

Decks Cleared For Kashmir Gas Pipeline Project

Centre Launches 12th City Gas Distribution (CGD) Bidding Round For J&K, N-E



Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Over two years after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the first gas pipeline project for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the central government has offered a bidding round for retailing compressed natural gas (CNG) and piping the fuel to household kitchens and industries in the UT.

According to reports, the government has offered bidding rounds in eight geographical areas (GAs) under the 12th city gas distribution (CGD). These areas include Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The electronic bids would be invited from October 13 and the last date for submission of bids is January 11, 2024.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) will award the distribution of CNG to the companies by 2024. Notably, Sitharaman in her budget speech in February 2021

has announced the maiden gas pipeline project for J&K.

A government official from the divisional commissioner administration told Kashmir Observer that the 725 km-long, upcoming Bhatinda-Jammu-Srinagar project will be operated by GSPL India Gasnet with a maximum diameter of 24 inches, and will start in Punjab and to the valley.

Earlier, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said since the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir has changed after the abrogation of Article 370, the technical survey on the 175-km Gurdaspur-Jammu gas pipeline has been completed.

He said that the pipeline's establishment will bolster the energy security of the area by streamlining the transfer of natural gas from Gurdaspur, located in Punjab, to Jammu.

"This development presents a dependable and more environmentally friendly energy solution to satisfy the increasing energy needs of these regions," he said.

The minister conveyed that back in 2014, [More On P6](#)

10 Years On, SKIMS Yet To Procure Machinery For Cancer Center

Tenders Floated, Machines Will Be Procured Before March 2024: Director

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The much anticipated cancer diagnostic center at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) here has failed to meet expectations of distressed patients, despite a whopping amount of Rs 110 crore sanctioned by the Central government over a decade ago to execute the ambitious project.

Insiders told Kashmir Observer that a number of crucial machines at the State Cancer Institute (SCI) are yet to be procured, leaving the patients with no option but to visit other states for treatment. Among the requisite machinery include, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and linear accelerator machine, CT-simulator and a number of surgical equipment.

Pertinent to mention that the Valley is witnessing a rise



in cancer cases with the union territory reporting 51,000 cancer cases in the last four years (2019 to 2022), as per data by Government of India.

"This dream project was aimed to bring relief to cancer patients. We wanted them to avail treatment here at SCI instead of visiting other states. However, this project seems far

from over," a retired official from SKIMS told Kashmir Observer. He said that out of Rs 110 crore sanctioned by the Central government, 30 percent of the funds were to be utilized in construction of SCI and the remaining on the infrastructure, including the procurement of machines.

"Over Rs. 47.25 crore was

provided in the first installment in the year 2015 for the project. With these funds, we constructed a five-floor building and procured a Linear Accelerator Machine as well," he told Kashmir Observer.

However, he alleged that the "internal politics" at the SKIMS led to this crucial project getting stalled.

"The (UC) utilization certificates were supposed to be submitted in the year 2020 to seek more funds from the centre. However, the administration failed to do so," he said.

Sources said that the institution failed to utilize rest of the funds in procuring the important machines meant for treating and diagnosing the cancer among patients.

They said the important machines which are yet to be procured include one more Linear Accelerator, Magnetic resonance [More On P6](#)

LG Announces To Waive Off Electricity Bill Of Poor

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that 1.30 crore people of Jammu and Kashmir were priority of his administration, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday announced to waive off the electricity bill of poor people, if they are unable to pay it.

Sinha made this announcement after inaugurating the complete street development of Apsara Road High Street Gole Market Area along with adjoining roads. This road network is a key project of Jammu Smart City Limited.

"If capable pay the bill, I announce here that we will waive off the electricity bill of poor people. Discriminatory System benefiting few will not work here. The 1.30 cr citizens of Jammu Kashmir are our priority," he said.

In his address, the LG dedicated the upgradation and modernization of road network of 13.5 km in Gandhi Nagar and the development of 600-meter Apsara road stretch into High Street to the [More On P6](#)

Kashmiri Woman Tries Rafah Crossing To Escape From Gaza

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A Srinagar woman and her family living in war ravaged Gaza have left her home and are waiting for safe passage near the coastal strip's southern border with Egypt after Israel ordered some 1.1 million Palestinians on Friday to evacuate northern Gaza and head to the southern part of the besieged territory.

Frightened residents fled Gaza City after Israel told more than 1mn people to leave the area in a move Palestinians denounced as a "forced displacement" and which the UN said would be "calamitous".

Thousands were on the move on Friday, fleeing their homes in overcrowded



minibuses, cars and on foot as they contended with fuel shortages and destroyed roads.

"I left home early in the morning with my husband and daughter and had to undergo a difficult time to reach the southern side of Gaza near the border. The roads have been all destroyed in Israeli

bombings, and even transport is a major issue", Lubna Nazir Shaboo, an Indian from Jammu & Kashmir living in Gaza, told PTT.

Following the brutal attacks by the Hamas militants early on October 7 in the southern areas of the Jewish state, backed [More On P6](#)

HC Sets Aside Stay On Detention Order Before Execution

M Ahmad

Srinagar, Oct 13: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has set aside its single bench's interim order by virtue of which operation of a detention order issued by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir under Section 3 of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 was stayed.

"What appears is the learned Single Judge seems to have been swayed by the fact that the petitioner (Abdul Qayoom Bhat of Chanapora Srinagar), was enlarged on bail on 11.11.2022 and the detention order was passed after about four months on 27.04.2023," said a bench of Chief Justice

N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Rajesh Sekhr.

"However, it appears from the detention order dated 27.04.2023 that the Sr. Superintendent of Police Station, Srinagar after examine the records had move the concerned authorities vide his

letter dated 28.02.2023 and also produced the support materials on 19.04.2023.

Thereafter, the detention order was passed on 27.04.2023. As such it cannot be said that there was undue delay in the process in passing the detention order after the petitioner was released on bail on 11.11.2022," the court said, adding, "From the pleadings relating to the [More On P6](#)



London-Based Kashmiri Scientist Achieves Rare Feat

Contributes In Ground Breaking Research On World's First Flu-Resistant Chicken Developed By Scientists

Hirra Azmat

Srinagar: In a major scientific milestone, researchers have developed the world's first flu-resistant chicken by altering their genes.

The ground-breaking research published in the prestigious Nature Communications journal has the potential to greatly benefit the poultry sector across the world by reducing the risk of avian influenza outbreaks in farms, which can save poultry farmers from significant losses.

Interestingly, one of the scientists who co-authored this important study hails from Kashmir-- Dr Salik Nazki, presently working as an Immunologist at Professor Sarah Gilbert's laboratory in the University of Oxford.

Speaking exclusively to Kashmir Observer, Dr Salik said



the first-of-the kind research shows how to create chickens that are resistant to avian influenza, a disease that can severely impact poultry farming.

Titled, "Creating resistance to avian influenza infection through genome editing of the ANP32 gene family," the study published on October 10, 2023, is a collaborative effort between the Roslin Institute of

The University of Edinburgh, The Imperial College London, and The Pirbright Institute.

"We used a powerful genetic tool called CRISPR/Cas9 to edit the genes of chickens. Imagine it like making precise changes in the genetic code of chicken. The key to this resistance is a protein in chickens called ANP32A, which the flu virus needs to multiply and spread. We modified the ANP32A protein in the chickens by changing two of its building blocks (amino acids), preventing the flu virus from using it effectively," he detailed out.

When the researchers exposed these gene-edited chickens to the flu virus, nine out of ten of them did not get infected, which is a very promising result. This is because the virus couldn't interact with the modified ANP32A [More On P6](#)



A mesmerizing view of colourful Kargil Valley captured by Kashmir Observer lensman Abid Bhat, as the autumn announces its arrival in the Union Territory.

SHORT TAKES

Politicians, SBI General Manager Meets LG

Former Minister Priya Sethi, ex-legislator Devender Singh Rana, besides Chief General Manager (CGM), State Bank of India were among the people who met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan here on Friday. Ex-Minister Priya Sethi called on LG and discussed the conservation of spiritual and cultural heritage of Jammu region, an official spokesperson said Friday. Also, he said, [More On P6](#)

RSS Chief On Three-Day Visit To Jammu

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will review the functioning of the organisation and discuss its expansion during his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning Friday. Bhagwat's visit to the Union territory is part of the RSS leader's annual visit to places across the country to review the functioning of the organisation, according to a statement issued here. The RSS chief will arrive in Jammu this evening and will have an informal interaction with [More On P6](#)

Cop Injured In Bike Accident Dies

A policeman died on Friday of injuries sustained in a road accident in South Kashmir's Anantnag district four days ago. 45-year-old Nisar Ahmad Mir succumbed to his injuries at the SKIMS here on Friday morning after battling with life for four consecutive days, reports said. Mir was injured on Monday when a motorcycle hit him in the Khanabal area of the district. A resident of Bandipora district, Mir, was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. [More On P6](#)

Man, Son Injured In Bear Attack

A man and his son were injured in an attack by a wild bear in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said. The incident took place at Hardi area in Surankote when the duo, engaged in cutting grass, were attacked by a bear, they said. The locals rushed to the spot and saved them, officials said, adding that they were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Bomb Scare In Kupwara

Security forces on Friday detected and later destroyed a suspicious object in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. A road opening party of the Army detected two suspicious small gas cylinders, suspected to be IEDs, on the roadside at Odipora in the Kralgund area of the north Kashmir district, the officials said. A bomb disposal squad was called to the spot which later destroyed the suspicious object, they said. [More On P6](#)

Widespread Rain, Snowfall In J&K From Today

An intense western disturbance is expected to bring widespread rain to Jammu and Kashmir and other places in northwest India and some parts of central India over the next four days, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday. "Widespread intermittent light to moderate rain/snowfall over higher reaches is very likely. Heavy snowfall at some places over higher reaches cannot be ruled out (chances above 70%)," the MeT office said. It said a significant [More On P6](#)



Volcanic Eruptions Behind Lethal Climate Change Millions Of Years Ago: Study

Press Trust Of India

Massive volcanic eruptions and subsequent environmental crises caused changes in climate over the past 260 million years, leading to mass extinction of life during these periods, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Earth-Science Reviews, shows that these eruptions released large amounts of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere, causing extreme greenhouse climate warming and bringing about

said Rampino.

However, the researchers caution that their findings have no bearing on 20th- and 21st-century climate change, which scientists have shown to be driven by human activity.

The studied pulses of volcanic eruptions last occurred about 16 million years ago.

The latest analysis supports the well-established impact of carbon dioxide emissions on climate warming.

The scientists focused on continental flood-basalt (CFB) eruptions, the largest volcanic eruptions of lava on Earth, with flows covering nearly a half-

These included ocean anoxic events, periods when the Earth's oceans were depleted of oxygen, thereby creating toxic water as well as hyper-thermal climate pulses, or rapid rises in global temperatures, and resulting periods of mass extinctions of marine and non-marine life.

They found that CFB eruptions frequently coincided with these other lethal geological phenomena, illuminating the larger impact of volcanic activity.

The connection with astronomy is evidenced by the commonality of the multi-million-year regular cycles of volcanism and extreme cli-



near-lethal or lethal conditions to our planet.

These events which occur every 26 to 33 million years coincided with critical changes in the planet's orbit in the solar system, the researchers said.

"The Earth's geologic processes, long considered to be strictly determined by events within the planet's interior, may in fact be controlled by astronomical cycles in the solar system and the Milky Way galaxy," said Michael Rampino, a professor at New York University, US.

"Crucially, these forces have converged many times in the Earth's past to foreshadow drastic changes to our climate,"



The Earth's geologic processes, long considered to be strictly determined by events within the planet's interior, may in fact be controlled by astronomical cycles in the solar system and the Milky Way galaxy

million square miles and other major geological events over the past 260 million years.

mate with known cycles of the Earth's orbit in our solar system and in the Milky Way galaxy, the researchers said.

They found that the agreement between the geological and astrophysical cycles is much too close to be merely a chance occurrence.

A major remaining question, they add, is determining how the planet's astronomical movements perturb the Earth's internal geological engines.

