

Women's Reservation Bill Gets President's Nod

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the women's reservation bill which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

According to a law ministry notification issued on Friday, the president gave her assent on Thursday.

Now, it will be officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.

According to its provision, "It shall come into force on such date as the central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint."

During a special session of Parliament **► More On P6**

MHA Inducts 28 JKP Officers Into IPS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday inducted as many as 28 officers from Jammu and Kashmir police into the prestigious Indian Police Service (IPS).

In the notification issued Friday, all the 28 officers have been allotted AGMUT cadre.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of the rule 9 of the Indian Police Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1954, read with sub-regulation (1) of the **► More On P6**

Eid-e-Milad Celebrated With Fervor In Kashmir



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Muslim devotees thronged the historic Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and Khanqah's and mosques across Kashmir to offer special prayers on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) on Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of devout men, women and children converged at the Hazratbal shrine all through the day to have a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet

Muhammad (SAW), displayed after every prayer at the shrine.

The biggest congregation was witnessed at the noon-time at the shrine and its adjacent sprawling lawns along the banks of Dal Lake as Friday prayers were offered and holy relic was displayed after prayers.

Most people were seen with folded hands while some had tears trickling down their cheeks as they prayed to have their wishes fulfilled on the occasion. People also offered Durood

(praises of the Prophet) and recited the holy Quran last night at the shrine for atonement of their sins.

The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, which manages the affairs of the shrine, had made arrangements for the devotees.

Reports of celebrations were received from other parts of the Kashmir valley as well. The Hazratbal shrine and several other mosques were decorated and illuminated to mark the occasion. **► More On P6**

Faith Soars High at Hazratbal Shrine

An ocean of devotees, coming from far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir Friday flooded the revered shrine of Hazratbal to have the glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) at Hazratbal shrine.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi, also known as Mawlid-un-Nabi, is a significant festival for Muslims commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed

(Pbuh). The weeklong celebrations commence on the 12th day of the Rabi-ul-Awwal and culminate on 17th. The week is also observed as the Week of Muslim Unity.

As the holy relic was displayed to the people, emotional scenes were witnessed with people crying and seeking mercy from Almighty Allah. A significant number of devotees had come all **► More On P6**

Milad Rallies Taken Out

Scores of Milad rallies were taken out in Kashmir to mark the birth anniversary of the holy Prophet (Pbuh). Karwan-e-Islami took out a massive rally from Masjid-e-Abu Turaab Qamarwari to Jamiatul Qadriya Targam. Similarly, Soutul Awliya also took out a big Milad rally. **► More On P6**



Omar Flays Govt Over Milad Holiday

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah Friday criticised the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to declare Eid Milad-un Nabi holiday a day earlier. Abdullah, who offered the **► More On P6**

ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES BJP Puts Its 8 Kashmir Leaders On Notice

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over a month after Kashmir based leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) raised the banner of revolt against alleged "discriminatory approach" by the leadership in winter capital, the saffron party on Friday issued notice to eight party leaders in the Valley for indulging in anti-party activities.

Altaf Thakur, Ali Mohammad Mir, GM Mir, Asif Masoodi, Arif Raja, Anwar Khan, Manzoor Bhat and Bilal Parray are the eight leaders of BJP's Kashmir unit who have been served notice by the party's disciplinary committee led **► More On P6**

LADHC POLLS NC To Stage Power Show In Kargil Today

Agencies

Srinagar: For the first time after Ladakh was split from Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference will hold a major public rally in Kargil on Saturday ahead of Hill Development Council polls.

The 5th general Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections are scheduled on October 4. A total of 85 candidates are in the poll fray. Former Chief Minister and National Conference vice president **► More On P6**



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Industries and Commerce Department, J&K



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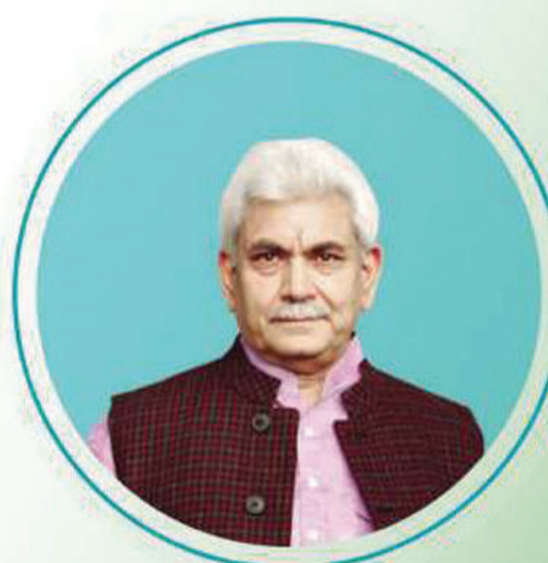
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KRC Organizes Run On World Heart Day In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Runners Club on Friday organized a run on the occasion of World Heart Day with an aim to create awareness among the masses about the heart diseases.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather was Chief Guest on the occasion.

This morning, the run was organized from Bakhshi Stadium here and went through Rajbagh, Lal Chowk areas in which dozens of people from the club and from different walks of life participated.

Besides prominent personalities, the children also participated in the run.

A prominent Cardiologist posted at SMHS hospital, Dr Irfan Bhat, who was the Chief Organizer of the

event, while speaking with the media persons said the run was organized on the World Heart Day with an aim to raise awareness among the people about heart disease.

At present, it has been observed that the lifestyle of people, especially youth has got affected; they are getting involved in drug addiction, which affects their health badly.

The club has come up with an initiative to create awareness among the masses on this day to create awareness among the people and attract them towards the physical activities.

According to the study, he said that it is mandatory for any individual to walk or run for at least 30 minutes in a day, which would keep their health condition better.



A burqa clad woman raises her hands in supplication upon seeing the holy relic at Dargah Hazratbal shrine on the eve of Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (SAW) on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Event Under Swachta Hi Seva' & 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' Held At Lalmandi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the aegis of "Swachta hi Seva" and "Meri Maati Mera Desh", an event was held at the Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The cleanliness campaign was launched by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal in which all the officers and officials participated and cleaned their premises and adjacent areas with commit-

ment and devotion.

Under the slogan of "Swachata hi Seva" the Director Agriculture Kashmir addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of collective responsibility towards maintaining a clean environment. He said the main objective of cleanliness and sanitation among the officers/officials of the department is to ensure a hygienic environment for their overall well being.

ARC SMHS Receives Over 4,300 Dog Bite Cases In Six Months

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A substantial 4,396 bite cases, primarily resulting from dog encounters, have been reported at the Anti-Rabies Clinic of Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in the past six months, officials said.

The prevalence of dogs throughout the valley has led to human-dog confrontations, causing a surge in dog bite incidents in the region.

An official from the Anti-Rabies Clinic SMHS informed that between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, a total of 6,875 bite cases were reported, with the majority originating in Srinagar.

He further stated that 4,396 fresh cases were recorded from April 1 to September 27 this year, potentially reaching the 10,000 mark by March 2024 if the trend persists.

Sharing annual data on bite cases, the official reported that from April 2015 to March 2016, 7,061 cases were reported at ARC SMHS, followed by 5,832 cases from April 2016 to March 2017, 6,802 from April 2017 to March 2018, 6,397 from April 2018 to

March 2019, 6,139 from April 2019 to March 2020, 4,808 from April 2020 to March 2021, 5,469 from April 2021 to March 2022, 6,875 from April 2022 to March 2023, and 4,396 cases to date.

He said that approximately 54,000 cases have been registered at the Anti-Rabies Clinic from April 2015 to September 27, 2023.

of individuals bitten by animals. In Kashmir, the burden and characteristics of dog bites are not systematically documented by the existing healthcare system.

World Rabies Day, observed on September 28, serves to raise awareness about rabies prevention and acknowledge advancements in combating this dreadful

4,396 fresh cases were recorded from April 1 to September 27 this year, potentially reaching the 10,000 mark by March 2024 if the trend persists.

In Kashmir, dog bites pose a significant public health concern, with thousands falling victim to animal bites, particularly from dogs, and some developing rabies.

Rabies is a uniformly fatal viral disease, resulting in approximately 59,000 human deaths annually worldwide, with 95 percent of cases occurring in Africa and Asia.

The sole means of averting a rabies fatality is through the vac-

disease. The day also commemorates the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French chemist and microbiologist who pioneered the first rabies vaccine.

Today, safe and effective vaccines for animals and humans are pivotal tools in eradicating rabies-related human fatalities, while heightened awareness plays a pivotal role in fostering community engagement in successful rabies prevention.

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- CAPD: 18001807011
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AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 13 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:03
	ZUHR	12:22
	ASR	4:37
	Magrib	6:23
	ISHA	7:43

This Day In History

- 1520 Suleiman the Magnificent succeeds his father Selam I as Ottoman Sultan (rules till 1566)
- 1939 - Germany & Russia agree to partition Poland
- 1939 - Britain first evacuates citizens in anticipation of war.
- 1940 - 47 German aircraft shot down above England
- 1958 - French Guinee becomes independent republic Guinea
- 1966 - Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland) gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1967 - BBC starts its own popular music radio station (Radio 1)
- 1968 - 1st Boeing 747 rolls out
- 1980 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1980 - Ethernet specifications published by Xerox working with Intel and Digital Equipment Corporation.
- 1981 - Seoul, South Korea, is selected to host 1988 Summer Olympics
- 1986 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1986 - US releases soviet spy Gennadiy Zakharov

From KO Archives

Valley Wide Alert As Experts Trace Adulterated Oil

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Officials of Food and Supplies Department and Srinagar Municipality in joint raids today seized tins of adulterated edible oil, capable of causing dreaded dropsy. Alert has been sounded and people warned not to use contaminated brands.

