreading fear among the residents of this tranquil region."

Based on intelligence received by the Army about a possible IED threat on the highway, it said, Joint teams of Army and Police acted swiftly to locate and neutralise the IED. **» More On P6**

ADITYA L1 LAUNCH

First Earth-Bound Manoeuvre Performed Successfully: ISRO

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: A day after India's first solar observatory mission which was launched, the first Earth-bound firing to raise the orbit of the Aditya-L1, was performed on Sunday.

The ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network Work (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru performed the manoeuvre.

The space agency said the satellite is healthy and operating nominally. "The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km. The next manoeuvre (EBN#2) is scheduled for September 5, 2023, around 03:00 Hrs. IST," ISRO posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Aditya-L1 Mission: The satellite is healthy and operating nominally.

The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km.

Post its successful launch ISRO said that the Aditya-L1 started generating the power and that the solar panels are deployed.

Following the launch Aditya-L1 stays Earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it undergoes 5 manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.

Subsequently, Aditya-L1 undergoes a Trans-Lagrangian1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point. Upon arrival at the L1 point, another



manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun. The satellite spends its whole mission life orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun.

ARTICLE 370 HEARING

Govt Revokes Lecturer's Suspension Who Appeared In SC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday revoked the suspension of Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a senior political science lecturer at a government school in Srinagar, who was removed after his appearance before the Supreme Court over the abrogation of Article 370.

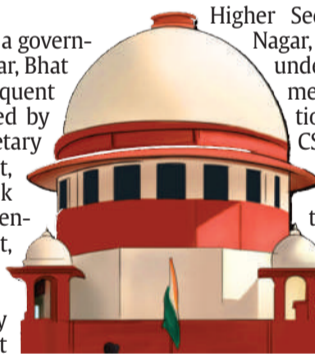
A few weeks back, the Supreme Court had asked Attorney General R Venkata Ramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to look into the

suspension.

A senior lecturer at a government school in Srinagar, Bhat was termed as a "delinquent officer" and suspended by the principal secretary to the government, school education, Alok Kumar. "Pending enquiry into his conduct, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, senior lecturer, political science, presently posted at Government

Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect for violation of provisions of J&K CSR, Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (conduct) Rules, 1971," the order read.

A five-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud



» More On P6

'Operation Posts' Being Set Up To Plug Infiltration: DGP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh on Sunday said 'operation posts' are being established in border areas to augment the anti-infiltration grid in Jammu and Kashmir.



Singh announced the move during his visit to the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri to review the security situation amid frequent attempts from across the border to push armed terrorists and smuggle arms, ammunition and narcotics. "Operation posts are being

established by police along with Army in the border area to further augment the anti-terror grid and block the evil attempts being made from across the border," the police chief said.

Singh chaired security review meetings with officers of police and Army at B G Brigade headquarters of the Army at Mendhar in Poonch and at Kalakote in Rajouri, police said in a statement here.

Chairing the security review meetings attended by senior Army and police officers, the DGP took stock of the prevailing security situation of **» More On P6**

Khellani Tunnel To Be Upgraded To 2-Lanes In J&K: Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister for Road Transport and National Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Sunday informed that the Khellani tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda is getting upgraded to two lanes.

In a post on X, In Jammu & Kashmir, we are upgrading the Uni-Directional Khellani Tunnel into a 2-lane structure, incorporating a paved shoulder and improving its approach road on NH-244. The entire length of this project spans 2.419 kilometers and falls within Package 3.

The upgraded tunnel is set to ensure year-round accessibility, a development that will significantly **» More On P6**

SHORT TAKES

CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead

JAMMU: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. Bashit Narayan Yadav, a resident of Bihar, was on duty near Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway when he shot himself around 11.45 pm on Saturday, they said. They said the body of the deceased was shifted to sub-district hospital Banihal for postmortem and other legal formalities. The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said. **» More On P6**

Electric Shock Kills Soldier

JAMMU: An Army personnel was electrocuted to death when he came in contact with a live wire inside a camp in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. Deepak Pandey (25) of engineering squadron was electrocuted late Sunday night while working on some product, the officials said. They said the soldier hailing from Uttarakhand was rushed to the military hospital where he breathed his last. Police have started inquest proceedings in connection with the death of the soldier, the officials said, adding the **» More On P6**

Leopard Kills Minor

UDHAMPUR: A four-year-old girl was killed by a leopard after she was taken away from her house in Udhampur district, a senior forest officer said. The locals recovered her mangled body two kilometers away from her house in Upper Banjala village of Panchari tehsil in the district, said Rakesh Sharma, Range Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department in Udhampur said. After getting information, the Jammu and Kashmir Police along with senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, **» More On P6**

