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Unprecedented Heatwave Grips Valley

Kashmir Witnesses Record-Breaking May Temperature

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The mercury in Jammu and Kashmir is on record-breaking spree as Qazigund, the gate town of the Valley recorded the highest ever day temperature during the month of May while Pahalgam and Kokernag endured second warmest day in the last 23 and 22 years respectively.

A meteorological department official said that maximum temperature in Qazigund scaled to 34°C, breaking the previous highest record of 43 years when day mercury was recorded at 33.6°C on 31 May 1981.

Pahalgam endured the second highest temperature in the last 23 years during May as mercury rose to 28.6°C and it was little over a degree Celsius below the all-time high recorded for the world famous resort, witnessed on 23 May 2000 when the maximum of 30.8°C was recorded on 23 May 2000.

Also Kokernag recorded the second highest maximum temperature at 31.6°C and it was the highest in the last 22 years as the mercury had touched 32.6°C on 15 May 2001, he said.

At 34.6°C, Bhaderwah recorded its second highest day temperature in 23 years, just a notch below 34.7°C on 26 May 2024 and 37.6°C on 30 May 2000, he said.

Qazigund: 34°C All Time High

Previous Record: 33.6°C on May 31, 1981

Pahalgam: 28.6°C

Second Highest In 22 Years Previous Record: 30.8°C on May 23, 2000

Kokernag: 31.6°C

Second Highest In 22 Years

Previous Record: 32.6°C on May 15, 2001

Bhaderwah: 34.6°C

Third Highest In 23 Years Previous Record: 37.6°C on May 30, 2000

He said Jammu recorded maximum temperature 42.8°C, Katra 39°C, Srinagar 32.2°C, Kupwara 30.9°C and Gulmarg 22.2°C. The maximum temperature in Jammu crossed the 40-degree Celsius mark for the first time this season on May 16.

Regarding the forecast, the MeT office said that till May 29, generally dry weather is expected even as the possibility of thundershower activity at iso-

lated places can't be ruled out. From May 30-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain/thunder at isolated places.

From June 1-2, weather is likely to be partly to generally cloudy with light rain/thunder at isolated places. From June 3-5, generally dry weather is expected.

He said no respite in heat wave or hot | More on P10

No Govt Jobs For Families Of Terrorists, Stone Pelters In J&K: Shah

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Sending a tough message, Union Minister Amit Shah has said that no family member of any terrorist nor close relatives of stone pelters will get government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah also said that the Narendra Modi government has not only targeted terrorists but also eliminated the terror ecosystem, resulting in a drastic fall in terror incidents in the country

"In Kashmir, we have taken a decision that if someone joins a terrorist organisation, their family members will not get any government job," he told PTI in an interview over the weekend.

Similarly, Shah said, if someone indulges in stone pelting, his family members will also not get a government job.

He said some human rights activists went to the Supreme Court against the decision but, at the end, the government prevailed.

The home minister, however, said the government



will make an exception in case someone from a family comes forward and informs the authorities that his or her close relative has joined a terror outfit.

Such families will be given relief, he said.

Earlier, funeral processions used to be taken out in Kashmir after a terrorist was killed, Shah said.

"We have stopped this trend. We have ensured that the terrorist is buried with all religious formalities but

in an isolated place," he said. The home minister said when a terrorist is surrounded by the security forces, he is first given a chance to

surrender. We call family members like his mother or wife and ask them to make an appeal to the terrorist to surrender. If he (the terrorist) does not listen, he dies," Shah said.

The home minister said terror incidents have gone down significantly in Jammu and Kashmir as the government has not only targeted the terrorists but also eliminated the terror ecosystem.

"Through the NIA (National Investigation Agency), we have taken strong action against terror funding and ended it. We have taken a very tough stand on terror funding," he said.

In case of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah said the government has imposed a ban on publication and spread of the terrorist ideology by it.

Muslim radical group PFI, founded in Kerala, was banned under provisions of the | More on P10

'Court Matters Will Become Online Within 3 Yrs'

Press Trust Of India

echnology will be a key enabler for the new criminal laws that come into effect July 1 as summons will be issued by SMS, 90 per cent witnesses will appear through video calls and courts will issue orders within three years of filing of an FIR. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said.

"I can tell you with confidence that after three years, our criminal justice system will be the most modern criminal justice system in the world." he told PTI in an interview over the weekend.

Piloted by the home minister himself, the newly enacted criminal laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act will come into effect from July 1, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal I More on P10

Final Batch From J&K **Departs For Hajj**

Agencies

Srinagar: The final batch of 273 Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir departed from Srinagar International Airport on Monday, marking the conclusion of the Hajj departures for 2024. The first return flight from Saudi Arabia is scheduled for June 22, an official said.

A senior officer of the J&K Hajj Committee said that today the last batch of 273 pilgrims left for the holy pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia from Srinagar International Airport, and that this year over 7,000 pilgrims from J&K took up the holy pilgrimage.
"Today was the last flight

of the Hajj schedule, and 273 pilgrims took up the journey to the holy city. Over 7000 pilgrims took up the holy journey, and 39 have embarked their journey from Mumbai airport while 37 are without Mahram", the senior officer said.

The officer added that the core Hajj phase will start from 8 to 13 Zilhaj and that the first flight scheduled to return from Saudi Arabia to Srinagar International airport is on 22 June.

The Hajis from Jammu and Kashmir will start coming back from 22 June, with two flights scheduled on the first day. Each flight will be carrying 322 pilgrims," the officer added.

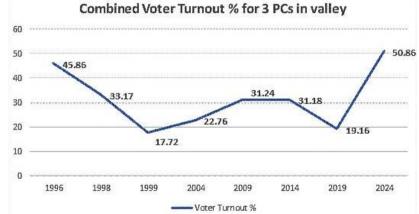
Notably, marking the beginning of the holy journey, the first flight departed from Srinagar International Airport on 9 May 2024 from Srinagar's Hajj house, witnessing emotional scenes. According to the officials, over | More on P10



THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN CASE SOMEONE FROM A FAMILY comes forward and informs the authorities that his or her close relative has joined a terror outfit."

J&K Records Highest Voter Turnout In 35 years: ECI

Says Active Participation Huge Positive For Upcoming Assembly Polls



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Monday said the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir this time was the highest in a Lok Sabha election in the last 35 years with the Kashmir Valley witnessing a "massive" 30 percentage point jump in poll participation compared to 2019.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said this achievement sits on a 25 per cent increase in the number of

contesting candidates since 2019.

'This active participation is a huge positive for the assembly elections to be held soon so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory," he said.

The poll panel also said the combined voter turnout at the polling stations for the entire Union Territory with five Lok Sabha seats was 58.46 per cent.

On Saturday, CEC Kumar told PTI Videos that encouraged by the voter turnout in | More on P10

Special Congrats To Voters Of Anantnag: PM

Press Trust Of India

rime Minister Narendra Modi offered "special congratulations" to voters of the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday for a record turnout. saying it is a "vibrant testament to their democratic spirit". The constituency, which went to the polls on May 25 in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, has recorded a turnout of 54.84 per cent. The Kashmir Valley has seen robust participation of voters in the polls, with even areas traditionally associated with low polling witnessing a good turnout -- a high in the last few decades. Modi said in a post on X, | More on P10

KPDCL Cashier Held For Demanding Bribe

Agencies

Srinagar: ACB J&K arrested a cashier in the office of Executive Engineer, KPDCL sub transmission division Sopore red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 9000 for release of security deposit of a complainant.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that ACB received a complaint against Mohd Shafi Bhat assistant-cum-cashier in the office of the Executive Engineer KPDCL Sopore, alleging therein the demand of bribe of Rs 10,000 for release of security amount to the tune of Rs 15560.

The statement reads that it was alleged by the complainant that he is running a firm namely M/S Print Plus in Hazratbal Srinagar and in 2021 he had supplied stationary items and log books to the office of Executive Engineer Sopore for which the bill payment against the supplied items was made by the department but the security deposit amount of Rs 15,560 is pending.

"He further alleged that he approached the | More on P10

J&K Bank Policy Upheld: HC Says State Can Merge Cadres

M Ahmad

Srinagar: It is well within the power of the State to integrate different cadres into one cadre, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said as it rejected a plea challenging Officers Promotion Policy, 2024 issued by the J&K Bank Limited to the extent it has classified the officers recruited initially in Scale-I cadre and Officers elevated from lower cadres as 'generalist

cadre officers'. "In view of clear and unequivocal enunciation of law by the Supreme Court of India, it is trite that Article 14 does not forbid the merger or creation of different cadres for its service," a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar said, adding, "It is well within the power of

the State to integrate different cadres into one cadre." The creation of cadres and integration of different cadres into one cadre is entirely a policy matter for the State and does not attract equality clause envisaged under Article 14 and 16 of the

Constitution of India, the court said. "It is equally true that the State is well within its right to lay down any rule which it thinks appropriate for determining seniority in service and it is not competent to the Court to strike down such rule unless it falls foul of Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution."

In their plea, the petitioners said that they were initially recruited as Relationship Executive-Law and thereafter placed in Junior Management (Scale-I). The

Bank, they had said, could not have clubbed them with other Scale-I officers to the prejudice of their right to accelerated promotion on the basis of merit/seniority in their own class i.e., confirmed Relationship Executive-Law

"In the case on hand, there was no promise or representation ever given to the petitioners that after they are regularly appointed as Junior Management (Scale-I), they will be put in a separate cadre of Law distinct from the General Scale-I cadre in the matter of seniority and promotion," the court said, adding, "It is true that the respondent Bank, having regard to their qualification | More on P10



POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

M. Tech. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

M. A. Philosophy

M.Sc. Statistics

Master of Computer Applications (MCA) 2-Years Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT)

M. Tech. Food Technology

M.Sc. Chemistry

M.Sc. Physics

M.A. International Relations (P&CS)

M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication

M.A. Islamic Studies

M.A. Political Science

M.A. Arabic Language & Literature

M.A. English Language & Literature

M.A. Economics

LATERAL ENTRY PROGRAMMES

B. Tech. • Computer Science & Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Food Technology

• Electronics & Communication Engineering

• Civil Engineering • Mechanical Engineering

Diploma ● Civil Engineering ● Electrical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

B. Arch.

B.Tech. Robotics & Automation
B.Tech. Civil Engineering
B.Tech. Electrical Engineering

B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering

 B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering

THREE YEAR POLYTECHNIC PROGRAMMES

Diploma Civil Engineering

 Diploma Electrical Engineering Diploma Mechanical Engineering

DIPK-NB-249/24

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS/ **DEPOSITION OF APPLICATION FEE:**

05-06-2024 (WEDNESDAY)

For Further Details Contact Admission Officials: 9858306455 / 9906400789 Email: admissions@iust.ac.in

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Tuesday | 28-05-2024

Study Reveals Early Brain Network Differences In Six-Week Infants With Autism-Risk

Press Trust Of India

Six-week old infants with high chances of developing autism showed distinct patterns in brain connections, which researchers said likely emerge much earlier than autism-related behaviours can be noticed.

The researchers focussed on the brain's salience network, a group of regions crucial to identifying information in the environment that is worthy of one's attention and enabling appropriate responses to them.

In babies with high chances of developing autism -- a disorder marked by repetitive behaviour and impaired social interaction -- the researchers found stronger connections between the salience network and brain regions processing sensory information and movement, or the sensorimotor regions.

The team, co-led by the re-



searchers at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), US, further found that infants with stronger connections to sensorimotor regions in the brain had weaker connections with prefrontal ones, which are important for social interactions.

This suggested that paying more attention to basic sensory information comes at the cost of paying attention to socially relevant cues, thereby possibly playing a role in people with autism displaying an impaired social behaviour, the researchers said.

"An emerging theory in autism research is that differences in sensory processing may precede the more classic social and communication symptoms of autism, and this data supports that theory in showing that very early brain differences related to how attention is allocated may predict both sensory and social behaviours in toddlers," Shulamite Green, an assistant professor at UCLA, said.

"In other words, more attention to extraneous sensory stimuli in the environment could make it difficult to attend to social cues, and this difference in attention could really affect how the brain develops across the first year of life and beyond," Green, corresponding author of the study published in the journal Communications Biology, said.

The researchers also found that the brain patterns observed in six-week-old babies could predict their behaviour at age one.

Infants with stronger connections with sensory regions were found to show "overresponsivity" when they were a year old, a trait known to be characteristic of autism in which individuals show extreme responses to typical environmental sounds or sensations.

In contrast, the researchers found that babies having stronger connections with prefrontal regions in the brain showed a better ability to share attention with others at age one, an important stage preceding the development of social and communication skills that are often impaired in autism.

The observed patterns could help explain the reduced social attention and unusual sensory processing commonly seen in people with autism, the authors said.

For the study, the researchers analysed 53 infants, 24 of whom had a higher likelihood of developing autism because at least one older sibling had a diagnosis -- a factor known to enhance the risk of autism. The remaining 29 had no family history of autism or any other developmental disorder.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum (2)

Tender No. 25-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR, Dt. 19.04.2024 which was opening on 13.05.2024 has now been extended & now tender will open on dated 12.06.2024. Closing Date of above tender may be read as 12.06.2024. No. 770-W/169/WA/FZR/ 2024-25/Corrigendum-II 1591/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE

I want to change my surname Ruksana Yousuf to Ruksana Sajad wife of Sajad Hussain Ganie of Kathi Maidan Alamgari Bazar Zadibal, Srinagar.

If anybody has any objection in this regard may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven days after publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

RUKSANA SAJAD W/o Sajad Hussain Ganie R/o Kathi Madan Alamgari Bazar Zadbal Srinagar

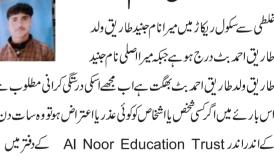
PUBLIC NOTICE.

Check Sudrabal, Hazratbal Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House (Home Stay) under the name any style BANDAY COTTAGES. (Home Stay) Situated at Check Sudrabal, Hazratbal, Srinagar, Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act

Whereas, I will submit a land ownership certificate from the concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. by Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as home stay), Character certificate from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public notice inviting objections if any in print media, List of family members Name, Age and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exteriors and bedrooms and bathrooms). Inspection report by the committee (the recommendation of the Inspection not keeping in view the accommodation and amenity, Aadhar Card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for the information of general public/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach the Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the leading newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be preceded under rules as per merit.

