

Assault On Men In Khakis

3 Lt Colonels Among 16 Armymen Booked



Majid Nabi

Srinagar: With army downplaying the alleged attack on on-duty cops inside a police station in frontier Kupwara district, three Lieutenant Colonels among sixteen army personnel have been booked for 'attempt to murder, abduction, robbery and rioting' by the police.

Four policemen were critically injured and shifted to SKIMS Soura for specialized treatment after the personnel of 160 Territorial Army in Batpora Kupwara broke into a police station late Tuesday evening.

The incident, sources said, was sparked by a raid on a residence of a local Territorial Army man by a police team in connection with an ongoing investigation.

Sixteen army personnel, including three Lieutenant Colonels, were named in a police FIR, sources told Kashmir Observer.

The FIR reportedly charges them with attempt to murder, rioting, abduction, and robbery, along with other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A Srinagar based defense spokesman had on Monday downplayed the incident; saying the reports of altercation between police and army personnel and beating up therein of police personnel are baseless and incorrect.

"Minor differences between the police personnel and a territorial army unit on an operational matter have been amicably resolved," the spokesman had said.

The errant army personnel, according to FIR, have also been accused of abducting an on-duty cop, besides beating and injuring others with rifle butts and bamboo sticks.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Syeed Peerzada Mujahidul Haq | [More on P6](#)

6 THEY COLLECTIVELY AND WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION IN THE FORM of unlawful assembly severely attacked the staff and officers present at the police station with rifle butts, kicks and sticks."

KASHMIR TOURISM BOOM

Govt To Setup 5-Star Hotels In Every District



File photo

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid tourism boom, the J&K administration has constituted district level committees to be headed by the concerned deputy commissioners for identification of land to establish 5-star hotels in the Union Territory.

The move comes at a time when J&K is witnessing a huge tourism influx. Reports suggest that over a million tourists including a record

number of foreign guests have visited Kashmir till mid-May.

As per the order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), number-1116-J&KGAD, dated May 30, 2024, sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of district level committee (s) for identification of land for establishment of 5-Star hotels in the Union Territory.

The panel (s), as per the order, will have concerned deputy | [More on P6](#)

22 Killed, 57 Injured As Bus Falls Into Gorge In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: At least 22 people were killed and 57 injured after a bus carrying pilgrims skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Jammu district on Thursday, officials said.

The accident took place at the Tungi-Morh in the Chowki Chora belt of the district, the officials said, adding that the bus rolled around 150 feet down into the gorge.

A magisterial probe has been ordered into the incident, the Jammu district magistrate informed on X. He also said 22 people have lost their lives and 57 sustained injuries in the tragedy.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed anguish



at the loss of lives and announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

A police spokesperson said at about 12:35 pm, the bus bearing registration number

UP81CT-4058 fell into the gorge. The bus was carrying devotees from Haryana's Kurukshetra and was headed towards Shiv Khori in the Pouni area of Jammu and Kashmir's | [More on P6](#)

Magisterial Inquiry Ordered

Following the tragic bus accident in Akhnoor that resulted in the loss of 22 lives, authorities have swiftly initiated a magisterial inquiry. It has been ordered that the inquiry report should be submitted within seven days. District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaisshya in

President, PM, LG Express Grief Ex-gratia Relief Announced

Observer News Service

President Droupadi Murmu expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic bus accident in Akhnoor, Jammu. "Pained beyond words to learn about the loss of lives in a bus accident in Akhnoor near Jammu. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured," she said in a post on X. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar said he is deeply saddened to learn about the tragic bus accident. He further extended heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and also prayed | [More on P6](#)

'Not In Favour Of CPEC' India Reiterates Its Stance On PoK

Agencies

New Delhi: Reiterating India's stance on Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh are integral part of India. He stated that India is not in favour of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it goes against New Delhi's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In response to a query on reports of increased cooperation between Pakistan and China during the weekly media briefing, Jaiswal stated, "On PoK, we are very consistent in our position. We want to tell you, the whole of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the union territories, are part of India, an integral part of India. They were an integral part of India. They are an integral part of India and they will remain an integral part of India."