"This is an unexpected connection and predicts a convergence of both astronomy and geology; events that take place on the Earth do so in the context of our astronomical environment," Rampino added.

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER MAGAM

Sub: Withdrawing the advertisement notification issued vide No:ZEO/M/23/97-100, Dated:15.07.2023for clubbed schools.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The advertisement notice advertised vide No: ZEO/M/23/97-100, Dated:15.07.2023 through leading Daily Newspaper for the following clubbed schools is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect

S.No.	Name of the Clubbed School	Village/Ward	No. of AAYA/Helper	Remarks
01	PS Wani Mohalla Kandhama	Kandhama	01	
02	BMS Kandhama	Kandhama	01	
03	PS Chinar Colony Badran	Badran	01	
04	PS Kralpora Badran	Badran	01	
05	PS Bonpora Gumboora	Gumboora	01	

No:ZEO/M/SmS/ECCE/Helper/23/ D1PK-10340/23 Dated:12-10-2023

Zonal Education Officer Magam.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION.

TENDER NOTICE

E- NIT /GIST. of E-NIT No.25/WSMP of 10-2023, Date:-06/10/2023

Tender ID 2023_PHE_232373_1

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (in Two Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following Work.

S. No.	Name of Work	ADVT COST. (Rs. In Lacs)	EMD Cost	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	Class of Contractor	Time Allowed For completion	Major Head of Account
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 LAC GALLONS CLEAR WATER SUMP AT 4MGD WATER TREATMENT PLANT POKHRIBAL (UNDER UT CAPEX)	Rs.55.53 Lacs	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs. 3000/-	AAY	90 Days	UT CAPEX

S. No.	Description	Date
1	Publishing date of ENIT	06 10 2023
2	Download start date	06 10 2023
3	Bid submission start date	06 10 2023
4	Bid submission end date	20 10 2023
5	Bid opening date	21 10 2023

For details and other terms and conditions login to website (jktenders.gov.in)

No: WSMP/CC/6470-77 D1PK-10345/23 Dated:- 12-10-2023

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE JAL SHAKTI WSMP DIV SGR.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mohamad Sadiq (Retired Assistant Registrar Kashmir University) S/o Late Naqi Mir R/o Alamgari Bazr Srinagar who died on 13-10-2023 (Friday) after a brief illness. His Fateh Khawani will be observed on 16-10-2023 (Monday) at his graveyard located at Gulshani Baba Mazar Zadibal at 7:00 AM. Thereafter the Dau-e-Majlis will continue at his residence throughout the day.

Bereaved Mir Family zfk

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2604277
Class 10th
Year & Session : Annual Regular 2016
Registration: N15460060015
Name : Azhar Masood
Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Wani
Mother's Name : Sara Begum
Date of Birth:- 18-04-2002
Residenc:- Patushay Bandipora

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 16 ARKAM-1012059 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/23 Dated : 10-10-23

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2016 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Azhar Masood
S/o: Bashir Ahmad Wani
Roll No: 2604277
Year & Session : 2016 Annual Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th session Annual Regular 2018 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Azhar Masood
S/o: Bashir Ahmad Wani
Roll No: 2614209
Year & Session : 2018 Annual Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

PUBLIC NOTICE

I inform to general public through this notice that the sale letter of (JCB bearing Engine No .4H2152- 076747) registered on the name of HAJI NAZIR AHMAD LONE S/O LATE MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH LONE R/O THINDEMA KREERI has been missing / lost some where in krei on 05/10/2023 Now I want to apply for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard he/she may contact with concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....BILAL AHMAD LONE
S/O LATE HAJI NAZIR AHMAD LONE
R/O ...THINDEMA KREERI
Contact no...9622459147

kre

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

DEN/Track/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 07.11.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
12.10.2023	24.10.2023	07.11.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	268-2023-23-Track-DRM-FZR	Misc. track work and Pre & Post attention works in connection with Tamping machines (CSM, DGS etc.) over Firozpur Division.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	99,60,295/-
	Earnest Money	1,99,200/-
	Validity of Offer	60 Days
	Period of Completion	12 Months
	Similar nature of work:-	CTR/TRR/FFR/ITR including raising of track, Deep screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28.
2.	269-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR	Repair to Various Defective GPS Tracker of Firozpur Division of Make STESSALITE SYSTEM LTD, Model-SXTREO T-57.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	6,18,475/-
	Earnest Money	12,400/-
	Validity of Offer	60 Days
	Period of Completion	03 Months
	Similar nature of work:-	"Nil".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No.-268 & 269-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR Date: 12.10.2023 3188/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کیری / کلکتہ درخواست منجانب شایرہ اختر دختر غلام الدین شیخ ساکنہ برزوش تحصیل کیری بمراہ حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بقیہ شایرہ اختر اشتہار بمراہ گاہی ہرغاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سالک دفتر بزمیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پوزاری طاق سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا اس ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالک ساکنہ موقع برزوش میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کنیکٹیو سالانہ آمدنی 460596 روپے تک ہے سالک کانیکٹیو بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

1 غلام الدین شیخ دامادہ محمد عبداللہ گنائی عمر 55 سال ملازم
 2 حسینہ بیگم زوجہ غلام الدین شیخ عمر 48 سال گھریلو کام
 3 شایرہ اختر دختر غلام الدین شیخ عمر 19 سال زیر تعلیم
 4 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنیکٹیو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ عذر دگرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار kre

Secy Tourism Felicitates JKAACL Artists At Tagore Hall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary Tourism and Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today felicitated various artists of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) at Tagore Hall here.

The felicitation ceremony was organized by JKAACL for artists who gave an exceptional cultural presentation at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar, in honor of President of India, Smt. Dhroupadi Murmu.

While distributing certificates of excellence to each artist, Dr. Abid said that the government is committed to promote and support Art and Artists, Culture and Languages of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the young and talented artists from Jammu and Kashmir performed Gori, Pahari, Dogri, Gaddi and Paddari Folk Dances, JAGRANA and Bhand Pather at Raj Bhavan recently. The President and Lieutenant Governor had applauded artists for their outstanding performance and presentation of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage.

The event was attended by the Additional Secretary of Cultural Academy, Sanjeev Rana, along with other officials from the J&K Academy of art culture and Languages. The cultural program presented in front of the President of India received immense appreciation from all esteemed guests in attendance.

Rose Lane Residents Complain About Dilapidated Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents in Umerabad and HMT area on the outskirts of Srinagar City have complained about the dilapidated condition of Rose Lane.

Locals claimed that the bad condition of the road is causing them inconvenience.

The residents urged the authorities to repair the road at the earliest to make people residing around heave a sigh of relief.

Meri Mati Mera Desh Amrit Kalash Yatra Organized At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organized the Amrit Kalash Yatra on Friday, as an integral component of the "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign.

This event was organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) of NIT Srinagar, as part of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports initiative, Government of India.

The Amrit Kalash Yatra commenced from the Main Faculty Block of NIT Srinagar with a Panch-Pran Shapath ceremony, led by Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla to Amrit Vatika located near the Institute's playground.

To commemorate the occasion, Director of NIT Srinagar Prof. Yedla inaugurated the Amrit Vatika in the presence of Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Shafi Mir, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. Abdul Liman, NSS Coordinator Dr. Jitendra Gurjar, Associate NCC Officer Dr. Nitika Kundan, and various other distinguished dignitaries graced the occasion.



Two women rowing shikara in the interiors of famous Dal Lake on Thursday amid change in weather. KO Photo, Abid Bhat (1)

DC Srinagar Chairs DUC Meeting For Release Of PMUY Connections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting of District Ujjwala Committee (DUC) for release of PMUY connections for uncovered families was today held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the status of PMUY applications and dissemination of scheme details.

Besides the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Directors FCS&CA, DNO/Chief Manager HPCL, Senior Manager IOCL, Senior Manager, Bharat Petroleum and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC was given a comprehensive overview of the current PMUY application seeding process along with the robust checks and balances,

rigorous reduplication measures implemented to prevent the issuance of multiple connections to the same applicant/Household.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner/Chairman District Ujjwala Committee asked the OMCs to release the connections based on the prescribed guidelines. He also stressed that the District Ujjwala Committee (DUC) will periodically review the process and examine sample cleared KYCs on a random basis whenever deemed necessary.

The DC also asked for assessing the status of pending applications and their disposal within the district at regular intervals to ensure all eligible beneficiaries of Srinagar District are covered under the scheme.

The DC also emphasized on publicizing the benefits of the Ujjwala scheme at all ration stores, LPG sale counters and in local print and electronic Media for the

awareness of the target population.

During the meeting, it was revealed that as many as 97000 connections have been provided in Srinagar District under Ujjwala scheme.

Pertinent to mention that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) in May 2016 with an aim to provide free LPG connections to low-income families across the country. This flagship program was to supply rural and poor homes with clean cooking fuel, primarily LPG.

Under Ujjwala 2.0, an adult woman belonging to a poor household and not having LPG connection in her household, will be eligible.

Now, the government has approved extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to provide 7.5 million free liquefied petroleum gas (cooking gas) connections up to March 31, 2026.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:12
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:21
Magrib	6:03
ISHA	7:22

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1445

This Day In History

- 530 - Discorus ends his reign as Catholic anti-Pope
- 1066 - Battle of Hastings: William, Duke of Normandy and his Norman army defeat the English forces of Harold II who is killed in the battle
- 1322 - Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence
- 1758 - Battle at Hochkirk, Saksen: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1773 - American Revolutionary War: The United Kingdom's East India Company tea ships' cargo are burned at Annapolis, Maryland.
- 1774 1st Continental Congress makes Declaration of Colonial Rights in Philadelphia
- 1805 - Battle of Elchingen, France defeats Austria
- 1806 - Battle of Auerstadt-French beat Prussians
- 1834 - First African-American granted a US patent, Henry Blair, for a corn planter
- 1840 - Maronite leader Bashir II surrenders to the British forces and goes into exile in Malta.
- 1843 British arrest Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell for conspiracy
- 1862 Baseballer James Creighton ruptures bladder hitting HR, dies 10/18
- 1862 Excelsiors defeat Unions of Morrisania 13-9
- 1863 - Battle at Bristoe Station, Virginia (about 2000 casualties)
- 1865- Cheyennes & Arapahos sign "peace treaty" then chased out Colorado
- 1882- University of the Punjab is founded in present day Pakistan.
- 1884- George Eastman patents paper-strip photographic film
- 1914- German troops occupy Brug
- 1916- The Perm State University was founded in Russia.
- 1920 -Part of Petsamo province ceded by Soviet Union to Finland
- 1922- 1st automated telephones-Pennsylvania exchange in NYC
- 1925- Anti-French uprising in Damascus (French inhabitants flee)
- 1931 - Spanish Cortes agrees to separation of Church & State
- 1933 - Nazi Germany announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations.
- 1939 - German U-47 sinks British battleship HMS Royal Oak, 833 killed
- 1943 - Japan declares the Philippines independent under President José P. Laurel
- 1944 - Allied troops land in Corfu
- 1944 - British troops march into Athens
- 1948 - Large scale fighting between Israel & Egypt
- 1952 - UN General Assembly first meets at its new headquarters in New York.
- 1954 - Israeli act of revenge in Qibiya Jordan, kills 53
- 1957 - Queen Elizabeth II becomes the first Canadian monarch to open the Parliament of Canada with the Speech from the Throne.
- 1958 - Malagasy Republic becomes autonomous republic in French Community.
- 1963 - Algeria & Morocco border conflict
- 1964 - Premier Nikita Khrushchev replaced by Leonid Brezhnev as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party
- 1966 - 175 US airplanes bomb North Vietnam
- 1973 - Egyptian tanks move further into Israel
- 1976 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to American economist Milton Friedman
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 carries 2 to Salyut 6, but returns without docking
- 1979 - 100,000 demonstrate in Bonn against nuclear energy
- 1986 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel, for his efforts to ensure the Holocaust was remembered
- 1988 - Naguib Mahfouz is the 1st Arabic writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1991 - Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1994 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres
- 1994 - NASA Space probe Magellan burns up in atmosphere of Venus

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEN/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 08.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
517A-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Provision of Circuit Breakers for sidings and big yards over Firozpur division	2,82,53,830.11p	NIL	Upto 08.11.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,91,300/-	12 Months	08.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
522-TRD-FZR-2023-24	OHE modification work in c/w RRA adjustment in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/JUC over Ferozpur division	2,96,15,878.66p	NIL	Upto 08.11.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,98,100/-	12 Months	08.11.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.
No.: 517A & 522-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated : 13.10.2023

3179/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-02.11.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
11.10.2023	19.10.2023	02.11.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.