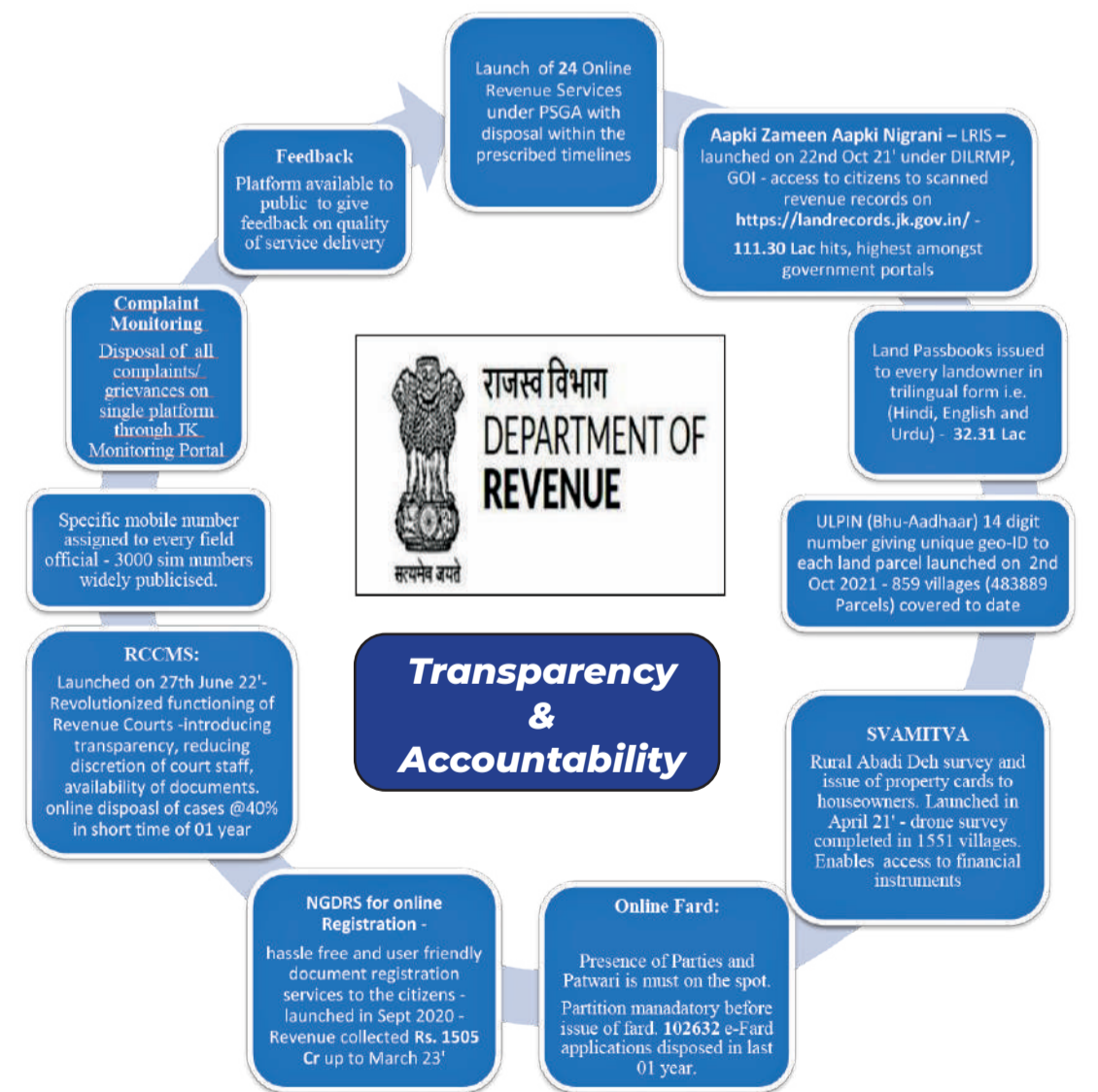
17 Cops Among 20 Injured In Accident

JAMMU: Seventeen police personnel and three women detainees were injured when a bus they were travelling in rammed into an army vehicle in Ramban district on Sunday, officials said. They said that the bus, on the way from Srinagar's central jail to Bhadrewah jail, rammed into the army vehicle, which was proceeding ahead of it, near T2 Tunnel Marog Ramban. Among the police personnel include women constables, they added. All the injured including women detainees have been shifted to **» More On P6**

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, J&K

Participates in "Brashtachar Mukht J&K" Week

SEPTEMBER 4TH TO 10TH



In every village, during the week commencing 4th September, Camps shall be organized, as per the Schedule notified by the Deputy Commissioners. In the camp, the Tehsildar / Naib Tehsildar shall be present, assisted by the field staff who shall have the revenue record. There shall be 03 camps in a day in different villages, preferably at 8:30 AM, 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED DURING THE WEEK:

1. Generate awareness about the online services offered by the Revenue Department.
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Global Dengue Coalition To Deliver Treatment Within 5 Years: Lancet

Press Trust Of India

A coalition of institutions from dengue-endemic countries aims to deliver a new treatment for dengue from repurposed drugs and combinations within 5 years, according to a comment published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

The mission of the alliance, The Dengue Alliance, is to accelerate research and development and deliver dengue therapeutics through an inclusive partnership, it said.

"An integrated approach that comprises vector control, use of safe and effective vaccines, and an effective treatment is needed to face the growing challenges of dengue infection," the alliance formed by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), Switzerland, said in its comment.

The DNDi, founded in 2003, is an international, not-for-profit research and development organisation developing new affordable and patient-friendly treatments for neglected tropical diseases.

The Dengue Alliance, launched in 2022, is co-created, co-owned, and co-funded by dengue-endemic countries, and includes the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute in India, along with institutions from Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand.



“An integrated approach that comprises vector control, use of safe and effective vaccines, and an effective treatment is needed to face the growing challenges

Dengue, a global public health threat, is a climate-sensitive neglected tropical disease and currently the most rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral infection in the world.

It is estimated to infect approximately 390 million individuals annually, with 96 million infections being symptomatic, the comment said.

The Dengue Alliance attributed the

rapidly increasing incidence of dengue to climate change, rapid urbanisation, and widespread international travel.

Further, according to their comment, vector control, which involves taking measures for mosquito control, had so far been the only strategy adopted to reduce the burden of dengue, even though it alone was likely inadequate to reduce the burden.

The currently available dengue vaccines, while having shown to reduce hospitalisation, lack efficacy against some dengue serotypes, the alliance said.

"Therefore, an integrated approach that comprises vector control, use of safe and effective vaccines, and an effective treatment is needed to face the growing challenges of dengue infection," they said.

The alliance, involving different working groups and a steering committee, coordinates efforts to address gaps in knowledge, such as epidemiology (specifically in Africa), biomarkers and diagnostics, clinical trials, and regulatory framework, while promoting open science, it said.

In parallel, clinical trials for these drug candidates were being designed using the expertise of clinicians in these countries who have been treating patients with dengue for many years, with initiation planned by the end of 2023, the alliance said.

With climate change becoming more of a concern in high-income countries, there is an increasing possibility that many global funding organisations will acknowledge the true burden of dengue, the devastation it causes to health systems and patients in endemic countries, and, therefore, the importance of funding initiatives to accelerate the development of new treatments for dengue, they said in their comment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass Discharge Certificate somewhere. 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 High School Hardu Aboora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Snober Jan
 D/o Khazer Mohammad Malla
 R/o Hardu Aboora Tehsil Karhama

bmg_r

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

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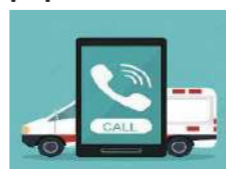
- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

Better Coordination

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

Improved Accessibility:

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



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INDIA 'Alliance' Will Defeat NDA, Nation Awaits Change: GA Mir

Observer News Service

Kokernag: Stating that INDIA alliance will defeat NDA during 2024 elections and in upcoming assembly elections in different States, Congress Working Committee Member Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Sunday said that the public will no more accept diversionary tactics and the politics based on hate, exploitation and divisions.

Mir also said the propaganda unleashed against INDIA won't change the reality or hide the loot and anti-people policies of NDA, which are apparently responsible for the extreme joblessness, loot of public money or the lust to empower some corporates linked to NDA at the cost of the

country's interest.

Mir was addressing joint of Public and party Workers in Halqa Nagum Kokernag in South Kashmir where he was accorded rousing ovation after becoming Member of Congress party's Highest Decision-Making body (CWC)

Addressing the meeting, Ghulam Ahmad Mir said it is evident that NDA is desperate about the upcoming defeat they are set to face by the India Alliance, which represents the aspirations of 1.40 Crore Public of India, who have been pushed towards darkness by the ruling dispensation (NDA) at Centre.

They want change and the INDIA alliance will ensure that change for betterment, prosperity and development of the Indian citizens.

Two LeT Militant Associates Arrested in Baramulla

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba militant organization have been arrested in Kreeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district this evening, officials said.

Quoting official sources, a local news gathering agency said two LeT associates were apprehended by joint teams

of Army's 52 RR and police in village Kreeri of Baramulla district.