اس بارئے میں اگرکسی شخص یا شخاص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن پیش کریں بعداز کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتمر جنيدطاريق ولدطاريق احمدبث بمكت



از نیابت پلہالن

عنوان: مدرخواست منجانب اجرائي OBC سر شفيكيت تجق طاريق احمد تيلي ولدمجمه يوسف تيلي كنهموجع سلطان يوره تخصيل يبثن

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹھیکیٹ بذمرہ تیلی پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی تیلی ذات ہے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ اور سائل سلطان یور پختصیل پیٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور مجھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنیہ بذیل افراد پر شتمل ہے سربره 64سال عمررسیده زوجہ 62 سال ۔۔ جانه بيكم پىر 37سال سركارىملازم طاريق احمد تيلى دختر 22سال زرتعلیم يوتى 01سال شيرخوار

سائل مذکور OBC سرٹفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کاخواں ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوارہ آمدنی 6800رویے تک ہے ۔مرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحشا جراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کش مخض کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ سینے عذریاعتراض ودالت هذا کو وفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ FKO

'Rise in cancer incidences among younger people in India'

Press Trust Of India

Twenty per cent of cancer patients who called an NGO-run helpline to seek a second opinion were below 40 years of age, indicating a rise of cancer incidences amongst younger people, data from the organisation stated.

There were 1,368 callers between March 1 and May 15, according to the Cancer Mukt Bharat Foundation, launched by a group of oncologists.

The study showed that 60 per cent of the cancer patients below the age of 40 years were men.

It also found that the most prevalent cases were head and neck cancer (26 per cent), closely followed by Gastrointestinal cancers (16 per cent), breast cancer (15 per cent) and then blood cancers (9 per cent). The most number of calls were from Hyderabad, followed by Meerut, Mumbai and New Delhi, a statement by the NGO said.

The helpline number (93-555-20202) was launched for the patients to seek second opinion free of cost. It is operational from 10 am to 5 pm from

Cancer patients can call the helpline number to speak to leading oncologists directly or even do a video call to discuss their cancer treatment.

Dr Ashish Gupta, Principal Investigator and senior oncologist who is heading the Cancer Mukt Bharat Campaign said that since the launch of the helpline number, it has proven to be a support system for cancer patients across India and almost hundreds of calls are received every day.

"This study helps us make a more

targeted cancer approach towards treatment and make India 'Cancer Mukt'. We found head and neck cancer was most prevalent which is nearly entirely preventable by lifestyle modification, vaccinations and screening strategies. Breast and colon cancers have very effective screening strategies for finding cancer in the early stages. Unfortunately as is representative of the population at large in India we found nearly 2/3rds of cancers were detected late likely due to low adoption of proper screening," Dr Gupta said.



Office Of The District **Legal Services Authority** (ADR CENTER COURT COMPLEX KUPWARA) Mail: kupdlsa@gmail.com

Subject:- Holding Of Special Lok Adalat on Traffic Challan And

NOTIFICATION

s per the Action Plan & calendar of activities for the year 2024, District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara alongwith Tehsil Legal Services Committees Handwara, Sogam, Tangdhar, Trehgam & Kralpora is scheduled to conduct Lok Adalat on Traffic Challan and Electricity Bills Cases on (SATURDAY) the 08th June, 2024, for their amicable

Therefore, it is informed to all the parties/litigants to move an application for fixing their cases/ disputes/ claims pending before Courts in the said Lok Adalat so that the cases be settled amicably. In case of Pre-litigation matters/ cases parties may move an application to this Authority or concerned Taluka Courts, FIVE days prior to the date of the above scheduled Lok Adalat.

> Manzoor Ahmad Khan) Sub-Judge/Secretary District legal services Authority Kupwara

No: KUP/DLSA/2024/143-7 DIPK-687/24 Dated: 27/05/2024

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam **Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Application of Abrar Ahmad Khan, Ulfat Mohi-ud-din Khan, Mehnaza Mohi-ud-din And Shabnum Mohi-ud-din Wards of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Khan R/o Malikpora Tehsil pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. In this matter report of Concerned patwari halqa reveals that the applicant is a permanent resident of said village and is residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 485136/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name of Member	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Gh Mohi Ud Khan	Ab Aziz Khan	62	Retired Em-
				ployee
02	Saleema Begum	W/o Gh Mohi Ud Khan	52	H/W
03	Ulfat Mohi Ud din	D/o Gh Mohi Ud Khan	34	Student
04	Abrar Ahmad Khan	S/o Gh Mohi Ud Khan	30	
05	Mehnaza Mohi ud din	D/o Gh Mohi Ud Khan	25	
06	Shabnum Mohi ud din	D/o Gh Mohi Ud Khan	22	
L				
In thi	is connection If any	person(s) has any	object	tion(s) he/sl
can v	isit the undersigne	d's office within 07	days	from the da

of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be con-

There is no need for referral,

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal

simply call us for registration.

9070806160

Chowk, Srinagar

Two Braveheart Youth Saves Minor From Drowning In Jhelum

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 4-year-old boy was rescued from drowning in the river Jhelum at Gase Mohallah in Safa Kadak area of Srinagar after a quick action by a local man, whose bravery averted a potential tragedy.

A police official, while confirming the incident, said the incident occurred near Gasi Mohallah in SafaKadal area of Srinagar, in which a boy while playing slipped into the river Jhelum and that the timely rescue by a local saved his life from drowning.

However, the quick rescue has sparked both admiration for the rescuer and concern over parental negligence as well.

'It is a miracle of Allah, the boy survived. This is Jhelum, it is not a canal, it is very rare that someone who slips like this comes out alive," said a local from the area.

As per a video viral on social media, the person shooting the video says that the boy slipped and fell into the fast-flowing waters of the Jhelum.

Witnesses said that hearing the boy's cries for help and seeing him struggle to stay afloat, panic spread among onlookers after which a young man, followed by another person sprang into action and without hesitation, jumped into the river and managed to reach the boy, bringing

him safely to shore. Soon after the boy was rescued from Jhelum, a person aiding the rescue can be seen giving him Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

People across the valley have showered praises on his heroism, with many calling him a true hero. "This man risked his own life to save the child," said one witness. "His bravery deserves all the praise," he

Amidst the celebration of a fortunate outcome, the incident has also raised concerns about the supervision of children by parents, who live and go near the water bodies.

Pertinently, summer in Kashmir often sees an increase in accidents involving water bodies, as children, young boys flock to rivers and lakes to escape

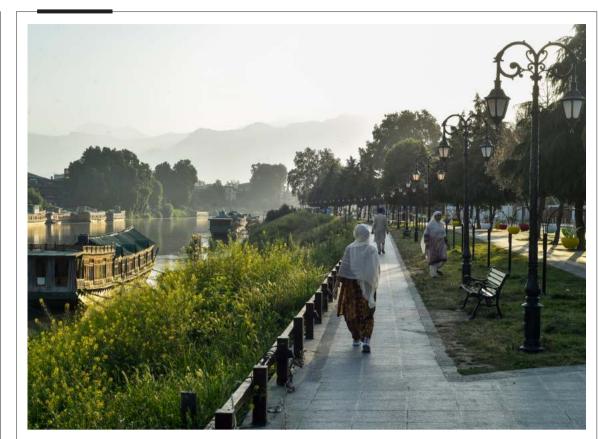
Tragically, such outings have sometimes ended in fatalities, particularly among non-swimmers.

Meanwhile, as per the hospital reports the rescued boy, though shaken, is reported to be in good health and recovering.

Meanwhile, police officials too confirmed about the incident and said that the boy slipped into the river Jhelum near Gasi Mohallah in Safa Kadal, when he was playing and that the timely action by a local man saved his life from drowning.

When contacted, SMHS hospital authorities said that the boy was fine and stable but was further sent for a pediatric check up at children's hospital.

Meanwhile, **Imtiyaz** Ahmad, father of the boy when contacted said that they were at children's hospital to undergo some tests and that his son was recovering-(KNO)



WOMEN PROMENADE ALONG the renovated embankments of the Jhelum River in Srinagar amid scorching heat on Monday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Arrangements For Counting Of Votes For Srinagar PC Finalized

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited SKICC-Centaur to review the arrangements put in place for Counting of Votes for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat scheduled on June 4, 2024. He also took stock of the security measures being made in and around the counting centre's.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Khalid Hussain Malik; SP East, Mubashir Bukhari; Additional SP Security, Mohammad Saleem; Nodal Officer Trainings, Riyaz Ahmad; Nodal Officer ETPBS, Mujtaba Ahmad Banday; Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz and other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Returning Officer along with the concerned Officer took a thorough inspection of the arrangements with regard to the preparations made in and around the counting centres for a smooth and well organized counting process.

The RO finalized the surveillan and security measures, seating arrangements, transporting of EVMs and the technical setup at the Counting Halls to ensure transparency, accuracy and the timely announcement of counting results.

He also passed directions to the Officers of different line Departments for ensuring uninterrupted power supply, adequate water sup-



DURING THE VISIT, THE RETURNING **OFFICER ALONG WITH** THE CONCERNED OFFICER TOOK **A THOROUGH** INSPECTION OF THE **ARRANGEMENTS**

with regard to the preparations made in and around the counting centres for a smooth and well organized counting process.

ply, proper Internet facility, Media management, entry passes and other necessary measures to be put in place ahead of counting for 02-Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

While interacting with the Officers at the venue, the RO stressed on ensuring seamless arrangements and facilities in place for counting centre's, strong rooms, CCTV links and training of manpower for upholding the sanctity and integrity of the democratic ethos.

The RO also said that the counting process will be done as per ECI guidelines under video recording and except the observer and Returning Officer, no one will be allowed to take mobile phones inside the counting room.

The EVMs are presently kept under three-layer security cordon in strong rooms at SKICC-Centaur, after the voting process was completed on May 13, 2024 for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

PAC Meeting For Implementation Of SMILE-Beggary Scheme Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the implementation of SMILE-beggary scheme in the District, a meeting of Project Approval Committee (PAC) was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)-beggary scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed assessment of the proposals received from various NGOs under SMILE-Beggary Scheme. He discussed different aspects of the scheme in threadbare viz identification, transportation, sheltering, vocational training, schooling, health, etc of the persons involved in begging.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on coordinated efforts by all stakeholders for effective implementation of SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises) scheme. He called for preparing an efficient roadmap to rehabilitate and facilitate beggars to join mainstream to live a

Weeklong Training Program On LokOS Transaction Application Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A weeklong training program on LokOS Transaction Application organized by the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) for the officials of the Mission in the Kashmir division has successfully concluded at the Directorate office of JKRLM in Srinagar.

The training program aimed to equip officials with the essential skills needed to effectively utilize the android based application, 'LokOS system', in capturing the transactions digitally of the communitybased organizations (CBOs), with a focus on the end-to-end digitization of SHG transactions and online data.

Conducted by a team of National Resource persons from DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India, the training provided valuable insights into the LokOS Transaction Application, emphasizing its ability to provide end-to-end, digitization of data for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for perseverance of records and decision making by the rural SHG women, for developing of Business Development Plans and prioritizing the activities under their Annual Action Plan.

Speaking at the concluding function, Additional Mission Director, JKRLM Kashmir, Reyaz Ahmad Beigh, expressed his satisfaction with the training program and highlighted the importance of online bookkeeping for CBOs to enhance knowledge among field staff in their respective blocks, in a transparent manner.

He emphasized the significance of digitizing CBO transaction activities through LokOS, enabling transparent tracking of all transaction details and informed that LokOS, a system designed by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, aims to maintain digital records of SHGs, acting as a single source for updated and validated data for CBOs that currently rely on manual methods of record-keeping.

He further said that LokOS Mobile Application will play a crucial role in achieving NRLM's vision of empowering SHGs through digitization. It is designed to track and facilitate the enhancement of household incomes, with a focused approach to diversifying livelihood activities and elevating every SHG household to a Lakhpati status, he added.

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686



PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

CAPD: 18001807011

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR 3:41 **ZUHR** 12:28 **ASR** 5:26 Magrib 7:37 ISHA 9:15

This Day In History

- 640 Severinus begins his reign as Catholic Pope (elected
- 1037 Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II removes "Constitutio the Feudis" 1156 - Battle at Brindisi: Norman-Sicillian King William
- beats Byzantine fleet under John Doukas and Alexios Bry-
- 1349 60 Jews murdered in Breslau, Silesia
- 1358 Daint-Leu at Oise begins French boer uprising 1431 - Joan of Arc is accused of relapsing into heresy by donning male clothing again, providing justification for
- 1521 Pope Leo X signs treaty with Holy Roman Emperor
- 1588 Spanish Armada under the Duke of Medina-Sidonia departs Lisbon to invade England
- 1741 Spain and Bavaria sign treaty 1863 - 1st black regiment (54 Mass) leaves Boston to fight
- 1871 Paris communards revolt put down 1900 Total

From KO Archives

Patient Stable As Controversy About 'Needless' Surgery Lingers On

Observer News Service

CRINAGAR: Even as the patient who was operated upon at the of suspected stones is stable, the controversy surrounding the surgery lingers on. While the doctors are almost unanimous there was no negligence in the matter, the patient's relatives are sore at the way an unnecessary surgery was forced on her.

According to reports, Aaliya Liaqat w/o Liaqat Hussein of Court road here was operated upon Saturday for suspected stones in her kidneys though repeated X-rays taken on the fateful day did not show any definite presence of the calculus. Her relatives alleged the surgery was not warranted after the X-rays were negative. The surgery evoked instant protest from the relatives of patient, mother of an 8-month old baby. They alleged the head of concerned department, Dr' Baldev Singh, had insisted to have the surgery performed. They accused the doctor of having threatened them following a tiff a few days earlier.

In a communication to Kashmir Observer, Dr Singh denied he had conducted the operation and described the report, circulated by CNS news agency, as baseless and aimed at maligning his image. He said, "The fact is that I had advised an X-ray for the patient before any surgical intervention but a consultant urologist conducted the said surgery with my knowledge". Later on, he said, "on the request of Director SKIMS I helped the concerned urologist in closing the patient and stent was put for effective drainage".

Talking to Observer News Service, Dr Singh denied there was any negligence on the part of doctors, 'These things can happen in the medical profession", he said, adding the surgery was done with the written consent of a close relative of the Patient. He said the patient was admitted by Dr Tajamul the consultant who was not required to seek any directive from him. Denying that he has threatened the patients' relative, Dr. Singh Said he might have told them to leave the ward during the morning round.

When contacted Dr, Tajamul Fazili told Observer News Service that patients was admitted by Dr. Singh. The X-rays of the obese patient had shown stones at the OPD stage and admitted accordingly. On Saturday he said the first two X-rays revealed thre were no stones. A third one was taken with double exposure which showed a shadow coinciding with the X-ray taken at the 'OPD stage'. Dr Fazili said, "Most probably it was a friable (soft) stone which got crushed and passed down the ureter during the surgical manipulation." He said a small stent was kept inside to ensure safe passage of any small bit.

Dr Fazili said 'Saturday was utilised as an additional theatre day to make good for the hartal days. "We were convinced the patient did have stones. But when I could not locate it, I sought help from Dr Singh", he said. The director of the Institute, Prof Me'raj-ud-din, said there was nothing abnormal about the surgery nor was there any negligence on the part of doctors. 'The stone must have been friable going down the ureter and the gravel coming out of its own", he said. He ruled out any enquiry into the episode.