The joint teams today and yesterday fanned out in different directions of capital Srinagar and raided various godowns and retail outlets of edible oil, leading to the seizure of 7800 tins of P. Mark and over 100 canisters of Hira Brand mustard oil.

Sampling, followed by analysis on war footing of the seized' edible oil tins was done by assistant public analyst from State's Drug and Food Control organisation. The assistant public analyst, Mush-taq Ahmed Khateeb confirmed adulteration in Hira brand, packed under seal number 200- 201/PFAK, Dated 4-9-1998.

P. Mark Bahadurgarh Haryana Brand was also found adulterated, as per the officials, who warned the general public this evening not to use the two contaminated brands. The analysis of other brands seized by the teams is underway and reports are expected by Sunday.

Out of 225 samples analysed in the laboratory till now, reports of only 140 were received by this evening. While 139 samples tested negative, one tested positive. That was the sample taken from Hira brand, manufactured and marketed by M/S Grower Oil Mills, Private Limited, Bari Brahama-na, Jammu.

The raids were conducted by the teams at Court Road, Sarai Bala, Tankipora, Hazuribagh and other parts of the city. More teams will conduct raids tomorrow to trace out adulterated oil.

Eight tins of adulterated Hint brand were seized from a dealer at Court Road. Reports revealed that the said dealer has sold off hundreds of tins of

Hira brand to retailers all across Kashmir. Messages have been flashed to different districts to trace out the adulterated brands.

Two edible oil factories -situated at Zainakote, have also been raided and samples taken for analysis. The two factories, reports said, import oil from Jammu in huge tankers. "The factories will be sealed if the samples test positive," a top official in Srinagar Municipality said on condition of anonymity.

With detection of contaminated edible oil, panic has gripped the people in the Valley as thousands of them have been continuing their food preparations on these brands - now declared adulterated According to an eminent epidemiologist there is every chance of dropsy disease invading the state now.

(Kashmir Observer, September 30, 1998)

No.1
Civil Court
**IN THE COURT OF Ms Tabasum
Judge Small Causes,, Srinagar.**

SUMMONS FOR DISPOSAL OF
SUIT

Original Suits (05)/1378/2023
Ashish Gupta Vs Union Territory of JK through
Chief secretary Government Civil secretariat
NEXT DATE : 23-11-2023

(O. S. R. 1. 5.)
To,
Public At Large
Republic of India

Whereas Ashish Gupta has instituted a suit against you for you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed (and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer all such questions, on the 23-11-2023 at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and as the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 22-08-2023
Judge Small Causes,, Srinagar.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to provide stoppage to train no. 19027/19028 Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi - Bandra Terminus (Weekly) Express at Gotan station on experimental basis w.e.f. dates mentioned below and will continue till further advice, as per details given below:

Train No. 19027 Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi Exp. From 30.09.2023		STATIONS	Train No. 19028 Jammu Tawi - Bandra (T) Exp. From 02.10.2023	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
03:20	03:30	Jodhpur Jn.	23:00	23:15
04:46	04:48	Gotan	22:06	22:08
05:08	05:13	Merta Road Jn.	21:35	21:40

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139**

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30/07/2023

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CORRIGENDUM

In reference to tender notice no. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 dated 26.09.2023 regarding tender for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train from Dhandari Kalan to Agartala and back to Dhandari Kalan on round trip, published in newspapers on 27.09.2023, following changes have been made:

Due to administrative reasons, the Tentative Time Table Schedule (Annexure-D) for Dhandari Kalan - Agartala - Dhandari Kalan PCET is revised in tender document. The same has been withdrawn and the revised Tentative Time Table Schedule (Annexure-D) with tender document is uploaded on official website for e-tendering i.e. www.tfps.gov.in

All the prospective bidders are advised to note accordingly and submit their bids as per revised tender document.

No. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 Dated : 29.09.2023

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Omnipotence of Modern Nation State

There's a need for scholarly scrutiny and debate on the implications of a technologically-empowered all-powerful nation state and its ability to shape narratives and control citizens

RIYAZ WANI

“The situation is now such that even while Khan may be enjoying a purported overwhelming public support, it doesn't matter. What matters is that the Pakistani Army is no longer invested in him. And so it has ensured that Khan's alleged public support comes to nought

It was telling to see almost no one protesting in Pakistan when the country's former prime minister Imran Khan was re-arrested. This was in stark contrast to the spontaneous protests and the widespread violence including attacks on Army installations that followed Khan's first arrest in June. What explains two different reactions? Only explanation that can be offered is the all-out Army crackdown that followed the first arrest. So, in the subsequent arrest of Khan, hardly anyone dared to protest. What is more, even Khan's own lieutenants, top leaders such as Asad Umar, Fawad, Shireen Mazari and others abandoned him.

The situation is now such that even while Khan may be enjoying a purported overwhelming public support, it doesn't matter. What matters is that the Pakistani Army is no longer invested in him. And so it has ensured that Khan's alleged public support comes to nought. The point is that the almost overnight pacification of Pakistan following an extended pro-Imran Khan political mobilization underlines the power of the modern nation state. It has become an omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent entity giving it an unlimited power to shape things in its own image. It has developed a vast capacity to suppress dissent, handle public turmoil, and quash violent resistance.

Take for example Sri Lanka which around fourteen years ago defeated the long-running violent challenge by the LTTE, a Tamil national liberation organization with the primary goal of establishing an independent Tamil state. This despite the fact that the LTTE ran a de facto Tamil state within Sri Lanka and boasted of around 18000 armed fighters.

But this was a decade ago. Ever since nation states have come to be equipped with new military and communication technologies, enabling them to accumulate even more power. So much so, they can potentially know each of their citizens personally and can also directly reach them. Not just that, they now wield far greater power over masses. Public opinion can now be shaped or manipulated on a far greater scale than ever before through misinformation and disinformation peddled systematically through formal and social media. So much so that the governments can now hone a public opinion according to their conveniences. This, in turn, influences the public reaction to day to day events. And in its most consequential fallout, even the outcome of elections. Former US president Donald Trump's election as the US president in 2016 is believed to have similarly been maneuvered remotely by Russia including the disinformation plied by the Trump's campaign team himself. However, in a highly literate society such as the US, people have a higher ability to see through fake information, a factor that played a decisive role in Trump's defeat in the 2020



election, despite his violent effort to overturn the outcome. But this doesn't detract from the modern state's power to set and define the narrative domestically and also internationally if you are a global power like the US. Ditto for other major powers.

Over the last decade, the states have also wrested their monopoly over the use of violence from the transnational militant groups such as Al Qaeda and ISIS. Or for that matter the violent domestic struggles across different countries. Ever since the toppling of twin towers in 2011 through creation of a caliphate by the ISIS in parts of Iraq and Syria in ———, the non-state violence experienced a steady decline. Once vaunted Al Qaeda and ISIS are a shadow of their former selves and have drastically shrunk in their global presence, comprising mainly of a few obscure affiliates in some countries. One conspicuous outcome of this is the prevailing calm in the Middle East and also Europe. According to Global Terrorism Index 2023, in 2022, deaths from terrorism fell by nine percent to 6,701 deaths and is now 38 percent lower than at its peak in 2015. The fall in deaths was mirrored by a reduction in the number of incidents, with attacks declining by almost 28 percent from 5,463 in 2021 to 3,955 in 2022.

However, the chilling effect of the growing state power has also been visible on the peaceful public mobilizations such as the one witnessed recently in Paki-

stan. This has also been globally true: all the so called pro-democracy Arab Spring resistances have now long petered out and the Arab kingdoms are firmly back in the saddle, including the salutary exceptions like Egypt and Tunisia. Of the two Tunisia survived as a democracy for close to a decade before going back to square one following the coup by its current president Kais Saied.

Incidentally, this state of affairs has been coincidental with the rise of authoritarianism and the backsliding of democracy across the world. And this has also meant squeezing of the space for political, ideological or even intellectual dissent. Does this mean time for even genuine, peaceful resistances to the state is up? Is the rise of a God-like modern state thus a cause for concern? Will an all-powerful state render all citizens or a section of them subservient? It is time that a rigorous, scholarly scrutiny of this new phenomenon is carried out and debated.

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

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Trudeau's Biggest Problem Is Not India

Harsh V. Pant

It's been a tough few days for the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. Nothing, it seems, is going right for him. His domestic popularity has been on a downward spiral for some time and is unlikely to rebound any time soon, if the present trends are anything to go by. His main rival, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, is gaining ground with recent polls suggesting he has the backing of 40 per cent of Canadians who see him as the best choice to be prime minister, a 5 percent increase from 2022, even as Trudeau's popularity remains unchanged at 31 percent.

There seems to be an across-the-board dissatisfaction with the direction of the country as economic issues predominate the domestic political agenda and Trudeau is seen as being unable to get a grip on a nation adrift.

It is usually in times like these that political leaders look to foreign policy to shore up their credibility. But despite Trudeau trying hard, his moves have fallen flat even in this realm. The latest in this series is the honouring by the Canadian House of Commons of a Ukrainian man, Yaroslav Hunka, who fought for a Nazi unit in the Second World War, during the hosting of an address by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Hunka was welcomed by the Speaker of the House as "a Ukrainian hero, a Canadian hero, and we [Canadian Parliament] thank him for all his service." This has caused a political and social storm in Canada with several members of parliament calling for a public apology by Trudeau. The Speaker has resigned but Trudeau has not apologized. Underlining that the decision to invite Hunka had been made by the Speaker's office alone, Trudeau has merely said that "this is something that is deeply embarrassing to parliament of Canada and by extension to all Canadians."