"Our position on CPEC also is well known to you. We are not in favour of it. We are against it. It goes against our territorial integrity and | [More on P6](#)

Govt Declares Human Rabies A Notifiable Disease

Directs Authorities To Immediately Report Such Cases To CMO, Nodal Officer

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development, the government of J&K has declared human rabies a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897.

As per a notification issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, all government and private health facilities, including medical colleges have been directed to report any



suspected, probable, and confirmed cases of human rabies to the respective Chief Medical Officer and the State Nodal Officer of the National Rabies Control Program.

"Rabies is an acute virus that affects all the warm-blooded animals including humans and is caused by animal bites having extremely high fatality rate. India accounts for 59.9% of Rabies deaths in Asia and 35% of deaths globally. However, Rabies is completely preventable by timely and appropriate Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). In order to achieve the WHO Goal of zero deaths due to human Rabies by 2023, it is important to establish a strong surveillance and disease reporting system so that the exact magnitude of the | [More on P6](#)

3000 Rabies Cases Reported In One Year

At bite cases have been on the rise in the Kashmir division in recent years, similar to the increase in dog bite incidents. According to data obtained from the anti-rabies clinic at SMHS Hospital, approximately 2,824 cat bite cases have been reported in one year. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the Anti Rabies Clinic (ARC) at SMHS Hospital documented 8,652 bite cases. These included 5,386 dog bite cases, 2,844 cat | [More on P6](#)

'No Bag Day' For Schools In Kashmir Today

Agencies

Srinagar: The School Education Department in Kashmir region has decided to observe May-31-2024 as 'No Bag Day' to mark the 'World No Tobacco Day'.

In this regard, the Director of School Education Kashmir has asked all the Chief Education Officer (CEOs) of the region to issue requisite directives to all Hols to conduct different IEC activities involving students, parents and teachers.

DSEK said that the directorate in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has planned to conduct different activities on 31st May 2024 to raise awareness

among general masses including road shows, rallies, essay competitions, painting competitions, seminars etc.

"CEOs are requested to issue necessary instructions to all Hols of your district to conduct different IEC activities involving students, parents and teachers on 31st May 2024 and declare the day as No Bag Day," it reads.

DSEK said that during the observation of World No Tobacco Day 2024, once again WHO and public health champions from across the globe will come together to raise awareness about the harmful influences of the tobacco industry on youth.

This year's theme of World No Tobacco Day, 'Protecting children | [More on P6](#)

Explained: What Happens After Last Leg Of LS Voting On June 1

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The winners of 2024 Lok Sabha elections are expected to form a new government by the middle of June after votes are counted on June 4. Analysts largely expect Prime Minister Narendra Modi to win a third straight term, as predicted by opinion polls before voting began.

Here is a look how votes are counted and what happens after that.

Vote Counting

Vote counting is decentralised and done simultaneously at counting stations in each of the 543 constituencies across India.

Counting will begin at 8 am on June 4 with the tallying of postal ballots that only select



for national and state elections.

Criticism Of The Process

Along with the electronic record of each vote cast through the EVM, a corresponding paper slip is also produced, which is visible to the voter, and then stored in a sealed box.

The poll watchdog, the Election Commission of India (ECI), counts and verifies these paper slips against electronic votes at five randomly selected polling stations - drawn by lots - in different segments of each constituency.

While critics and some members of civil society, including some political parties, want verification to be done at more booths to increase transparency, the | [More on P6](#)

Forest Fire Triggers Mine Blasts Along LoC In Poonch

Blaze Engulfs Forests Of Samba, Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Several mines exploded due to a forest fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Thursday and blaze also erupted in the forest areas of Samba and Jammu districts, causing significant damage, officials said.

In Samba, the fire started in the Purmandal area and soon spread to

nearby villages threatening several residential houses, they said.

The villagers alerted the administration, prompting them to send fire tenders to the area and the blaze was doused after several hours of effort, the officials said.

The locals alleged that some miscreants are triggering fire due to some vested interests and destroying forest land. They urged the administration to take stern action against those involved in the forest fire.