S.N. 1. Tender No.: 237-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Repair and maintenance of Bridges in the section of ADEN-PLMX
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
34,99,233.52/- 70,000/- 60 Days 08 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 2. Tender No.: 262-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Dewatering of LHS during heavy rainfall in the section of SSE/WBAT.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
11,98,906.11/- 24,000/- 60 Days 12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 3. Tender No.: 263-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Improvement in water supply and sewerage system at Batala and Gurdaspur colony and station in the section of SSE/WBAT under ADEN/PTK.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
44,77,326.39/- 89,600/- 60 Days 08 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 4 Tender No.: 264-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Repair and Maintenance of L-Xings in the section of ADEN/PLMX
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
29,98,581.54/- 60,000/- 60 Days 08 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 5 Tender No.: 265-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Misc P.Way works for track maintenance in the jurisdiction of ADEN/PTK.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
34,96,973.93/- 69,900/- 60 Days 10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 6 Tender No.: 266-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Misc P.Way works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P.Way/JAT under jurisdiction of ADEN/JAT.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
44,96,318.44/- 89,900/- 60 Days 10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.N. 7 Tender No.: 267-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR
Details of Tender: Misc P.Way works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P.Way/KTHU under jurisdiction of ADEN/JAT.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion
44,96,318.44/- 89,900/- 60 Days 10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
No.: 237 & 264-PLMX-DRM-FZR, 262, 263 & 265-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR, 266 & 267-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR Date: 12.10.2023 3181/2023

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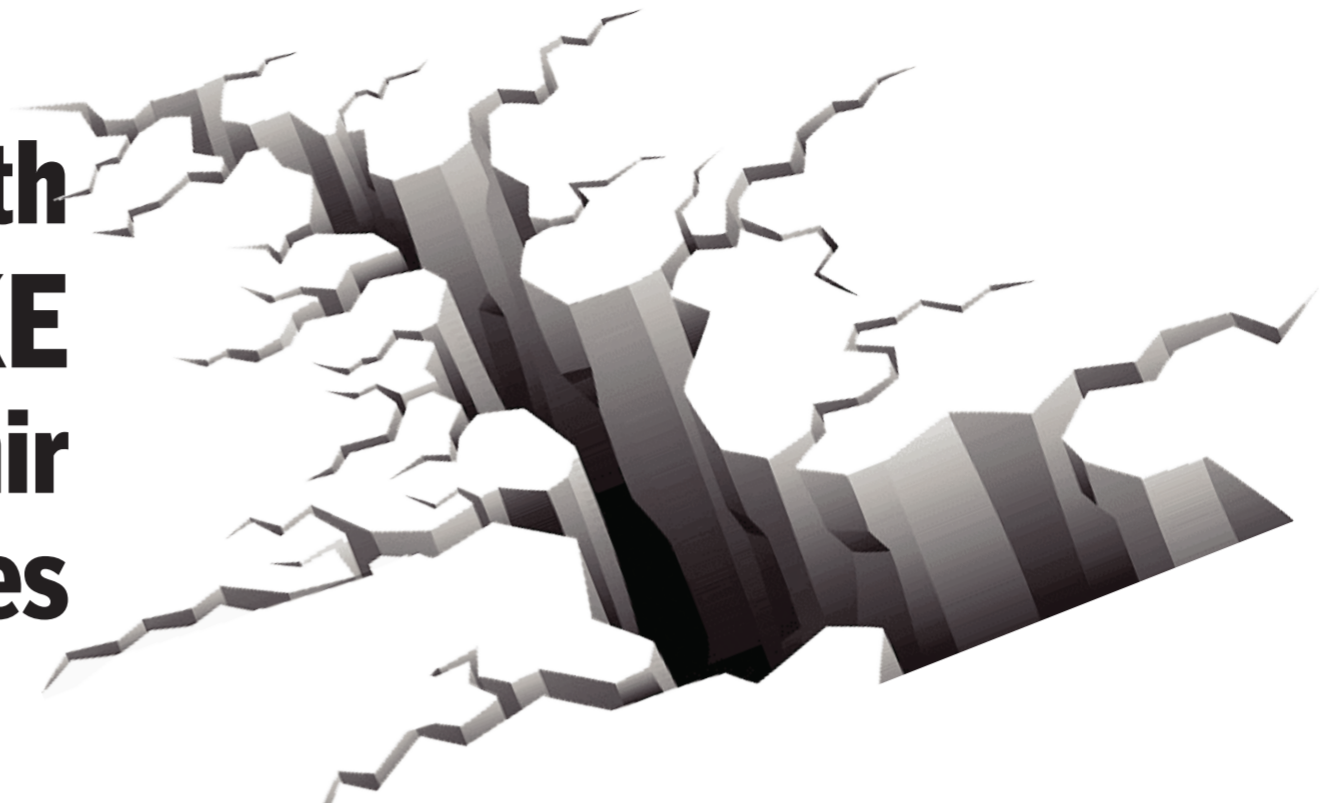
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Delaying Dealing with EARTHQUAKE Vulnerabilities in Kashmir Risks Millions of Lives



Dr Afroz Ahmad Shah



The recent earthquake disaster in our neighbourhood region of Afghanistan and also in Morocco should alert us of our area, which is tectonically much more dangerous than those two countries. The responsibility is on us and the administrative authorities to impose strict seismic safety building regulations codes to avoid forecasted earthquake hazards transforming into major disasters

Over 1,000 people lost their lives in the twin quake sequence of magnitude 6.3 that struck the war-torn nation of Afghanistan on October 7, 2023, and the death toll is expected to rise. Such a small-intensity quake will generally cause no harm to a country prepared to handle earthquake hazards, signifying that ordinary risks turn into disasters because of unpreparedness, which is linked to the overall political, administrative, and economic stability of a nation. Similar devastation was witnessed on June 21st, when a magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck the border region of Afghanistan, highlighting the dire consequences of unpreparedness made worse by the many decades of the protracted political conflict. That is why a relatively small magnitude earthquake at a shallow depth of 10 km posed a significant threat to a nation grappling with political turmoil and economic crisis, to name a few. These tragic events serve as reminders of the importance of disaster preparedness, not only for Afghanistan but also for regions like Kashmir, which share similar seismic and geopolitical risks.

Afghanistan's tumultuous political history has left it ill-equipped to handle medium to large earthquakes and other hazards, which means any ordinary earthquake risk will have the potential to turn monstrous. In contrast, nations like New Zealand and Japan, with robust disaster mitigation measures, would likely experience minimal damage and casualties from a similar earthquake. It is imperative to acknowledge that the devastation in Afghanistan is, in many ways, a human-made disaster born out of neglect and lack of planning linked to geopolitical and economic stability, which demands international attention to save lives in the future quakes, expected in the region.

I and many other earthquake scientists have repeatedly warned that the earthquake threat is looming over South and Southeast Asia, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Indonesia, due to the tectonic interaction between the Indian and Eurasian plates. Tectonic plates, unlike political boundaries, cross over the nations, and South and SE Asian regions are connected by tectonic plate boundaries, which are the regions that cause damaging earthquakes. It means that tectonic boundaries can cause an earthquake in one nation, and the damage can spread to other neighbouring countries because of the linkage and proximity of earthquake-causing faults. India's northward journey over the past 50 million years culminated in its collision with the Eurasian plate, giving rise to the breathtaking mountain ranges, valleys, and rivers that define the region's landscape and

zones of earthquakes, which includes the area of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kashmir's history is marked by numerous devastating earthquakes, leaving their imprints in the sediment and rocks of the valley. Earthquake hazards are intrinsic to the region's geological and tectonic architecture, which, over the past centuries, have caused

damage, but when our buildings are prone and vulnerable to earthquake risks, we do not run to the earthquake-building experts to save our buildings, lives and assets; oddly though.

The recent earthquake disaster in our neighbourhood region of Afghanistan and also in Morocco should alert us of our area, which is tectonically much more dangerous than those



damaging earthquakes. The threat of the next earthquake of significant intensity to strike Kashmir is real. It is based on the evidence preserved in sediments, rocks etc., which links the earthquake hazards to the continuous push of the Indian plate under the Eurasian, which is building strain in rocks only to get released in a major earthquake(s). The timing of when that will happen is not known because earthquakes remain unpredictable for obvious scientific reasons. Anyone who tries to offer earthquake predictions makes up false stories; there is no science to such tales. Do not listen to such people who are relying on pseudoscience.

The simple earthquake safety procedure is to build earthquake-resistant buildings, which can save lives. I know it is not a culture to do that in Kashmir, and I have no answer why people have chosen to ignore our repeated earthquake hazard warnings, which can come true anytime. We wish that never comes true, but the reality remains it has all the reasons to revisit Kashmir and other parts of the region. When we are ill, we rush to the doctor for a

two countries. The responsibility is on us and the administrative authorities to impose strict seismic safety building regulations codes to avoid forecasted earthquake hazards transforming into major disasters. The existing buildings and other structures must be checked for seismic vulnerability to improve the overall safety of structures to withstand earthquake shaking, liquefaction, and other related primary and secondary consequences of quakes. There is no time to waste; waiting means less preparation time to avoid forecasted disasters.

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

The author is a National Geographic Explorer and Sr. Assistant Professor, Structural Geology, Programme Leader Geosciences at the Department of Geosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Why It's Time For India To Attempt Mediation In Israel

The Vantage Take

India has launched another mission to help Indians get home. It's called Operation Ajay. The first flight with 230 passengers from Israel landed in New Delhi this morning. We expect many more such flights in the days ahead because there are thousands of Indians in Israel, about 18,000.

Many moved here for work or higher education. There are plenty of Indians working in Israel's healthcare sector as well. India and Israel are friendly countries, the people-to-people ties are strong, but right now, New Delhi believes that Indians need to come back home because the war is escalating.

The consul general of Israel, Kobbie Shoshani, sent out this message yesterday: "There are around 18,000 Indian citizens in Israel ... once we win this war against Hamas, ISIS terrorists, Jai Hind".

This is not the first such mission to bring Indians home. Earlier this year, the government had launched Operation Kaveri to bring Indian citizens home from the Sudan. That conflict is still on.

Last year, India airlifted its students from Ukraine after the war broke out.

And now, they're at work in Israel. India's ministry of external affairs has been working on a war footing. New Delhi says its priority is the safety of Indian citizens.

But let's also discuss what next? What happens after Indians are brought back? Will that be the end of New Delhi's role in this crisis? Will India try to negotiate or mediate like other regional and international powers? We ask because India is once again uniquely placed. It has leverage on both sides - Israel and the Arab world. Historically too, India had a good equation with Palestinians.

So, what is New Delhi's position on this crisis? Here's what the government says. Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson, Indian ministry of external affairs, says: "Our policy has been longstanding and consistent. India always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at

“Our policy has been longstanding and consistent. India always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel. I think that position remains the same”

peace with Israel. I think that position remains the same”.

He says that India's position remains the same and that India has always wanted peace in the region, but will India make an effort to build that

peace? Will India leverage its ties? Will it offer to mediate? If it does, it will be a departure from the past because India has never been a power broker in West Asia. That has traditionally been American turf, although it's been changing of late. China stepped in a few months ago to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and this is in West Asia, far away from China's traditional sphere of influence, yet Beijing waded in.

Time for a policy shift? So West Asia and its power politics is changing. What about India? India refrains from unilaterally entering conflicts. India participates through multilateral platforms. India sends troops to conflict zones as part of the UN peacekeeping mission. But all of that is part of India's traditional approach.