Arms and ammunition have also been recovered from their possession, the official said.

"One Pistol, hand grenade, 15 Pistol rounds were recovered from the possession of the arrested duo." In this regard a case has been registered and further investigation has been taken up," they added.



A boatman rowing a shikara in the interiors of world famous Dal Lake on Sunday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology Introduced In Kishtwar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a ground-breaking development at the Agriculture Extension Office in Kishtwar, Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav unveiled the state-of-the-art Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology. This significant leap forward holds promise for transforming saffron cultivation practices in the region, presenting a noteworthy milestone in the agricultural sector.

The event also witnessed the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik, and DAO, Sanjay Sharma, along with beneficiary farmers who stand to benefit immensely from this technological advancement.

Each of the 9 beneficiary farmers on the occasion received 25 Kg Saffron Corms, racks, and trays, completely free of cost during the event.

Under the Skill Development program, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, District Kishtwar has realized the project with an estimated cost of Rs 1.35 lakh, under the SANKALP Scheme.

Each of the 9 beneficiary farmers on the occasion received 25 Kg Saffron Corms, racks, and

trays, completely free of cost during the event.

This support aims to empower local farmers and encourage the adoption of advanced saffron cultivation techniques, addressing the climatic challenges prevalent in the region.

At the launching ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner engaged with saffron growers, highlighting the potential benefits of Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology. This innovative approach promises to revolutionize saffron cultivation, offering growers enhanced efficiency and productivity in the face of climate uncertainty, irrigation deficit and cultivation spaces in the district.

1200 Boxes Of Apple Damaged In Shopian

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Unknown persons damaged about 1200 boxes of apples in Wachawhallan Imamsahib area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on late last night

Quoting sources, a local news gathering agency said that unknown persons damaged 1200 boxes of apples in Wachawhallan Imamsahib

"Unknown persons have used battens to damage 1200 boxes of apples which were ready to harvest during the night intervening Sunday," they added.

The apple orchards belong to Abdul Aziz Mir and Gulzar Ahmad Mir, both residents of Wachawhallan. Police team also visited the spot and registered an FIR in this regard and started an investigation.

Activities Under Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K Week Kick-Started In Doda

Observer News Service

Doda: To eliminate corruption and promote transparent governance, Jammu and Kashmir UT Government has decided to launch the Week Long Bharatabhar Mukat J&K campaign which will start from the 4th of September and culminate on 10th of September.

To join this campaign against corruption, the district administration Doda has formulated a vibrant activity plan under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan.

The week-long campaign will witness a series of awareness events across the district with a focus on the promotion of transparent and accountable governance.

Special Gram Sabhas, MC meetings, and meetings with key stakeholders, including Self-Help Groups (SHGs), MGNREGA workers, farmers, students, and citizens, have

been devised to spread mass awareness about the significance of corruption free governance. These meetings will also serve as platforms to discuss and combat corruption at the grassroots level.

An essential aspect of the campaign is to raise awareness about IT-related initiatives, such as the "Empowerment-Janbhagidari Portal." This portal plays a pivotal role in establishing a transparent system of governance. Simultaneously, the "Digital Literacy Week" will be celebrated, highlighting the significance of digital initiatives in government processes.

The campaign will be given widespread publicity through print, electronic, and social media. Workshops and sensitization programs will be conducted at the district level, Sub Divisional level, and Tehsil level to educate participants about anti-corruption policies and procedures.

71 Kg Banned MFP Seized At Banihal

Observer News Service

Ramban: At least 71 kg of banned minor forest produce was today seized from Compartment 11 of Sarbagni Block Banihal Range which comes under forest division Ramban.

A team of forest and PFP officials headed by Sajjad Hussain, Range Officer Banihal and Mushtaq Ahmed, Forester Sarbagni Block conducted a raid in forest compartment number 11 and seized banned MFP Kuth in 06 gunny bags.

All seized MFP was brought to Range office Banihal for further investigation and a Damage Case No. 03/2023-24 was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. A hunt has been launched to nab the culprits. The whole operation was carried out under the supervision of DFO Ramban. Dr Rajan Singh.

Director Agriculture Kashmir Takes Stock Of Paddy, Other Crops In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited different paddy fields of Anantnag district and took stock of the agriculture scenario in the area. During the visit he held interactions with farmers and received feedback from them regarding various interventions of the department.

Speaking to the farmers, he reiterated the department's commitment to provide every possible technical guidance to the community during their crop cultivation operations.

He impressed upon the farmers to go for the diversification of crop cultivation and asked them to take full advantage of the different schemes and programs implemented

by the department for the development of the agriculture sector in the region. He expressed satisfaction over the conditions of paddy, vegetables and other agricultural crops in the area.

Chowdhury exhorted upon the concerned officers to work shoulder to shoulder with the farming community so that the said targets under various projects of HADP could be met with. He asked the farmers to work as a team and the department of agriculture for the successful and effective implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture development Program.

Later on Director Agriculture inspected nutri cereals (Bajra) trials at Ranipora Anantnag and impressed upon the concerned to go for more such trials for different Agriculture crops.

Shobha Yatra Marks Beginning of Janmashtami Celebrations In Ghagwal

Observer News Service

Samba: In anticipation of the upcoming Janmashtami Celebration, a vibrant Shobha Yatra was taken out today at Ghagwal, spreading the spirit of unity and festivity among the people.

The Shobha Yatra embarked on its auspicious journey from the sacred Shree Narsingh Ji Mandir, weaving through the heart of Ghagwal via Raghu Chack, Lala Chack, Rajpura, Sanoora Randhwal, Harsath Ghagwal Jatwal, and eventually retracing back to the Shree Narsingh Ji Dham through the Hospital route.

This event was a collaborative effort orchestrated by Narsingh Dham Ji Committee Ghagwal, in partnership with the District Administration of Samba and the Directorate of Tourism Jammu.

The Shobha Yatra was also graced by the presence of Abhishek Sharma, District Commissioner Samba, who not only participated in the sacred Pujan but also shared his assurance of fool proof arrangements for the forthcoming Jansmashtami mela at Ghagwal, ensuring the safety and comfort of all devotees.

The Shobha Yatra showcased the vibrant cultural her-

itage and community spirit of Ghagwal, setting the stage for a grand Janmashtami Celebration that promises to unite hearts and celebrate the divine with utmost devotion.

The esteemed participants were the DDC Chairperson Samba, Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC member Ghagwal, Suresh Kumar, BDC Chairman Ghagwal, Vijay Tagotra, ADC Samba, SDM Ghagwal, Vice President of Vyapar Mandal Ghagwal, Tehsildar Ghagwal, and a multitude of local residents from Ghagwal, whose active involvement added to the joyous fervor of this splendid occasion.