But this matter has not remained limited to Canada. Calling the incident "outrageous," Rus-



sia wasted no time in arguing that "many Western countries, including Canada, have raised a young generation that does not know who fought whom or what happened during the Second World War. And they know nothing about the threat of fascism." Moscow, whose targeting of Ukraine was based on its claims to "denazify" the nation, would have found the irony too difficult to resist. Poland too has called for an apology from Canada.

And then there is the India-Canada row that shows no signs of abating. Trudeau's mishandling of an important relationship not only for Ottawa but for the wider West has played right into the hands of China that must be watching with great

interest the unfolding of this saga of a lack of responsible leadership and platitudinous rhetoric. India has pushed back hard against "politically motivated" accusations from Canada. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar targeted Canada when he emphasized that the international community should not "countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence" and "respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercised in cherry-picking."

This crisis has also given a unique opportunity to New Delhi to throw the spotlight on Canada's

own troubled record on extremism and terrorism. Since the 1980s, this has been the case and India has been the primary victim of Canada's hypocrisy in brushing terrorism under the carpet in the name of human rights and freedom of expression. Where India has managed to get a handle on its own internal security situation in Punjab, Canada has been unable to find a solution to its own festering extremism. It is now becoming an extra territorial threat, one that India has been repeatedly asking Ottawa to come to terms with.

Trudeau's inability to comprehend the seriousness of this challenge has led to the present predicament. He has had no compunction in celebrating extra territorial killings by the US but when it comes to Indian entreaties they are not only to be ignored but even worse - challenges to Indian sovereignty are to be milked for domestic political considerations. The Indian response to Trudeau's accusations has shown that New Delhi is in no mood to countenance this posture and will go all out in signaling to Canada and other adversaries that it is serious about tackling the challenges it faces. There is a reason why Canada's closest allies have been circumspect about falling behind Ottawa in targeting India. It is also interesting to note the caution that Trudeau has shown when dealing with Chinese interference in Canadian elections and the alacrity with which he has targeted India.

There are bigger issues at stake here for India and the wider world. Trudeau has pushed India-Canada ties to the brink and it is highly unlikely that the trust deficit between New Delhi and Trudeau can be bridged any time soon. But the Canadian Prime Minister's problems go beyond India as this past one week has shown as he navigates, rather unsuccessfully, one crisis after another.

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 NDTV

My Autumn Fascination



Colours of the autumn bring forth some of my old and forgotten childhood feats and rendezvous with it. The reminiscences scratch my nostalgic chords, and take me on a ride down my memory lane. Though many years have passed since then, but, I vividly remember a pastime that would still provoke me to venture out for the adventure



Kashmir Observer

Mushtaq Hurra

Relish and rejoice the days when summer morphs into autumn, because the pleasant dip in mercury bids adieu to sweltering and scorching heat of the summer. Autumn almost arrives with excitement to conjure the atmosphere with plethora of romantic vibes. Human heart experiences mixed feelings and emotions, assumably making the season a mojo. Dulcet melodies produced by the delicate vibrations in tymbals of the mellifluous cicadas, impregnate the surroundings with the symphonious songs which liberate our ears from the fuss of cacophonous gadgets and gizmos. The euphonious choruses of these tiny musicians resonate through the atmosphere in such a way, as if the musical maestros across the globe have come together to perform in con-

certs. The musical ambience add saccarinity and solace to our ear drums. Though we can't deny the fact that autumn symbolises cruelty and callousness also, because it sends greens and grains to grim gallows gradually, yet its hypnotizing mellows paint viridescent vegetations to wheatish yellow, presumably, if the rising golden sun daubs everything to the blonde hues of fire which add curiosity, confidence and joy to our veins. Aromatic fragrance of the red-ripe apples and Mushkbudji species of paddy, grown in a few high altitude areas of Kashmir valley, scents the environs so redolently that it induces congenial hangover to our souls. The season lets us enjoy the fragrant petrichor when it rains after prolonged dry summers. The season enunciates glad tidings for formidably toiling farmers to harvest their laborious exertions, carried out in their fields

and orchards. Green husk of walnuts rupture easily to let the brainy kernels confined in a shelly cranium of sclerenchyma to come out, and entice human eyes to enable our taste-buds to experience the antioxidant rich delicacy of the unique dry fruit of Kashmir valley. Cone-shaped paddy bales give industrial look to paddy fields, making us believe that architecture and craft is not confined to books of engineering only. Colours of the autumn bring forth some of my old and forgotten childhood feats and rendezvous with it. The reminiscences scratch my nostalgic chords, and take me on a ride down my memory lane. Though many years have passed since then, but, I vividly remember a pastime that would still provoke me to venture out for the adventure. With the onset of autumn season, many seasoned fowlers would lay traps

to hunt birds. Oriental turtle dove (Trael poot) was their prime prey. Shotguns were used by the fowlers from well-off families to hunt the bird. And interestingly, a certain social eminence was wrongly etched to its possession. Many fowlers would carry their shotguns with a sense of arrogance and conceit, as if they had been authorised to empty their forearms on anyone they wished, and would walk like aristocrats among innocent villagers. Prey birds (Trael Poot) would often sit in flocks on high-tension power lines, passing through paddy fields. These birds would also hide in the canopy of a dense poplar thicket. Campaigned fowlers would never miss their targets, but a novice would rarely fetch dividends from his manoeuvre, using the shotgun. Since the bird resembles ring-doves, so a fowler should have a hawk's eye

to recognise it among other birds, sitting together in flocks. Many young boys who had no access to shotguns, would make use of noose traps to hunt the bird. The noose traps were skillfully prepared from horsetail hair. The indigenously made trap was laid near cone shaped paddy bales, because the site had abundant paddy seed layers, and therefore, would entice and tempt the birds to come down and peck there. The noose traps were placed overnight, preferably before the sunset. Many amateurs would yield good rewards on certain occasion. But, these noose trap hunts were susceptible to attacks from foxes and dogs. So, the fowlers would visit their already set destinations of noose traps before the sunrise. The fowlers were well-acquainted about the legitimate procedure of slaughter. So, carrying a knife was almost

imperative for a fowler. Though the bird - Oriental turtle dove (Trael Poot) would weigh insignificantly paltry in comparison to a mallard, heron or poultry birds like chicken, but, the sight of a Trael Poot caught up in the trap, would send euphoric sensations through the spine of the fowler. Even many younger boys used to rear these birds in the indigenously made wicker cages. The adventure would often end up in a disaster, because the birds taken prisoners would either flee away accidentally or become the prey of a cat. The tradition of bird catching continues to lure people to hunt them during the autumn days. Even today, many ambitious fowlers are seen roaming in paddy fields, looking for the birds of prey.

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The Real Roots of Student Cheating

Joseph E. Davis Ph.D.

The release of ChatGPT has high school and college teachers wringing their hands. A Columbia University undergraduate rubbed it in our face last May with an opinion piece in the Chronicle of Higher Education titled I'm a Student. You Have No Idea How Much We're Using ChatGPT. He goes on to detail how students use the program to "do the lion's share of the thinking," while passing off the work as their own. Catching the deception, he insists, is impossible. As if students needed more ways to cheat. Every survey of students, whether high school or college, has found that cheating is "rampant," "epidemic," "commonplace," and "practically expected," to use a few of the terms with which researchers have described the scope of academic dishonesty. In a 2010 study by the Josephson Institute, for example, 59 percent of the 43,000 high school students admitted to cheating on a test in the past year. According to a 2012 white paper, Cheat or Be Cheated? prepared by Challenge Success, 80 percent admitted to copying another student's homework. The other studies summarized in the paper found self-reports of past-year cheating by high school students in the 70 percent to 80 percent range and higher. At colleges, the situation is only marginally better. Studies consistently put the level of

self-reported cheating among undergraduates between 50 percent and 70 percent depending in part on what behaviors are included.¹ The sad fact is that cheating is widespread. **COMMITMENT TO HONESTY** Yet, when asked, most young people affirm the moral value of honesty and the belief that cheating is wrong. For example, in a survey of more than 3,000 teens conducted by my colleagues at the University of Virginia, the great majority (83 percent) indicated that to become "honest—someone who doesn't lie or cheat," was very important, if not essential to them. On a long list of traits and qualities, they ranked honesty just below "hard-working" and "reliable and dependent," and far ahead of traits like being "ambitious," "a leader," and "popular." When asked directly about cheating, only 6 percent thought it was rarely or never wrong. Other studies find similar commitments, as do experimental studies by psychologists. In experiments, researchers manipulate the salience of moral beliefs concerning cheating by, for example, inserting moral reminders into the test situation to gauge their effect. Although students often regard some forms of cheating, such as doing homework together when they are expected to do it alone, as trivial, the studies find that young people



view cheating in general, along with specific forms of dishonesty, such as copying off another person's test, as wrong. They find that young people strongly care to think of themselves as honest and temper their cheating behavior accordingly.² **THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR** Bottom line: Kids whose ideal is to be honest and who know cheating is wrong also routinely cheat in school. What accounts for this discrepancy? In the psychological and educational literature, researchers typically focus on personal and situational factors that work to override students' commitment to do the right thing. These factors include the force of different motives to