In recent years, we've seen some shifts. Six years ago, India dehyphenated Israel and Palestine. A week ago, the Indian prime minister called Hamas terrorists. In the last one year India has called out western hypocrisy at the highest levels - refused to take sides in the Ukraine war, pulled off a wildly

successful G20 summit, showed its diplomatic heft by forging consensus, demanded its rightful place at the U.N high table. India is ready to join the big league, but is India also looking at taking up big challenges? And right now, none seems bigger than this one in West Asia. So, will New Delhi step up? Or will it work behind the scenes?

"In the world of diplomacy, we are always engaged in conversation and contacts. Of course we maintain close contacts with all relevant stakeholders at various levels," said Arindam Bagchi yesterday. This was in response to a question about India reaching out to the UAE. He said India is engaging with all stakeholders. At this point, it's hard to say what's shape and scope of this engagement. We'll be tracking this space for you.

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 First Post

HARISSA: A Culinary Bridge Between Kashmir and Persia

Aubaid Akhoo

Kashmiri Harissa, a beloved winter delight, shares more than just its name with the famous South Iranian Harissa. This hearty dish, known for its thick pottage made of bruised wheat, meat, butter, cinnamon, and aromatic herbs, has a cultural and historical connection that transcends borders.

CULINARY CONNECTIONS

In South Iran, Harisa is still a celebrated mutton recipe today. It's a culinary masterpiece where bruised wheat is meticulously boiled to the perfect consistency, and then enriched with meat, butter, cinnamon, and fragrant herbs. The artisans behind this dish are known as "Harisa-Paz" or "Harisa-Gar" in Persian-speaking regions.

The intriguing connection between Kashmiri Harisa and its South Iranian counterpart can be traced back to the historical and cultural exchanges facilitated by the Silk Road, which passed through Leh, connecting Persia with Kashmir. Persian-speaking traders, travelers, and rulers undoubtedly played a role in introducing this rich culinary tradition to the Kashmiri people, as they did with many other cultural and culinary customs.

A GLIMPSE INTO HISTORY

The first historical mention of Harisa can be found in Abu Muhammad Ibn Sayyar's Arabic cookbook, Kitabul Tabik, Book of Cooking, dating back to the 10th century during the Alsfavid Caliphate of Islam. This dish, with variations in texture, ingredients, and taste, has found its place in the culinary traditions of the Middle East, South Asia, and other Muslim countries, often with slightly different names.

THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF HARISSA IN

KASHMIR

The rich tapestry of Kashmiri cuisine is interwoven with the centuries-old tradition of savoring Harissa, a hearty winter breakfast dish that has stood the test of time. As the vibrant hues of autumn paint the landscapes of Kashmir, the allure of Harissa awakens, offering not just nourishment for the body but solace for the spirit.

Unlike the fiery pepper pastes of North Africa that share its name, Kashmiri Harissa is a distinct culinary gem, primarily savored in the heart of Srinagar. The city's historical downtown areas come alive with scores of Harissa establishments, opening their doors around October and continuing to serve this winter delicacy until March. During the harsh winter months, Harissa assumes the role of an essential morning repast for the people of the valley.

THE ORIGINS OF HARISSA'S JOURNEY

The journey of Harissa in Kashmir can be traced back to the 14th century, attributed to the influence of Mirza Hyder Duglat of Yarkand. However, some speculate that its roots extend even further to Central Asia, leaving an indelible mark on Kashmir's customs, rituals, beliefs, and gastronomic culture. It wasn't until the Afghan rule of Kashmir that Harissa took its present form and became an indispensable facet of Kashmiri cuisine.

THE ARTISTRY BEHIND HARISSA

In the heart of Kashmir, Harissa is a dish that embodies tradition and craftsmanship. Traditionally prepared during the frigid winter, locally referred to as "chillai kalan," it features mutton and rice flour, often accompanied by Kashmiri bread known as "girda." The meticulous preparation process begins in the afternoon with the careful selection and chopping of the meat. Around



HARISSA IN KASHMIR TRANSCENDS THE REALM OF MERE SUSTENANCE; it emerges as an indelible fragment of history and culture, instilling warmth and camaraderie in the hearts of the valley's denizens. Its preparation stands as an art form, a labor of love passed down through generations

10 pm, the finely chopped lamb embarks on a slow-cooking journey in a colossal earthen pot.

Simultaneously, a porridge of rice, ideally made from short-grained Kashmiri rice, is meticulously crafted. The cooked rice gracefully melds with the meat, infused with a symphony of spices including fennel seeds, cinnamon, green and black

cardamom, cloves, crisply fried Kashmiri shallots, and salt.

Around 1:00 am, the narrow-necked earthen pot is gently sealed, allowing the flavors to meld in harmony. The artisans behind Harissa then take a well-deserved break. As the clock strikes 4:30 am, the skeletal remains of bones, stripped bare of their meat, are carefully removed.

The mixture is either retained in a spacious earthen pot or transferred to a large copper vessel, where it undergoes relentless pounding until it transforms into a sumptuous paste. The climax of the process involves the lavish addition of smoking-hot mustard oil, meticulously kneaded into the blend with a lengthy wooden masher until the desired consistency is achieved.

This gastronomic masterpiece is then portioned onto plates, garnished with seasoned mustard oil, and served with the indigenous bread, girda.

THE JOYOUS EXPERIENCE OF HARISSA

A serving of Harissa in Kashmir is not complete without a mutton kebab and "methi," a finely minced amalgamation of a sheep's entrails simmered in ghee and fenugreek. Those fortunate enough to secure their portion by 10 am at one of the ancient city establishments may even savor the golden-brown crust "phuhar," "Harisa Phur in Kashmiri" gently scraped from the pot's base, a cherished delicacy among both the young and the old.

EMBRACING TRADITION IN MODERN TIMES

While modern cafes in the vicinity have also embraced the allure of Harissa, seamlessly incorporating it into their menus, the authentic charm of partaking in this culinary delight amidst the cobbled streets of downtown Srinagar on a brisk winter morning remains unparalleled.

Harissa in Kashmir transcends the realm of mere sustenance; it emerges as an indelible fragment of history and culture, instilling warmth and camaraderie in the hearts of the valley's denizens. Its preparation stands as an art form, a labor of love passed down through generations. As the wintry chill envelops Kashmir, the redolent essence of Harissa drifts through the vibrant bazaars, serving as a poignant reminder of a time-honored tradition that has persevered through the ages.

The author is a Columnist and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill.'

When Wombs Speak Period Positivity in Islam

CHANTAL BLAKE

Earlier this year, I read an Amaliah Muslim Twitter roundup where a sister tweeted: "Women don't get their fair share of ibadah...". The comment haunted me the entire month, as I went on to read sisters lamenting about menstruating and "missing the first days of Ramadan". Days later, I heard female scholars answering questions on Instagram like: "Do I get less reward for not fasting due to menstruation?", "Do women earn rewards for Qur'an recitation while menstruating?", "Is getting your period during Hajj or Umrah a punishment from Allah?"

I was heartbroken at the sentiment made evident by these questions and inquiries – some Muslim women seriously see their periods as an obstacle in their path to Allah.

Perhaps a concoction of cultural biases, menstrual difficulties, and legal rulings of ritual purity stir conflict in the hearts of Muslim women about how to receive their monthly bleed. However, honoring the womb is written in the timeless revelation of the Qur'an and demonstrated in the Walking Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, as he regularly and lovingly interacted with menstruating women. He ﷺ even narrates an intimate conversation between Allah and the womb as narrated by Abu Hurayra:

"Allah created the creations, and when He finished from His creations, the womb said, '(O Allah) at this place I seek refuge with You from all those who sever me.' Allah said, 'Yes, won't you be pleased that I will keep good relations with the one who will keep good relations with you, and I will sever the relation with the one who will sever the relations with you.' It (i.e. the womb) said, 'Yes, O my Lord.' Allah said, 'Then that is for you.' [Sahih al-Bukhari 5987]

This hadith affirms what Allah, the Exalted, reminds us in the Qur'an:

"O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through

whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer." [Surah al-Nisa 4:1]

The lofty mention of the womb might sound ethereal and incomprehensible, but the Prophetic biography manifests honouring the womb through keeping family ties, recognising the sanctity of motherhood, and positively interacting with menstruating women. How then can we revive the sunnah of period positivity in societies where menstruation is neither acknowledged nor celebrated?

When I entered Islam at 19 years old, I was unabashedly period-positive. I felt liberated after discovering that vegetarianism relieved my painful and heavy periods. I sat in monthly circles with women of colour where we spoke of our wombs as significant and sacred. We openly discussed the use of menstrual cups, reusable cloth pads, and organic period products. As I encountered the Muslim community, I assumed that my sisters in faith would also share my reverence for the womb and concern for the planet, but I rarely heard menstruation mentioned in a positive way, nor a discussion of period products and their environmental impact. Instead, I learned about all the acts of worship that menstruation prevented.

I limited my period-positive views to my circle of friends and associates for many years until 2020, when my in-person womb steaming practice pivoted to an online educational platform called Hon-said. Speaking openly on Instagram about periods garnered the attention of sisters from around the world who were seeking holistic ways to have healthy, pain-free periods, no longer wanting to resent their time of the month. Many of them knew who to contact for their fiqh questions, but had little space to discuss or learn about menstrual health in their families and communities. Instead, there were recurring stories of being expected to conceal their period from male family members, being shamed for wanting to slow down while menstruating, and being told that having a

period during Umrah and Hajj was a sign of their sinfulness.

To combat these misconceptions and misunderstandings about menstruation and Islam, I hosted an online event in July 2023 to bring together Muslimah scholars and wellness practitioners to bridge the gap I saw between the world of womb wellness and women of faith.

According to popular culture, one might assume that honouring your womb means dancing nude under moonlight, painting with menstrual blood, or calling yourself a goddess. But as Muslim women, we have our own unique ways to express reverence for our wombs while honoring the Giver of Wombs, al-Rahman. Much like the Ansari women of Medina, we can celebrate first periods, knowing that to be a bleeding woman is a blessing, not a curse.

In conversation with Shaykha Shaista Maqbool about Menstruation in the Seerah, she shared the tender story of Umayyah bint Qays (Allah be pleased with her), a girl who became a woman while riding on the she-camel of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ en route to the battle of Khaybar. Though she tried hiding traces of her menstrual blood that soiled the luggage she sat behind, our beloved Prophet ﷺ noticed both the stain and her discomfort. He lovingly acknowledged Umayyah's circumstances, instructed her in how to cleanse herself, and later gifted her with a necklace from the battle that he placed on her neck with his own blessed hands. This gift was so dear to her, she never removed it and asked to be buried with it [1].

When our mother Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) was saddened by the fact that she was menstruating during Hajj, our Prophet ﷺ comforted her by saying, "This is a matter Allah has decreed for all the daughters of Adam." [Sahih al-Bukhari 5559] She was then encouraged to continue fulfilling the other rites of Hajj with the exception of tawaf (circumambulating the Ka'bah).

Islam recognises that menstruation is the biological and spiritual reality of bringing forth life. How then can it be concluded that the

physiological states decreed for the creation of life is something shameful? In stark contrast, we know that our blessed Prophet ﷺ extended tenderness and affection to his wife Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) while she menstruated. The infamous narrations about drinking from where she drank and eating from where she ate were while she menstruated [Sunan an-Nasa'i 70]. Laying his blessed head on her lap while he ﷺ recited Qur'an was also while she menstruated [Sunan Ibn Majah 634]. The prophetic path doesn't ask women to deny their nature but to embody worship in all states.

When I asked artist and chaplain Mona Haydar about menstruation, she replied:

"The word haydh in Arabic is really beautiful. It comes from the idea of a current or a flow, a flowing water. And in English, it's so interesting because it's a period. It's the end of something. Whereas in Arabic, it's something that's moving with life. Menstruation is not an enemy, it's not an ending, it's not a period."