Joining the issue, a close relative of the patient, pleading anonymity, told Observer News Service the surgery was absolutely uncalled for the moment the doctors knew there was no stone. The written consent had been given when she was brought to operation theatre in the morning. However, she was turned back from there and asked to get in her X—ray done. After that an anesthesia was given to her for the second time and the surgery conducted despite the relatives' pleas against it and without seeking a fresh consent from them. The relative said the patient had suffered heavy blood loss which could have proved fatal. The relative alleged Dr Singh had visited the ward against asking them to return the X-rays which were lying with them.

Meanwhile, according to Dr Singh the patient was stable.

(Kashmir Observer, 28 May, 2005)



GCoE (IASE) Organizes

Book Release Function

Showcases TLM Exhibits In Mathematics, ECCE

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government College of Education (GCoE) today organized a Teaching Learning Material (TLM) exhibition and book release function during a pre-internship workshop.

The program was organized by the internship committee of the college where the committee familiarizes participants during pre-practice about various aspects of institutional internship.

Seema Naz, Principal IASE, while welcoming the participants, gave an overview of internship programs in the institution.

The workshop later in the day included a book unveiling function that was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries, particularly from the School Education Department. The chief guest at the book release function was Dr. Tasaduq Hussain, Director School Education

The other guests who attended the function among others included CEO Srinagar, Cluster Head Soura, Astt. Director Academics, JKBOSE, ZEO Gulab Bagh and other guests from the School education department.

The ECCE book 'Joyful Foundation' authored by Prof. Showkat Rashid, Urfana Amin and Ruuhi Sultana was unveiled to the thundering applause in the thematic areas.

auditorium. The guests also witnessed the showcasing of story books by ECCE students who briefed the audience about how a verbal story could be put together in an illustrated written

narrative story for children. Director School Education in his address highlighted the challenges confronting the teachers of the

present time. Earlier in the day the Coordinator Internships, Fazl illahi, highlighted the key areas that interns need to keep in mind during internship. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Coordinator ECCE, spoke about the importance of the ECCE program in the post NEP-2020 era.

Later the Principal, Dr. Seema Naz, ushered the Director School Education to the hall where frugal TLMs exhibits in subject mathematics developed by students were showcased. The TLs were developed by inservice B.Ed. students under the guidance of Dr. Tawheeda and Arshid Sauleh.

The Director with his team also surveyed the ECCE lab where they scanned portfolios developed by students under Prof. Showkeen and Prof. Younis Basit.

The workshop will continue for three days where RPs from the School Education Department will train the students on various

Russia To Remove Taliban From Its Terrorist Group List

Moscow: Russia will remove the Taliban from a list of banned terrorist organisations, three years after they returned to power in Afghanistan, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency said Monday.

Moscow has for years fostered relations with the Taliban, holding multiple rounds of talks and boosting trade with Afghanistan despite international sanctions.

"Kazakhstan has recently taken the decision, which we are also going to take, to remove them from the list of terrorist organisations," RIA Novosti quoted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying.

Kazakhstan removed the Taliban from its list of banned organisations at the end of 2023.

The move could further boost diplomacy between Russia and Afghanistan, but would fall short of an official recognition of the Taliban government and what it calls the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

The Taliban seized power in 2021 from a US-backed government. They have enforced an extreme form of Islamic law that effectively bans women from public life.

Lavrov said Russia's deci-

Kazakhstan has recently taken the decision, which we are also going to take, to remove them from the list of terrorist organisations

sion was about recognising the realities on the ground.

They are the real power. We are not indifferent to Afghanistan. And above all our allies in Central Asia are not indifferent," Lavrov said.

Russia also invited Taliban representatives to its flagship Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, state media reported.

The event was once seen as the cornerstone of Russia's economic relations with the West. Russia has for years fostered ties with the Taliban.

The head of US forces in Afghanistan claimed in 2018 that Moscow was providing weapons to the group -- accusations Moscow denied at the time.

Owner, Co-Accused Sent To 3-Day Police Custody In Delhi **Hospital Fire Case**

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday sent the owner of the Baby Care New Born Hospital,

before the fire incident. All the newborn babies were rescued from the hospital with the help of other people and shifted to East Delhi Advance NICU Hospital for treatment,'



where seven children were Saturday, and a co-accused, to three-day police custody.

Hospital owner Dr Naveen Khichi was arrested in the wake of the tragedy at the private neonatal hospital, along with employee Akash, who was on duty at that time.

Police probe into the hospital fire has revealed that the licence issued to the hospital by the Delhi Government Health Services (DGHS) had expired on March 31, and also that the doctors at the hospitals were not qualified to treat newborn babies, who needed neonatal intensive care, as these doctors were only BAMS degree holders.

"In the hospital, there were 12 newborn babies admitted and one was already dead police had said. Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said that seven children were de clared dead at the hospital while five newly born babies are undergoing treatment.

DCP, Shahdara Surendra Chaudhary further said that after dousing the fire, burst oxygen cylinders were found. Further, the hospital was thoroughly inspected by police, fire brigade staff and crime team, and the nursing staff examined and it was also found there were no fire extinguishers, improper entry and exit, no emergency exit, and deployment of a BAMS doctor. Police said that even as per the expired licence, the hospital was allowed for five beds only, but at the time of the incident, 12 newborn babies were admit-





Palestinians gather at the site of an Israeli strike on a camp area housing internally displaced people in Rafah on May 27, 2024. — AFP

Israeli Attack On Rafah Tent Camp Kills 45, Prompts Global Outcry

Jerusalem: An Israeli airstrike triggered a massive blaze killing 45 people in a tent camp in the Gaza city of Rafah, officials said on Monday, prompting an outcry from global leaders who urged the implementation of a World Court ruling to halt Israel's assault.

"There are 249 others who were wounded," the Gaza health ministry said in a statement.

Mohammad al-Mughayyir, a senior official at the civil defence agency, told AFP: "We saw charred bodies and dismembered limbs ... We also saw cases of amputations, wounded children, women and the elderly."

He said that rescue efforts were facing major challenges. "There is a fuel shortage ... there are roads that have been destroyed, which hinders the movement of civil defence vehicles in these targeted areas," Mughayyir said. "There is also a shortage of water to extinguish fires.

Israel has kept up operations in Rafah despite a ruling by the top UN court on Friday ordering it to immediately halt its military operations in the overcrowded city, once claimed by Israel to be a safe zone.

The attack took place in the Tel Al-Sultan neighbourhood, where thousands were sheltering after Israeli forces began a ground offensive in the east of

New Delhi: A heat wave

will sweep across most of

the states in the country in

June, the India Meteorologi-

cal Department (IMD) fore-

are likely over most parts of

the country in June, except

many parts of the southern

peninsular India, where nor-

mal to below-normal temper-

"Above-normal monthly

temperatures

cast on Monday.

maximum

In June: Weather Office

Rafah over two weeks ago. More than half of the dead were women, children, and

elderly people, health officials in Gaza said, adding that the death toll was likely to rise as more people caught in the blaze were in critical condition with severe burns. Palestinians search for

food among burnt debris in the aftermath of an Israeli strike on an area designated for displaced people, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on May 27, 2024. — Reuters

The International Committee of the Red Cross said its field hospital in Rafah was receiving an influx of casualties, and that other hospitals also were taking in a large number of patients.

official Senior Hamas Sami Abu Zuhri described the attack in Rafah as a "massacre", holding the United States responsible for aiding Israel with weapons and money.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military claimed its air force struck a Hamas compound in Rafah and that the strike was carried out with "precise ammunition and on the basis of precise intelligence.'

It said it took out Hamas' chief of staff for the West Bank and another senior official behind deadly attacks on Israelis. "The IDF is aware of reports indicating that as a result of the strike and fire that was ignited several civilians

Heatwave To Sweep Across Most States

Above-normal heat wave

days are likely over most

parts of northwest India and

adjoining areas of central In-

dia during the next month,

minimum temperatures are

also likely across most parts

of the country in June, ex-

cept for the extreme north-

ern parts of northwest India

and a few pockets of east and

northeast India, where nor-

MAKERS

Above-normal monthly

the IMD forecast states.

IMD said.

in the area were harmed. The incident is under review."

Israel's top military prosecutor, however, called the air strike "very grave" and said an investigation was under way.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he was "outraged" over Israel's latest attacks. "These operations must stop. There are no safe areas in Rafah for Palestinian civilians," he said on X.

Germany's foreign minister Annalena Baerbock and the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the International Court of Justice ruling must be respected.

"International humanitarian law applies for all, also for Israel's conduct of the war," Baerbock said.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it was "horrified" by the attack, adding that the "deadly event" showed once again that nowhere was safe in Gaza.

The UN human rights chief voiced "horror" at the air strike that killed 45 people in a displacement camp in Rafah, demanding "accountability".

"The images from the camp are horrific and point to no apparent change in the methods and means of warfare used by Israel that have already led to so many civilian deaths." Volker Turk said in a statement, also calling on Palestinian armed groups to stop firing rockets and to "unconditionally release all hostages at once".

mum temperatures are most

that during heat waves, vulner-

able populations, like the elder-

ly and those with health condi-

tions, face risks of heat-related

illnesses. Prolonged extreme

heat strains infrastructure and

leads to dehydration. Authori-

ties must act proactively by

opening cooling centres, issu-

ing advisories, and reducing

urban heat islands. These steps

are crucial for protecting pub-

lic health during heat waves.

The IMD has also warned

likely, the IMD said.

More Than 2,000 Buried Alive in Papua New Guinea Landslide

Agencies

Enga : More than 2,000 people were buried alive by a massive landslide in Papua New Guinea last week, the national disaster centre said on Monday, as treacherous terrain and the difficulty of getting aid to the site raises the risk few survivors will be found.

The numbers of those buried around Yambali village in Enga province in the country's north are based on estimates from local authorities which have been rising steadily since Friday's landslide.

A UN agency put the estimated death toll at more than 670 people on Sunday.

The National Disaster Centre raised the toll again to 2,000 in cording to the letter.

About 4,000 people were living near the affected area, CARE International PNG country director Justine McMahon told ABC television on Monday.

But it is difficult to get an accurate estimate of the local population as PNG's last credible census was in 2000 and many people live in remote mountainous villages. The country recently announced a census would be conducted in 2024.

The unstable terrain, remote location and nearby tribal warfare are hampering relief efforts in Papua New Guinea.

Emergency crews, led by Papua New Guinea's (PNG) defence personnel, were on the ground, but the first excavator only reached the site late on Sun-



a letter to the UN on Sunday that was released publicly on Monday. The landslide also caused major destruction to buildings and food gardens, it said.

"The situation remains unstable as the landslip continues to shift slowly, posing ongoing danger to both the rescue teams and survivors alike," acday, according to a UN official. Social media posted by villagers and local media teams showed people scaling rocks, digging with shovels, sticks and their bare hands to find survivors. Wom-

en could be heard weeping in

the background.

Centre Blacklists "Principal Entities" In Crackdown On SMS Scammers

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a major crackdown on SMS scammers, the government has blacklisted 'principal entities' behind SMS headers that were used to send over 10,000 fraudulent messages over the past three months, according to an official release.

The Department of Telecom (DoT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has taken decisive action to protect citizens from potential SMS fraud through the Sanchar Saathi initiative, it said.

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Union Home Ministry gave information about the misuse of eight SMS headers for sending fraudulent communications for committing cybercrime.

It was noted that more than 10,000 fraudulent messages were sent using these eight headers in the past three months. The principal entities which were the owners of these eight SMS headers have been blacklisted

'Principal entities' in telecom parlance are business or legal entities sending commercial messages to telecom subscribers through SMS. A header means an alphanumeric string assigned to a 'principal entity' to send commercial communications.

All the 73 SMS headers and 1,522 SMS content templates owned by these principal entities were also blacklisted.

None of these principal entities, SMS headers or templates can now be used to send SMS...," it said.

The DoT has prevented further potential victimisation of citizens by blacklisting these entities and reiterated its commitment to safeguarding citizens against cybercrime.

"Citizens can report suspected fraud communications at Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi to help DoT in the prevention of misuse of telecom resources for cyber-crime and financial frauds," the release said.

It warned that the use of mobile numbers for telemarketing activities is not permitted.

If a consumer uses their telephone connection to send promotional messages, their connection will be liable for disconnection on the first complaint, and their name and address may be blacklisted for two years.

atures are most likely," the mal to below-normal minited to the hospital.

Agencies

Pune Crash Case: 2 Doctors, Hospital Staff Sent To Police Custody Till May 30 Pune: A court in Pune on

Monday remanded two doctors and an employee of Sassoon General Hospital arrested in connection with the 0 Porsche crash in police custody till May 30.

The police produced the three in the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (Small Causes) A A Pande and sought their custody for 10 days.

Earlier in the day, the police arrested Dr Ajay Taware, head of the state-run hospital's Forensic Medicine department and Dr Shrihari Halnor, the chief medical officer for alleged manipulation of blood samples and destruc-



tion of evidence in the case, an official had said.

Atul Ghatkamble, works un der Dr Tawre. The third arrested person, The police told the court that

some financial transactions had taken place to change the blood samples and they needed to search the houses of the accused in connection with it. Two IT professionals died after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche allegedly driven by a 17-year-old minor, son of realtor Vishal Agarwal, in the early hours of May 19. The police claim the teenager was drunk at the

According to the police, the juvenile's blood samples were thrown into a dustbin and replaced with the blood samples of another person on the instructions of Dr Taware

Undertrial Prisoner Throws Slipper At Magistrate Inside Rajasthan Courtroom

Jaipur: An undertrial prisoner who was taken to a local court for hearing in a case on Monday hurled his slipper at the magistrate inside the courtroom in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, police said.

Rasik Mohammad, ASI, City Kotwali police station said Ismail, who is under judicial custody in a case of theft, was taken to the court of additional chief judicial magistrate from jail.

"He suddenly took out his slipper and threw it at the magistrate," Mohammad said, adding that the accused was sent to judicial



custody again A case is being registered against the accused by the

magistrate and he will be arrested on production warrant, the ASI said.

Govt Forms Committee to Implement WHO Tobacco Control Policy

SRINAGAR: In a path-breaking initiative, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered the constitution of an empowered committee for the implementation of Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in the Union Territory.

This significant step underscores the government's commitment to protecting public health and advancing tobacco control measures in the region.

The National Tobacco Control Cell, Kashmir, lauds this initiative and acknowledges the pivotal role played by Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary Health and Medi-



cal Education, in bringing this policy to fruition. Dr. Shah's unwavering efforts and dedication have been instrumental in this landmark development, demonstrating his commitment to safeguarding the health of the people of Jammu and from the influence of the tobacco industry, thus promoting a healthier, tobaccofree environment. Meanwhile, Tobacco Con-

implementation of tobacco

control policies are free

trol Cell of Directorate of Health Services working under the patronage of Director Health Services Kashmir, has expressed its deepest appreciation for this initiative and the strategic leadership of Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah. His vision and proactive approach have set a new benchmark for tobacco control efforts in the region.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to combat the tobacco epidemic and protect future generations from the harms of tobacco.