According to the | [More on P6](#)

SHORT TAKES

Train Engine Derails At Jammu

The engine of the Sampark Kranti Express derailed at Jammu railway station here on Thursday, officials said. No one got injured in the incident, they said. As the train arrived at the railway station from New Delhi today, one wheel of the engine went off the track, causing the train to come to a halt, the officials said. After a two-hour delay, the engine was brought back on track and the train continued its | [More on P6](#)

Woman Electrocuted In Budgam

A 40 year old woman was electrocuted to death in Charar-e-Sharief area of Central Kashmir Budgam district on Thursday. Quoting an official, news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that one woman namely Shakeela Banoo wife of Abdul Rashid Baba resident of Hafroo Batpora received an electric shock at her residence. He said that her family members took her in a semi-unconscious state to PHC Hafroo Batpora | [More on P6](#)

4 Held For Circulating 'Obscene' Content

Cyber police Kashmir Thursday said it arrested four accused in two separate cases involving the circulation of obscene content and harassment on social media. In a post on X, the police said that one Sheikh Muqadas Rafiq of Srinagar's Gulab Bagh was arrested in one case. The police added that in the second case, Junaid Hussain of Sonwar, Iflah Mir of Bagh-e-Mehtab, and Naveed Mir of Pampore were arrested. | [More on P6](#)

1 Dead, 12 Hurt In Pampore Accident

A man lost his life while 12 others were injured as a vehicle they were travelling in turned turtle in Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. Reports said that a vehicle turned turtle at Drangbal Pampore resulting in injuries to 13 persons among them one succumbed to injuries who has been identified as Ram Nath Kumar from Bihar. Injured were identified as Rajet Ram, | [More on P6](#)

LS Polls-2024: All Arrangements Set For Vote Counting In Srinagar PC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Counting for Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Nodal Officers at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the preparedness regarding the arrangements put in place for Counting of Votes at designated Counting Centres at SKICC-Centaur.

Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Aashish Mishra was present on the occasion.

At the outset, the Returning Officer (RO) took a comprehensive review of arrangements at designated Counting Halls in SKICC-Centaur for smooth and hassle free counting process viz. Entry of RO staff, ARO staff, Micro Observers, Counting Agents and Media per-

sons, besides transporting and handling of EVMs, establishment of Media Centre, Control Room, Media Gallery, installation of Public Address System, issuance of ID cards.

Similarly, the Security Plan and parking of vehicles in and around the SKICC-Centaur were also meticulously deliberated in detail. In addition, barricading and parking management, with special emphasis on security access through proper security passes were also discussed.

On the occasion, the Returning Officer directed all concerned Officers to ensure error free and seamless arrangements for the smooth counting process in the constituency.

The RO also asked the Nodal Officer Media Centre to take all requisite measures for timely announcement of round wise results on the counting day, besides for Media management at the venue.



Visitors and locals alike take pleasure in the lively evenings at Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk amidst the sweltering heat. KO Photo, Abid Bhat .

Jal Shakti Department Cracks-Down On Erring Consumers In Srinagar

Seizes Illegal Hydraulic Motors, Rubber Pipes

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: In an effort to prevent the misuse of portable water and guarantee its legitimate usage, the Jal Shakti Department confiscated illegal water motors and hundreds of meters of rubber pipes from erring consumers in several pockets of the city on Thursday.

The seizures, according to Jal Shakti Department officials, were made during raids on domestic and commercial users, who were accused of retrieving portable water using hydraulic pumps that continually transfer large amounts of water amidst scarcity.

Around 12 hydraulic pumps and hundreds of meters of rubber pipes were confiscated during raids conducted by the department in various pockets of the city including Muminabad Lane 14 and 18, Firdousabad Lane 14 and 15, Tengpora Bypass and Muminabad



Lane 2 and 3.

The drive was launched under the supervision of Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Sub-Division 3rd, Balgarden.

Authorities issued a strong warning to customers, asking them to desist from using hydraulic pumps to get portable water since their activities cause others to become envious of a drop of water in the sweltering heat.

The government will continue

to crack down on erring consumers, and those who are caught wasting potable water will face legal consequences.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Sub-Division 3rd, Balgarden Suhaib Yusuf said the raids were aimed at curbing misuse of portable water and ensuring that everyone had equitable access to drinking water.

"The drive was launched to prevent misuse of portable water, illegal connections and direct boosting of water supply using hydraulic water motors in Tengpora, Muminabad, Afreen Colony and adjoining areas of Batamalloo," said Yusuf.