It's an ineffable sacred blessing and responsibility, and so when we look at it in that way through the lens of the Qur'an, through the Arabic language instead of through Western civilization and culture, we come to understand actually that our haydh (menstruation) and our nifas (postpartum period) are opportunities to connect to Allah (SWT). [2]

In conversation with Ustadha Ifet Rafeeq, she further emphasized how our spiritual work is directly impacted by our relationship to our wombs. She reflects:

"I have seen how many women's spiritual journeys are hindered because of their unhealthy womb, irregular periods, fertility issues, hormonal problems, and all of the mental health issues that come with hormonal health issues. When we work on hormonal health, when we restore balance back into our wombs, I've seen how women can then travel so much faster in their journey to Allah and in their spiritual journey because the body is back in reset. Even if there are oth-

er health problems going on, the womb problems or the hormonal issues connected to the womb seem to have a massive impact on spiritual journey and spiritual improvement. [3]

When our hormonal health is chaotic...we have poor sleep, we have mental health issues, we have gut issues, we have adrenal fatigue, women can get thyroid issues, we can have so many diet problems. When the endocrine system is out of whack, so much chaos is happening inside the body. So when we decide to attend a spiritual gathering or take on an Islamic studies course, we can't seem to tap into the strength to do the work because of the chaos happening inside of us.

Biologically speaking, what Ustadha Ifet mentions speaks to the far-reaching effects that our menstrual cycles have on an array of body systems – including our mood, mental focus, digestion, metabolism, immunity, hair and skin quality, libido, communication, organisation, self-analysis, etc. Varied levels of hormones literally shift our physiology, such that our desire for acts of worship like fasting, night vigil prayers, marital intimacy, community service, or Qur'an memorization can literally be facilitated in certain menstrual phases and challenged when hormones are imbalanced. If we have grown attached to static ways of worship that revolve around a fixed daily routine, we might feel disappointed when our female design demands that we orient to Allah in other ways.

When Shaykha Dr. Tamara Gray encourages women to call their time of menstruation "dhikr week", it reflects the type of reframing that allows us to shift from what we can't do to what we can do. She encourages students to have beautiful baskets and sacred spaces of worship prepared for this special time with uplifting books, litanies of remembrance and supplication, and translated copies of the Qur'an or Tafseer texts, so we can deepen and widen the breadth of our worship, enriching both its quality and feminine tenderness.

Aside from intentionally seeking

out ways to draw closer to Allah while we menstruate, we can also tend to our wombs in the following ways to encourage a more easeful and peaceful period:

- Prioritise warmth while menstruating to support improved circulation. Slow and sluggish blood, also known as blood stagnation, is more likely to turn dark, form clots, and result in uterine cramps. Drinking and eating warm beverages and foods, while sipping on warming teas like ginger, saffron, and turmeric can help move blood throughout the body.

- Intend rest as an act of worship. When our wombs are menstruating, we are literally carrying a heavier load, as they are engorged with blood and thickened lining. Laying down can slow down heavy bleeding and long periods by relieving pressure on our uterine arteries. Naps, gentle walks and stretching, and longer nights of rest help us emerge rejuvenated and refreshed for the month ahead.

- Be particular about your period care. Opting for non-toxic period products is an act of self-care for your vulva and womb. Choose organic, chemical-free pads, reusable cotton pads, or period panties to receive your bleed. Some of my clients report that simply swapping to more natural period care products alone helped relieve their infections, irritation, heavy bleeding, and pain.

The idea of Allah speaking to the womb is a conversation and connection that we may not fully comprehend. But our wombs are continually talking to us through our monthly periods and associated symptoms. If we can start to approach our period care as being in conversation with our womb, perhaps we will be written amongst those who kept good relations with the womb and find Allah keeping good relations with us in return.

– Amaliah

GM Northern Railway Shobhan Chaudhuri Visits USBRL Project In J&K



Observer News Service

New Delhi- Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway has carried out an intensive inspection of the USBRL project and other on-going railway works in J&K on Thursday along with Sandeep Gupta, CAO/USBRL, Anil Kumar Khandelwal, PED/Gati Shakti/Rly Bd, Sanjay Gupta, CMD/KRCL, R.K. Hegde, Director/KRCL Manoj Akhouri, PCOM/NR and other senior officers of USBRL Project and Ferozpur Division.

Chaudhuri commenced his inspection from Katra onwards by motor trolley up to tunnel T1 and thereafter conducted exhaustive inspection and review of tunnel T1 at site with USBRL officers. He appreciated the good work being done by the project team under the extremely challenging geological conditions and advised them to follow all safety protocols. He also inspected track, E&M and S&T works in the 5.2 KM long Tunnel T-2 and expressed satisfaction regarding the quality and progress of these works.

He further conducted the Anji cable stay bridge inspection. He appreciated the good work done. It was informed that track linking on the bridge will commence by Nov'23 after completion of fine-tuning works. Shri Chaudhuri also conducted inspection of Chenab bridge by motor trolley from Bakkaal end to Kouri end. Ballastless Track linking work under execution in Dugga yard was also inspected.

GM/NR reviewed the progress of the USBRL project at Chenab Bridge site with the officials of NR, KRCL & IRCON. He directed the project authorities to closely monitor all balance works so that there are no slippages. Progress of Security infrastructure and comprehensive disaster management plan of USBRL project were also reviewed by GM/NR.

In spite of all types of geological, topographical and meteorological challenges, work on the remaining portion is in full swing. Every day, Indian Railway is edging closer to connecting Kashmir Valley to the rest of the Railway network.

NSD's 30 Day Long Technical Theatre Workshop Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A one month long technical Theatre Workshop for honing theatre light designing, set designing, sound techniques and other crafts of theatre concluded here on Tuesday.

The workshop was organized by National School of Drama TIE, Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. Diverse range of topics dwelling on various aspects of theatre crafts were covered during the workshop by eminent theatre experts Firos Khan, Shiva Prasad, Sushil Kant Mishra, Muzammil Hayat Bhawani, Sneha, Swarnalata Bahara.

The workshop was monitored by NSD's centre in-charge Shri Aruna Kumar Malik, the Director of the Workshop, a renowned theatre expert and national awardee. Suresh Bhardwaj and coordinated by NSD's Srinagar Coordinator Gulzar Ganaie.

This workshop was an outcome of interaction of theatre practitioners of Kashmir with the NSD's Registrar Pradeep Kumar Mohanty and society member NSD. Vani Tripathi Tickoo during their official visit to Kashmir on 14th July 2023.

On the concluding session Registrar, National School of Drama Pradeep Kumar Mohanty was the chief guest and Mufti Shafeeq-Ur-Rehman was represented by J&K Academy of Art, Culture &



Languages, other dignitaries who were present on the occasion were NSD. Centre In-Charge Aruna Kumar Malik, Workshop Director Suresh Bhardwaj, Senior officials of JKAACL, Senior theatre practitioners of Kashmir Mohamamd Amin Bhat, Ayash Arif, Mr. Nisar Naseem, Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, Hakeem Javed, Majeed Wani, Gul Javed, Reshi Rasheed, Altaf Hussain and others who witnessed the presentation of students participated in the Workshop.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Pradeep Kumar Mohanty expressed admiration

to the participants for showing enthusiasm and taking advantage of such opportunities and he further added that NSD will be also supportive in organizing such workshops in future as well to give boost to the theatre aspirants for promoting theatre in Kashmir and also help the theatre practitioners to explore their latent potential to transform theatre activities in Kashmir. It is in place to mention that NSD, TIE, Centre, Srinagar is conducting a 30 days' workshop back to back from 11th Oct.2023 aiming at imparting life and personality development skills to children.

Maruti Suzuki organizes 'Alto K10 Grand Delivery Fest'



222 units of the Maruti Suzuki Alto K10 delivered to customers in Srinagar, along with assured gifts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Maruti Suzuki, today, carried out a mega delivery of 222 Alto K10s on a single day at the 'Alto K10 Grand Delivery Fest' in Srinagar, J&K. The Maruti Suzuki sales and service network in Srinagar made the occasion of the mega delivery campaign memorable for customers with assured gifts. 3 lucky customers were also declared winners of the Bumper Prize for the event and took home LED TVs.

Maruti Suzuki's dealer partners Highland Auto, Jamkash Vehicleleads, Kashmir Pvt. Ltd. and Peaks Auto Pvt. Ltd. were part of the Alto K10 Grand Delivery Fest. The dealership network has been instrumental in establishing the presence and success of Maruti Suzuki in the region.

Launched in August of 2022,

the Maruti Suzuki Alto K10 has received great customer acceptance. Within a short span of just over 1 year, Maruti Suzuki has sold over 1 Lac units of the New Alto K10. The All New Alto K10 assures a comfortable, safe and power packed drive. Its youthful and modern design along with a host of impressive tech-driven features made it an instant hit with customers. Adding to its exciting features, Alto K10 comes with the fuel-efficient Next-Gen K-Series 1.0L engine, AGS technology, and 15+ safety features including dual airbags. The feature packed Alto K10 is a perfect fit for customers navigating the hilly terrain of the region.

Maruti Suzuki's wide range of product offerings including hatchbacks, premium hatchbacks, sedans, SUVs and MUVs cater to the varied needs of different types of customers. Maruti Suzuki has a total of 60 sales outlets in J&K. Backing up the sales network is the company's service network in the region that comprises of 54 workshops and 27 body shops.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Decks Cleared

the gas pipeline stretched approximately 14,000 kilometers in length. "We've now set our sights on a 33,500-kilometer target, and we've already accomplished 23,000 kilometers of it," he stated.

The project was earlier initiated by former chief minister Omar Abdullah during the tenure of the National Conference and Congress government in 2011, however it didn't take off then due to challenges posed by the rugged terrain and escalating costs.

"The entire stretch has been thoroughly seen by the experts and after the green signal, the government has decided to go ahead with the project," the official said.

The announcement has brought cheer to the local populace who can see some sort of relief since people are dependent on petroleum only.

"The valley remains cut off from the rest of the world due to landslides in winter, resulting in shortage of essentials including petrol and diesel. A permanent gas pipeline will surely give a lot of relief," said Towfeeq Ahmad, a businessman in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar.

Javid Ahmad Tenga, president, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) also welcomed the move saying that the people would get direct benefit from the project.

"When you have a direct gas connection in your kitchen, you will not have to be worried about shortage of gas cylinders etc. These projects are people friendly and we welcome it," Tenga told Kashmir Observer.

The proposal has the potential to bring substantial benefits to the residents of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

This project holds the potential to generate job opportunities and fuel economic expansion, which will have a positive impact on both local businesses and individuals.

Moreover, the gas Pipeline Project offers a multitude of benefits to people. The availability of natural gas will encourage the adoption of cleaner energy sources, leading to a decrease in pollution and an overall improvement in environmental well-being.

10 Years On

imaging (MRI), Four-dimensional radiation therapy and a number of surgical equipment.

Sources said one linear accelerator machine has been procured while one is pending.

Another doctor from the oncology department blamed "taking away" of SKIMS autonomy by the government as one of the main reasons for the stalling of the project.

"SKIMS has been reduced to a mere district hospital with its autonomy taken away," he said, adding that the idea of SCI was to create a state of the art facility for cancer patients so that a minimum number of patients visit outside healthcare institutions for treatment.

"As a result of the delay, a number of dedicated and experienced doctors have left the SCI for better perks and working conditions," the oncologist said.

"There is a delay in surgical intervention for patients at the SCI as there are no adequate numbers of theaters," he added.

Sources said that the Radiation oncology department of the hospital has been functioning without a CT-simulator machine for the last three months.

The CT-simulator is an advanced, real-time 3D treatment planning system seamlessly integrated with a CT scanner and a range of additional components. Among its features are a multi-image display, a treatment planning device with real-time visual optimization capabilities, and a laser beam projector.

According to the international atomic

agency, for every three thousand population there should have one linear accelerator but Kashmir Valley has just one, reports said.

"So you can imagine the delay and the load. We are very under-provided as far as radiation oncology is concerned," he said.