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Twitter Talks



"These days, 99% of Muslim experts on TV who are introduced as 'Islamic Scholars' have never studied Islam. They've no standing/support in the community they claim to represent. These uncouth creatures have been created by Sangh. They aren't friends of Muslims but enemies of Islam" @khanumarfa
"Why not involve citizens into this and take inputs from civil society/ traders / school associations and people who commute on a daily basis. There needs to be a holistic approach to any traffic plan not hit and trials" @rjnasirkashmir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Callous We

For decades, Kashmiris have been holidaying on nature's capacity to absorb abuse, unmindful of the explosive backlash sure to come once the ever-indulgent mother's limits are crossed. It would be hard to find a people so blessed with divine bounty and yet so criminally callous and heedless of their duty to protect and preserve it.

A more conscientious society would have guarded its priceless gifts with a fanatic zeal, but not so the Kashmiris, who not only appear to have taken the blessings for granted but also appear to be absolutely unaware that they possess something special. The collective will of a society ought to be reflected in the leaders it chooses, the governments it forms and the institutions it creates. But all these several levels of organized social action in Kashmir - if they deserve such a name at all - are only a reflection of the public apathy to issues concerning nature and environment. The transitory mushrooming of NGOs who grab attention with their short-lived, if well-meaning, bursts of activity is no answer to the chronic and dire problems they wish to address. For instance, the dying Dal and other city lakes cannot be saved by a hyped day-long drive alone even if it pulls in the high and the mighty of the valley's officialdom for laudatory speeches. Even two decades after the Dal's sickness became public, it continues to be a receptacle of sewage, waste and trash, much of the latter in the form of the scourge of polythene. And as the High Court recently observed, encroachments in the blighted water-body continue apace right under the watch of agencies that have spent hundreds of crores of rupees in an ostensible bid to save the lake.

Horrible as their plight is, the Dal, its sister Nigeen, and the by now past-redemption Anchar and Khush-haal Sar Lakes are only the tip of the collective culpability of Kashmiris - the rot has spread far and wide, right from the civic disaster in the city and the disasters-in-the-making in rural Kashmir, where, among other things, villagers erect latrines on streams and rivulets.

The assaults on Kashmir's natural assets have been, and continue to be, a willful, criminal public enterprise marked by an equally criminal complicity of successive governments which have failed to put their foot down in the face of this large-scale vandalism. Even today, when the waters -highly polluted, in this case - have gone well over the heads, the bright sparks in the government blunder about blindly without a clue on what course to take. Now that the High Court has taken the city's lakes into its own custody, some remedial action can be expected. Any government and civic authority worth the name would have forcibly banned polythene and other plastic waste from Kashmir over a decade ago. But as things stand here, the officialdom experiences brief spells of wakefulness in which it issues pious appeals to desist from the use of polythene, and then lapses back into its customary stupor. Mere appeals will not serve the purpose; what is required is tough action, and aggressive promotion of alternative means.

Given the dismal record of successive governments over the relatively simple polythene issue, it is not clear how the powers-that-be can tackle the more complex matters of scientific treatment and disposal of garbage, rampant commercialization of residential areas, copy-cat urbanization of rural Kashmir and the degradation of the valley's ecological wealth in the countryside.

In more enlightened societies it is the leaderships that set a benign agenda, mode and trend of development, and sell it to the public who cooperate willingly and wholeheartedly in what they rightly perceive to be in their ultimate interest. But Kashmir is a study in contrast. Here a remiss leadership is more than matched by an unthinking public who see the stark face of their depredations every day but don't lift a finger to arrest it.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on 23 Nov, 2010



What's Caste Doing in Kashmir?

Amir Suhail Wani

Not long ago, one Facebook user from the so-called Non-Syed background updated his marital status. He had been betrothed to a Syed girl and no sooner did he put on this update that a Pandora box opened up where people questioned the legitimacy and social consent for this "Syed - Non-Syed engagement". The fact remains that caste plays an overtly predominant and pervasive role in shaping our social matrix, in generating and maintaining the social hierarchies and acting as base and substructure on which are erected dozens of other patterns of power relationships, social mobility, economic wellbeing and a host of other factors.

Caste system in South Asia in general and in Kashmir in particular, has hardened to such a degree and gained such an acceptance that any deviation there from is seen as no less than a rebellion. We do come across reports and incidents that prompt us to compare Syeds within Muslims with their Brahmin counterparts from Hinduism and likewise the lower tier castes (Also called Arzals) with Dalits and other "untouchables" within Hinduism.

The case for caste, particularly in the Muslim context is one of irony and inversion. Muslims, at least the Ashraaf section (Syeds and other elite castes) have paradoxically invoked Islam itself in order to defend their claims to caste-based privilege and have fostered their case for caste by pitching their proximity to the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) and a sort of hidden sense of moral perfection. However, any serious student of Islam knows that idea of caste privilege does not align with Islam at all. The history of Islam and more importantly Quran - its canon doesn't purport any such ideas, nor does it grant any sanction or legitimacy to such sickening claims, which tend to elevate the status of one individual or one clan over the other based on caste.

How is it then that the religion which stands out in crusading spirit against the caste system went on to be used as the very cushion and bedrock to assert the su-

How is it then that the religion which stands out in crusading spirit against the caste system went on to be used as the very cushion and bedrock to assert the superiority of Syeds over Non-syeds and has been so invoked in die casting the caste matrix that there seems to be no escape or exit from the system as it exists now

periority of Syeds over Non-syeds and has been so invoked in die casting the caste matrix that there seems to be no escape or exit from the system as it exists now.

Here, a few things can be asserted and few reasons can be alluded to which seeded and garnered the caste system in an egalitarian religion like Islam. It is true that Arabs were smitten by their racial superiority in Pre-Islamic times and so much was their sense of superiority heightened that they derogatorily described Non-Arabs as Ajamis. However, the Islamic call to egalitarianism, solely governed by individual piety and God-centeredness was quick to suppress the Arabic arrogance of racial superiority.

It seems now that this suppression was temporary and superficial for the vast majority as we see within the life of Prophet (SAW) and immediately after his death, people started re-invoking caste, clan and tribal centric slogans to gather people around them, to agitate their infernal emotions and to thwart them against one another under these trifling pretexts. With the spread of Islam beyond the geographic contours of Arabia, the missionaries carried with themselves not only the message of Islam, but a sense of Arab superiority too.

This holds true to lesser degree for early Islamic missionaries and

more to later missionaries from Persia and central Asia and it were these missionaries who brought Islam to the Indian subcontinent and to Kashmir. These missionaries, mostly belonging to the upper caste as they were with the added element of Syed genealogy inadvertently became the repositories and flag bearers of new faith in new geographies. This fuelled their sense of superiority and no wonder that for long stretches of time, until very recently, they continued to have monopoly over religious, social, political and educational institutions.