Jammu Reels Under Severe Heat Wave, Mercury Settles At 43 Degrees Celsius

Agencies

JAMMU: The mercury continued its upward trend in Jammu on Monday with the maximum temperature settling at 43 degrees Celsius, the MeT department said.

According to the news agency, as per the weathermen, the day's temperature in Jammu was recorded at 42.8 degrees Celsius while minimum temperature remained at 24.7 degrees Celsius.

The current weather condition remains from the past 10 days and the maximum temperature in the city crossed the 40-degree Celsius mark for the first time this season on May 16. The upward trend in the temperatures has prompted the local residents to stay indoors during day time and seek early summer vacation in the schools of their wards. The prevailing heat wave conditions also intensified power and water woes in many parts of the region.

Meanwhile, in view of the prevailing weather forecast and the observation of sustained high temperatures, the metrology department issued an advisory and urged people to take necessary measures and implement the heat wave advisories



and follow the "do's and don'ts to address the challenges posed by the heat wave.'

The weathermen advised the general population to stay hydrated, drink sufficient water, carry drinking water, use oral rehydration solution,(ORS), fruit juice some added salt, stay covered, wear loose clothes garments, cover their head, and traditional headgear during exposure to direct heat, stay indoors as much as possible, listen

to TV and follow newspapers for local weather updates.

They advised additional attention for infants and young children, people working outdoors, pregnant women, and the physically ill, especially heart patients. They advised them to avoid heat exposure and stay indoors.

Farmers also advised to avoid working in the fields during day time and recommended irrigation during evening time to save

Throat-Slit Body Of Man Found In Kupwara; Probe Launched

Agencies

KUPWARA: The body of a man with his throat slit was found on Monday in Mir Muqam Awoora village of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Police have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

A police official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the deceased, identified as Abdul Hamid Khan, a 50-year-old labourer, was discovered with deep cut marks on his throat.

The family members and relatives who spoke to KNO said Khan had been suffering from hypertension and depression for several months and was under medication. He was scheduled to visit a doctor in Srinagar on the day of his death, they said.

Khan's family members said they woke up for prayers and

soon discovered Khan lying in a pool of blood with a slit throat. The deceased, a father of seven, had a treatment phobia, which they believe might have contributed to his tragic death.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Shobhit Saxena, confirmed that the police are investigating the incident from all possible angles. "We reacted swiftly upon receiving the information of a man being found dead in his home. The body was sent for postmortem to ascertain the facts related to the incident," he said. "It would be premature to draw any conclusions at this stage, but we will investigate the incident thoroughly."

SSP Saxena said all aspects of the case will be examined to uncover the truth behind Khan's death. Further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses, he added—(KNO)

IT Dept Cracks Down on Overcharges, Cancels 6 CSC Licenses

KO NEWS SERVICE

Article 5.3 of the WHO

FCTC is critical in protecting

public health policies from

the vested interests of the

powered committees will

be tasked with ensuring

that the formulation and

tobacco industry. The em-

SRINAGAR: Tightening noose around the CSCs for overcharging, the inspection teams of Information Technology department have recommended cancellation of 6 licenses in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir during surprise check of the same.

The inspection teams, under the supervision of Commissioner Secretary, Prerna Puri, conducted surprise check of various CSCs in twin districts of Samba and Jammu of Jammu division and Budgam in Kashmir division. The inspection was done to cross check and verify CSC's adherence to government notified rates.

The inspection teams were supervised by Aijaz Qaiser, Additional Secretary IT Department.

During the surprise checks, 45 CSCs of Samba and Kathua districts (22 CSCs of District Samba and 23 CSCs of District Kathua) were inspected in Jammu division while 28 CSCs of Budgam district were inspected in Kashmir division. The inspection teams have licenses of 6 CSCs, 3 in Jammu division and 3 CSCs in Kashmir

Pertinently, the IT Depart-



various online services which envisage Rs. 50 per service for government to citizen service and Rs. 75 for government to business services. Based on complaints of overcharging, 664 CSC licenses have been cancelled in the past 1 year (624 in 2023-24 and 40 in 2024-25).

Meanwhile, the Vice President CSC-SPV J&K has been directed to ensure that the notified rates are prominently displayed at a conspicuous place in each CSC sensitizing all Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) regarding notified rates.

Pertinently, aimed to achieve the goal of Digital India by providing seamless recommended cancellation of online services to the general public, Chief Secretary, Atal Dullo, had issued directions to set up new touch points for CSCs in various government ment has notified rates to avail offices, Colleges and Universi-



Commissioners to allocate the

spaces in all such offices for

setting up of new touch points.

Additional Deputy Commis-

sioners (ADCs) of all districts

have been nominated as nodal

officers to facilitate and accelerate the opening of new touch points. As on date, 446 new CSCs have been established, and 13081 CSCs including 537 PACs and 2160 FPS are active and providing services on Digi-Seva Portal in the Union Territory of J&K.

Deputy Commissioners, who are the Chairperson of District e-Governance Societies (DeGs) have also been asked to ensure strict enforcement of notified rates in their respective districts so that general public does not suffer on this account.

Train Halted In Jammu Over Lack Of Travel Info



Agencies

Two individuals, including a woman, briefly stopped the Shri Shakti Express train on Monday by staging a protest at a railway station here.

The protest was sparked by frustration over cancellation of trains and a lack of timely information about the train schedule.

A young man and his female relative sat on the tracks as the Shri Shakti Express was arriving at the Jammu railway station from New Delhi on Monday, officials said.

The train was stopped briefly at the entry to the station on track number one. The police detained the duo shortly after and the train resumed its journey following a brief halt, they said.

A relative of the protestors

described their action to be a result of extreme frustration and admitted that it was a wrong step.

"We have been visiting Jammu and Kashmir and have been stranded here for days due to train cancellations. We repeatedly asked the railways for updates on our journey, but received no information. With temperatures exceeding 42 degrees Celsius amid extreme heatwave, we reached a point," she said.

The officials said that a case was registered against the duo and they were let off later.

The Jammu railway station remains crowded with hundreds of passengers waiting for trains amidst ongoing cancellations caused by the protests in Ambala which have been disrupting services for nearly two weeks.

Govt Reviews Status Of Industrial Units In J&K

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Vikramjit Singh, on Monday chaired a review meeting with General Managers of all District Industries Centres (DICs) regarding status of industrial units in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Directors Industries and Commerce, Joint Director Industries, Chief Accounts Officer, Assistant Directors of I&C Department besides other officials from Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the need for ensuring that all data related to New Central Sector Scheme undergoes rigorous validation and is maintained with high consistency.

Vikramjit Singh highlighted the importance of focusing on units that have received Provisional Registration and stressed

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The PDP on Sunday

distanced itself from a purported

video showing anti-Gujjar slogans

being raised during a Lok Sabha

In a post on X, the PDP

wrote, "Regarding a deroga-

tory video about our Gujjar

community doing rounds on

social media we would like to

make it abundantly clear that

the man in question is not

associated with PDP in any

shape or form but keeps barg-

ing into our meetings," the

The video showing a group of people raising slogans at

a Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) meeting against the Guj-

jar community surfaced online.

Mufti is pitted against Gujjar

PDP president Mehbooba

party posted on X.

election campaign of the party.

PDP Distances Itself From Video

Showing Anti-Gujjar Slogans

KO NEWS SERVICE the necessity for regular follow-up with these unit holders. Monitoring the status of their applications under the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) is crucial to ensure incentivization of all the newly setup industrial units, he added.

> The Commissioner Secretary directed that an updated list of units, where land has been allotted but groundwork has not started yet, be maintained. He also asked for keeping a readily available list of non-functional units, reinforcing the importance of data consistency and timely information flow.

He instructed the DICs to identify feasible land patches for placing indents with the Revenue Department. This will streamline the process of land allocation and ensure that potential industrial projects have the necessary land resources, backed by timely and consis-

leader and National Conference

candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad

for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok

ous unwarranted slogans. Meh-

booba Mufti sahiba has always

held them in high regard &

will continue fighting for their

Akhtar termed the slogans as

"racist" and said the PDP does

with racist slogans against a re-

spected community apparently

is from a recent campaign.

Condemning it unreservedly,

must say this is not what @

jkpdp stands for. Mufti sahab

struggled all his life to con-

nect people and communities.

This is not us. Must disallow,"

Akhtar posted on X.

Senior PDP leader Naeem

"A video clip on social media

rights," the PDP added.

not stand for such acts.

"We condemn these venom-

Sabha seat.

Many Women In J&K Still Use Traditional **Cloth For Menstrual Protection**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A large percentage of women in Jammu and Kashmir continue to use traditional cloth for menstrual protection, which can lead to various infections and potentially result in infertility, health professionals said. They stressed the impor-

tance of menstrual hygiene and encouraged women to adopt sanitary pads to prevent these health issues.

Medical Officer of Zainapora, , said that although the number of women using cloth instead of sanitary pads during their menstrual cycle is decreasing, many still continue with it. She said maintaining menstrual hygiene is crucial in preventing infections such as urinary tract infections and reproductive tract infections, which can have severe health consequences.

"Proper hygiene practices, including the regular changing of menstrual products and maintaining cleanliness, are essential to mitigate these risks." Dr Shahnaz explained. She advised young girls not to feel ashamed when purchasing sanitary pads, as using them can help avoid infections that may lead to infertility.

Dr Barjasta Bahar, a gynaecologist at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said that while affordability is not a major issue for most women, the lack of awareness about menstrual hygiene is. "Many women do not understand the health risks associated with unhygienic menstrual practices," she said.

Dr Bahar said there is a need for open discussions and education about menstruation to break down stigma and empower women to manage their periods with dignity and confidence. menstrual hygiene

management (MHM) is fundamental for enabling women, girls, and other menstruators to reach their full potential," Dr Bariasta added. She warned that poor menstrual hygiene can lead to itching, rashes, bad odour, and serious complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease and toxic shock syndrome.

Doctors said that even among those using sanitary pads, there is a lack of understanding about their proper use. Wearing one pad for too long can cause rashes and vaginal yeast infections, along with bad odour, they said.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nearly 60% of women in Jammu and Kashmir still use cloth for menstrual protection. The survey (2019-2021) revealed that only 50.5% of women aged 15-24 use sanitary napkins, a slight increase from 48.8% in NFHS-4 (2015-2016).—(KNO)

Dr Tabasum Shahnaz, Block

Kashmir introduced by the J&K Government in 2021.

Threadbare discussion was held on the District wise heritage sites and the scope of work for the revival of heritage in each district. The meeting was informed about the status of physical work completed and the interventions required for starting new works.

Qazigund Village Upholds Tradition With Annual Waterfall Cleaning



Ali Asad

SRINAGAR: In the village of Panjath Nag, located in Qazigund, South Kashmir, the ageold traditions of ancestors are still alive and cherished. Every year, before the transplantation of paddy, the villagers engage in a ritual of cleaning the local springs and organizing a fishing competition. This event has evolved into a local festival that now attracts participants and spectators from surrounding villages as well.

Panzath Nag, as per the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), is renowned for its 500 waterfalls, including those nestled at the foothills of Pir Panchal. These waterfalls serve as crucial sources of irrigation and drinking water for hundreds of families in the Qazigund area. Each year, before the onset of paddy cultivation, the local community gathers to clean the reservoir, removing silt and weeds to ensure a proper irrigation system. "I have been participating in this annual festival since my childhood," said a local resident, noting that Panjath Nag is just one kilometer from his house.

"People come from even 50 kilometers away to witness and

partake in this festival.' Ghulam Nabi Dar, another resident, explained that the festival typically takes place in the third or fourth week of May, when the apple, almond, and walnut orchards are in full bloom. Spread over an area of 500 meters, the Panjath Falls become the center of activity as villagers clean the waters and catch fish. "This tradition has been passed down from our ancestors," he said. 'We eagerly await this festival all year. On this day, we take the fish home and prepare a feast for friends and family.'

The local community believes that with proper attention and development, this festival could become a significant tourist attraction, generating employment opportunities for many residents. They have appealed to the district administration to help maintain the waterfall and protect it from extinction.

The festival, as per the locals, not only preserves the cultural heritage of Panjath Nag but also strengthens community bonds and provides an opportunity for communal celebration and environmental conservation—(KNO)

Principal Secretary Reviews Conservation Of Heritage Sites Deputy Commissioners of Jammu **KO NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Culture and Tribal Affairs Suresh Kumar Gupta, in presence of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Monday reviewed the performance of Culture and Tribal Affairs Departments here at a high-level meeting.

The meeting was attended by

Division, Director Tribal Affairs, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Executive Engineer, MMJHS and other officers.

At the outset, the meeting discussed implementation of the Scheme for revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architecture and heritage sites in Jammu and

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Election Ends In J&K

he end of the polling process for the five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir marks a significant milestone in the region's democratic history. It is the first such poll after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The turnout was 58 percent, the highest in 35 years. This election has shattered previous records, reflecting a degree of renewed faith in the electoral process among the people of J&K.

The election stood out not only for its high turnout but also for the peaceful conduct of the polling
process. Despite the region's history of election
boycott and violence, the exercise was largely incident-free, with only isolated disturbances reported.
Over the past more than three decades, Kashmir
has consistently witnessed low voter turnout due to
conflict and political disillusionment. The Anantnag-Rajouri seat which was the last to go to poll saw
a turnout of 53 percent, the highest since 1984. This
is a stark contrast to the 9 percent turnout in 2019,
highlighting a dramatic shift in voter engagement.
Similarly, Baramulla and Srinagar saw turnouts
of 59.1 percent and 38.49 percent, respectively, the
highest in decades.

However, the high voter turnout should not overshadow the need for ongoing efforts to ensure free and fair elections. The Election Commission must continue to address challenges such as electoral fraud, voter intimidation, and logistical hurdles that undermine the integrity of the electoral process. Transparent and accountable electoral practices are essential to maintain public trust and confidence in democracy.

As the region moves forward, it is imperative that the authorities build on this momentum by addressing underlying issues, fostering political stability, and ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard and respected.

And to start it would be helpful if the central government holds Assembly elections in the union territory, now that the parliament polls have been a roaring success without the usual boycott or the spurt in violence. On a positive note, home minister Amit Shah has said that the Assembly election will be held before September this year in line with the Supreme Court's direction. Should that happen, J&K will have a democratically elected government after September. And subsequently, it would be in the fitness of things if the union government reinstates statehood, which again is a promise made by the prime minister Narendra Modi and home minister Shah. .However, much depends on what happens on June 4 and which party's or a coalition's government comes to power at the centre. Until then all we can do is keep our fingers crossed.