He also echoed the same view that no further development is taking place as it should have been at the SCI.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Khan Professor Deptt. Radiation Oncology SKIMS told Kashmir Observer the CT-simulator had developed some technical snag and is dysfunctional. However, the department, he said, is procuring a new one.

"Currently we have three machines working and we will procure a CT-simulator in 3-4 months," he added.

Director SKIMS, Parvaiz Ahmad Koul told Kashmir Observer that the institute has floated tenders for the machines and the same will be procured before March 2024.

SKIMS, he said, will utilize all the funds meant for the SCI and will demand more funds from the government to finish the project.

"You must understand the procurement process takes a lot of time, thus unnecessary delay," he said.

Dr. Koul noted that a linear accelerator machine cost more than Rs 30 crore.

"All the machines, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and linear accelerator machine and CT-simulator are in an advanced stage of procurement. We will get them soon," he said.

He further added that the SCI is in an advanced stage of being one of the best cancer institutions in the country.

LG Announces To

people and the local business community.

"Our prime objective is to transform Jammu City into a centre of opportunities for all sections and develop it as an engine of growth and also incubator for young entrepreneurs of J&K UT. We are ensuring that basic utilities are upgraded to meet the demand, and it is inclusive and sustainable to handle growing urbanization," he said.

He said the revamping of the famous Apsara road will make the market area a major center of attraction for the local people as well as the tourists coming to Jammu and also give a boost to the business and economic activities.

The LG reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to bring about a transformative change in the urban environment.

"For quality living, smart mobility and beautification of Jammu City, we have focused on building new and resilient infrastructure. The upgradation of existing physical infrastructure is also providing a solid framework for progress and preparing our cities to meet future challenges," he said.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are making earnest efforts for urban rejuvenation and development of facilities to meet the aspiration of the common man. Affordable Rental Housing Complex inaugurated in August was targeted to ensure that the urban population living in slums can access to basic services and livable habitats. A huge workforce contributing to growth has benefitted from this initiative," he added.

The LG further said that various ongoing projects including Tawi River Front, Heritage Conservation, street development from Mubarak Mandi to Raghunath Bazaar, rejuvenation of water bodies, beautification of approach road to Bahu Fort, waste management, Blue Green Project of Ranbir Canal, and the addition of more electric buses to the

fleet in coming days will improve the ease of living and make the city more vibrant and sustainable.

"Infrastructure of smart equipment for solid waste management, traffic and smart city policing will also be launched soon to ensure that the functioning of the city is smooth," he added.

The LG said that citizens and other stakeholders should cooperate in development process, discharge their duty with complete dedication and pay for government services.

"I assure the people that the government will take every decision in favour of common man, traders, business fraternity. Our doors are open 24 hours. I welcome all the suggestions regarding advancement of the society," Sinha added.

Kashmiri Woman

by a barrage of rockets that hit even the central parts of the country, Israel vowed an unprecedented offensive against the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007.

Israeli warplanes have since pounded downtown Gaza City, home to Hamas' centres of government.

On the seventh day, over 3,000 people were killed on both sides. In Gaza, at least 1,799 people have been killed, according to authorities there.

Israel Defence Forces on Friday ordered some 1.1 million Palestinians, roughly half the population of the densely populated territory under Islamist Hamas' control, to evacuate northern Gaza and head to the southern part of the besieged territory.

The move is being seen as a preparation for an imminent massive ground incursion, with Israel drafting an unprecedented number of Israeli reservists, starting Saturday when it faced brutal attacks in its southern areas by Hamas.

"We will stay here and see if we can be allowed to move into Egypt, where my two other children also study," Shaboo said.

The only exit route from Gaza, the Rafah crossing with Egypt, was closed down on Monday, practically closing all possibilities of escape for Gazans.

UN agencies working in Gaza have warned that the Israeli decision could "prove calamitous".

Shaboo earlier told PTI that "the sounds of bombardment are too scary, and the whole house shakes. It is a very scary situation."

Israel has also cut off electricity, water and food supplies to Gaza, strangulating the territory with a population of 2.3 million.

The Indian diplomatic missions in the region are in constant touch with the Indian nationals, and relevant authorities are looking to find a safe passage to get them out of the strife-struck region. Four Indian nationals are known to live in Gaza.

"We are in touch and are trying to help all Indians but the situation on the ground constrains our options," the Representative Office of India in Ramallah earlier told PTI.

HC Sets Aside

detention order it appears that the authorities were considering the activities of the writ petitioner (Bhat) since his release on bail also and hence, it cannot be said definitively without examining the records that the delay of four and half months had snapped the live link. In our opinion, this is an aspect which could be examined after the records from the detaining authorities were called and considered, and not at the motion stage on the first day of consideration."

Referring to Apex Court's judgement in Subhash Popatlal Dave (2014), the court said

that it has noted that if the petitioner (Bhat) had taken recourse to the legal remedy to challenge the order of detention even before it was executed, it is not open for him to contend that it should be quashed because there is no live link between the existing/subsequent situation and the previous situation.

"We are of the opinion that this is not a case where the learned Writ Court (Single Bench) could have passed the interim order suspending the detention order dated 27.04.2023," the court said and allowed the appeal filed by the government.

The main grievance of the government was that the Single Judge ought not have stayed the operation of detention order at the first instance on the day of motion and that it will be against the well settled principle that in the matter of preventive detention, the Court ought to be very careful in passing any interim order of suspending the detention order at the pre-execution stage.

Pertinently, Bhat had approached the Court, challenging the detention order No. Div. Com K/35/2023 dated 27.04.2023 passed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, on the grounds, inter-alia that the detention order was illegal and that he was falsely implicated in FIR No. 04/2022 u/s 8/22 of NDPS Act of P.S. Chanapora, in which, he was granted bail by the competent court on 11.11.2022.

London-Based

protein in these birds.

Dr Salik explained, however, when the scientists working on the study tried a higher dose of the flu virus, some of the chickens did get infected. "But what was interesting is that the virus had changed its own genes to adapt to the modified ANP32A in the chickens. It's like the virus learned to get around our genetic modification."

To make chickens truly resistant to the flu, the researchers realized that they might need to make more genetic changes. "In some experiments, we removed the entire ANP32A gene from chicken embryos. But then the virus found a way to use other similar proteins, ANP32B and ANP32E, to grow in the chickens," he added.

His role in the research study focused on testing and confirming the resistance of these birds to avian influenza, which could be a significant advancement in preventing outbreaks in poultry farms in future.

Asked if the gene-edited poultry is safe to consumed, Dr Salik maintained that consumption of gene-edited poultry would be classified as a genetically modified food and therefore undergoes stringent regulatory scrutiny before gaining approval for human consumption.

The scientist said the next steps in creating flu-resistant chickens involve making further genetic improvements, evaluating the long-term health of such chicken, obtaining regulatory approvals for their use, addressing ethical and social concerns, maintaining farm biosecurity, making the technology cost-effective and accessible, and gaining public acceptance.

"Challenges in this process include the need to enhance the resistance to the flu in chickens, monitor their long-term health, navigate regulatory procedures, address public concerns, maintain biosecurity on farms, make the technology affordable, and ensure public acceptance of gene-edited animals," Dr Salik said.

Politicians, SBI General

Devender Singh Rana, former Legislator and senior BJP leader also met LG and apprised him of various issues of public importance.

"A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Sharmartha Action Committee led by its President Gurdev Singh submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor and sought his intervention in addressing the concerning issues of POJK Displaced Persons of 1947," the spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, assured the members of the delegation that their genuine demands and issues will be taken up with the central government.

Later, Vinod Jaiswal, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Chandigarh Circle along with the officials of the Bank met the LG and briefed him on the extension of the services by SBI and their commitment to contribute actively to the socio-economic development of the UT of J&K.

RSS Chief On

top functionaries of the Sangh, they said. He is also scheduled to visit an ancient temple and offer prayers.

During the tour, the RSS chief will chair a workers' meeting on October 14 to review the functioning of the organisation in the Union Territory and the activities being conducted by it.

He will also chair a coordination meeting the next day and address a gathering of swayam sevaks at a stadium in Kathua district on Sunday, the statement said.

The RSS is completing 100 years of its establishment in 2025 and that the work on its expansion target will also come up for discussion during Bhagwat's tour, the statement said.

He is also expected to visit a village on the outskirts of Kathua town and unveil the portrait of Bharat Mata there.

Cop Injured

However, the doctors there referred him to SKIMS for advanced treatment. Friday morning, he succumbed to grave injuries.

Bomb Scare

There was no loss of life or damage to property during the destruction of the suspicious object, they added.

Widespread Rain,

drop in temperature was expected across Jammu and Kashmir. The weatherman department has also urged farmers to postpone harvesting of crops from October 14-18.

The weather department also said there may be temporary disruption of transportation especially at vulnerable places like Zojila, Mughal Road, Sinthantop, Sadnatop etc.

This is the first intense western disturbance of the season and will lead to heavy rainfall/snowfall in part of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, the Met office said.

Under the influence of the western disturbance, an induced cyclonic circulation is likely to form over central Pakistan and neighbourhood during the next 24 hours. This system is likely to intensify further with the possibility of merger of a fresh western disturbance on October 15, the IMD said.

The system will influence northwest and central India from Friday night to October 17. It is likely to receive moisture from the Arabian Sea. As a result, the rainfall intensity and distribution are very likely to increase over northwest India during the same period, it said.

Dry northwesterly winds from the Himalayas are likely to prevail over northwest India in lower tropospheric levels after the passage of western disturbance. As a result, temperatures are likely to fall by 2 to 4 notches from October 17 over the region.

Jammu Civic Body Organises 'Amrit Kalash Yatra'

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation on Friday organised an "Amrit Kalash Yatra", under which people carried soil collected from the homes of slain security personnel in earthen pots, as part of the "Mera Bharat Mera Desh" campaign.

The procession, which began from the historic Maharaja Hari Singh Park and culminated at the Gulshan ground, was attended by scores of people, including school students.

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) commissioner Rahul Yadav said the event was organised to pay tributes to the security forces personnel.

Jammu mayor Rajinder Sharma said that under the "Mera Bharat Mera Desh" campaign, the civic body paid homage to all those who had laid down their lives for this country.

The soil and plants from these earthen pots will be sent to New Delhi to be installed at the "Amrit Vatika" near the National War Memorial.

DC Bandipora Reviews Power Supply Scenario Ahead Of Winter



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers of Power Department to review the scenario of power supply ahead of winter season in the district.

During the meeting, DC stressed upon the officers to streamline and rationalize the power setup in the district to ensure smooth power supply to the people during the winter period. He called for strict implementation of the curtailment schedule without any deviation.

Dr Owais asked the officers of PDD to conduct frequent inspections of residential areas to check the use of heating appliances that lead to frequent load shedding and damage to transformers.

During the meeting, the DC directed PDD to set specific time-lines for replacement of transformers in far-flung/ remote areas of the district, including Gurez and Tulail besides keeping buffer stock of transformers

during the winter months.

Reviewing the status of damaged transformers, the DC directed the concerned engineers to pace up repair of the damaged transformers, besides the replacement of damaged poles.

The officers from PDD informed that a buffer stock of 46 transformers stands available in the division besides crane for lifting off the defective transformers. It was further given out that generators in Gurez and Tulail will ensure a power supply in the areas.

He also directed the officers to establish a special control room to receive power related grievances so that the same are redressed at earliest and better coordination can be maintained between the public and the government.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, SE circle Bandipora/Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of PDD Sumbal and Bandipora, executive engineer projects Ganderbal and other senior officers of the district.

1000's Join Urs of Sheikh Noor-u-Din at Chrar-e-Sharief



BUDGAM: The annual Urs of Sheikh Noor-u-Din Noorani (RA), popularly known as Sheikh-ul-Alam and Alamdar-e-Kashmir, was observed at Chrar-e-Sharief in Budgam district on Friday with religious fervour.

The patron saint of Kashmir, is highly revered by both Muslims and Hindus.

Thousands of devotees from across Kashmir valley thronged the Chrar-e-Sharief shrine where special prayers were held.