high, and letting go of "limiting beliefs" that stand in their way? Schools, not to mention parents, media, and employers, all, in various ways, communicate these expectations and portray them as integral to the good in life. They tell young people that these are the standards they should meet, the yardsticks by which they should measure themselves. In my interviews and discussions with young people, it is clear they have absorbed these powerful messages and feel held to answer, to themselves and others, for how they are measuring up. Falling short, as they understand and feel it, is highly distressful. At the same time, they are regularly exposed to the idea that success involves a trade-off with honesty and that cheating behavior, though regrettable, is "real life." These words are from a student on a survey administered at an elite high school. "People," he continued, "who are rich and successful lie and cheat every day." In this thinking, he is far from alone. In a 2012 Josephson Institute survey of 23,000 high school students, 57 percent agreed that "in the real world, successful people do what they have to do to win, even if others consider it cheating."³ Putting these together, another high school student told a researcher: "Grades are everything. You have to realize

it's the only possible way to get into a good college and you resort to any means necessary." In a 2021 survey of college students by College Pulse, the single biggest reason given for cheating, endorsed by 72 percent of the respondents, was "pressure to do well." What we see here are two goods—educational success and honesty—pitted against each other. When the two collide, the call to be successful is likely to be the far more immediate and tangible imperative. A young person's very future appears to hang in the balance. And, when asked in surveys, youths often perceive both their parents' and teachers' priorities to be more focused on getting "good grades in my classes," than on character qualities, such as being a "caring community member." **WHAT TO DO** In noting the mixed messages, my point is not to offer another excuse for bad behavior. But some of the messages just don't mix, placing young people in a difficult bind. Answering the expectations placed on them can be at odds with being an honest person. In the trade-off, cheating takes on a certain logic. The proposed remedies to academic dishonesty typically focus on parents and schools. One commonly recommended strategy is to do more to promote student integrity. That seems obvious. Yet, as we saw, stu-

dents already believe in honesty and the wrongness of (most) cheating. It's not clear how more teaching on that point would make much of a difference. Integrity, though, has another meaning, in addition to the personal qualities of being honest and of strong moral principles. Integrity is also the "quality or state of being whole or undivided." In this second sense, we can speak of social life itself as having integrity. It is "whole or undivided" when the different contexts of everyday life are integrated in such a way that norms, values, and expectations are fairly consistent and tend to reinforce each other—and when messages about what it means to be a good, accomplished person are not mixed but harmonious. While social integrity rooted in ethical principles does not guarantee personal integrity, it is not hard to see how that foundation would make a major difference. Rather than confronting students with trade-offs that incentivize "any means necessary," they would receive positive, consistent reinforcement to speak and act truthfully. Talk of personal integrity is all for the good. But as pervasive cheating suggests, more is needed. We must also work to shape an integrated environment in which achievement and the "real world" are not set in opposition to honesty. The article was originally published by Psychology Today

54 Killed As Suicide Bomber Targets Milad Rally In Pak

Press Trust Of India

Karachi: A powerful suicide blast ripped through a mosque in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Friday, killing at least 54 people and injuring over 100 others who were preparing to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday, police said.

Hours later, another blast at a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu city killed at least four people and injured 12 others.

At Mastung, the explosion occurred near Madina Mosque on Al Falah Road in the Mastung district when people had gathered in large numbers to mark Eid Miladun Nabi, City Station House Officer Mohammad Javed Lehri said.

"The explosion was a suicide blast". The bomber exploded himself next to the Deputy Superintendent of Police's (DSP) car," Lehri said.

Later, a hand grenade was also defused by the bomb squad from near the blast site, he said.

Bordering Afghanistan and Iran, Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province and has frequently been hit by terror groups including the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Islamic State group.

Mastung's DSP Nawaz Gishkori, who was on duty for the rally, was found dead among others.

Lehri said the wounded were shifted to a medical facility even as an emergency has been imposed in the hospitals.

District Health Officer Rashid Muhammad Saeed said the situation at the hospitals across the town was chaotic as relatives and friends of those killed and injured were making it difficult for the doctors and nurses to perform their duties.

"Around 20 of the patients who were in critical condition have been moved to Quetta for treatment," he said.

Balochistan Inspector General (IG) Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said



the suicide bomber blew himself up close to groups of people who were gathering near the mosque to take out the Rabul Awwal procession to celebrate the Prophet's birthday.

"Until now we have 54 confirmed casualties," he said, adding that the injured have been sent to hospitals in Mastung and Quetta.

Sheikh said DSP Ghashhori was killed after he apparently spotted the suicide bomber and tried to stop him. "Three other police officers were also injured in the blast," he said.

The IG said he was not aware of the exact number of people injured but they were in dozens.

The TTP has denied involvement in Friday's blast, saying in a statement that such an attack was against its policies. The group also condemned the attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that "mosques, schools, and public gatherings are not part of our targets".

Sheikh said the suspicion is centred around the Daesh (also known as ISIS) terror outfit.

"It is still too early to say who is behind this attack but in the past Daesh militants have been active in Mastung district," he said.

Sheikh said Daesh had previously claimed responsibility for such attacks in the past.

Mastung District Headquarters Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Nisar Ahmed

said 18 bodies were brought to his hospital, while the remaining were moved to the Naqab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital in Mastung and Civil Hospital in Quetta.

The Naqab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital CEO Dr Saeed Mirwani has confirmed that his hospital received 32 bodies, while four bodies were sent to the Civil Hospital in Quetta.

Mirwani said over 100 wounded persons were brought to the hospital of which those in critical condition were referred to Quetta. Nisar said 20 people were receiving treatment at Mastung DHQ.

Mastung Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sasoli said the suicide bomber had waited to get close to the process lining up near the Madina mosque.

"It was a deadly blast and there were bloodied corpses, limbs, and body parts strewn all over the place after the blast. We have now contained the area," he said.

Balochistan has in the last two years been the hotbed of terror attacks by separatist groups with militants belonging to banned religious outfits with the Shia-Sunni Muslim factor also playing a role in these attacks.

In the past, radical Sunni groups have claimed responsibility for attacking Shia Muslim Hazara community members in Quetta and other parts of the

province.

Sasoli said it is still to be determined whether the attack was a religiously motivated one or a terror attack.

Unverified images and videos emerging afterward of the blast depicted bloodied corpses and severed limbs strewn around as bystanders assessed the extent of the damage.

Balochistan interim Information Minister Jan Achakzai said rescue teams have been dispatched to Mastung.

"The enemy wants to destroy religious tolerance and peace in Balochistan ...," Achakzai said.

Caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki has directed authorities to arrest those responsible for the blast.

Meanwhile, in the unruly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province few hours later, at least four people died and 12 others were injured in the suicide blast that ripped through a mosque during the Juma prayers close to the Doaba police station in Hangu district.

There were 30 to 40 worshippers in the mosque at the time of the blast.

According to police, five terrorists had entered the Doaba police station but were immediately engaged by the law enforcement forces in a firing. While one terrorist was killed in the firing, the other blew himself near the mosque building causing its roof to collapse.

Three terrorists fled the scene, police said. Both Deputy Commissioner Fazle Akbar and IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur have confirmed in separate statements the number of casualties and those injured and added that the Hangu mosque rescue operation was complete.

Administrative and political leadership expressed outrage in response to the blasts.

In Balochistan, caretaker Chief Minister Domki has directed authorities to arrest those responsible for the blast. He also announced three days of mourning throughout the province over the tragic incident.

J&K's ODF Plus Model Journey under SBM-G

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, having achieved ODF Plus Model status on 14th August 2023, has declared all its 6650 villages across 285 blocks in 20 districts as ODF Plus Model.

The achievement of ODF Plus Model for all villages in the UT is a significant milestone as it goes beyond constructing and use of toilets towards cleanliness by managing grey water and solid waste in each village.

Pertinently, for a village to achieve the status of ODF plus Model, it has to go through three stages of ODF Plus including ODF plus Aspiring, ODF plus Rising and ODF plus Model. Only when a village has achieved a condition where it is visually clean with minimal litter and stagnant water, apart from the solid and liquid waste management and adequate IEC activities it is declared as ODF plus Model.

In its attempt to make all villages ODF Plus Model, the Rural Sanitation department has made a comprehensive plan which was meticulously knitted in bringing all the stakeholders on board before execution of the same.

The department made Village Sanitation Saturation Plans (VSSP) for each village to ensure it has assets available for solid liquid waste management. Based on the plans, for grey water management i.e. water generated from kitchen, bathing etc. soak pits, magic and leach pits have been developed by the department at household and community level.

About 353631 individual soak pits and 23781 community soak pits have been constructed by the department. Wherever kitchen gardens are available people have been motivated to dispose grey water through the kitchen gardens.

For biodegradable waste management, individual and community compost pits have been constructed. Nearly, 137824 individual compost pits and 12118 community

compost pits have been constructed either by the department or by people themselves in their households. People are being encouraged to segregate dry and wet waste and process wet waste in compost pits. Also, 1850 waste collection and segregation sheds have been constructed for proper disposal of waste. Besides, 536 Community Sanitary Complexes have also been constructed in J&K.

GOBARdhan which is Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resource is a waste to wealth initiative where animal dung and kitchen waste is used to generate biogas/bio slurry. While two such projects are already functional in JK UT, 18 more such projects are in the final stage of completion.

Door to Door collection of waste has been initiated in all the panchayats. Through involvement of locals, youth clubs, NGOs, expert agencies waste is being collected from households to be taken to segregation sheds where waste is segregated into various categories such as paper, wood, plastic etc. for its disposal. Some of these segregation shed are semi mechanized with bailers, shredders etc.