He urged the customers to pay up all of their outstanding debts in the next few days, failing which they would face harsh legal consequences and have their connections cut off without any warning.

Youth Drowns To Death In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A youth drowned to death at the world famous Dal Lake near Nishat area of Srinagar this evening, officials said.

An official told KNO that a youth drowned in

Dal Lake and subsequently died this evening.

The dead body of the youth, he said, was retrieved by SDRF later and his identification is being ascertained. Meanwhile, the police have taken up the investigation.

Commissioner SMC Holds Review Meeting On SWM In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the current solid waste management practices in Srinagar City.

The meeting focused on assessing the efficiency of waste collection, transportation, processing and disposal systems within the city.

A key area of discussion was the scientific disposal of waste. The Commissioner reviewed ongoing projects such as

the construction of a sanitary landfill cell, proper management and disposal of construction and demolition waste, and other related activities.

Furthermore, upcoming plans were reviewed, including the preparation of necessary Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the CIITIS 2.0 program.

Dr Owais emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the city and reviewed the Swachhata parameters. Strict directives were issued to the concerned officials to complete the assigned tasks before the set deadlines.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Registration Certificate (RC) bearing registration no. (HR26CK6352)I was travelling from ARTO OFFICE BUDGAM to Police station Budgam.if anyone finds it, please contact me on these numbers.9103003831,979792731 otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

ng

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
E-AUCTION NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR- PACKING-2	13.06.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for packing of two wheelers and other parcel packages at JAT and ASR
FZR CLOAKROOM14	10.06.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for cloak room facility at SVDK railway station

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 1609/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRI, Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
01	94245577	LIGHT WEIGHT PORTABLE LED BASED TOWER LIGHT (TELESCOPI) with Genset and Battery bank. Technical Specification as per Annexure attached	15+10= 25 NOS	24.06.2024

NOTE: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

No. 08/2024-25 Date: 27.05.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1613/24

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
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- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
22 Zil-Qadah
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 39
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 26
Magrib	7:39
ISHA	9: 18

This Day In History

- 1223 - Mongol invasion of the Cumans: Battle of the Kalka River - Mongol armies of Genghis Khan lead by Subutai defeat Kievan Rus and Cumans.
- 1659 - Netherlands, England and France sign Treaty of The Hague
- 1923 - China & USSR exchange diplomats
- 1924 - China recognizes the USSR
- 1931 - 7.1 magnitude Earthquake destroys Quetta in modern-day Pakistan: 40,000 dead.
- 1935 - 7.7 magnitude earthquake hits Quetta in Balochistan, British Raj (Pakistan) killing approx 50,000
- 1940 - Premier Winston Churchill flies to Paris to meet with Marshal August Pétain who announces he is willing to make a separate peace with Germany
- 1944 - Allied breakthrough in Italy
- 1951 - Netherlands & South Africa sign cultural accord
- 1953 - Lebanese president Camille Shamun disbands government
- 1955 - Great Britain proclaims emergency crisis due to rail strike
- 1957 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Christmas Island (atmospheric)
- 1970 - 7.75 Ancash earthquake off coast of Peru kills 66-70,000 and sets off world's deadliest avalanche
- 1974 - Israel and Syria sign an agreement concerning Golan Heights

From KO Archives

Faith Moves Mountains, Stops Rain In Kashmir

F Ahmad

S RINAGAR - Jabbar Mir 56, has walked barefoot with a pitcher full of water to the shrine of saint Sheikh Hamza Mukhdoom in Srinagar. It's an age old custom that he is sure will pull his village out of a "do or die situation".

Mir, a resident of Ganderbal, 22 km from Srinagar, has climbed the Koh-e-Maran hillock in the middle of the city with hundreds of villagers, all travelling on foot and carrying water filled earthen pitchers from various parts of the Kashmir valley.

They are seeking saint Mukhdoom's blessings so that the intermittent rains lashing the valley stop and the bright sunny days return.

"It's a do or die situation for us. Our paddy nurseries are turning yellow because of the cold and rain. Unless we have bright, warm sunshine there would be hardly any paddy saplings left to be transplanted into the rice fields," Mir said.