On the occasion, the religious scholars threw light on

his life, religious services and teachings. saint had devoted his entire life to preaching the pristine form of Islam.

The devotees were seen reciting Darood and Naats. Special prayers were held for the peace and prosperity of J&K.

Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakshan Andrabi visited shrine and took stock of arrangements.

She said that the JK Waqf board has done a commendable job since its formation and there is more to do for development of these shrines.

PoK Resident Arrested Along Loc In Poonch

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Security forces on Friday arrested a resident of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said.

The resident, Irshad Ahmed (17), appears to be "mentally unsound", they said.

Troops observed the movement of a person along the LoC in the Kerni area. They found a PoK resident roaming in the forward area and arrested him, the sources said.

Govt Approves SSP Kohli's Central Deputation

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Chandan Kohli has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the cabinet secretariat on deputation basis.

A communique in this regard by Union Secretary Gol Rakesh Kumar Singh to Chief Secretary J&K reads that Chandan Kohli, an IPS of AGMUT Cadre 2013, be relieved immediately, under intimation of (Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI) to enable him to take up the new assignment at the centre on deputation basis.



A GROUP OF TOURISTS TAKING a selfie at Srinagar's Hari Parbat fort on a warm Friday afternoon.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Friday Prayers Not Allowed At Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

Pro-Palestine Demos Held In Srinagar, Budgam; Sermons Delivered Over Ongoing War

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Friday disallowed congregational prayers at historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar amid fears of pro-Palestine protests in response to Israel's stepped-up bombing of the besieged Gaza Strip in retribution for Hamas attacks.

Anjuman Auqaf, the caretaker body of Jamia Masjid alleged that the administration besides closing Jamia Masjid for Friday congregational prayers placed the grand cleric of Kashmir, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq under house arrest at his residence in Nigeen.

A spokesman of Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid in a statement said that police locked the main gate of the mosque this morning and informed that Friday prayers will not be allowed today.

He said Mirwaiz, who was finally allowed to offer Friday prayers and deliver Friday sermon at Jamia Masjid after five years, has yet again been put under house arrest at his residence.

It may be in place to mention that the J&K administration allowed Mirwaiz to offer prayers and deliver Friday sermon at the grand mosque on 22nd September, first time since the Centre repealed the special constitutional position of the erstwhile state on Au-



gust 5, 2019.

Security was stepped up in the Nowhatta area in the old city while police and paramilitary forces were deployed in strength around Jamia Masjid to prevent post Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, religious clerics at various mosques in Kashmir including Srinagar delivered Friday sermons over the ongoing assault by Israel which has so far left hundreds of innocent civilians including women and children killed in Gaza.

Pro-Palestine and anti-Israel protests were also held in Srinagar and Budgam districts of central Kashmir on Friday.

Jammu and Kashmir Shari'e Shian led by Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi staged a protest outside Imambargah Budgam post Friday prayers, condemning what was termed as brutal assault on suppressed Palestinian people by Israel.

"We condemn in strong words the non-stop aggression by Israel in Gaza since Saturday last, we express solidarity with our Muslim brethren in the besieged Gaza strip and appeal to the Muslim world to unite against Israeli barbarism," Mehdi said addressing protesters.

He also urged Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia to extend their unequivocal support to Palestine in this hour of distress and use their influence to mobilize the Muslim world against what is happening in Palestine.

Pro-Palestine protest was also held in Hassanabad locality in the old city after Friday prayers against the ongoing bombardment by Israel in Gaza. The protesters raised pro-Palestine and anti-Israel slogans on the occasion and vowed to continue their moral support to Palestine.

Jammu Prepares For Jhiri Mela

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sandeep Seoindra on Friday chaired a meeting to assess the preparations of various departments for the upcoming Jhiri Mela.

The mela, which is a major religious congregation of the region, attracts a substantial number of devotees from Jammu & Kashmir and other northern Indian states. It is pertinent to mention that Sub Divisional Magistrate Marh, Manu Hansa, would assume the role of Mela Officer,

while the concerned Block Development Officer would act as the Assistant Mela Officer.

ADC emphasised the importance of this event, highlighting that it serves as a gathering point for a diverse range of devotees. As such, he stressed the need to provide hospitality and memorable experiences, ensuring that this year's preparations surpass those made in the previous year. To achieve this, departments were urged to conduct comprehensive on-site visits to ensure thorough mela preparations.

Key areas of focus, as reviewed

by the ADC, included sanitation and cleanliness at the mela centre, provision of mobile toilets, waste management, power supply, drinking water and cleaning of water bodies for devotees.

The meeting also discussed the setup of a control room and a public announcement booth, along with their essential attachments. Ensuring sufficient public transportation options with clear fare information, renovation of essential structures and infrastructure, desilting of canals and cleaning of bathing ghats were emphasised.

SHA Rubbishes Misleading Info On AB-PMJAY SEHAT Scheme

'Unmasking Attempts To Discredit Initiative; Facts, Figures Illuminate Financial Realities'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reacting to recent social media dissemination of misleading information aiming to tarnish the reputation of AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, State Health Agency (SHA) Friday said the claims were found baseless after thorough examination of irrefutable facts and figures.

Contrary to misinformation alleging favoritism and a multi-crore scam, the agency said the contractual agreement with Bajaj Allianz incurred a substantial loss of Rs. 93.82 crore to the Insurance Company. The contract adhered to the stipulations in the Tender Document issued by the National Health Authority, outlining a maximum three-year term with the option of annual renewal upon mutual agreement.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company formally communicat-

ed their decision not to renew the contract through an exit notice issued in September 2021. Despite extensive deliberations between the State Health Agency of J&K and the insurance company, no positive response was elicited.

The 4th Governing Council meeting of SHA J&K decided to investigate a fresh tendering process, utilizing the Model tender document from the National Health Authority. The transparent process involved the participation of five insurance companies, namely IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd, Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Pvt. Ltd, United India Insurance Company, and National Insurance Company, during the pre-bid meeting.

In strict adherence to the guidelines of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, the procurement process guaranteed transparency, competition, fairness,

and the eradication of arbitrariness. The qualification criteria mirrored those specified by the National Health Authority, ensuring a just selection process.

The bidding document, explicit and comprehensive, was accessible on www.jktenders.gov.in, with all modifications and clarifications duly conveyed to bidders. A generous period of 22 days was allocated for bid preparation and submission.

Following the pre-bid meeting and the public unveiling of technical bids, meticulous scrutiny by the Central Tender Committee affirmed that three out of four bidders, including IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, and National Insurance Company, met the specified requirements, qualifying for the subsequent stage.

Opening financial bids revealed IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

Recent Snowfall Spurs Queries By Tourists In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The recent snowfall in the upper reaches of Kashmir has led to the spurt in booking inquiries by the tourists.

Kashmir earlier this week recorded snowfall in the higher reaches while the MeT department has also predicted further snowfall in the mountainous regions.

Tourists from different states of India have started inquiring about tour packages for Kashmir, which during the autumn presents a blend of red and white hues.

"Winter is one of the peak seasons for tourism in Kashmir. We are already recording a good increase in the number of bookings due to the Pujya holidays, the recent snowfall in the upper reaches has further enhanced it," Umar Ahmad, a travel agent said.

He said as such inquiries for the Gondola cable car are very common, especially after the fresh snowfall in upper reaches.

"Tourists love to witness snow in Kashmir. The second phase of Gondola cable car also recorded a brief snowfall and tourists often inquired whether they could witness snowfall at the station," he said.

Travel agents also said that this year inquiries are also

coming in numbers for the winter season.

"The airfare has skyrocketed for the last few weeks. Tourists who are planning to visit the valley during winter book their tours in advance. At present they get good deals while hotels also don't have full occupancy," said Aijaz Ahmad dar, a tour operator.

Some of the most popular winter activities in Kashmir include skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and ice skating. Visitors can also go on sleigh rides, visit frozen lakes, and explore the region's many historical and cultural attractions.

Pertinently, the year so far has been lucrative for the tourism players as record-breaking tourists visited the valley in the last nine months.

Till August, as many as 1.6 Cr tourists including 31,000 foreign guests have visited Kashmir. Last year, a total of 26.73 lakh tourists visited Kashmir.

The government this year is planning a series of events during the autumn and winter seasons to ensure full adventure tours to the visitors.

While the rush of foreigners is expected to increase further during autumn, the government has started planning for winter adventures to enthrall the visitors during their stay in Kashmir—(KNO)

3,000 Dengue Cases In J&K So Far This Year

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed an alarming increase in dengue cases this year, with approximately 3,000 cases reported so far.

State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet said that there were three deaths due to the mosquito-borne disease.

Dr Rai advised the public to take "preemptive" measures in the absence of a dengue vaccine and called for proactive prevention to combat this painful ailment. He, however, assured that the authorities are implementing effective measures to control the spread.

Panic is unnecessary, but vigilance and preventive measures are crucial, he said.

According to Dr Harjeet, individuals who test positive for dengue should prioritise physical and mental rest, maintain proper hydration, and consume a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

He also addressed the rare instances of dengue shock syndrome and dengue hemorrhagic fever, urging those experiencing symptoms such as bleeding from the nose or other body parts to seek immediate medical attention. Early detection and treatment are essential in such cases, he said.

Dr Rai outlined a comprehensive approach to dengue prevention, urging people to manage and modify environments to prevent mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats. This involves proper disposal of solid waste, removal of artificial water-holding containers, and regular cleaning and maintenance of domestic water storage units. He recommended the appropriate use of

insecticides in outdoor water storage containers.

Highlighting the primary vector of dengue, the Aedes aegypti mosquito, Dr Harjeet said that it has adapted to urban habitats and breeds primarily in man-made containers such as buckets, mud pots, discarded containers, used tires, and stormwater drains. These breeding sites should be regularly cleared and cleaned.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito is most active during dusk and dawn, so people are advised to wear clothing that minimises skin exposure to these mosquitoes, he said.

Dr Rai reported that dengue testing labs are available in every district of Jammu division, with around 27,000 tests conducted this year so far, of which roughly 3,000 have yielded positive results.

Out of the 3,000 positive cases, 1,047 required hospitalisation, and 89 active patients are currently under treatment, excluding three fatalities in Udhampur, he informed.

The doctor informed that the helpline number 104 for assistance from 9 am to 6 pm daily. He said positive patients are provided counselling and guidance through the helpline.

In addition to dengue, approximately 80 cases of chikungunya, another mosquito-borne disease, have been reported this year.

Healthcare professionals recommend eliminating stagnant water that serves as mosquito breeding sites at home, schools, workplaces, and their surroundings to prevent dengue. They advise avoiding mosquito bites by covering the body and using mosquito nets when sleeping during the day, which should be sprayed with insect repellents.

Company Ltd. as the lowest (L1) bidder with a quoted rate of Rs 1840/- per family.

With the imminent expiration of the policy with Bajaj Allianz GIC on December 25, 2021, SHA J&K sought an interim arrangement to prevent service disruption. Bajaj Allianz GIC responded by offering to continue implementing the scheme at a quoted price of Rs 3,261.60 per beneficiary family unit on a Pro-Rata basis for the requested coverage period.

To prevent service interruption, SHA J&K entered into an agreement with Bajaj Allianz GIC to continue services on a Stop Loss basis until the selection of a new Insurance Company is finalized. The Insurance Company would not share the risk of loss of claims, and the entire claims outgo would be borne by the Government of J&K and the National Health Authority.

The financial details underscore that the Interim Arrangement,

was the most cost-effective option, serving public interest during the transition period. Contrary to the misinformation circulating on social media, there were no changes or additions to the number of beneficiary families, which remained consistent throughout both the primary policy and the interim period.

Despite the necessity for retendering due to high premium rates quoted by the lowest bidder (L1), the interim arrangement with the existing insurance company continued seamlessly, benefiting over 69,000 individuals. This underscores the scheme's commitment to public interest. Contrary to misinformation, the interim arrangement was thoroughly vetted by the Law department, Finance Department, and Learned Advocate General, contradicting claims that the government ignored advice from its own departments.