To cater to plastic waste in villages, Plastic Waste Management Units (PVMU) are being established in each block, some of which are in the final stage of completion. The plastic in these centers would be cleaned, shredded, bailed etc. for its final disposal. The complete life cycle of the waste is properly managed.

The work which was done on ground was promptly captured and updated on the IMIS portal of SBM-G by the Blocks and Districts which facilitated timely completion of the task and making JK UT one of the first few UTs/ States in the country to achieve this goal. The entire work is required to be uploaded on the SBM(G) IMIS portal. For declaring a village as ODF plus besides the uploading of ground reporting with clear visual, videos of

Gram Sabhas being conducted and declaring their villages as ODF Plus are all required to be uploaded on the portal.

To enhance Capacity Building of officers, village level workers, elected representatives about Swachhata, Capacity Building programs across 285 blocks in 20 districts have been conducted at the panchayat level. Under the initiative, 9793 people have been trained to further train the people professionally for sustaining the goals of the mission.

Trainers have been trained to dispense information and provide orientations at the panchayat level. SBM(G) is not just a scheme for asset creation but is a behavioural change program which each household of the UT has to embrace for its success.

The focus of the departments on IEC through paintings, banners, awareness programs, plug runs, nukkad natak is immense. Innovative ideas such as Swachhata Karwan, Swachhata Karwaan 2.0, Swachhata Internship, Swachh Yodha Pratiyogita, Swachhathon, Swachhata Bulletin and Swachhata Quiz have been launched to nudge behavioural change through cleanliness.

The role of PRIs is pivotal in motivating people to understand the importance of Swachhata and help in making the everyday activities such as Door to Door collection of waste a success. Some elected representatives have done exceptional work in their respective panchayats for which they have received awards and appreciation at the UT and national level.

Throughout Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen campaign, J&K has carried out many innovative campaigns and initiatives such as "Pink Toilets" to improve school attendance, Zero Landfill Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Give Polythene Get Gold campaign, pink societies to promote holistic development, Sarpanch Samvads, Swachhata internship, Swachhata quiz and Swachh Yodha Pratiyogita.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Women's Reservation

earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam".

The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity.

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise - redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies - will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

While there is quota within quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women, the opposition had demanded that the benefit be extended to Other Backward Classes.

There have been several efforts to pass the bill in Parliament since 1996. The last such attempt was made in 2010, when the Rajya Sabha had passed a bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha.

Data shows that women MPs account for nearly 15 per cent of the Lok Sabha strength while their representation is below 10 per cent in many state assemblies.

MHA Inducts

regulation 9 of the Indian Police Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, 1955, the President is pleased to appoint the following member of Jammu and Kashmir Police Service to the Indian Police Service on probation and to allocate them to the Jammu and Kashmir under AGMUT Cadre under sub-rule (1) of the rule 5 of the Indian Police Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954 subject to the outcome of the T.A No. 62/5668/2020 titled Sheikh Abdul Rehman & Ors. Vs. Department of Home, UT of Jammu & Kashmir Under adjudication before the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu Bench arising out of transfer of the SWP No 3869/2019 filed by Shri Sheikh Abdul Rehman & Ors. From the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar," reads the notice issued by Raman Kumar, under secretary to the government.

Among those JKPS officers inducted into IAS include Maqsood-ul-Zaman, Mubassir Latifi Ameer, Shiv Kumar, Rashmi Wazir, Rajeshwar

Singh, Sandeep Wazir, Anita Sharma, Sameer Rekhi, Jatinder Singh Johar, Anil Kumar Magotra, Swarn Singh Kotwal, Zahid Nasim Manhas, Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma, Ashok Kumar Badwal, Showkat Ahmed Dar, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Bakar Hussain Samoon, Firdous Iqbal, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Ranjit Singh Samyal, Mohd. Yaseen Kichloo, Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Sanjeev Kumar Khajoria, Rajesh Bali, Sanjay Kumar, Mumtaz Ahmed and Mohd. Aslam

Eid-e-Milad Celebrated

"Today is the birth anniversary of our Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). I have come to offer Friday prayers to seek forgiveness for my sins, for peace and calmness, brotherhood, prosperity for the people of Kashmir as they are suffering," Nisar Hussain Pal, a devotee said.

"Today, we pray for Muslims and for the entire humanity. The Prophet is merciful to the entire world irrespective of religion. This is the day the Prophet made his descent on earth," another devotee, Ghulam Hassan, said.

Meanwhile, traffic cops remained on their toes throughout the day to man traffic to the Hazratbal shrine that poured virtually from all parts of the valley.

Hundreds of private transport vehicles and J&K Road Transport Corporation buses ferried the devotees to and from Hazratbal while the authorities had enforced different traffic plans to ensure smooth movement.

Authorities had also made elaborate arrangements on the occasion including erection of tents for medical aid at several places along the streets for the devotees.

Besides Hazratbal, congregational prayers were also held at Aasaar-e-sharif Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib Soura, Lal Bazar, Punjura Shopian, Khiram Sirhama Anantnag, Seer Hamdan Kaba Marg, Qaimoh, Ahmshrief Bandipora and the shrine of Hazrat Janbaz Wali (RA) Baramulla. Nightlong prayers were held across the Valley where clerics threw light on the pious life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Mirwaiz Delivers Sermon on Seerah

At the historic Jamia Masjid in downtown here, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said that the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad is a best source of guidance and inspiration for Muslims and

serves as a model for individuals and communities seeking to lead righteous, fulfilling and peaceful lives.

"It offers timeless lessons for people of all times and ages to follow," he said.

In his sermon, Mirwaiz said the Prophet through his interaction with different faiths demonstrated religious tolerance, peaceful coexistence and respect for diversity.

"His Constitution of Medina guaranteeing freedom of religion and protection for all religious communities is the model for nations to follow. In today's diverse and interconnected world, these principles are more relevant than ever," he said.

Mirwaiz said that the prophet is the Perfect Example for Muslims especially the youth who are the future of humanity to emulate.

"His exemplary character - his honesty, kindness, humility, and integrity are among others are some basic values which if inculcated in us guarantees a fruitful life and a rewarding afterlife. Mirwaiz said as a leader, from his role as a father and husband to his leadership of the early Muslim community in Medina his leadership style emphasized consultation (Shura), fairness, and justice which is a model for leaders in all fields to emulate and succeed," he said.

Mirwaiz emphasised that the challenges and trials faced by Prophet Muhammad during his mission were immense, yet his ability to remain patient and persevere through adversity is the best source of inspiration to follow for those facing difficulties and challenges in their individual life, and collectively as a society.

He said that the concept of social and economic justice that the prophet championed by advocating for the rights of the marginalized and disempowered such as women, orphans and slaves laid the foundation for the creation of an egalitarian structure for society.

"His kindness and mercy even to those who opposed him and forgiveness of those who fought against him in battles is unparalleled," Mirwaiz said.

"The prophets' value of humility, advocacy of unity, service to community, his family ethics are all facets of his character that if we imbibe in our personal and social life and at the workplace will make us prosper and flourish," he added.

Mirwaiz asked the youth that they should study the highly inspiring and insightful life of the beloved prophet and make him their role model to

follow. He said that we are fortunate that such a perfect human being should have walked upon earth, and set an example for us. (With PTI inputs)

Faith Soars

the way from Banihal in the south and Kupwara in north.

"This shrine is the highest seat of spirituality in the entire J&K. We feel solace here and undoubtedly, our prayers get answered. It is our love for our beloved prophet (saw) that brought us here," said Imtiyaz Ahmed, who along with 11 other family members had come to Hazratbal shrine all the way from Banihal, Jammu.

The faces of devotees were aglow with faith. Zahid Khan, a pilgrim from Kupwara district said that he travelled for miles, and the journey was tough with traffic delays at many places, but his heart was filled with determination. When I finally saw the holy relic, I felt a connection that words cannot describe. It's a moment I'll cherish for the rest of my life," he said.

Gulazar Ahmed, another devotee from Banihal said: "I travelled, almost 100 kilometres to Srinagar's Hazratbal, to see the holy relic of the Prophet. As I first saw the relic, my heart melted, and tears started flowing from my eyes, and I felt all my problems and tensions just vanished. I thought like time had stopped, and amid spiritual cries, the atmosphere was rocking."

One could see the unshakable faith in the elderly Mukhtar Ahmed of Kupwara district. "As we stood amidst the multitude, our souls alight with fervent devotion, the unveiling of the holy relic became a beacon of spiritual ecstasy. I came here with my family last night, and I travelled from Kupwara to witness the holy relic. After this, I will go to Makhdoom Sahib shrine and then back home," said Mukhtar, 62.

Like men, women too were emotionally charged. "When I saw the holy relic of the Prophet (SAW), it was a moment when the distance of my journey dissolved, and it became part of a timeless narrative, where faith knew no bounds, and the heart found its eternal home in the presence of the sacred. All my fatigue just vanished as I saw the holy relic, and I feel that my journey has finally been successful," said Zoono Begum from Baramulla- With inputs from KNO

Milad Rallies

Anjuman-e-Sharie Shaiyan took

out a Milad rally in the Zadibal area of the city.

Idara-e-Tahqeeqat-e-Islami also took out a Milad rally in the Southern district of Anantnag. At Bafina area of Pampore, a huge rally was also taken to mark Eid-e-Milad. Reports of Milad rallies have come in from all across Kashmir.

All the rallies culminated peacefully.