Your FINANCIAL

How's the Market Going to Look Like If BJP Wins?



haratiya Janata Party (BJP) wins an election in India, certain sectors of the stock market often see a positive impact due to the party's policies and economic agenda. Historically, these sectors have included:

1. Infrastructure & Construction: The BJP has emphasized infrastructure development, which benefits companies in construction, engineering, and related services.

2. Banking & Financial Services: Pro-business policies often boost investor confidence, leading to higher market activity and demand for banking and financial services.

3. Utilities & Energy: With a focus on electrification and

energy reforms, sectors like power generation, renewable energy, and utilities may see growth.

4. Automotive & Manufacturing: The BJP's 'Make in In-

dia' initiative can spur manufacturing growth, benefiting auto and industrial companies.

5. Technology & IT Services: Pro-investment policies and digital initiatives can drive growth for IT companies, both in services and products.

6. FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods): Economic stability and growing consumer confidence can boost the FMCG sector as disposable incomes and consumption rise.
7. Real Estate: Real estate might benefit from policies

aimed at affordable housing and urban development.

The exact impact depends on the policies implemented post-election and global economic conditions. Keeping an eye on policy announcements and government initiatives

will provide a more precise indicator of sector performance. Learn from the insights of writer and investor, Irshad Mushtaq who is also a founder of MI Securities and a business partner at Sharekhan. Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan. com for valuable knowledge on financial matters.

The Road Not Taken Up

The Vailoo Singhpora Tunnel derails the prospects of the construction of Kapran Desa Road

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

The government has chosen the Vailoo Singhpora route to connect the Valley to Kishtwar, and currently, there are no plans to connect the two regions via the Kapran Desa route. The future of this project lies in the hands of the government

'hen I was in high school, zar Hanief, used to say "Roads are the temples of the modern world.' At that time, I did not fully grasp the meaning of this statement. However, as I grew older, I came to understand its significance. Roads are indeed the backbone of a country. In my opinion, roads are pivotal to the development of any area. They are like magical wands that transform the regions they traverse. According to the Year End Review 2023 published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) on January 5, 2024, the national highway network has increased by 60%, from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,145 km in 2023. The government, under MORTH, has launched numerous schemes for constructing both existing and greenfield highway projects

across the country. Similarly, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government has initiated various projects in recent years. According to official records from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), road projects worth Rs. 914.15 crore were completed from 2018 to 2022. Infrastructure projects, including tunnels and worth approximately Rs. 14,686 crores are ongoing, with around 70% of the work completed. This means that from



ect, numbered NH-244, starts from Khanabal, Anantnag, and ends in Chenani. Udhampur. Currently, NHIDCL has spent around Rs. 24.49 crore for upgrading and strengthening the road from Anantnag to Vailoo. Kokernag. Furthermore, tenders worth approximately Rs. 4500 crores have been awarded to construction companies for upgrading NH-244, including the Khelani Tunnel and seven road packages. The Vailoo Singhpora Tunnel, approximately 10.3 km long, and the Sudhmahadev Dranga Tunnel between Chenani and Udhampur, which was recently cancelled and will be retendered, are also part of this project. The cost of these two projects is around Rs. 5851 crores. In short, the total approximate cost of connecting the Kashmir Valley with Kishtwar is around Rs. 10,375 crores, which is a

substantial amount. Gadka
The main project ant G

struction. In 1978, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah also pledged to take up the project. In 2009, it was decided that the two regions would be connected via a tunnel approximately 7 km long, starting from Kapran (Anantnag) and ending in Desa (Doda). In 2016, Member of Parliament and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad requested the Centre to declare the Doda-Dessa-Kapran Road a national highway. During the previous PDP-BJP coalition government, then Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed and later Mehbooba Mufti directed the J&K PWD R&B Department to prepare the DPR, but no progress has been made.

Recently, between 2022-23, local NGOs and various political and non-political organizations met with former Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoi

projects. A case in point is the stretch from Janglatmandi to Brakpora on the newly constructed NH-244. Although this distance is just 3 km, the government abandoned the widening of this section due to the high compensation costs, opting instead for a greenfield road connecting the area via a new Qazigund-Alstop-Diagram-Brakpora route. If the government could not compensate for a 3 km stretch, it seems implausible that it could manage compensation for the 30 km from Anantnag to Kapran from Kashmir side and similar compensation on Doda side.

Furthermore, as already discussed, the government is spending around Rs. 10,375 crores to connect the Kashmir Valley with the Chenab Valley via the NH-244 route. It seems unlikely that the government would invest a huge amount in the Kapran Desa route. Moreover, the current distance between Doda and Kisht-





packages and for constructing a second tube of the Nashri Chenani Tunnel, worth approximately Rs. 3000 crores.

The Government of India, under NHIDCL, has undertaken a prestigious project to provide an alternate route between Kishtwar and Anantnag. This project

promised to connect the two regions via the Kapran Desa Road. This initiative began in 1958 during Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad's government. The demand for this road gained momentum in 1966 when the people of Doda launched an agitation for its con-

ous governments had

30 km, and the current road is only a single lane. Beyond the cost of road construction, the compensation required for residents along the route is prohibitively high, making the project seem impractical. Conditions from Doda side are worse.

In India, land acquisition is one of the primary hindrances to road

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 Researcher, Contracts and Planning Engineer, Member ASCE



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Summer Beverage Health Risks

he onset of the summer season brings about a surge in the sale of unhygienic and substandard cool drinks, fruit juices, and ice creams in most of the cities, posing significant health risks. Wayside vendors, eager to capitalize on the scorching sun, have encroached upon public spaces across busy areas, disregarding hygiene standards.

These vendors, operating without proper oversight, often sell juices made from rotten fruits and serve cool drinks in reused glasses without adequate cleaning. Food safety officers, has to initiate operations to address this issue by shutting down unauthorised juice shops which has found to be operating in unhygienic conditions.

They should warn vendors

against selling artificially colored fruits like watermelons,mangoes etc., and emphasize the necessity of obtaining licenses for operating such shops. Most public health activists, underscores the health risks associated with consuming beverages prepared in unhygienic conditions, especially for children who are more susceptible to seasonal diseases during summer.

Overall, it's evident that unregulated vendors selling unhygienic beverages pose a significant health hazard to the public, and concerted efforts from both authorities and consumers are essential to address this issue effectively.

Vijay Kumar HK

My Journey With Functional Neurological Disorder

Aijaz Ahmad Mir

There is no doubt that health is wealth. Without physical or mental well-being, a person cannot achieve their dreams and goals in life. Our abilities to strive for and achieve what lies in our hearts are greatly influenced by our health. Many individuals with disabilities aspire to have good health in order to pursue their dreams. Although some differently abled individuals have achieved exceptional feats, we cannot generalize these cases. Good health is extremely important for a fulfilling life. It allows us to experience and enjoy life more fully. In addition, good health is essential for living a satisfactory and high-quality life, and it positively affects our relationships with family, friends, peers, and the community

Similar to physical health, mental health holds equal importance; in fact, I would argue that mental health is even more crucial than physical health. Indeed, there is a direct correlation between our mental and physical well-being. We can assert that mental well-being is synonymous with physical wellness. I am here to share my story about how I am managing to live with a neurological functional disorder. Conversion disorder, also known as functional neurologic disorder, is a syndrome that manifests neurological symptoms unrelated to any underlying neurological disease or medical condition. These symptoms may result in considerable discomfort and have the potential to impact one's ability to move or perceive sensory information. Uncertain neurological abnormalities or stress responses may potentially precipitate this condition.

A few years ago, I went for some work, and while walking, I experienced an imbalance. At first, I didn't think it was an imbalance, but when I started walking consciously, I noticed that I was becoming imbalanced. I also have an anxiety disorder, and while anxiety can contribute to FND (functional neurological disorder), it is not the sole reason. As I struggled with imbalance and difficulty walking, I began to feel anxious, and negative thoughts began to overwhelm me. I thought I might die, and it made me depressed. When I reached home. I told my mother about this incident. She advised me to remain calm, and I would be fine. It made me curious and anxious. I started searching on Google to see why I was experiencing imbalance and dizziness while walking. The search engine showed various reasons for imbalance and dizziness. These included anxiety, diabetes, heart problems, ear problems, brain problems, and vitamin deficiencies. I surmised that my mild ear issue might be the cause. I didn't believe that it could be due to anxiety. I have been going through anxiety for a long time, but I never felt imbalanced. That was why I rejected the anxiety and imbalance hypothesis in my case.

I initially thought that my imbalance and dizziness might be related to an ear



MY JOURNEY HAS

TAUGHT ME THAT

GOOD HEALTH,

BOTH PHYSICAL

AND MENTAL, is truly

life. With the right diag-

nosis and treatment, it is

possible to manage even

complex conditions."

a cornerstone of a fulfilling

problem. To address this concern, I decided to visit an (ENT) doctor who recommended that I undergo pure-tone testing (PTT). The results showed a slight deafness in my left ear, but the doctor assured me that this wouldn't cause my balance issues or dizziness. He prescribed some vitamin medication, which I took. After a few days, I felt back to normal - my imbalance and dizziness disappeared, providing me with relief.

However, a year later, while I was attending university, I began experiencing the same problems again. I firmly believe that the significant stress I was under at university triggered this imbalance. I was dealing with high levels of anxiety and stress due to my academic responsibilities. In response, I sought a checkup at the university health center and explained my condition to the doctor. He recommended checking my blood pressure, as he suspected it might be a factor. The reading came back high, and I informed the doctor that I have an anxiety disorder. In turn, the doctor suggested that the elevated reading could potentially be a result of white coat hypertension. This is when stress during blood pressure checks causes certain individuals to experience elevated blood pressure levels. The added stress further increased my anxiety, leading to an abnormal blood pressure reading. I was concerned about the possibility of having a heart attack, stroke, or paralysis, but my main issue continued to be the imbalance and dizziness I experienced while walking. On the following day, I returned to the health center for another blood pressure and once again, it was high. The doctor prescribed blood pressure medication and anti-depressants, which I took for a few weeks. While my blood pressure came under control, I still experienced

At that time, I was in Hyderabad, and I

decided to consult a psychiatrist. I met him and told him my story. He prescribed me Fluvoxamine and Lorazepam. In the past. I used to take fluvoxamine whenever I was experiencing depression, and these medications helped to manage my symptoms. When I began taking Lorazepam, a medication prescribed for anxiety disorders, I experienced a temporary improvement in my dizziness for several days. However, the improvement in my movement imbalance was fleeting, lasting only a few days before it returned. Managing these conditions has consumed more than three months of my time. My condition did not improve, severely impacting my daily life, including my studies and so-cial interactions. Finally, I decided to visit my home for some time and get treatment there for my problem.

I visited a high-profile psychiatrist and neurologist at my home in Kashmir. Both doctors prescribed anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medicines for me to take. However, none of these medications were effective in alleviating my depression, anxiety, or imbalance symptoms. One of the neurologists advised me to get an MRI, which I did and was normal. My brain structure was normal. The medicines they gave me didn't work well for me. For a long time, I was taking these medicines (anti-depressants, anti-anxiety, blood pressure, and vitamin supplements) and following up with the doctors as advised. But nothing worked for me. I'd been dealing with this mess for nearly a year. At one stage, I felt that I had become disabled and should apply for a disability certificate as early a my future. However, I remained optimistic that there would be a treatment available for my disorder.

My father was really concerned about me. He decided to take me to Chandigarh for treatment. Before going to Chandigarh,

my father told me that first we should visit Dr. Sushil Razan, a reputed neurologist in Jammu. I was praying to God to show me the right path. After a long struggle, God finally revealed the right path to me. My father took me to Jammu to consult Dr. Sushil Razdan. I was confident that he could treat me well because there were a lot of success stories attached to him. When I entered the doctor's room and sat in the chair, I noticed that he was patiently and thoroughly checking his patients. I told him the whole story, and he saw all my previous prescriptions and tests. He instructed me to walk straight into the room, and as soon as I did, he noticed that I was becoming imbalanced. He told me that you have a "functional disorder," but your anxiety is making it worse. He prescribed me two medicines, namely 'Daxid (sertraline) and Ishpazi 1, and told me to stop all of my previous medications. He advised me to follow up after one month and start taking this medication. I started taking medicines for four weeks in a row. But I found no improvement. However, in the fifth week before consulting a doctor, I experienced improvements in my anxiety, mood, and, above all, my dizziness. When I consulted the doctor online, I told him that just a few days ago, I realized improvements in my dizziness. He told me to take medicine for the next three months. Currently, I am under his care, taking medicines on a regular basis, and thanks to God, I am feeling much better. My physical health and mental health are in a stable state.

According to my experience, you can effectively manage your FND with the right diagnosis. Stress and anxiety were making my FND worse. But when I received the right treatment for my anxiety and stress, my FND improved to a great extent. Now I am feeling normal as usual. However, there are a few days when I experience FND reversal symptoms, mostly due to stress. But thankfully, it is under control most of the time. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Sushil Razdan, who has diagnosed me well.

My journey has taught me that good health, both physical and mental, is truly a cornerstone of a fulfilling life. With the right diagnosis and treatment, it is possible to manage even complex conditions like Functional Neurological Disorder. While challenges remain, my experience has given me hope and a renewed appreciation for the importance of holistic health. I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Sushil Razdan for his expertise and care. As I continue on this path, I am reminded that with perseverance and proper support, we can overcome obstacles and lead vibrant, meaningful lives.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Details mentioned here are strictly for information purposes only. We do not take responsibility for the medications mentioned. Please consult relevant doctors for treatment.

Boredom and Our Sense of Time

Nicolas Davidenko

Although we all experience boredom, the scientific study of boredom is relatively new. In fact, the first journal dedicated to this topic (the Journal of Boredom Studies) published its inaugural issue just last year. One of the things that makes boredom challenging to study is that it does not exactly fit the category of cognition or the category of emotion, but seems to involve a complex interaction between cognition and emotion. Although boredom is certainly task-dependent (you will be more likely to experience it in a waiting room as opposed to a theme park), it also depends critically on a person's state of mind and attitude. The same period of time can be experienced by one person as boredom and by another person as a relaxing time to think.

One of the most intuitive aspects of boredom is that time seems to pass slower when we are bored. A 15-minute period waiting in line may feel like an eternity if you are bored, but it might seem to pass by quickly if you are chatting with a friend. A study published by Joanna Witowska and colleagues published in 2020 established this link between boredom and time perception. In their study, participants spent 7.5 minutes alone in a closed room with no devices, not knowing how long they would have to wait. After 7.5 minutes, they reported their impressions of the waiting time and answered other questions about



their state of mind. The researchers found that the more bored participants reported being, the more they tended to think about time, and the slower time seemed to pass to them (although boredom did not correlate directly with participants' estimates of how much time had passed). A new study by Corinna Martarelli and colleagues published in this month's issue of Cognition and Emotion sought to investigate a potential causal link between time perception and

boredom by testing whether manipulating time perception could lead to changes in boredom. Participants in the VR study visited three virtual waiting rooms where virtual clocks moved at different speeds. They spent exactly four minutes in each room, but in the "fast room" the virtual clock hand moved 20% faster than normal, in the "slow room" it moved 20% slower than normal, and in the "normal room" it moved at normal speed. After spending time in each waiting room, participants answered a series of questions, including ones about boredom, mind wandering, and the passage of time.