Panic Grips Gaza as Israel Demands 1.1 Million People Leave in 24 hours

Agencies

GAZA: Frightened Palestinians packed belongings and left their homes in northern Gaza on Friday after Israel's military demanded that more than 1 million civilians leave the blockaded coastal strip within 24 hours. Many say the warning is a possible precursor to ground invasion but one that the United Nations warned could be calamitous.

The U.N. warned that so many people fleeing en masse — almost half the Gaza population — would be calamitous. Hamas, which staged a shocking and brutal attack on Israel nearly a week ago and has fired thousands of rockets since, dismissed the evacuation order as a ploy and called on people to stay in their homes.

Many Gazans were in a fix as the Israeli military was preparing for a ground invasion that will likely turn the overcrowded Palestinian territory into one of the world's bloodiest war zones. "Our people reject the threat of the occupation (by Israeli) leaders and (the) call to flee to the south or Egypt," the group said. "We are steadfast on our land and in our homes and our cities. There will be no displacement," Hamas said in a statement.

Israel's retaliatory airstrikes since Saturday, deadlier and more widespread than in its past campaigns in Gaza, have wiped out entire neighborhoods, brought the medical system to the brink of collapse and forced about 400,000 people into temporary shel-



ters as they face dire shortages of food, water and fuel.

Gaza's health ministry said that 1,537 Palestinians, including 500 children, had been killed since Saturday, and that 6,612 people, one-quarter of them children, had been injured.

The evacuation order sparked widespread panic among civilians and aid workers already running from Israeli airstrikes and contending with a total siege of Gaza. Israel has cut off all food, water and supplies and caused a territory-wide blackout.

"Forget about food, forget about electricity, forget about

fuel. The only concern now is just if you'll make it, if you're going to live," said Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza City, as she broke into heaving sobs.

The United Nations pleaded for Israel to rescind the demand for a forced relocation out of fear of a humanitarian disaster. Some Gazans who want to flee with their families don't have vehicles, and were setting out either on foot or catching rides in trucks. Others said the roads have been damaged by nearly a week of Israeli airstrikes and were difficult to navigate.

Some Gaza residents said they feared the expulsion could end up being the start of another permanent mass displacement like the one in 1948, when more than 700,000 Palestinians either fled or were expelled from their homes in present-day Israel during the war surrounding the nation's establishment. But it was too soon to tell.

"As I am packing my things I am wondering, is this really another Nakba? I am taking my house key and thinking, will I ever return to my home, will I ever see my home again?" said Dr. Arwa

El-Rayes, 56, a doctor of internal medicine, speaking in the last moments before she fled her childhood home in Gaza City in the north, the main city in the territory. The Nakba, which means catastrophe, is how Palestinians refer to the displacement of 1948.

Gaza resident Mahmoud Shurrab said he saw the warnings to evacuate the northern part of the Gaza Strip on Facebook on Friday morning and quickly packed a backpack with important documents. He then began driving with his mother south seeking safety.

On the way, he said, he saw droves of people lining to fill their gas tanks, and others loading luggage into their cars. He, along with many other Gazans, reached a town just south of the evacuation zone but still close to their homes in the north. He and his mother are staying out on the streets for now, without shelter.

"We are disoriented. We don't know whether we will return or not. Nobody understands what's going on. The biggest problem is that we have no idea where to go," The New York Times quoted him as saying.

UN RESPONSE

However, the demand to move over a million people at short notice, during a war, has been criticised by the United Nations, which warned Israel of "devastating consequences". "... impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences," the UN said.

The big (and very obvious) concern for aid agencies is - where? And how do you move 1.1 million men, women and children, as well as injured and infirm, while being bombarded by Israeli forces?

Israel has already indicated its willingness to inflict collateral damage, including killing civilians.

THE GAZA STRIP

Gaza is 41 km long and between six and 12 km wide. It is divided into five areas - North Gaza, Gaza, the Middle Area, Khan Younis, and Rafah. The Strip has two land borders - Israel on its north and east, and

Egypt on its south. Both are closed. To its west is the Mediterranean Sea, also closed.

About 1.1mn of Gaza's population of more than 2mn live in the northern part of the enclave, which includes Gaza City and its outskirts.

Gazan airspace is controlled by Israel; their airport was destroyed by the Israelis in 2022.

It is, therefore, completely cut off from the world; the narrow 365 sq km patch of land, which is among the most densely populated on the world, relies (almost) entirely on Israel for food, fuel, medicines, drinking water and other essentials, and, to a lesser extent, on international aid agencies.

ISRAEL'S DEMAND

Israel has demanded 1.1 million Gazans move from North Gaza to southern areas, potentially a 40 km journey in 24 hours, and as far down as Rafah and the border with Egypt.

There are two main entry/exist points on Gaza's land border through which people are allowed - the Erez Crossing in the north that is controlled by Israel, and the Rafah Crossing controlled by Egypt.

Both have been closed to Gazans looking to flee the fighting. There is a third crossing - Kerem Shalom - which is controlled by Israel also but is normally only used to move goods.

The Gaza side of the Rafah Crossing was bombed even as civilians were looking to flee, raising questions over how serious Israel is about not deliberately targeting non-combatants.

Israel-Gaza War: Crude Oil Supply Lines Not Affected So Far, Says Union Minister

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that there is no expectation of any disruption in supply lines for crude oil so far.

Asked if the conflict can have an impact on oil supplies, Mr Puri told reporters here, "... so far, no expectation of supply lines being disrupted".

"I am reasonably confident that both on issues related to availability and affordability that we can navigate forward."

"I am confident that we will be able to manage and this for a variety of reasons. We have diversified our sources of supply. Earlier, we used to import from 27 countries, today we import from 39 countries," Mr Puri said.

Replying to a question, he said normally, the country consumes five million barrels per day. "Our imports from the Americas have increased. We buy USD 20 billion worth energy from them," he said in response to a question.

Replying to a question if further reduction in fuel prices can be expected with festive season around, Puri said that during the past two years when fuel prices went up around the world, in our country these dropped by 5 per cent.

Explaining how oil prices don't depend on any single factor, he said on these things we don't speculate.

Mr Puri was speaking to reporters here on the sidelines of attending a Youth Festival at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College.

Asked about the conflict, Mr Puri, a former diplomat, said, "What has happened in the

Middle East, if you are referring to the attacks which were undertaken by Hamas on Israel...

I used to chair the counter-terrorism committee of the UN Security Council, so I just want to put on table two or three broad points," he said, while adding India does have zero tolerance for terrorism.

"The mainstream opinion today is that acts of terror cannot be justified no matter what the cause... so separate the political cause. You cannot go and kill innocent civilians. And we are a country which has been a victim of that form of terrorism," he said, while adding that terrorist talks away the most fundamental right of all—the right to life.

His remarks came against the backdrop of a series of brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants over the weekend which triggered fresh tensions in the region.

Terrorism anywhere in the world and any form is against humanity and conflicts do not benefit anyone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, and asserted that "this is time for peace and brotherhood" as a divided world cannot provide solutions to big global challenges.



Israel's evacuation order for Gaza 'death sentence' for patients, WHO says



Agencies

Israel's evacuation order for Gaza amounts to a "death sentence" for vulnerable hospital patients, the World Health Organization has warned.

WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic said health authorities in Gaza have advised that it is impossible to evacuate vulnerable hospital patients within 24 hours as ordered by Israel's military.

"There are severely ill people whose injuries mean their only chances of survival is being on life support, such as mechanical ventilators," Jasarevic said on Thursday.

"So moving those people is a death sentence. Asking

health workers to do so is beyond cruel."

Israel's military on Thursday ordered 1.1 million Palestinians trapped in Gaza to move south within 24 hours ahead of an expected ground offensive on the enclave.

The United Nations has warned that the relocation of so many people is "impossible" and could have devastating consequences.

The European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell has described Israel's directive as "utterly unrealistic".

Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, has told residents to ignore Israel's order, describing it as "fake propaganda".

The WHO has already warned that hospitals in

Gaza are at "breaking point" and called for a humanitarian corridor to allow in health workers and facilitate the evacuation of the sick and injured.

Jasarevic said that hospitals have only a few hours of electricity each day and are being forced to rely on generators to power critical functions, with patients in intensive care units and newborns among the most vulnerable.

"Time is running out to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, if fuel, water, food and life-saving health and humanitarian supplies cannot be urgently delivered to the Gaza Strip amidst the complete blockage," he said.

Petition Seeks Live Broadcast of Surgeries, Supreme Court Seeks Centre's Response

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea highlighting legal and ethical issues posed by live surgery broadcast.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued notices to the Centre and others, including the National Medical

Commission (NMC), seeking their replies on the plea filed by some Delhi-based persons.

The bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, noted that the petitioners have sought a direction to the NMC to appoint a committee to regularly monitor live surgery broadcast and also framing of guidelines regarding this.

Man Hugs Wife To Pacify Her After Fight, Both Run Over By Train In Varanasi

Press Trust of India

VARANASI (UP): A woman and her husband were mowed down by a train as he hugged her on the tracks, apparently trying to stop her from taking her life over his "alcohol addiction", police said on Friday.

According to police, the incident took place at the Panchkoshi railway crossing under the Sarnath police station in

Varanasi on Wednesday night. Station House Officer (SHO) of the Sarnath police station Brijesh Kumar Singh said Govind Sonkar (30) was allegedly addicted to alcohol, and was consuming it on Wednesday night. His wife Khusbu Sonkar (28) opposed this.

According to eyewitnesses, Govind, who was in an inebriated state, started quarrelling with her. Following this,

she went to the railway track. Govind followed his wife to pacify her and hugged her. However, both were run over by a speeding train.

The SHO said that the couple has three children. The son is six years old, while the two daughters are three and four years old, respectively. Govind used to sell fruits. The bodies of the couple have been sent for a post-mortem, police said.

People Start Queuing Up At RBI Offices To Exchange ₹2,000 Notes



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: With banks stopping accepting ₹2,000 notes, people have started queuing up at 19 Reserve Bank of India offices to exchange the high denomination currency, which was withdrawn from circulation.

On May 19, the RBI had surprised all by announcing its intent to withdraw the ₹2,000 note introduced in 2016 for quick remonetisation, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to suck out over 88 per cent of currency in circulation by banning the ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes.

Public and entities holding such notes were initially asked to either exchange or deposit them in bank accounts by September 30. The last date was later extended to October 7.

The deposit as well as exchange facilities at bank branches was stopped on Oc-

tober 7. From October 8, people were given the option to get the currency exchanged or get the amount credited in their bank accounts at 19 offices of the RBI.

Last Friday, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said ₹3.43 lakh crore worth of ₹2,000 notes have come back and about ₹12,000 crore of such notes were still in circulation.

People were seen standing in queues at RBI offices, including in the national capital, to exchange ₹2,000 notes.

Individuals or entities can exchange ₹2,000 bank notes at the 19 RBI offices up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time. However, there is no limit on the total amount for getting ₹2,000 notes credited in bank accounts.

Following the demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 bank notes in November 2016, the RBI had introduced ₹2,000 notes, along with new ₹500 notes for speedy remonetisation.

Man, 89, Refused Divorce By Supreme Court After 27-Year Case

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has denied an octogenarian man the right to divorce his wife of six decades, 27 years after he first applied to dissolve their marriage.

Divorce remains taboo across much of India with only one in every 100 marriages ending in dissolution, often owing to family and social pressure to sustain unhappy marriages.

Those seeking divorce must get approval from the courts, which typically only grant it if proof of cruelty, violence or undue financial demands is presented.

Nirmal Singh Panesar, 89,

married in 1963 but said in filings with notoriously glacial criminal justice system that his relationship had broken down irretrievably in 1984.

That year his wife Paramjit Kaur Panesar, now 82, had refused to move with him to Chennai when the Indian Air Force posted him there.

Nirmal first filed for divorce in 1996 on the grounds of cruelty and desertion, granted by a district court in 2000 but overturned later that year after an appeal by Paramjit.

His case took another two decades to make its way before the Supreme Court, which denied the divorce petition despite agreeing their marriage was "beyond salvation".