The caste consciousness brought with itself an increase of gulf between various castes giving birth not only to elements like psychological superiority but the social issues of out-casting, mistreating and marginalising castes at the lower rungs of caste hierarchy. Researchers argue that the elite Hindu castes like Brahmins and Rajputs, who converted to Islam were also adjusted in the higher echelons of caste matrix and this way, they were able to maintain the perks and

Islam leaves out the consideration of caste but the sanctity and religious legitimacy that has been granted to caste in issues of marriage lacks Islamic precedent and sanction

privileges their former religion offered them, notwithstanding the egalitarian ideal of Islam.

Having said too much of the histrionics of the caste system particularly with reference to South Asia, we must also sensitise ourselves to the issues emerging from the system of caste hierarchy and investigate a panacea, if any, to the problem.

In their recent article for Kashmir Observer, Tabia Masoodi and Al Misda Masooq depicted how casteism is complicating the issues of marriage in Kashmir. Indeed, the caste system is most blatantly spotted within the institution of marriage. We have seen caste considerations breaking good matches in mar-

riage. While there's scope for reasoning and reaching a consensus on all matters, caste is a deal breaker in most cases.

To begin with, Syeds, almost invariably, are strongly against Caste-Exogamy and see any "Syed - Non-Syed" marital relationship as deviation which defiles the lineage and brings into it the elements of impurity. This definition of "Non-Syeds" as "The Marital Other" has seen a historical continuity in South Asia, though there is nothing in Quran and Sunnah to lend any legitimacy to this line of argument. Piety, conduct and character are the sole and defining determinants which govern the dynamics of marriage in Islam. Islam leaves out the consideration of caste and the sanctity and religious legitimacy that has been granted to caste in issues of marriage lacks Islamic precedent and sanction. However, caste is a social reality and there is no denying the fact that castes do, to an extent, reflect and govern the modes and mores of an individual and clan.

But to grant to this single fact so much of importance and sanctity that it becomes the sole deciding factor in our marriages and to additionally grant it a religious legitimacy is in contradiction to both the religious and social spirit. Not everything can be substantiated by data and empirical evidence. At times, we have to assign due importance to individual testimonies when the testimonies are too large in number and keep coming from different individuals now and then. It is based on these individual testimonies that one is driven to believe that caste echelons, particularly in villages, play an indispensable role in determining the social acceptance, social mobility and social stature of an individual. There are reports where the masses from so called lower castes are subjected to treatment too close to Hindu version of "Untouchability". This is despite the fact that the first Muazzin of Islam was a black Ethiopian slave.

This makes one assert that the roots of caste are embedded in our historical and cultural mores and religion is not to be blamed for. Caste system has a strong influence on our ways of socialisation and how our peer groups are formed and the rules that determine the nature of our relationship with our friends, colleagues and peers from other castes.

The issues of caste are equally prominent within Ajaalafs and Arzaals themselves. This is to say that if Syeds conceptualise the entire non-Syed populace as "The Other", there are subdivisions within "Non-Syeds" themselves which again govern and determine their inter-

caste dynamics. If the castes were once affiliated with profession, they have now become hereditary, thereby solidifying and stiffening the matrix further. Man has been defined as a social animal and this social aspect necessitates that we enter into social relationships with various individuals coming from diverse backgrounds. Caste should not rupture the embankments of society.

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

The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar

Just Say No to "Friend-Shoring"

RAGHURAM G. RAJAN

win." Hallowed-out small towns in the American Midwest attest to the downside of offshoring production.

It has ever been thus: Across the advanced economies, today's rust-belt towns and cities initially grew by putting traditional craft workers elsewhere out of work. With the right policy support, however, trade need not leave people or communities behind. In Scandinavia, firms constantly focus on upgrading their workers' skills so that they are ready for change.

These are the basic, Economics 101 arguments in support of free and fair trade. But in recent years, global supply chains have displayed new vulnerabilities. In their desire to maximize efficiency, companies have sometimes overlooked resilience. Climate disasters (including floods, droughts, and wildfires) and shocks like the pandemic-induced lockdowns have highlighted "just-in-time" supply chains' many chokepoints.

As a result, firms are now considering whether they should increase their inventories as an additional buffer. They are also looking for ways to reduce chokepoints by diversifying production locations across countries, and to increase flexibility by making inputs more substitutable. Such private-sector responses can preserve the viability of global supply chains.

If any forthcoming friend-shoring mandates were to apply such a broad categorization, they would have devastating effects on international trade. After all, friend-shoring will typically mean trading

with countries that have similar values and institutions; and that, in practice, will mean transacting only with countries at similar levels of development.

The benefits of a global supply chain stem precisely from the fact that it involves countries with very different income levels, allowing each to bring its comparative advantage to the production process - PhD researchers from one, for example, and unskilled assembly-line workers from another. Friend-shoring would tend to eliminate this dynamic, thereby increasing production costs and consumer prices. While some labor unions would welcome the reduced competition, the rest of us would regret it.

Moreover, it is not even clear that on-shoring or near-shoring production helps to increase resilience or the reliability of supply. In the US, baby formula is supplied by a government-supported oligopoly of four domestic firms that are protected from foreign competition by high tariffs. But, at this moment, there is no baby formula to be had in some US states, owing to problems in just one facility. So much for building resilience through domestic production!

By the same token, concentrating production within a gated community of advanced economies would not necessarily increase the security of the community. As Brexit showed, friends do not always stay friends. Even countries as close in temperament as the US and Canada had serious disagreements during Trump's

presidency.

Even more to the point, existing economic interdependencies can make geostrategic rivals more reluctant to launch missiles at one another. Many observers have noted that China will think twice before invading Taiwan now that it has seen the damage that sanctions are doing to Russia.

But if China were to prepare for an invasion, it would start by reducing its reliance on Western economies, a process that Western friend-shoring would inadvertently advance. Economic entanglements may be messy, but they help keep the peace.

Finally, friend-shoring would tend to exclude the poor countries that most need global trade in order to become richer and more democratic. It will increase the risks that these countries become failed states, fertile grounds to nurture and export terrorism. The tragedy of mass emigration will become more likely as chaotic violence increases.

Friend-shoring is an understandable policy if it is strictly limited to specific items directly affecting national security. Unfortunately, the term's public reception already suggests that it will be used to cover much else.

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

The author is former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind (Penguin, 2020)

The Obesity Epidemic

Richard Johnson

Scientific studies and media coverage are rife with warnings on how sugar, carbohydrates, saturated fat and lack of exercise contribute to obesity. And tens of millions of Americans are still overweight or obese in large part because of the classic Western diet and lifestyle.

As an educator, researcher and professor of medicine, I have spent more than 20 years investigating the causes of obesity, as well as related conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease.

Throughout my many years of studying obesity and related health conditions, I've observed that relatively little is said about two significant pieces of this very complex puzzle: lack of hydration and excessive salt intake. Both are known to contribute to obesity.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A DESERT SAND RAT

Nature provides a clue to the role these factors play with the desert sand rat *Psammomys obesus*, a half-pound rodent with a high-pitched squeak that lives in the salty marshes and deserts of Northern Africa. It survives, barely, by eating the stems of *Salicornia* – the glasswort – a plant that looks a bit like asparagus.