The researchers found that the subjective perception of time was highly correlated with boredom: states of higher boredom were associated with a subjective slowing down of time. However, they did not find the predicted relationships between the clock speed and time perception or boredom. Apparently, merely showing sped-up or slowed-down clocks may not be a sufficiently strong manipulation to alter time perception and related states of mind. Future studies that wish to investigate this causal link may need to use other approaches to manipulate time perception, such as the availability of internal sensations (e.g. one's heartbeat and breathing) that are thought to be involved in the perception of time.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today



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From 2006 to 2012, hot nights resulted in two additional strokes per year in the study region, while from 2013 to 2020, there were 33 additional cases per year, the authors found

Studies Link Stroke With Extreme Temperatures, Night-Time Heat

Press Trust Of India

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About 34 lakh deaths from ischaemic stroke and 24 lakh deaths due to haemorrhagic stroke were examined, with the data being taken from the Multi-Country Multi-City Network, a global environmental health consortiu

xtreme temperatures, both hot and cold, are associated with increased risks of death from stroke, with the link being stronger in low-income countries than high-income ones, new research has found.

The study, led by Harvard University, analysed deaths due to stroke reported between 1979 and 2019 across 522 cities in 25 countries. About 34 lakh deaths from ischaemic stroke and 24 lakh deaths due to haemorrhagic stroke were examined, with the data being taken from the Multi-Country Multi-City Network, a global environmental health consortium.

An ischaemic stroke occurs when clotting prevents blood from reaching the brain, while a haemorrhagic stroke happens when a blood vessel in the brain begins to bleed.

Researchers found that for every 1,000 ischaemic or haemorrhagic stroke deaths, about 11 were attributable to extreme cold or hot days. About 2.5 per cent of the coldest days were found to contribute to nine of the 11 excess deaths, whereas 2.5 per cent of the hottest days were found to contribute to the remaining two. The findings are published in the journal Stroke.

The researchers, however, acknowledged that the study was limited in its geographic scope in that rural settings and countries in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were under-represented.

In another study, published in the European Heart Journal, researchers found that night-time heat significantly raised the risk of stroke.

The researchers, including those from Augsburg University Hospital, Germany, collected data on around 11,000 strokes over 15 years in the region. Their analysis showed that extreme heat at night increases the risk of stroke

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Our results
make it clear that
adjustments in
urban planning
and the healthcare
system are
extremely
important to reduce
the risks posed by
rising night-time
temperatures

by seven per cent.

"Elderly people and women are particularly at risk, and it is mainly strokes with mild symptoms that are diagnosed in clinics after hot nights," said the study's lead author, Cheng He.

"Our results make it clear that adjustments in urban planning and the healthcare system are extremely important to reduce the risks posed by rising night-time temperatures," he said.

The researchers also showed that the risk of stroke associated with high night-time temperatures increased significantly in the period 2013-2020, compared to the period 2006-2012.

From 2006 to 2012, hot nights resulted in two additional strokes per year in the study region, while from 2013 to 2020, there were 33 additional cases per year, the authors found.



Sensex Scales 76,000 Peak, Nifty Hits New High **Before Closing Lower**



MUMBAI: Sensex scaled the 76,000 level for the first time while Nifty hit a new lifetime peak before closing marginally down on Monday as investors booked profits at record levels amid high volatility ahead of the results of Lok Sabha polls.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 19.89 points or 0.03 per cent lower at 75,390.50. Intra-day, the barometer climbed 599.29 points or 0.79 per cent to an all-time peak of 76,009.68 following gains in select banking, financial and IT shares. However, investors preferred to book profits at record levels and the index declined around 835 points from the day's high to hit a low of 75,175.27.

Broader Nifty of the NSE declined by 24.65 points or 0.11 per cent, to end at 22,932.45. The 50-issue barometer rose by 153.7 points or 0.66 per cent to hit a new lifetime high of 23,110.80 during the day. However, it tanked around 240 points at the fag-end due to selling in oil, energy and FMCG shares.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries declined nearly 1 per cent, dragging the benchmark indices into the negative. Selling in FMCG giant ITC also eroded

a record-breaking rally for the third straight day ahead of the results of Lok Sabha polls and a rally in global markers. The results of the ongoing general elections will be declared on June 4.

Sensex breached the historic 75,000-mark for the first time on April 9. It took 31 trading sessions for the benchmark to climb 1,000 points to reach the 76,000-mark on Monday. The BSE benchmark took 21 trading sessions to reach 75,000mark on April 9 after hitting the 74,000-level on March 6.

From the Sensex pack, Wipro, NTPC, Sun Pharma, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC and Reliance Industries were among the biggest laggards. IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India were among the major

"The bulls are facing stiff resistance at 23,000 levels as investors start booking profit at higher levels to avoid any knee-jerk reaction in the market ahead of the election result. Better earnings growth, the expectation of a revival in private capex, and a moderation in FIIs selling intensity are the key positive triggers in the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

NSE Reduces Tick Size For Select Stocks To Boost Liquidity

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has decided to introduce one paisa tick size for all stocks priced below Rs 250 from June 10, in a bid to enhance liquidity and improve price discovery by allowing for more precise price

"All securities (excluding exchange-traded funds) available in EO. BE. BZ. BO. RL and AF series with security price below Rs 250 will have a tick size of Rs 0.01 as against the current tick size Rs 0.05. The tick size determined for securities in T+1 settlement will also be applicable for T+0 settlement (se-

ries T0)," NSE said in a circular. Tick size is the minimum price increment between consecutive bid (buy) and offer (sell) prices. A smaller tick size allows for finer price adjustments and potentially more

precise price discovery. For instance, if a stock has a tick size of Rs 0.10 and the last traded price (LTP) was Rs 50, the next possible bid prices

would be Rs 49.90, Rs 49.80, Rs 49.70 and so on. In this case, bid prices like Rs 49.85 or Rs 49.92 are not allowed, as they don't meet the Rs 0.10 tick size requirement.

The exchange said that tick sizes will be subject to review and adjustments every month, based on the closing price of the last trading day of the month.

In addition to changes in the Capital Market (CM) segment, the NSE has announced revisions in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment.

Also Read: Adani Ports shares climb nearly 3%; hit 52-week high as company to enter Sensex from June 24

The exchange said that the stock futures will have the same tick size as applicable for securities in the cash market segment from July 8. Further, revisions in tick size will be applicable for all expiries -- Near-Month, Middle Month and Far-

Last year, rival bourse BSE lowered the tick size for scrips trading below Rs 100 to 1 paisa from 5 paise.

Modi Govt Reshaped Budget In 10 Years: FM Sitharaman

Says Reforms To Continue To Make India Developed Nation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the Modi government has reshaped the Union budget in the last 10 years from a mere record of expenditure to a strategic blueprint for equitable distribution, and stressed that the pace of reforms will continue to make India a developed nation.

Sitharaman said the government will continue to maximise the value and impact of hard-earned taxpayer money, ensuring it is put to the best possible use for the benefit of all.

The minister said the Modi government has prioritised transparency in its budgeting practices and numbers. Countries with transparent budgets are often viewed favourably by international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank. This can lead to improved global trust.

"This starkly contrasts the @INCIndia-led UPA government's repetitive practice of hiding the deficits through off-budget borrowings and issuance of 'Oil Bonds', which somewhat covertly shifted the fiscal burden to future generations. Under UPA, standard fiscal practices were routinely changed to make Budget numbers look favourable," Sitharaman said in a post on X.

She said the last decade has witnessed a substantial improvement in the sanctity and credibility of the Union Budget, leaving past constraints and archaic practices behind.

"Our government has re-shaped the budget from a

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Fitch Ratings on

Monday said the record-high

dividend transfer by the RBI

to the government is equiva-

lent to 0.6 per cent of GDP,

and such high level of divi-

dends as a percentage of GDP

is unlikely to be maintained.

The board of India's central

bank last week decided to

transfer a record Rs 2.1 lakh

crore dividend to the govern-

ment out of the profits earned

in fiscal 2023-24. This is more

than double of Rs 1.02 lakh

crore that was budgeted by

Fitch said an important driv-

er of higher RBI profits appears

to be higher interest revenue

on foreign assets, though the

central bank has not yet pro-

"The RBI recently an-

nounced a record-high divi-

dend transfer to the govern-

ment equivalent to 0.6 per

cent of GDP (Rs 2.1 trillion)

from its operations in FY24.

This is above the 0.3 per cent

of GDP expected in the FY25

vided a detailed breakdown.

the government.



"THIS STARKLY **CONTRASTS THE @ INCINDIA-LED UPA GOVERNMENT'S** REPETITIVE PRACTICE **OF HIDING THE DEFICITS THROUGH OFF-BUDGET BORROWINGS AND ISSUANCE OF 'OIL BONDS'.** which somewhat covertly shifted the fiscal burden to future generations. Under UPA, standard fiscal practices were routinely changed to make Budget numbers look favourable,"

mere record of expenditures into a strategic blueprint for equitable development. We make judicious & efficient use of every rupee collected from our taxpayers and give them a transparent picture of public finances," Sitharaman said.

The minister said the government has taken various reforms to strengthen and bring transparency to the budgetary process and practices.

Since FY 2017-18, the budget presentation has been shifted to 1st February instead of the last working day

Record RBI Dividend At 0.6% of

GDP May Not Be Sustained: Fitch

near-term deficit reduction

goals," the rating agency said

Fitch said transfers from the

Reserve Bank of India to the

government can be signifi-

cant at the margin for fiscal

performance but depend on

various factors, including the

size and performance of as-

sets held on the central bank's

balance sheet and India's ex-

Transfers may also be influ-

enced by the RBI's views on

what level of a buffer is ap-

propriate to be maintained in

"The potential volatility of

balance sheet, it said.

in a statement.

change rate.

budget from February, so will transfers means there is sig-

nificant uncertainty

level," Fitch said.

their medium-term path, and

we do not anticipate that divi-

dends as a share of GDP will

be sustained at such a high

dividend transfer should help

to ensure the 5.1 per cent of

GDP deficit target for the fis-

cal year ending March 2025

(FY25) will be met and could

be used to lower the deficit

The new government's

budget, following the release

of election results in June, is

likely to be presented in July

and will determine how the

dividend will be used

beyond the current target.

However, such windfall

in February. It effectively advanced the expenditure cycle by two months, she said.

Sitharaman further said reform in government expenditure by bringing in Treasury Single Account (TSA) for the 'just-in-time' release of funds to autonomous bodies has lowered the borrowing costs for the Centre. "TSA has resulted in savings of more than Rs 15,000 crores to date," she said.

Sitharaman said the Union government administers 108 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) through state and UT governments, with a budget of approximately Rs 5.01 lakh crore for FY 2024-25 and Rs. 4.76 lakh crore for FY 2023-24.

Previously, it was challenging to ascertain the timeliness and amount of funds released to the implementing agencies under a CSS and to determine whether the funds were from the Centre or the state.

However, with the implementation of Single Nodal Agency (SNA), under which each state has to identify and designate a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for every CSS, there have been savings of about Rs 10,592 crore from 2021-22 to date.

Sitharaman said the Union budgets under the Modi government are characterised by fiscal prudence, transparency, and inclusiveness, ensuring investments in social development and infrastructure.

The Modi government, the minister said, is committed to harnessing cutting-edge technology, enhancing transparency, and pursuing ongoing reforms to lay a strong foundation for a Viksit Bharat.

Gold, Silver Prices Rebound On Strong Global Cues Amid Escalating Tensions In Middle East

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold and silver prices rebounded sharply on Monday after falling for three straight sessions, with the precious metal jumping Rs 220 to Rs 72,820 per 10 grams in the national capital, tracking a strong trend in the overseas market due to escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Gold had closed at Rs 72,600 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday, according to HDFC Securities.

Silver prices also bounced Rs 1,050 to Rs 92,850 per kg. In the previous session, it had finished at Rs 91,800 per kg. "Spot gold

prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,820 per 10 grams, up by Rs 220 against the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,344 per ounce, up USD 9 from the previous close.

Gold resumed trading on a positive note, supported by soft US dollar, and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East increased after Israel carried out airstrikes in Rafah, leading to an increase in safe-haven demand for the yellow metal, Gandhi said. Additionally, silver also

traded higher at USD 30.75 per

"Gold prices are stuck in a

range, as the US and the UK markets are closed on Monday.

"However, volatility is expected to remain high as focus will be on inflation numbers from Germany, Eurozone, and the US due later in the week and could give some clues on the rate cuts by European Central Bank (ECB) and the US Federal Reserve," Pranav Mer, VP of Research (Commodity & Currency) at BlinkX and JM Financial Services, said.

Meanwhile, in the futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold bounced Rs 462 to

trade at Rs 71,718 per 10 grams. The most-traded June contract of gold hit an intra-day high of Rs 71,741 per 10 grams.

Further, silver contracts for July delivery were also trading higher by Rs 1,527, or 1.69 per cent, to Rs 92,075 per kg on the exchange.

According to market experts, gold prices recovered some of the losses from last week, rising slightly to USD 2,346.60 in Asian trading on Monday.

Traders will also take more cues from the first reading of US GDP for the first quarter on Thursday and the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index data, due on Friday which will further provide more direction on the precious metal prices, experts said.

The stronger-than-expected data might boost the greenback and weigh on the gold prices.

'GST To Be Paid By Telecom Companies, Along With Instalments Towards Spectrum Charges'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Telecom companies will have to pay GST along with the instalments paid towards spectrum charges. a senior official said. The Department of Telecom (DoT) will hold the next round of spectrum auction on June 6 for eight spectrum bands meant for mobile phone services. The base price for the auction has been set at Rs 96,317 crore.

The spectrum will be assigned for 20 years and successful bidders will be allowed to make payments in 20 equal ing mega auction.

The official said Goods and Services Tax (GST) will have to be paid at 18 per cent by telecom companies along with each instalment.

"The GST Council in its next meeting is likely to clarify the procedure for payment of GST by companies winning the bids during the spectrum auction," the official told PTI.

The clarification will end confusion among field formations regarding the method for collection of GST in the auction process.

All the available spectrum in the 800 MHz. 900 MHz. 1.800



MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz, and 26 GHz bands are part of the auction. The total frequencies being

put under the hammer are valued at Rs 96,317 crore on base

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said under the GST law, spectrum payment is covered under licensing services for the right to use other natural resources on which tax is levied at 18 per cent.