Omar Flays

Friday congregational prayers at the Hazratbal shrine which houses the relics of the Prophet of Islam, said it was an unfortunate decision.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi is celebrated as the birthday of Prophet Mohammad.

"I want to greet the people on this occasion. But, I have a grudge against the government. I do not understand how they make a decision sitting inside an office. The sacred day is today, why was the holiday declared yesterday? What is the meaning of declaring a holiday a day before, when all of us knew that the sacred day was today," Abdullah told reporters after the prayers.

The NC vice president asked the government to do the same for any other religious occasion.

"Let them declare a holiday on Diwali a day before. These things prove that they do not care about our sentiments. And, when we complain about these things, they remove our reels from channels rather than analysing them and taking corrective measures.

"Let them remove the reels, but they cannot hide the reality. They wanted to make their job easier by declaring a holiday a day earlier. This is very unfortunate. Such things are not good," he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he prayed for peace and calm, and for the improvement in the situation in J-K.

"I also prayed for success in the case we fought in the Supreme Court," he said, referring to the challenge put up by the party and others against the abrogation of Article 370. Asked about the delay in conducting the assembly elections in J-K, Abdullah said the government is waiting to find courage to hold the election.

BJP Puts Its 8

by Chairman Sunil Sethi and members Aseem Gupta and Rekha Mahajan.

The notice comes over a month after these leaders attended a close-door meeting at a hotel here to discuss the "future course of action" to

deal with "discriminatory approach and step-motherly treatment" at the hand of party's Jammu leadership.

The party has over 120 members from Kashmir Valley.

The notice issued by the disciplinary committee reads that while holding enquiry of indiscipline against Sofi Yusuf, it came to the notice of disciplinary committee that there are serious allegations and proof of indiscipline against each of them for indulging in activities prejudicial to maintenance of discipline in party.

"By your activities, a sense of mistrust has been created in party leadership. Keeping in view your position in the party and your past contributions, disciplinary committee has decided to give you one opportunity to submit your unconditional apology for your conduct and not to repeat in future in any such activity failing which disciplinary Committee will initiate regular proceedings against you and which may lead to your removal of official positions and even from primary membership in case allegations of indiscipline is established," reads the notice.

It further asks the leaders that if they choose to give unconditional apology and undertaking for future, the same may be sent to the party president within one week from today.

NC To Stage

Omar Abdullah is scheduled to address a public rally in Kargil and according to one NC leader all the preparations for Abdullah's mega rally have been completed.

He said a preparatory meeting was held today at the venue and all the arrangements required were ensured.

Leaders of both NC and the Congress will take part in the event. "Top leadership of both the alliance parties will take part in the event. His address to the gathering is very crucial given the importance of Hill Country in the region," the NC leader said.

The event, according to NC leaders, will be held at Choo Stadium Bemathang in Kargil.

Abdullah will be accompanied by some senior leaders of the party as well, they said.

Earlier, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his visit to Ladakh addressed a mega public gathering at the same stadium apart from attending youth interaction events.

After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Abdullah visited the region on multiple occasions and addressed the party workers.

Air Pollution Increases Risk Of Heart Attacks: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On world heart day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) said air pollution increases the risk of heart attacks.

"Polluted air heightens your chances of having a heart attack," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) people exposed to fine particulate air pollutants have an increased risk of experiencing a heart attack.

Fine particulate air pollutants, also known as PM2.5, are fine particles that are 2.5 micrometers or smaller in diameter which are emitted from vehicles, factories and fires.

The study found that PM2.5 exposure at a concentration between 12.0 and 13.9 micrograms per cubic meter was associated with a 10% increased risk of experiencing a heart attack and a 16% risk of dying from heart disease.

Additional analyses found that the increased risk of heart attacks persisted even at concentrations below the current

air quality standards of 12 micrograms per cubic meter.

"This suggests that we could see fewer heart attacks if the standards are reduced further," he said.

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

And this could be contributing to spike in the number of heart attack cases in the valley.

"Not only elderly people, but young and healthy individuals are brought to hospitals with massive heart attacks," he said.

"While smoking, hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol remain important risk factors for heart attack, in Kashmir many people with none of these risk factors come to hospitals with massive heart attacks and air pollution could be a factor," said Dr Nisar.

"There is an urgent need to control air pollution to reduce the number of heart attack cases in the community and save precious human lives," he said.



Foreign Tourists Can Now Stay Overnight In Ladakh's Hanle Village



Press Trust Of India

LEH: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has now allowed foreign tourists to stay overnight in Hanle, a remote high-altitude village in Ladakh's Changthang plateau, an official said on Friday.

Hanle, known for India's first dark sky reserve, offers excellent stargazing conditions due to its secluded location, high altitude and minimal light pollution.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has granted permission for the night stays of foreign tourists in Hanle. This decision will rejuvenate the tourism sector in the Changthang region and broaden the scope of tourist destinations in the union territory," Commissioner-Secretary of Tourism Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob said.

Until September 15, Hanle was off-limits to foreign tourists. Only domestic tourists

were allowed to visit the high-altitude village, which is also home to the Hanle observatory. This move aligns with the growing interest in Dark Sky tourism, they said.

Mehboob said Martsemik and Sko Valley have been opened for tourism and trekking in Ladakh with the approval of the ministry.

Martsemik and Sko Valley are both excellent destinations for trekking, he said.

The Union Ministry of Tourism has announced Hemis village, the entry from Ladakh, as the best tourism village of India under the Silver category.

This is a testament to Hemis village's outstanding charm and cultural richness, he said, adding that the Department of Tourism has also been awarded by the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT) under the category Diversity and Inclusion in 2023.

Swachhta Hi Seva: Series Of Activities Being Held At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Under the ongoing Swachhta Hi Seva campaign, Department of Rural Development is celebrating the ODF plus model camps in all the blocks of district Shopian alongwith engaging people taking the solemn resolve to sustain the mission.

The camps were mainly held at Block headquarters of Chitragam, Zainapora, Shopian, Kanjullar, Ramnagri, Kaprin, Keller, Imamsahab and Hermain.

The camps were attended by a large number of public and were chaired by BDOs of the concerned blocks. Members of different strata of society were made aware about the achievements under SBMG-II.

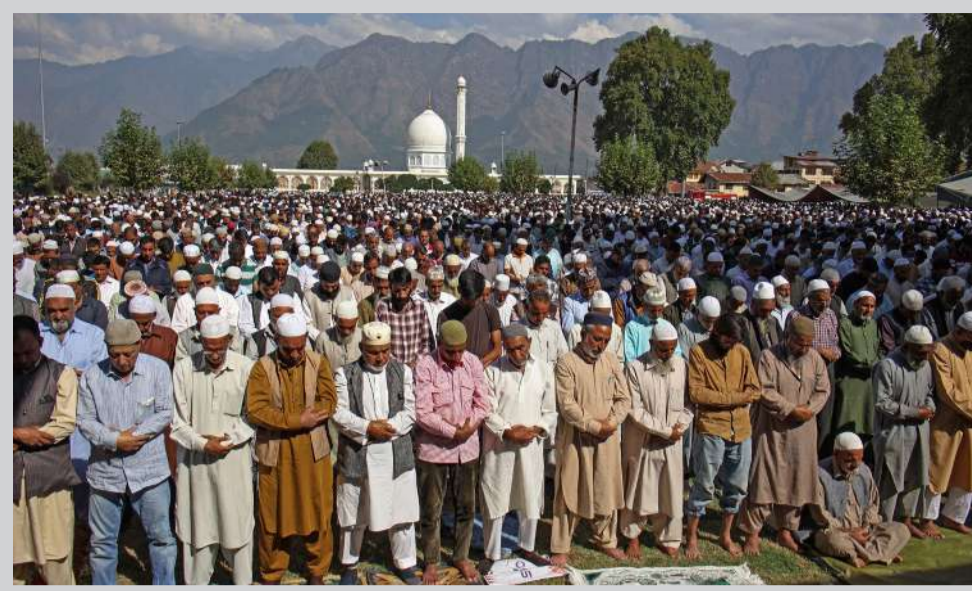
It was informed that the District has already achieved ODF plus model status under which

all components of waste like Solid waste, Liquid waste, Faecal waste and plastic are managed scientifically.

People were given information about the uses of SWM sheds, Liquid Waste Management Units, Plastic Waste Management Sheds, Soakage pits, Compost pits and door to door collection and segregation of the waste.

It was impressed upon in the camps that most important thing of SBM Plus is its sustainability. Different ways to sustain this model were discussed and the public took a resolve to act on these measures to make their areas clean and sanitized.

People in these camps expressed their satisfaction over the steps taken by the Department of Rural Development for making the District SBM plus under SBMG II.



THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES ON FRIDAY converged at the Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and offered congregational prayers before having a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), displayed after every prayer at the shrine.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

FARMERS' STIR IN PUNJAB

Passengers Stranded At Jammu, Katra Stations As 7 Trains Cancelled, 13 Diverted

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A large number of passengers, many of them pilgrims, were stranded at Jammu and Katra railway stations on Friday as seven trains were cancelled and 13 diverted due to a "rail roko" agitation by farmers in different parts of Punjab.

Members of several farmers' bodies began their three-day agitation on Thursday to press their demands such as a financial package for losses caused by recent floods, legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) and debt waiver.

As part of the protest, farmers squatted on train tracks in many places, including Moga, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Tarn Taran, Sangrur, Patiala, Ferozepur, Bathinda and Amritsar.