Although low in nutrients, the glasswort's fleshy, succulent sap is filled with water that's rich in salt, at concentrations as high as what's found in seawater.

Recent studies have provided new insights into why the desert sand rat might crave the salty sap of glasswort. Although this has not yet been proven specifically in the sand rat, it is likely that a high-salt diet helps the sand rat convert the relatively low amount of carbohydrates it's ingesting into fructose, a type of sugar that occurs naturally in fruits, honey and some vegetables.

This helps the animal survive when food and fresh water are sparse. This is because fructose activates a "survival switch" that stimulates foraging, food intake and the storage of fat and carbohydrates that protect the animal from starvation.

However, when the rat is brought into captivity and given the common rodent diet of about 50% carbohydrates, it rapidly develops obesity and diabetes. But if given fresh vegetables low in starchy carbohydrates, the rodent remains lean.



“To be clear, fat does not contain water. But when fat breaks down, it generates water in the body. The amount produced is substantial, and roughly equivalent to the amount of fat burned. It's so significant that some animals rely on fat to provide water during times when it's not available

My research, and the research of many other scientists over the decades, shows that many Americans unwittingly behave much like a captive desert sand rat, although few are in settings where food and water are limited. They are constantly activating the survival switch.

FRUCTOSE AND OUR DIETS

As mentioned, fructose, a simple sugar, appears to have a key role in activating this survival switch that leads to fat production.

Small amounts of fructose, like that found in an individual fruit, are not the problem – rather it is excessive amounts of fructose that are problematic for human health. Most

of us get our fructose from table sugar and high-fructose corn syrup. Intake of these two sugars totals approximately 15% of calories in the average American diet.

These sugars encourage people to eat more, which can lead to weight gain, fat accumulation and prediabetes.

Our bodies also make fructose on their own – and experimental studies suggest it may be enough to trigger the development of obesity.

Since fructose is made from glucose, production of fructose increases when blood glucose levels are high. This process happens when we eat a lot of rice, cereal, potatoes and white bread; those are carbs

that rapidly release glucose into the blood rapidly.

And notably, fructose production can also be stimulated by dehydration, which drives fat production.

FAT PROVIDES WATER

Fat has two major functions. The first one, which is well known, is to store calories for a later time when food is unavailable.

The other major but lesser-known function of fat is to provide water.

To be clear, fat does not contain water. But when fat breaks down, it generates water in the body. The amount produced is substantial, and roughly equivalent to the amount of fat burned. It's so significant that

some animals rely on fat to provide water during times when it's not available.

Whales are but one example. While they drink some seawater, they get most of their water from the foods they eat. And when they go for extended periods without food, they get their water primarily by metabolizing fat.

HOLD THE FRIES

The role of dehydration as a contributor to obesity should not be underestimated. It commonly occurs after eating salty foods. Both dehydration and salt consumption lead to the production of fructose and fat. This is why salty french fries are

especially fattening. The salt causes a dehydration-like state that encourages the conversion of the starch in the french fry to fructose.

What's more, studies show most people who are overweight or obese don't drink enough water. They are far more likely to be dehydrated than those who are lean. Their salt intake is also very high compared with lean people's.

Research shows that people with obesity frequently have high levels of vasopressin, a hormone that helps the kidneys hold water to regulate urine volume.

But recent studies suggest vasopressin has another purpose, which is to stimulate fat production.

For someone at risk of dehydration or starvation, vasopressin may have a real survival benefit. But for those not at risk, vasopressin could drive most of the metabolic effects of excess fructose, like weight gain, fat accumulation, fatty liver and prediabetes.

DRINKING MORE WATER

So does this mean drinking more water can help us lose weight? The medical community has often scoffed at the assertion. However, our research team found that giving mice more water slowed weight gain and the development of prediabetes, even when the mice had diets rich in sugar and fat.

There is also increasing evidence that most people drink too little water in general, and increasing water intake may help people who are obese lose weight.

That's why I encourage drinking eight tall glasses of water a day. And eight is likely enough; don't assume more is better. There have been cases of people drinking so much that "water intoxication" occurs. This is particularly a problem with people who have heart, kidney or liver conditions, as well as those who have had recent surgery or are long-distance runners. It's always good to first check with your doctor about water intake.

For the desert sand rat, and for our ancestors who scavenged for food, a high-salt and limited-water diet made sense. But human beings no longer live that way. These simple measures – drinking more water and reducing salt intake – offer cheap, easy and healthy strategies that may prevent or treat obesity.

By arrangements with The Conversation

What Birds Can Teach Us About Getting Closer to Allah

SOUKEYNA OSEI-BONSU

What kind of bird are you? Medieval theologian Ibn al-Qayyim is quoted as saying:

"The heart on its path to Allah the Almighty is like a bird, where love is its head, and fear and hope are its wings."

Certainly, this illustrates the equilibrium that must be in force for us to balance and soar through the pomp of this life to reach God. It is interesting to note in this parable that without these three components the bird would lose its bearing or even worse collapse earthward and be destroyed.

Using Ibn al-Qayyim's simile, it is also interesting to note that even migratory birds at times must rest. Even tired birds at times crossing great swaths of ocean rest mid-flight or take a stopover. To quote bird enthusiast Jennie Miller:

"Fatigued and famished from a night of flying, a migrating bird navigates vast tracts of terrain in search of a site with ample food, suitable shelter, and few competitors or predators. These stopover sites play a crucial role in a bird's survival by serving as pit stops where it can rest and refuel for a few hours or days before moving onward. In fact, stopover sites are so critical for bird recovery that during migration birds actually spend more time on the ground than in the air."

This brings me to the title of this article.

Mastering the nafs 'self' and disciplining the soul is very much about ascertaining what kind of bird you happen to be. There is 'the ruby-throated hummingbird [which] travels non-stop for 24 hours across 965km of open ocean from the US Gulf Coast to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico' [1], then there are seabirds who often take breaks on the sea to feed and rest [2] still, in the end, reaching their destination.

When navigating between this life of hollow material and the unseen

world of dhikr, angels, Jinn, Divine decree and inexhaustible knowledge, we must know primarily what kind of bird we were uniquely created to be. Are we birds like the companion of the Prophet ﷺ Lady Fidda al-Nubiyya who only spoke using Qur'an and thus flashed by through this life to the next in the fast lane?

Are we like Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may God be pleased with him) who used his days for establishing the truth and spreading his wealth and the cover of the night for secretly serving the downtrodden? Or are we instead like the Sahabi (companion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) who asked the Prophet ﷺ what he had to do to attain the next life, followed the Prophet's ﷺ instructions to fulfil the basics and was proclaimed by the Prophet ﷺ to be a man of paradise?

What kind of bird are we? Will we race through this life without resting in this world or will we consciously take stopovers in this world whilst flying to the next?