According to a local tradition, water collected from parts of the valley and brought here in earthen pitchers by barefooted devotees is poured into the large pond outside the saint's shrine so that saint Mukhdoom is pleased and blesses the people. However, the devotees must walk all the distance from their homes to the shrine.

"This is a practice that the people have resorted to whenever excessive rains, floods and other natural calamities have visited Kashmir."

Asked if it works, Ghulam Nabi, 48 gives a stare. "It is a heretic's question. The custom always works. It is my experience of over four decades that whenever Kashmiris visit the shrine, their prayers are answered," says Nabi, who has come from Anantnag district. 54 km away.

Nabi's 20-year-old son is an epileptic whose seizures have become frequent in recent days.

"I won't say a doctor is not needed to cure my son. But finally it is somewhere else that the outcome of our efforts is decided. Whether a doctor succeeds or not in curing my son would be decided at the saint's shrine," Nabi says.

Mukhdoom who lived in the 15th century, is also revered as the saint who was instrumental in ending the rule of local king Yusuf Shah Chak.

Mukhdoom is believed to have written to Mughal king Akbar about the oppression of the people under Chak. This led to the invasion of Kashmir by the Mughals and the end of Chak's reign.

Visiting shrines and seeking the blessings of dead saints is an old practice in Kashmir.

A little away from saint Mukhdoom's shrine is the temple of Hindu deity Sharika Devi.

Before the migration of Kashmiri pandits following the insurgency in the valley, Muslims and Hindus could be seen buying flowers from the same vendors for their saints.

There are very few visitors to the temple these days, yet a semblance of the eclectic Kashmiri culture is recreated "when the lone priest at the temple rings the bells - the sound blends perfectly with the voice of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer at Mukhdoom's shrine.

(Kashmir Observer, 31 May, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 31-05-2024

High Stakes Election

As India prepares for its last phase in general elections, the stakes have never been higher. It is a significant test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP. In this election, the BJP faces a unique challenge as it contends with a consolidated opposition called INDIA Alliance for the first time in recent memory. This alliance aims to prevent the division of opposition votes that previously enabled the BJP to cruise to victory in the 2014 and 2019 elections. The opposition contends that widespread discontent over unemployment, inflation, and perceived threats to democratic institutions under Modi's government could turn the tide in their favor.

For the BJP, the stakes are exceptionally high. But the party remains confident in PM Modi's enduring popularity and the organizational strength of its campaign. At the same time, this election is a critical test of India's democratic resilience. The opposition has accused the ruling party of undermining democratic institutions and stifling dissent, charges the BJP denies. The results will thus not only determine the immediate political future of the country but also set the tone for the country's democratic trajectory in the coming years. With nearly 970 million eligible voters, constituting more than 10% of the world's population, the stakes are incredibly high, both for India and the world.

However, the road to retaining power is not without challenges. The INDIA Alliance has gone some way in capitalizing on widespread discontent over lack of employment opportunities. The opposition's promise to address these "bread and butter" issues seems to be resonating with people, contrasting with the BJP's focus on cultural and nationalistic themes.

The outcome of this election will have far-reaching implications. It will determine whether India continues on its current path under Modi's leadership or shifts towards a new direction under the INDIA alliance. The results will influence key policy areas such as economic reform, social justice, and secularism. A victory for Modi could mean a continued emphasis on nationalist policies, whereas a win for the opposition could herald a return to a more secular political framework with focus on economic issues and social equity.

For now, however, everything is up in the air. Soon after the last phase on June 1, exit polls will be out. Though opinion polls earlier have showed the BJP as the winner, many experts have said that the favourability of the saffron party has suffered through successive phases. However, whichever political alliance wins the polls, it is India's vibrant democracy which will be the winner.



Stock Market and Election Results

Did You Know?