"Due to this agitation, some trains have been affected but 60 to 70 per cent of trains are being run through diverted routes. Officials have been put on duty round the clock to monitor train traffic and ensure minimum inconvenience to passengers," senior railway official Prateek Shrivastav told PTI. Railway officials said 13 trains have so far been diverted and seven cancelled due to the agitation.

Shrivastav said the agitation has directly affected Ambala and Firozpur railway divisions.



"The trains have been diverted from here via the Nakodar area (in Punjab). Major affected area is Jalandhar. Two special trains to Katra have been cancelled. Shiv Shakti train has also been cancelled," he said.

The official said that every day, 15,000 to 20,000 people arrive at the Katra railway station. "Of them, 70 per cent are pilgrims. Due to this agitation, some trains have been affected and the majority of trains are being diverted to ferry them," he said.

However, the number of stranded passengers at Jammu and Katra railway stations are increasing causing them inconvenience due to the cancellation and diversion of trains.

"We are stranded at the railway station. We don't know what to do. We would have reached home. But now they are saying that trains will be diverted...

It is a problem for us," Arvind Kumar of Gorakhpur said. Bihari Lal of Chhattisgarh, returning home after paying obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, remained stranded at the railway station. "We have been stranded here since yesterday after the train was cancelled. We don't know what to do. No one is listening to us. We are a group of eight people, including children," Lal said.

Suraj Singh of Ahmedabad, who along with 11 people returned from a Kashmir visit and were to take a train back home, was told that the train had been cancelled.

"They told us to come tomorrow. Where will we stay? It means Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 for staying in a hotel. Taxi operators demanded Rs 35,000 for a trip to Delhi," he said.

World Heart Day

Heart Attacks Double In Last 5 Years In J&K

Doctors Attribute Rising Heart Attacks, Strokes To Pollution, Sedentary Lifestyle, Fast Food Consumption

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Heart attacks and strokes in Jammu & Kashmir have been rising, much like the rest of the world, and experts have identified pollution, insufficient exercise, and excessive consumption of fast foods as the primary factors contributing to this trend.

Cardiologists at several tertiary healthcare facilities in the Union Territory, who spoke to a local news agency KNO, revealed that the number of heart attacks in Jammu & Kashmir has nearly doubled over the past five years. They said the hospitals here have witnessed an almost twofold increase in the number of stent procedures performed in the last two years alone.

Dr A G Ahanger, a renowned Cardiologist, informed that heart disease is responsible for approximately 27-31% of all deaths worldwide. However, about 85% of these deaths can be preventable if treated promptly, he said.

The doctor emphasised that any symptoms associated with heart disease should not be disregarded, and a proper investigation should be done to diagnose and treat the condition and save lives.

He suggested that people must adopt the 5S policy to minimize the risk of heart disease, which includes reducing SALT and SUGAR intake, avoiding SEDENTARY lifestyle, managing STRESS, and quitting SMOKING. Following these guidelines could help save lives and promote a healthy

heart, he said. Dr. Irfan, a cardiologist at GMC Srinagar, said that the rate of heart attacks at SKIMS or SMHS has doubled over the last five years. "There has been a change in the pattern of heart attacks. In the past, there would be 70% fewer cases in the summers than in the winters. However, this is not the case anymore. We are now admitting more young pa-



tients with heart-related issues, and performing stent procedures and pacemaker implantations frequently," he said.

According to Dr Irfan, air pollution, rapid urbanisation, drug abuse, sedentary lifestyle, physical inactivity, fast food intake, stress, and smoking are all reasons behind the increased prevalence of hypertension and diabetes, which in turn lead to heart attacks. He also noted that young patients with heart problems were rare some years ago, but now it has become a daily routine.

Dr Irfan commented on the current situation in Kashmir, stating that many people have become reliant on others and are not taking responsibility for their

own actions. He identified a trend towards seeking out only comfortable and easy work, which has been further enabled by the rise of online delivery systems and the work-from-home culture.

"Unfortunately, this sedentary lifestyle has contributed to a rise in drug abuse and associated health problems, including Endocarditis disease, which had previously been uncommon in the region. Even college-going females have been reported to be struggling with heart-related issues due to drug abuse," he said.

The doctor lamented that while Kashmir has made strides in terms of technological advancements, the population's overall health has suffered due to a lack of physical activity.

He advised that managing conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol, as well as avoiding a sedentary lifestyle, quitting smoking, reducing stress, eating a vegetable-rich diet, maintaining a healthy weight, and regularly exercising can significantly lower the risk of heart attacks.

According to cardiologists, common symptoms of a heart attack include chest pain that feels like pressure, tightness, squeezing, or aching. The pain or discomfort may also radiate to the shoulder, arm, back, neck, jaw, teeth, or upper belly. Other symptoms can include cold sweat, fatigue, heartburn or indigestion, lightheadedness or sudden dizziness, nausea, and shortness of breath—(KNO)

Mayor SMC, President Hindi Kashmiri Sangam Meet LG



SRINAGAR: Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) besides President Hindi Kashmiri Sangam called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Friday.

Mattu discussed various developmental issues, promotion of sports and welfare of the people, especially the members of marginalised communities in Srinagar, an official spokesperson said.

Besides, he said, Dr. Beena Budki, President Hindi Kashmiri Sangam also called on the Lt Governor and apprised about the activities of the organisation including promotion of culture and literature.

She also presented her book 'Koh ki Peeda' and Urdu translation of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Ji's 'Geetanjali'.

Also, the spokesperson said, a delegation of Joint Committee of Women and Child Development, Uttar Pradesh led by its Chairperson Neelima Kati-

yar also met Bg Sinha. The members of the Joint Committee apprised the Lt Governor about the visits and activities of the panel during their study tour. They shared their views on the ongoing development scenario and the improved Socio-economic conditions in Jammu Kashmir.

Discussion was also held on the unprecedented transformation in Jammu Kashmir over the last four years in the areas of women empowerment, Tourism Sector, economy, education, peace and prosperity and cleaning of Dal Lake.

The Lt Governor shared a number of developmental steps taken in Jammu Kashmir for bringing transparency, accountability and responsibility in the governance system. "More than 1000 Public services have been made Online and many linked with auto escalation mode and financial penalty for delay of services," he said.

'Retaliatory Action'

Kashmiri Students Thashed In Jhansi School

Agencies

JHANSI (UP): Students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in UP's Jhansi have alleged that they were assaulted by local students.

This was an apparent retaliation after the beating of UP students in Navodaya Vidyalaya in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri.

According to reports, some class 9 students studying in Navodaya Vidyalaya of Jhansi had gone to Navodaya Vidyalaya Rajouri under the exchange programme to understand the culture there, where they were allegedly assaulted.

The principal there had removed the Jhansi students to a safer place.

When the students of Jhansi Navodaya Vidyalaya got this

information, they got angry and to avenge this, they beat up students from Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

The school manager informed the police which reached the spot and controlled the situation.

Unconfirmed reports said that some students tried to pelt stones at the police which also used mild force to disperse them. Police force has been deployed on the campus in ample measure to prevent any fallout of the incident. Sources said that children who had gone to Kashmir are being called back while Kashmiri students studying in Jhansi are being sent back to their native state.

The school administration has refused to comment on the incident. (IANS)

CS Takes Stock Of Preparations For Finale Of AZAM

Instructs To Target Uploading Of 80000 Events Under 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' Mission

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday took stock of the preparations made for the grand celebrations to be held at the culmination of year long celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here in the UT and the contingent to be sent to New Delhi to participate in the grand finale.

The meeting besides the Administrative Secretaries was attended by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu, Deputy Commissioners, several HoDs from RDD, H&UDD and Culture Departments.

During this meeting, Dr Mehta also reviews preparedness for Gandhiji Jayanti, Swachhta Hi Sewa and Sankalp Saptah campaigns.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary impressed upon both the Housing & Urban Development and Rural Development Departments to make all efforts in view of the programs to be organized in all the villages and Municipal wards for collection of Mitti (soil) for their respective Amrit Kalashes.

He also advised them to look into the possibility for construction of our Amrit Vatikas, out of this collected soil from all over J&K. The Mitti from all villages shall be sent to New Delhi for the Amrit Watika at Delhi. He stated that these would signify our collective conscience and rich culture and heritage of the UT.

The Chief Secretary called for

collecting the soil for Amrit Kalashes with traditional fervour as envisaged under the guidelines by the Ministry of Culture. He told them to celebrate all the Panchayat/Block/District level events in a befitting manner. He asked them to make best arrangements for receiving the respective Amrit Kalashes from Blocks and Districts.

Dr Mehta also stressed on providing best of the facilities to the block level youth volunteers going to take their Amrit Kalashes to New Delhi. He asked

for giving them warm sendoff from their villages as they are the representatives of these villages at UT and National level. He asked for adopting a uniform attire for all these youth from J&K representing our traditions and culture so that this group of around 400 people is identified collectively as the one from J&K.

Regarding the Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign, the Chief Secretary urged each of the Administrative Secretaries to hold the maximum possible events in their Departments. He observed that the UT has nearly 18500 educational institutions, 28000 Anganwadi centres, 20000 individual government offices, 3000 health care institutions, 4000 sports stadiums besides thousands of other government organizations including courts, police stations, Industrial estates and other public infrastructure. He maintained that even if each of them organises 2 events each the number would jump to 80000 easily.



Warm-Up Game: India Play England Today

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: The Indian team management will try to keep cards close and assess defending champions England's batting depth when the home team takes field for its first World Cup warm-up match game, here on Saturday.

The warm-up games don't have an official status. Both teams can use as many players as they want and check out how some of the players respond in specific match situations.