It is up to us to determine our capacities and capabilities and to establish which route we will take to the next. And it is up to us to reach the destination.

Dhikr as a vehicle: how do we journey towards Allah?

The feet are planted in this life and the heart looks up to God. The feet walk to work to earn a living but the heart is facing Divine Light. The mouth laughs and eyes fill with mirthful tears amongst friends; the body explores this life and enjoys what it has to offer but the heart must be turned to face the truth.

The question remains: how do we practically journey each day and migrate the heart towards God?

The primary vehicle we can use to travel is Dhikr (remembrance of Allah). The vehicle of Dhikr is to plant a tree. To garden and cultivate soil your eyes have not yet seen. The word that leaves your mouth is a seed and your efforts are watering and pruning the plant. To protect



your deeds from ostentation is to protect the seedling from the elements. Dhikr is the garden and the gardener. Seed and sower. Pursuing the truth is keeping the trees you have planted free from disease, demise and destruction.

The heart turns relentlessly and it is important to compel it to face God in prayer and before falling asleep when our soul partially leaves our body and we experience an almost-death. Especially before sleep as actions are judged by their endings and witnessing the break of dawn is never promised.

If you have returned home in this world after a hard day's work and want your heart to enter the next

before you fall asleep, one certain way is to make Dhikr of God until you attain *Firasa* (discernment) and *Basirah* (insight).

Dhikr of God is not a mindless exercise of the mouth. Rather it is a crane which lifts the heart and turns it back to its origin. It is also the tarmac and cement through which the next life is built, through which forests are planted in that unseen realm as well as means of returning spiritual vision.

Dhikr is a voyage and a sharpener of sight, a means through which we stay awake and alert, vigilant and posted at our stations. We are the soldiers of Allah. Dhikr is your superior telling you to stay at your post,

to outlive this war raging between you and your soul, and to fulfil your Divinely appointed duty of being a steward on earth.

How to fly again after an Iman dip
So, you have determined what kind of bird you are and resultantly what kind of route you will be taking to Allah. You have been travelling through the vehicle of Dhikr to the unseen world every day but you still get caught up in this life or fall into the schism between this and the next. How do fallen birds take flight again?

The solution is to avoid all the avenues to blindness. The primary remover of sight is sin. Sin will rust the heart, cause it to become heavy,

take away the sweetness of faith, and cause you to languish in this world. Sight is regained as worded by Sheikh Omar Suleiman 'by a relentless commitment to the truth'. If your reality has darkened and you are wading through suffocating covers of darkness unable to see a light to the truth, Dhikr of Allah will guide you out of that terrain and into the unseen realm of the real reality again.

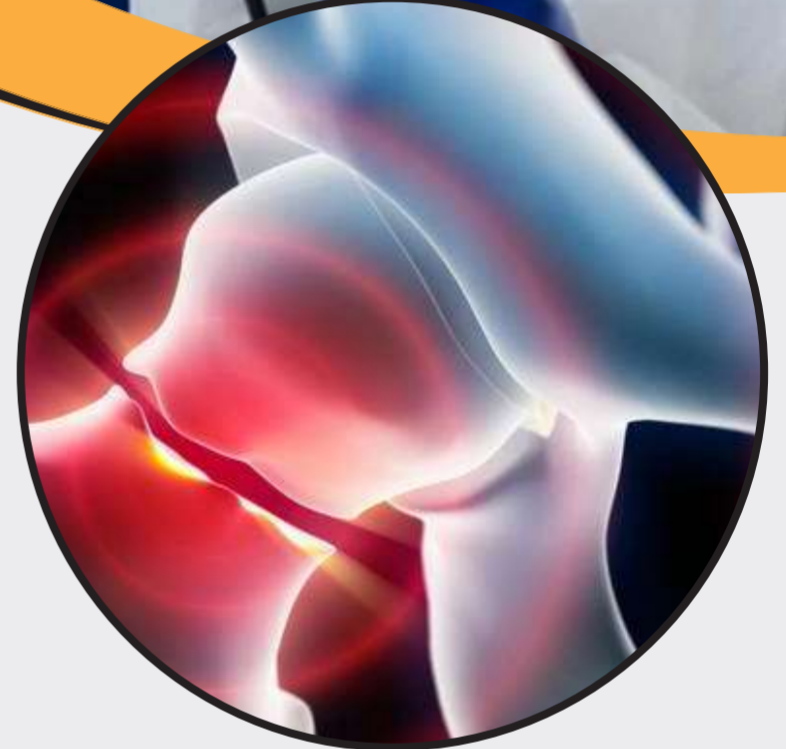
Balancing as we soar
Navigating between the two lives can feel confusing. Being in this world too much can lead to forgetting the next and thus feeling waves of overwhelming shock when you finally remember it and the extent of your heedlessness. The same is true for the opposite. If you are a bird that needs to take a stopover and you are flying in the next world for too long then returning to the hollow *Dunya* (earth) can be equally as shocking and lead to debilitating confusion when realising that the masses believe its deception.

As Muslims, we take the middle path. If you are in this world for too long, pick up your *Tasbeeh* (prayer beads) and travel to the next. If you are in the unseen world for too long and the weight of the truth is becoming too much for you to withstand, stay a little in this world. The two worlds are where we reside. The body in this one and the soul in the next.

Oftentimes, we want to be the hummingbird that crosses the ocean in one flight under the cover of the darkest night. This is essentially not our route, but the route of the pious predecessors. We cannot completely abandon this life. Despite the fragility of this accommodation, it is still accommodation. Even if we have set up shop and home on a spider's web it is still home, liable to be blown into the wind but home for now. Living on a precipice is not easy but take heart and be patient...our final abode awaits.

- Amaliah

Study Shows How Simple Measures Can Help Prevent Hip Fractures



According to a recent Australian study, the community as a whole, not just those at higher risk, might significantly lower the number of hip fractures by using straightforward bone-strengthening techniques.

The majority of hip fractures occur in people who do not have osteoporosis, so it is important for everyone, especially the elderly, to take action to improve their bone health. Bone mineral density is modifiable, and even small improvements reduce the risk of a fracture.

According to a recent Australian study, if everyone adopts simple bone-strengthening measures, the number of hip fractures may be significantly reduced. A hip fracture significantly raises the chance of death, especially in the elderly. Within a year following a hip fracture, about 37 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women pass away.

Additionally, it results in substantial discomfort and suffering, a loss of independence and movement, and higher healthcare expenses. The study's principal investigator, Professor Tuan Nguyen of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), is a world authority on osteoporosis.

He stressed the importance of people taking easy steps to improve their bone health, even if they don't have osteoporosis and even if those steps only seem to benefit them marginally. "Osteoporosis is a disease characterised by weak and brittle bones caused by bone loss. Osteoporotic individuals have the highest risk of a hip fracture, and pharmacologic treatment can reduce this risk by around 50 per cent," said Professor Nguyen.