"Spectrum charges are payable in a phased manner over a period of time, and thereby tax payment shall also be staggered. The board should issue a clarification in this respect so as to avoid any litigation in this regard," Mohan said.

Sebi Reduces Turnover Requirement For Agri Commodity Options To Rs 100 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday lowered the required average daily turnover for launching options on agricultural and agri-processed commodities to Rs 100 crore from Rs 200 crore earlier. This change will take effect from June 1, Sebi said. The decision has been taken keeping into account representations received from market participants and deliberations by Sebi's Commodity

Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC). "It is decided that for launching options contracts on agricultural and agri-processed commodities, the average daily turnover of underlying futures contracts of the corresponding commodity during the previous twelve months shall be Rs 100 crore instead of existing Rs 200 crore," Sebi said in a circular. With regards to eligibility criteria for launching options on commodity futures, Sebi said that options can be traded on a stock exchange only if the underly-

ing commodity futures meet certain criteria. For agricultural and agri-processed commodities, the average daily turnover of the underlying futures contracts over the past 12 months must be at least Rs 100 crore. For other commodities, the average daily turnover must be at least Rs 1,000 crore.

Samsung Launches Made-In-India Galaxy F55 5G Smartphone

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Samsung on Monday said its all-new Galaxy F55 5G smartphone has been made in India as the consumer electronics major outlined its growth strategy pivoting on product differentiation and rapid adoption of 5G. Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Division, Samsung India, said that Q1 2024 "has taken off well" and "created a strong momentum for Samsung".

Speaking at the launch of Galaxy F55 5G -- which is being billed as the most premium Galaxy F series smartphone -- Pullan said that Rs 20,000-30,000 segment is the fastest-growing segment in the smartphone category. The Galaxy F55 5G will be available in three storage variants (starting from Rs 26,999), on Flipkart, Samsung.com, and at select retail stores.

The Galaxy F55 5G smartphone is made in India and made for India, he said.

Galaxy F55 5G, which comes with a premium vegan leather finish backpanel, offers Super AMOLED+ display, Snapdragon 7



Gen1 processor, 45W super-fast charging, four generations of Android upgrades and five years of security updates.

On Samsung's India strategy, Pullan said millennials and Gen Z consumers are looking for differentiation in products.

"The early adoption of 5G is also critical to growth of overall mobile industry as such, and I am happy to state that in Q1 we have been growing ahead of the industry when it comes to 5G contribution in growth, which has made us number one in case of the 5G segment at 26.6 per cent...So the India story is pivoted around differentiation in product, 5G approach and affordability through Samsung finance plus," Pullan said.

Against US Dollar Press Trust Of India Brent crude futures, the global oil **MUMBAI:** The rupee pared its initial

gains and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 83.13 against the US dollar on Monday, mirroring the benchmark indices that erased their gains and ended the day off their record-high levels. Forex traders said the rupee set-

tled in a narrow range as the weakness of the American currency in the overseas market supported the rupee, while elevated crude oil prices in the international market restricted the upmove. At the interbank foreign exchange,

the local unit opened at 83.08, then touched an intra-day high of 83.05 but soon pared the gains and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 83.13 against the American currency.

On Friday, the rupee rallied for the fourth consecutive trading session and settled with a sharp gain of 19 paise at 83.10 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.67, lower by 0.05 per cent.

benchmark, advanced 0.47 per cent to USD 82.51 per barrel.

Rupee Settles 3 Paise Lower At 83.13

'We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on positive domestic equities and expectations of fresh foreign inflows. However, a strong US dollar and a recovery in crude oil prices may cap sharp upside," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas

US markets will remain

closed on Monday on Memorial Day holiday. Investors may remain cautious ahead of core PCE (personal consumption expenditures) price index data later this week. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.80 to Rs 83.30, Choudhary added.

Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said: "Front running on flows from MSCI index continued to hold rupee on the upside but as equities fell rupee closed lower.

"It is expected to be in the range of 82.95 to 83.25 on Tuesday with oil and possibly RBI sitting on the upside and exporters selling on the downside.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, India's forex reserves jumped USD 4.549 billion to a new all-time high of USD 648.7 billion for the week ended May 17, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

This is the third consecutive week of increase in the overall kitty, which had increased by USD 2.561 billion to USD 644.151 billion in the previous reporting week ended May 17.

On the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 19.89 points, or 0.03 per cent, to close at 75,390.50 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 24.65 points or 0.11 per cent lower at 22,932.45 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 541.22 crore, according to exchange data.

Commissioner Secretary chairs JKTPO's 14th BoDs meeting

SRINAGAR, MAY 27:
Commissioner Secretary,
Industries & Commerce,
Vikramjit Singh, today chaired
the 14th Board of Directors
(BoDs) meeting of Jammu and
Kashmir Trade Promotion
Organization (JKTPO) here at
Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Rural Development Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who as one of the Directors of the organization, shared his valuable insights on various agenda items discussed in the meeting.

Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director, JKTPO, Mahmood Shah, Director, Ahmad Handlooms Handicrafts & Kashmir, Department, Krishan Bhat, Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Farmers Welfare Association and Rakesh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Finance Department were among the Directors who attended the meeting.

Khalid Jahangir, presented the agenda for meeting and apprised the board of the action taken regarding previous board decisions

The Board discussed and deliberated on various agenda



items and approved the budget estimates for the financial year 2024-25 along with the action plan for the activities to be undertaken by the JKTPO. It also approved the calendar of events proposed by JKTPO for the financial year. In addition, the meeting approved various activities to promote the ODOP products of Jammu and Kashmir, being a flagship

initiative.

Besides, some other directions and decisions were also conveyed by the Commissioner Secretary regarding various activities being carried out by JKTPO, to bolster and strengthen the organization's working.

The Board of Directors appreciated the initiative taken by the JKTPO to generate revenue by charging participation fee from

the exhibitors. He also advised to further scale up measures to increase the quantum of revenue generation during the current financial year. It also commended JKTPO for organizing the maiden Jammu Trade Fair in February, 2024 wherein 104 exhibitors from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand exhibited their products.

Samita Sethi, Secretary in Industries & Commerce Department, Rayaz Hussain, Director Finance, Industries Commerce Department, Director Tarsaim Kumar, Industries Planning, Commerce, Sachin Dev Singh, Secretary, rep-from Tourism Additional resentative from Department, Dr. Ravi Bharti, Additional Secretary, representative from Higher Education Department, Kulraj Singh, Joint Director, representative from Handicrafts & Handlooms Department, Jammu, Vikas Goyal, CFO, representative from Export Promotion Council of Handicraft, representative from Carpet Export Promotion Council besides officers and officials from JKTPO also attended the meeting.

NBA grants 3-year accreditation extension to two UG departments at NIT Srinagar

Director congratulates both departments, cites team effort

Srinagar, May 27: National Board of Accreditation (NBA) granted three-year accreditation extension to two undergraduate engineering programs at National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) Srinagar.

As per NBA, two undergraduate courses including UG courses in Electronics & Communication Engineering and Mechanical Engineering have been accredited up to June-2027, in accordance with the 'Accreditation of Tier I Engineering Institutions under the Washington Accord'.

"An expert team conducted evaluation of the programs on 13th April 2024 to verify the data of the programs. The competent authority in NBA has decided accreditation of two programs on the basis of compliance reports for the academic years 2024-2025 to 2026-2027," it said.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, congratulated the faculty, staff, and students on this achievement.

"NIT Srinagar has a longstanding tradition of excellence, and this milestone reaffirms our position as a premier institution. We are committed to fostering an environment that nurtures innovation and excellence



in engineering education," he added.

Director NIT attributed this achievement to the contributions of all faculty members, especially Dr. Gausia Qazi, Head of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Prof. Adnan Qayaom, Head of Mechanical Engineering, Chairman NBA, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger, Coordinator Dr. Harveer Singh Pali alongwith their entire team, for their exemplary work.

"It was a team effort, and all stakeholders performed their roles professionally," he added.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rahman said that NBA accreditation serves as a hallmark of excellence, signifying that our institution upholds superior standards in both infrastructure and faculty expertise.

"It opens doors to a plethora of opportunities for our students

and faculty alike, ensuring that they are well-prepared to excel in their chosen careers and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields," he said.

NBA Accreditation implies that the Higher Education Institution has high-quality infrastructure and teachers. It provides better recognition from organizations for employment and research purposes.

Graduating from a Tier 1 NBA Accredited program increases the chance of placements and acceptance in the higher education institutions around the globe many-folds.

According to NBA, the purpose of the accreditation is to promote and recognize excellence in technical education in colleges and universities - at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Kashmir Witnesses

& dry weather conditions is expected over plains of Jammu Division during next 7 days.

At the same time, he said, slight relief from Heat wave/Hot & dry weather conditions is expected during May 30-31 and June 1-2 in most parts of Kashmir Division as well as few hilly areas of Jammu Division.

"Another spell of heat wave is expected from June 3 onwards," he said and urged people to avoid heat exposure besides drinking a lot of fluid and water.

Meanwhile, night temperature also continued to stay above normal with Srinagar recording a low of 15.6°C against 15.1°C on the previous night and it was 3.6°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 12.4°C against 12.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.7°C against 8.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 13.6°C against 13.2°C and it was 3.0°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 12.0°C against 11.5°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.4°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 11.2°C against 11.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 4.1°C for famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 24.7°C against 24.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.2°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 15.2°C, Batote 19.0°C and Bhaderwah 15.6°C, he said.

No Govt Jobs

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) by the Centre in September 2022 over its alleged links with terror activities.

In the case of Amritpal Singh, an alleged

pro-Khalistani separatist, "we have put him in jail under the NSA (National Security Act)", he said.

Singh, the chief of radical Sikh separatist group 'Waris Punjab De', was arrested in April 2023 in Punjab under the stringent NSA and subsequently shifted to Assam where he is lodged in Dibrugarh jail.

He recently filed nomination papers from the jail to contest the Lok Sabha election from

Punjab's Khadoor Sahib seat.

According to Union home ministry data,

there were 228 terrorist initiated incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 and the number came down to around 50 in 2023.

There were 189 encounters between security forces and terrorists in 2018 and it came down to around 40 in 2023.

As many as 55 civilians were killed due to

various terror incidents in 2018. The number came down to around five in 2023.

In 2018, a total of 91 security personnel

were killed in terror violence in Jammu and Kashmir, with the figure declining to around 15 in 2023.

'Court Matters Will

Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

In the interview, Shah laid out for the first time many details of the new criminal justice system, which he said are almost entirely driven by technology. For example, all court matters will become online and FIR, court diary and judgement will be digitised. Already, officials have collected finger prints data of nine crore criminals across the country in the last five years.

After lifting fingerprints from a crime scene, police will be able to identify the criminal and also if the crime has been committed by a repeat offender from that database of fingerprints within seven and half minutes, he said

"We have brought very big reforms (through the new criminal laws). After the laws come into effect, 90 per cent people will not have to go to courts. The witnesses will appear online," Shah said.

Earlier, he said, summon meant physically serving it to someone at their home. "Many such changes have been incorporated (in new laws). Similar is the case with regards to the charge sheet too," he said.

The home minister said earlier charge sheet meant submission of volumes of documents, but once the new laws come into force the charge sheet will be contained in a pen drive and the response to it can also be delivered digitally on a pen drive.

gitally on a pen drive. "All these matters will now be online. The FIR, court diary, judgement will also be digitised. We have made forensic evidence compulsory in cases where there is a provision for imprisonment for a period of minimum seven years." he said.

Asked about the preparation for rolling out the new laws, the home minister said it is going on full swing and training of officials is almost over.

After its implementation, "one can get an order even from the Supreme Court within three years from the day of registering an FIR" under the new criminal laws, he said.

The home minister said he had been working on the new criminal laws since 2019 " after he took charge of the home ministry.

"We have been working towards modernisation of courts and police stations. Everything is happening with the help

of technology. Law is getting modernised through technology," he said. The three new laws were enacted in December 2023 and President Droupadi

Murmu gave her assent on December 25.

Meanwhile, officials said the government is also in the process of procuring 900 forensic vans to be stationed in all 850 police districts in the country so that forensic evidence could be collected quickly after any crime and videograph could be done on the crime scene.

Final Batch

7000 Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are undertaking the holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Madina, with approximately 6800 departing through Srinagar embarkation and over 500 through embarkation from other airports.

As per the officials, collaborative efforts were put across various departments, including health, security, and emergency services, and that the training sessions were also conducted twice to equip pilgrims with essential information and guidance for their pilgrimage.

Officials revealed that this year's pilgrimage will commence with a visit to Madina, with all pilgrims accommodated in Markaziya, with enhancements made in Minha, with tents strategically positioned in zones 2, 3, and 4, for elevating the overall experience for the pilgrims.

J&K Records

Jammu and Kashmir in this Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission will "very soon" initiate the process of conducting the assembly polls in the Union Territory. The voter turnout of 50.86 per cent from

The voter turnout of 50.86 per cent from the three parliamentary constituencies in the Kashmir Valley echoes the faith of the people in the democratic process, the Election Commission said, adding the poll participation percentage witnessed a 30-point jump from the 2019 general elections where it was 19.16 per cent.

The three seats in the Valley -- Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri -- recorded a voter turnout of 38.49 per cent, 59.1 per cent and 54.84 per cent, respectively, all of which have been the highest in the last three decades.

The other two seats in the Union Territory -- Udhampur and Jammu -- which fall in the Jammu region, recorded 68.27 per cent and 72.22 per cent voter turnout respectively, it said.

The Election Commission said that an increasing number of young people have asserted their faith and embraced democracy in a big way.

Another interesting perspective is the people in the age group of 18-59 years who constitute over 80 per cent of the electorate in each of the five Lok Sabha seats of the Union Territory, it underlined.

The high poll percentage in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls is reflective of their faith in democracy, which is a positive and heartening development, the poll panel stressed.

Whenever an assembly election is held in Jammu and Kashmir, it will be the first since the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories with the other being Ladakh which has one Lok Sabha seat and no provision for a legislative assembly.

Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

Special Congrats

"A very special congratulations to my sisters and brothers of Anantnag-Rajouri for the record turnout in the Lok Sabha polls. Their enthusiastic participation is a vibrant testament to their democratic spirit."

KPDCL Cashier Held

department for the release of the security amount many times but Mohd Shafi kept delaying the same on one pretext or another and finally demanded 10000 as bribe from him for doing so and that he had collected proof against said cashier regarding demand of bribe. Under these circumstances he approached ACB with a written complaint requesting for legal action against Cashier for demanding bribe."

It added that as the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence punishable under section 7 of the P.C Act 1988 (r/w its amendment Act 2018) by accused public servant, accordingly a case FIR No. 09/2024 under section 7 of the P.C Act 1988 (r/w its amendment Act 2018) was registered against him and investigations were initiated.

"During the course of investigations the accused public servant was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribes from the complainant. He was immediately taken into custody after completing the legal formalities; the bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses.