However no team would like to go full throttle and expose all their players or strategies during these games.

But with England's philosophy across formats undergoing a sea-change over the last few years and a batting line-up comprising Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan, Ben Stokes, Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone and Moeen Ali sending shivers down the spine of any opposition, the home team bowlers will get a chance to test themselves.

It will be a good opportunity for Kuldeep Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja to test themselves and it is expected that all bowlers will be taking turns to bowl a few overs.



Similarly, one might find that a top player like skipper Buttler or the talismanic Stokes cooling his heels in order to not give a chance to the Indian bowlers to have a go at them. The best part about England's

team is its batting depth. Sam Curran at No. 8 and Chris Woakes, who hammered India to hit a Test hundred at the Lord's coming in at No. 9, surely speaks volumes about the team's balance.

Ashraf Backtracks On Controversial 'Dushman Mulk' Comment

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: The roaring welcome that Pakistan cricket team received upon its arrival in India reflects the love fans on either side of the border have for the players, said PCB supremo Zaka Ashraf in his desperate bid to do damage control after indirectly terming India "enemy nation".

Pakistan arrived in Hyderabad on Wednesday, marking their first visit to India in seven years. On the same day, the PCB announced a pay hike for its players. Following that, Ashraf had said the raise in the central contracts will provide extra motivation to the players going into the World Cup in an "enemy country".

The millionaire banker's loose comments went viral and it certainly didn't go down well with the bigwigs of BCCI and on Friday, he clarified his stance.

"Chairman PCB's Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf, has stated that the fantastic reception of the

Pakistan men's cricket team in India for the World Cup proves how much love the people of both countries have for each other's players," the PCB said in a statement.

Sensing that his "enemy nation" comments could have deeper implications, Ashraf was quick to distance himself from his earlier comment.

"This love was evident by the reception arranged at the Hyderabad airport. Zaka Ashraf personally congratulated the Indians over arranging a reception of this kind. He mentioned that whenever India and Pakistan step onto the cricket field, they emerge as traditional rivals but not as enemies," it stated.

The two teams play each other in ICC events and Asia Cup due to the tense relations with the two countries. The players however get along well with each other. Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf were left overwhelmed with the welcome at Hyderabad airport.

Ashraf is expected to attend the blockbuster India-Pakistan clash in Ahmedabad on October 14.

"Chairman Management Committee also emphasised that cricket between Pakistan and India have always been the centre of global attention which is why cricket between the two countries is considered more significant than the other contests in this sport."

The statement also mentioned about starting bilateral ties once again but India's next five-year FTP calendar doesn't have space for a series with next door neighbours.

"He (Ashraf) expressed his desire for the restoration of bilateral cricketing relations between the two countries, allowing millions of cricket fans from both nations the opportunity to watch these players perform live."

Ashraf concluded with expectation that Indian team will travel to Pakistan soon.

"He concluded by ex-

pressing his hope that the Indian cricket team would also visit Pakistan soon, enabling Pakistan to reciprocate the warmth and love shown by India to the Pakistan cricket team," the statement added.

Pakistan media likely to get visas by Monday

Around 50 Pakistani journalists, who have applied for the Indian visa to cover the World Cup are likely to get the clearance on Monday. "The visas should come by Monday. As far as the fans are concerned, it is difficult to tell how many have applied for the visa," said a PCB source.

Pakistan cricket team got their visas less than 48 hours before their travel to India, played their first warm-up game on Friday and their two main competition games in the city will be held on October 6 and October 10.

A visa application of a Pakistani national takes more time than usual as the country is on India's prior reference (PRC) list.

Iqbal Sports, Galaxy Draw 2-2 In Srinagar Premier League



Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: In the lone Srinagar Premier League 2023 matchup on Friday, Galaxy FC and Iqbal Sports FC played an entertaining 2-2 draw at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

After a cagey first half, the game sprung to life after Fahad gave Galaxy the lead in 40th minute. Iqbal Sports came flying in the

second half as Faizan scored two quick-fire goals (48', 50') to give them a 2-1 lead. However, Galaxy FC upped the ante and got their reward in the 79th minute, with Arbab finding the back of the net to equalize. The game ended 2-2.

As per the fixtures list released by DFA Srinagar, Asrar Rehbar-led FC1 will take on Star Kashmir FC at TRC, with kick off at 6:00 pm.

Secretary JKSC Tours Tribal Areas In South Kashmir



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its concerted efforts of reaching out to the far-flung and tribal areas of J&K, Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gull on Friday toured tribal areas of Dongawari, Manzmo, Gulab-Bagh, Hilar-Shahbaad, Ujru, Wangud and Khaterchek areas in south Kashmir.

The visit came as a follow-up to an invitation extended by the tribal delegation from the Gulab-Bagh area located at some distance from Dooru near the old tunnel in Anantnag.

The visiting delegation had

requested for the continuous engagement of youth under the ambit of "My Youth My Pride" upon which the Secretary Sports Council had responded in affirmative. Reaching early in the morning, the Secretary, Sports Council Nuzhat Gull interacted with several local civil society groups from these areas.

The Secretary Sports Council ensured that sports programs under different verticals will be organized in these areas. The Secretary Sports Council also distributed cricket kits and cricket mat on the spot.

Baramulla Wins U-17 Provincial Level Cricket Tournament



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Baramulla lifted the Under-17 Provincial Cricket Tournament on Friday after defeating Kulgam by 4 wickets in the final played at Anantnag.

The Under-17 tourney was part of the Provincial Level Cricket Tournament for U-14, U-17 and U-19 Boys, organised by Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Kashmir and hosted by District Youth

Services & Sports Officer Anantnag. All 10 districts of Kashmir Valley are participating in this tournament. The boarding and lodging arrangements have been made by DYSS Anantnag.

In the final match, Baramulla won the toss and elected to field first. Kulgam set a target of 133 runs in the allotted overs, with Shahzad Ayan 45 (38) and Tahir 31 (20) top scoring for the team. Chasing

the target, Faizan Ibrahim played a brilliant unbeaten knock of 54* (36) while Ayan Tariq made 32 (28), as Baramulla lifted the title in a thrilling last-ball encounter.

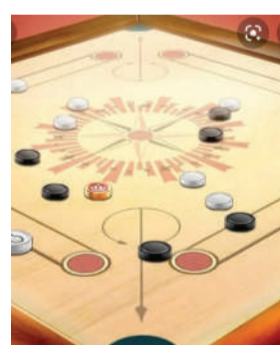
At the closing ceremony, trophies were distributed among the two finalists. Faizan Ibrahim from Baramulla was declared man of the match and man of the series for his incredible performances throughout the tournament.

Anantnag, Baramulla Carrom Championships In October

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Carrom Association on Friday said that it will be organising its District Anantnag and Baramulla Carrom Championship 2023-24 in collaboration with the concerned District Carrom Associations in October.

The District Anantnag Carrom Championship will be held from 4th to 5th October at Indoor Sports Complex Bejbehara. The District Baramulla Carrom Championship will be held at Sports Hall, GD Goenka Public School, on 11th and



12th October.

The championships will be held as per the laws of International Carrom Federation and will be held in Sub Junior, Junior and

Senior categories for boys and girls, men and women.

"All the desired players, interested schools, institutions, clubs of concerned districts are requested to register their players on email jkcarrom@gmail.com for the said championship in the format: Name, Parentage, DOB, District, Contact No. & Institute, for any information contact Arif Sultan on 9906767529 or Mr. Adil Shah on 9070000093. Nominal registration fee will be charged from the players," the association said in a press release.

J&K U-14's Beat Telangana In National Championship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Under-14 team on Friday defeated Telangana 3-0 in the ongoing Sub Junior Boys National Football Championship. Earlier, J&K had lost 2-0 against Delhi on Wednesday.

But on Friday, it was a different

story as J&K went head-to-head with Telangana. Hamza scored two goals while Sakib added another as J&K emerged victorious with an emphatic scoreline of 3-0.

"Congratulations to Hamza, Sakib, and the entire J&K team for this remarkable victory!" the J&K Football Association said in a statement.

PM Modi Lauds Asian Games Medal Winners

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated India's medal winners in the Asian Games as the country's shooters remained on target, achieving podium-finish in several events.

Congratulating Palak Gulia on winning the gold in the women's 10m air pistol event, Modi said her "precision and focus have brought immense pride to our nation".

"Another special moment for India in shooting," he said on X.

The unprecedented success of Indian marksmen continued in the 50m rifle arena as well with the men's 3-positions team, comprising the young trio of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (591), Swapnil Kusale (591) and Akhil Sheoran (587), overcoming the Chinese challenge with a world record score of 1769 to take the top podium finish.

Lauding the feat, Modi said it was a stupendous win.

"They have shown exceptional determination and teamwork," he said.

Congratulating Divya Thadigol, Esha Singh and Palak on winning a silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event, the prime minister said their success will motivate several upcoming sports persons.

He also lavished Esha Singh with praise for winning the silver medal in the 10m air pistol event. He said, "Her success at the Asian Games is due to her commitment, focused training and unwavering determination." In another post, the Prime Minister said he was proud of Aishwary Pratap Singh's exceptional silver medal.

"Congratulations to him for the exceptional performance in the 50m Rifle Men's 3P event. His is a remarkable champion, personifying sportsmanship and excellence," Modi said.

He also expressed delight that the squash women's team has won the Bronze Medal in Asian Games.

"I congratulate @DipikaPalikal, @joshnacinappa, @Anahat_Singh13 and Tanvi for their efforts. I also wish them the very best for their future endeavours," Modi said.

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