"However, the majority of hip fractures occur in people who do not have osteoporosis, so it is important for everyone,

especially the elderly, to take action to improve their bone health. Bone mineral density is modifiable, and even small improvements reduce the risk of a fracture. "Bone health is affected by lifestyle factors such as smoking, physical activity and nutrition, including vitamin D and dietary calcium intake. Stopping smoking, maintaining moderate physical activity, and eating a healthy diet can all help reduce bone loss."

The study 'Prevention of hip fractures: trade-off between minor benefits to individuals

and large benefits to the community' was recently published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, with co-authors from The Garvan Institute of Medical Research and UNSW Sydney. The researchers analysed data from the Dubbo Osteoporosis Epidemiology Study, one of the longest running studies on osteoporosis in the world. It includes more than 3000 individuals over 60 years of age, who have been tracked over time for fracture incidence and risk factors.

They found that between the first cohort in 1988-92 and

the second in 1999-2001, bone mineral density increased by 3 per cent. During the same period, there was a 45 per cent decrease in hip fractures, a decline typically associated with a 10 per cent rise in bone mineral density. British epidemiologist Geoffrey Rose postulated that a population-based measure bringing a small benefit to each individual can yield large benefits to the community. The current study supports this axiom, by showing a small increase in bone density led to a substantial reduction in hip fractures.

Professor Nguyen draws a parallel with wearing a car seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt might bring little benefit to an individual because the probability of having a car accident is very low, but we know this simple action does save lives in the community." "Some people who are following medication regimens or engaging in lifestyle modification programs and notice a slight change in bone mineral density might believe that these measures hold little benefit for them. Nonetheless, even these minor effects can lead to a substantial reduction in fracture risk for the community," he said.

Epidemiologist and first author Dr Thach Tran said the study findings will be of interest to public health policymakers and medical professionals, as well as individuals who want to reduce their risk of a hip fracture. "Our study suggests that population strategies focused on reducing risk in those at low or moderate risk are likely to be more effective than strategies just focused on high-risk individuals," he said.

"The findings also imply that the categorization of bone mineral density into osteoporosis or non-osteoporosis based on an arbitrary threshold is not an optimal approach for identifying people at high risk of fracture."





DPS Srinagar Student Wins Silver In Taekwondo C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Saatish Dhar, a class 10th student of DPS Srinagar has won a silver in the Inter District Taekwondo Championship.

The championship is being organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, the tournament was held at Polo Ground Indoor Stadium Srinagar from 28th August to 31st August 2023.

Principal Shafaq Afshan

congratulated the medallist and said, "We hope this medal serves as the first in a long and chequered career that will testify to the school's commitment to identifying and training talent."

Chairman Vijay Dhar congratulated the medallist, affirming, "Our continued success really makes us proud and reinforces our faith in the motto of selfless service which will uplift the society. Congrats Saatish."

AG's Office Beats SCFA In Srinagar Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One Round 12 match was played in the 2023 Srinagar Premier League on Sunday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

In the first game, AG's Office XI took on SCFA Srinagar. The departmental team was given

a tough fight by the Sports Council Academy boys. At half time the scores read 0-0.

However, in the second half

SCFA scored twice into their own net to give AG's Office a 2-0 win on the evening. AG's defender Uzair was awarded man of the match for his brilliant defensive performance.

Eyeing Super 4 Berth, India Face Nepal



Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: Coming off a wash-out, India would hope they only have greenhorns Nepal to tackle and not rain as the heavyweights eye a berth in the Super Four of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

From Group A, Pakistan have already qualified to the Super Four with 3 points, and India have one point from the washed-out game against their arch-rivals on Saturday.

Even in the event of another rain-marred match on the morning, India can advance to the Super Four with two points, but Rohit Sharma's men will certainly not want it that way.

India received some encouraging signals from their match against Pakistan, and they would want to build on them ahead of the business end of this tournament and much sterner assays

in the waiting. Kishan was particularly impressive, as his forte is being a dashing top-order batsman.

So, there was that hint of doubt whether Kishan would be able to make the necessary adjustments to his batting and approach to suit the No. 5 slot.

Nepal do not have the quality of Pakistan, but Kishan would like to have a go at them and add some more runs under his belt to boost his new profile.

Similarly, the management will also welcome the composure Pandya showed while playing second fiddle to Kishan, and the seamless shifting of gears the all-rounder did after the left-hander's dismissal.

Even though the stuttering effort of their top four - Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer - against Pakistan pacers could be treated

as an aberration, the management would want them to get into ODI mode at the earliest.

Rohit and Kohli were rested for the ODIs against the West Indies, while Shreyas Iyer is making his return after an injury lay-off.

Nepal might just give the trio the perfect opposition to earn some valuable game time and runs.

Nepal, who lost to Pakistan by 238 runs in the tournament opener, would be eager to mask their lack of cricketing pedigree with their enthusiasm.

Their biggest hope to make some impact in the match will be leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane and captain Rohit Paudel.

But in the real world, they will be more than happy to limit the damage to the minimum against a cricketing powerhouse like India.



Salah Scores In Liverpool Win, As Speculation Swirls About His Future

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah put aside intense speculation about his future by scoring again for Liverpool in its dominant 3-0 win over Aston Villa that made it three straight victories in the Premier League for Jürgen Klopp's team on Sunday.

Salah, the subject of a reported bid on Friday worth 150 million pounds (\$188 million) by Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia, tapped home a finish in the 55th minute to round off the scoring at Anfield as Liverpool built on recent wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle.

Dominik Szoboszlai drove in the opening goal in the third minute before Villa right back Matty Cash unwittingly guided the ball into his own net in the 22nd after Darwin Núñez hit the post and the ball rebounded out.

Liverpool stayed unbeaten and on 10 points from four games heading into the international break. By the time the Premier League returns in two weeks, Liverpool fans will be hoping Salah is still at the club.

With the transfer window not closed for Saudi clubs until Thursday, Al-Ittihad could

yet come back with an even bigger bid for Salah, the Egypt superstar who is the world's most high-profile Arabic player. Liverpool insists the 31-year-old forward is not for sale but its resolve could still be tested.

Salah has scored two goals so far this season and Liverpool's attack is purring, with seven goals in its last three games. There could have been many more Sunday as the Reds repeatedly got in behind Villa's high line that was also exposed in a 5-1 opening-round loss at Newcastle.

The negative for Liverpool was the sight of Trent Alexander-Arnold limping off in the 71st minute with a leg muscle injury that could see him withdrawn from England's squad for the upcoming games against Ukraine and Scotland.

It was Alexander-Arnold - captain for the day in the absence of the suspended Virgil van Dijk - who sent over the corner from the right that missed everyone in the area and fell to Szoboszlai, who smashed the ball left-footed and diagonally into the bottom corner. It was the Hungary captain's first goal since joining Liverpool from Leipzig in the offseason.

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