Further investigations in the case are going on."(KNO)

J&K Bank Policy

and experience in Law, could have created a separate cadre of Junior Management (Scale-I)-Law but that could have been by way of a policy decision to be taken by the respondent Bank."

This Court, the court said, in the exercise of extraordinary writ jurisdiction, cannot direct the Bank to create a separate cadre of Junior Management (Scale-I)-Law merely for the reason that it would be more appropriate and advisable to do so.

"As a matter of policy and in its wisdom, the respondent Bank did not create a separate Scale-I cadre for Law Graduates and made them also a part of generalist cadre consisting of all Scale-I officers recruited directly or elevated from lower cadres," the court said, adding, "This Court finds nothing illegal, arbitrary or discriminatory in such decision of the respondent Bank, as is reflected in the Officers Promotion Policy."

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OR SCAN

Longer, Intense Heatwaves Linked With **Rise In Premature Births: Study**

NEW DELHI: A new research has linked an increase in premature births during hot weather conditions to intense and prolonged heatwaves.

A team of researchers, including those at the University of Nevada, estimated changes in the rate of preterm and early-term birth in response to heatwaves.

A heatwave is a period of extremely high temperatures relative to what is normally expected over a region.

The researchers analysed 5.3 crore births across the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the US over a 25-year period (1993-2017) in terms of daily counts of preterm and early-term births.

While a full-term pregnancy lasts for about 40 weeks, babies born before 37 weeks are preterm births and those delivered between 37 and 39 weeks of the pregnancy are early-term



The researchers found that over the 25-year period, preterm births increased by 2 per cent, while early-term births increased by 1 per cent, following a four consecutive day-period during which each day's average temperature was among the hottest 2.5 per cent for that region.

"Each 1 degree Celsius in-

crease in mean temperature above the threshold was associated with a 1 per cent increase in the rate of both preterm and early-term birth," the authors wrote in the study published in The Journal of American Medi-

work Open. The research also found that for the same exposure to heat-

cal Association (JAMA) Net-

births increased by more numbers in women younger than 30 years of age, having lower education levels and belonging to minority groups.

They analysed the pregnancies of mothers with high school education or less, from a racial minority group or of Hispanic ethnicity, and age younger than 30 years.

"Among this group, the rate ratio for preterm birth was 1.04, and the rate ratio for early-term birth was 1.03 after 4 consecutive hot days," the authors wrote.

"Increases (in preterm and early-term birth rates) were more pronounced for heatwaves of longer duration and higher temperatures and among population subgroups associated with lower socioeconomic status," they wrote.

The team also wrote that "modest but robust elevated associations were the strongest in the 4 days preceding birth and for longer durations of heat and higher temperatures." According to the researchers, this was the first study to provide compelling population-level evidence of increased preterm and early-term birth rates in response to heat waves.

Using national birth data over the recent decades, the study was the largest one to date addressing this aspect, they said.

"Extreme heat events have implications for perinatal health. The findings also add to evidence that the effects of extreme heat events are not distributed evenly among population subgroups," the authors

The 5.3 crore births that were analysed formed roughly half of all US births between 1993 and 2017, according to the authors. Data was included from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease

Pune Porsche Crash Happened As Teen's Parents Ignored His **Behaviour: Ajit Pawar**

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday blamed the parents of the teenager allegedly involved in the Pune car crash saying they ignored his behaviour which resulted in the

death of two young professionals. Mr Pawar, also the guardian minister of Pune district, was speaking to reporters after attending a meeting of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

"The minor's conduct in the Pune accident is highly irresponsible. It happened because the teenager's parents ignored his behaviour. The son is in an observation home and his father and grandfather have been arrested," he said.

The deputy CM said he has instructed officials to take strict action in the "Pune, Jalgaon and Nag-

pur incidents". A day before a Porsche allegedly driven by the Pune teenager, son of builder Vishal Agarwal, hit a motorcycle, leaving two techies dead in the city on May 19, one woman and three children were killed in Jalgaon after a car carrying four young

men dashed a two-wheele On May 24, an intoxicated person driving a car crashed into pedestrians and two-wheelers in Nagpur, injuring seven persons, including a three-month-old baby.

Anjali Damania, a social activist, had claimed that Ajit Pawar had called the Pune police commissioner after the Porsche accident.

Asked about her claim, Mr Pawar said, "As a people's representative, we receive calls regarding such accidents. I police commissioner and told him that the accused boy was from a wealthy family and there was a chance police might be pressured. I told him not to succumb to



any political pressure."

Mr Pawar said CM Eknath Shinde and his peer Devendra Fadnavis have already clarified their positions in this matter.

About the opposition alleging political pressure in the Pune case, Mr Pawar said when someone is in opposition they allege political pressure behind every probe.

He said, "A 'responsible' MLA has accused the Pune police commissioner of accepting bribes from bar operators in the city. He should give proof...if proof is given the state will definitely probe into it."

Asked about his party MLA Sunil Tingare, who had visited Pune's Yerawada police station hours after the accident in the Kalyani Nagar area, Pawar said, "Tingare himself has clarified his stand. He later met me in Pune and presented his version. I have asked top police officials to take strict action against cops or doctors who tried to dilute the probe." Meanwhile, Deputy CM Fadnavis said in Nagpur that the police won't stop until they get to the bottom of the Pune car crash case.

The police on Monday arrested two doctors and an employee of Sassoon General Hospital over alleged manipulation of blood samples and destruction of evidence in

Karnataka To Pay ₹80 Lakh Hotel Bill Of PM Modi's Stay In Mysuru: Minister

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday said the state government will pay the hospitality bill of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had come to Mysuru in April last year to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger, which runs up to ₹80 lakh.

In a statement, the minister's office said it is a tradition of the state government to host dignitaries like the Prime Minister and the President when they come. However, due to the Assembly elections in Karnataka in April last year, the state government was not involved in the planning of the programme (Project Ti-



ger) since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said that the prime minister had visited Mysuru-Bandipur on the eve of the commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger. At that point of time, the MCC was in force. Elections were declared. So, it was purely a Central government programme. Initially, they had planned to spend around ₹3 crore but the expenditure incurred was around ₹6.33 crore. So, the balance of ₹3.3 crore has to come from the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

"The state government's forest department had written to them (authority). They informed that the hotel bill (Rs 80 lakh) should be reimbursed by the state government and we have decided to reimburse.

So, there is no issue," he added. Following media reports that the hotel where the prime minister had stayed has threatened to find legal recourse to recover its dues, Mr Khandre had on Saturday said that he will try to resolve the issue amicably.

Missing For 22 Years, How Cops Helped Man Unite With His Family In UP

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: An eightmonth long investigation by his family finally bore fruit with him to Saharanpur. a team of Harvana police has helped reunite a 29-year-old man with his family in Uttar Pradesh, over two decades years after he went missing, an official said on Monday.

Separated from his family at the age of seven after he was allegedly kidnapped by someone and later abandoned, Amit grew up in different children's homes in Delhi.

Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Haryana Police's Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), who led the investigation, on Monday said Amit was recently reunited with his family after tar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar.

Amit's relentless search for came and took Amit along after he came in contact with ASI Kumar came a few months ago when the officer had gone to Delhi in connection with a missing child's case.

only fragmented memories of an oil mill in his village and a place named "Bala Chowk" shared by Amit, ASI Kumar embarked on a meticulous investigation to trace his family.

Sharing details about the case, Mr Kumar said Amit's parents got separated over 22 years ago, after which he had been living with his maternal grandfather in a village in UtAfter some time, his father

One day, while Amit wa to purchase some items from a nearby shop, he was allegedly kidnapped by someone.

"Amit, who was then aged 7, said that he remembers that someone took him along and when he woke, up he found himself on a train to Mumbai," Mr Kumar said.

"Amit told me that when he reached Mumbai, sensing that the child was from a north Indian state, someone put him on a train to Delhi. From there, his life took different turns," Mr Kumar told news agency

Diabetes, Weight Loss Medications Linked To Increased Risk Of Stomach Paralysis: Study



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Popular diabetes and weight loss medications like Ozempic and Wegovy have been linked with an increased risk of developing stomach paralysis, new studies have found.

Stomach paralysis, also know as gastroparesis, weakens the stomach muscles, leading to food sitting in the main digestive organ for long.

Wegovy is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for weight management, while Ozempic is an approved medication helping patients

with type 2 diabetes manage blood sugar levels. However, Ozempic is sometimes prescribed for weight loss, even though it is not FDA-approved for this purpose. Both Wegovy and Ozempic are injections containing the protein semaglutide, which is similar to the hormone glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1).

Released in the body in response to meal intake, GLP-1's main actions include promoting the produc-

While these anti-diabetic and weight loss medications, known as GLP-1 receptor agonists or GLP-1 analogues, are known to cause gastrointestinal (GI) side effects such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, new studies shows less common ones such as stomach paralysis (gastroparesis), ileus and acute pancreatitis to be occurring as well.

The studies were presented at Digestive Disease Week 2024, a conference conducted from May 18-21 in Washington DC, US.

One of these studies conducted by researchers, including those from the University of Kansas, identified 1.85 lakh patients with diabetes or obesity who were prescribed GLP-1 analogues between December 1, 2021, and November 30, 2022.

About 0.53 per cent of the patients were found to develop gastroparesis, with the research team estimating that the risk of having the condition increased by 66 per cent.

Cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder) was observed in 0.55 per cent of the patients, with the risk of developing the condition estimated to increase by 28 per cent.

The study's authors also found that 0.04 per cent of the GLP-1 analog-prescribed patients developed drug-induced pancreatitis, and estimated the risk of experiencing the condition to go up by more than 350 per cent.

They also found that 9 per cent of the patients had a significantly higher incidence of nausea and vomiting, while 7.5 per cent of them showed a higher incidence of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GERD), a condition in which the stomach contents move up the food pipe, or the oesophagus.

The results showed that "the use of GLP-1 agonists in patients with diabetes mellitus and obesity is associated with GI side effects, including nausea, vomiting, gastroparesis, GERD, esophagitis, druginduced pancreatitis, cholecystitis and need for upper-endoscopy," the authors wrote in the study, currently available as an abstract.

The second study assessed the risk of gastroparesis in patients with type 2 diabetes treated with GLP-1 receptor agonists (RA). More than 3.36 lakh patients were included in each of the two cohorts -one receiving the medication and the other not.

"Patients with T2D prescribed GLP-1 RAs had an increased risk of GP at 6, 9, 12, 18 and at 24 months. The odds ratio for gastroparesis significantly increased after 6 months through 24 months after controlling for different risk factors," the authors, including those from Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, wrote in the abstract of the study. Both the studies used data from the multi-institutional database, TriNetX.

Australia's Mitchell Starc Justifies IPL Price Tag In Warning Shot Before World Cup

Agencies

slow start in the Indian Premier League put Mitchell Starc's record price tag under the microscope but the Australian allformats hero underlined his worth as he lifted Kolkata Knight Riders to a third title.

Starc, the costliest cricketer in the history of the league, was named Player of the Match after taking 2-14 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, including bowling opener Abhishek Sharma with an unplayable delivery that pundits judged the tournament's best.

performance followed on from his brilliant semi-final when he took three wickets and bowled Australia team mate Travis Head with the second ball.

Starc started the tournament as one of its least economical bowlers, generating headlines across the world that compared his \$2.98 million price tag with his paucity of wickets.

It also led to a few lighthearted barbs from team



mates. None will be laughing at him now.

There have been plenty of jokes. A lot has been made of the money," said the rangy left-armer. "I am older and more experienced now, so that has helped with managing the expectations and leading the attack. "It's been a lot of fun, it's been great to learn and see how these guys go about it but full credit to the whole players and staff, it's made my life pretty easy.'

Starc's stunning return to form in the IPL burnishes his record in big matches and comes days before the T20 World Cup starts in the Unit-

ed States and the Caribbean. The 34-year-old took three wickets in the final of last year's 50-over World Cup against hosts India and will likely be important for Australia's hopes of becoming the first nation to hold cricket's three global trophies in tests, ODIs and T20.

Kolkata's eye-watering bid for Starc during the IPL auctions stunned the cricket world late last year but it now appears to have been a master stroke.

They may have to fork out more to retain his services in 2025.

Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins will no doubt be happier playing with Starc for Australia than against him in the IPL.

"I thought they bowled fantastically," Cummins said after Hyderabad were skittled for 113. "Unfortunately, my old mate Starcy turned it on

again.' Starc, Cummins and Head will link up with the rest of Australia's T20 World Cup squad in the coming days ahead of their opener against Oman next week.

Spain Name Ferran Torres And Ayoze Perez In Euro 2024 Squad, Marco Asensio Left Out

Agencies

orward Marco Asen-**◄** sio was the surprise omission three-time champions Spain named their 29man preliminary squad for the European Championship on Monday, with Ferran Torres and Ayoze Perez included in the squad.

Barcelona teenagers Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi were included along with team mate Fermin Lopez who received his first call-up. Real Madrid centre

back Nacho returned to the squad as defenders Sergio Ramos, Pau Torres and Pedro Porro missed out but the omission of Paris St Germain's Asensio was the biggest shock.

admire Asensio.

Let's focus on those who

are here and give them

the value they deserve,"

coach Luis de la Fuente told a news conference on Monday. 'Others may have

doubts, but I'm clear about it as of today. Maybe one of those players that now I'm thinking that wouldn't make the cut for the tournament changes my mind and make his case to deserve

a place in the final 26man squad."

Last year's UEFA Nations League champions Spain play home friendlies against Andorra and Northern Ireland next month before travelling to Germany where they begin their Group B campaign against Croatia on June 15 in Berlin.

Spain preliminary squad: Goalkeepers: Unai Si-

mon (Athletic Bilbao), Alex Remiro (Real Sociedad), David Raya (Arse-

Defenders: Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid), Jesus Navas (Sevilla), Aymeric Laporte (Al-Nassr), Na-Fernandez (Real Madrid), Robin Le Nor-

mand (Real Sociedad), Pau Cubarsi (Barcelona), Dani Vivian (Athletic Bilbao), Alex Grimaldo (Bayer Leverkusen), Marc Cucurella (Chel-Midfielders: Rodrigo (Manchester City), Martin Zubimendi (Real Sociedad), Fabian Ruiz (Paris St-Germain), Mikel Merino (Real Sociedad), Pedri (Barcelona), Marcos Llorente (Atletico Madrid), Aleix Garcia (Girona), Alex Baena (Villarreal), Fermin Lopez (Barcelona).

Forwards: Alvaro Morata (Atletico Madrid), Joselu (Real Madrid), Dani Olmo (Leipzig), Nico Williams (Athletic Bilbao), Mikel Oyarzabal (Real Sociedad), Ayoze Perez (Real Betis), Ferran Torres (Barcelona), Lamine Yamal (Barcelona). (Reporting by Fernando Kallas, editing by Ed Osmond)







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