Predicting specific movements in the stock market, especially in response to election results, is inherently uncertain and speculative. However, generally speaking:

- Positive Sentiment:** If the election results align with market expectations—such as a stable government or a pro-business administration—there might be a positive impact on the stock market. Investors typically favor certainty and policies that promote economic growth.
- Negative Sentiment:** Conversely, if the results are unexpected or lead to a perceived unstable or anti-business government, the stock market might react negatively due to fears of policy changes, economic instability, or regulatory shifts.
- Short-term Volatility:** Regardless of the outcome, the market is likely to experience short-term volatility. Election results often cause a knee-jerk reaction as investors quickly adjust their portfolios based on the new political landscape.
- Sector-Specific Impact:** Certain sectors might be more affected than others based on the anticipated policies of the winning party. For example, infrastructure, banking, and renewable energy sectors might see sharp movements depending on the expected policy priorities.
- Long-term Trends:** In the long run, broader economic indicators and global market conditions often have a more sustained impact on the stock market than election results alone. Thus, while election results can steer short-term market movements, they are just one of many factors that influence long-term market performance.

Ultimately, while it's normal to expect some market reaction to an election, the specific outcome cannot be precisely predicted and should be approached with caution. Investors are recommended to stay informed, but also to diversify and focus on long-term investment goals instead of reacting to immediate changes.

Learn from the insights of writer and investor, founder MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com for valuable knowledge on financial matters

Gauging inflation, poverty and GDP growth



R Gopalan and MC Singhi,

“Based on the debt and assets survey, it is observed that more than half of the household assets are still concentrated in the top 10% of the population. Though this inequality has moderated slightly

The ministry of statistics and programme implementation, after a gap of 11 years, released a fact sheet on per capita expenditure for 2022-23. A detailed report on private consumption expenditure is awaited, yet the fact sheet itself has generated many observations. Four issues are significant here, and we briefly indicate our observations on them.

Consumption & assets of decile class of population

Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the overall increase in per capita consumption expenditure has been 9.45% for rural and 8.61% for urban areas. While growth in per capita expenditure is nearly uniform across the decile classes of population, at the lower levels there is a relatively faster increase. Consumption of the bottom 10% of the population has increased by 9.8% and 10.4% in rural and urban areas respectively compared to a growth of 8.7% and 7.3% for the top 10% of the population. Notwithstanding the moderate increase in consumption expenditure at the bottom level, we do not see much improvement in access to consumption at this level. Based on the debt and assets survey, it is observed that more than half of the household assets are still concentrated in the top 10% of the population. Though this inequality has moderated slightly, it remains much above the inequality in consumption. The assets held by the bottom 40% of the population is just 6% in rural and 3.3% in urban areas. The new surveys indicate persistent inequality in consumption and access to assets.

Levels of poverty

Post-1973, poverty estimates in India are made with reference to a basket of goods. The task force in 1979 and expert groups afterwards, including the one under C Rangarajan in 2014, have continued estimating poverty solely with reference to the distribution size of private consumption expenditure, based on a National Sample

Survey Office (NSSO) methodology. This conscious decision is because of the significant difficulties in capturing household incomes through recall-based surveys of sample households. The Rangarajan expert group recommended monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) of Rs 972 in rural areas and Rs 1,407 in urban areas as poverty lines for the country. The MPCE covered primarily food and some essential non-food items. The poverty line so estimated was around 68% of average MPCE in rural areas and 54% of average MPCE in urban areas. Since poverty estimates are not so far provided for 2022-23, one could consider two alternatives. First, the indicated proportion of MPCE in 2011-12 could be used for 2022-23. That puts MPCE of Rs 2,624 in rural areas and Rs 3,489 in urban areas, indicating that 33% people in rural areas and 24% in urban areas are poor. The second approach could be upscaling MPCE using the consumer price index (CPI). This puts rural and urban MPCE at Rs 2,177 and Rs 2,940 respectively. Based on this MPCE level, people below the poverty line in rural and urban areas would be 20% and 15% respectively.

Inflation based on derived weighting diagram

The third issue related to the PFCE based on the NSSO survey is redrawing the weighting diagram for consumer price indices. Using the indices at the broad groups in the current CPI and weighing them in terms of the derived weighting diagram at rural and urban levels, inflation shows a downward trend post-July 2023. Average inflation for rural areas for July-February under this dispensation works out to 5.2%, the same as observed for current series. For urban areas, the inflation under the new dispensation at 5.8% is higher than the inflation in the current series at 5.1%. The proposed fine-tuning with actual commodity-wise details, we believe, may not influence changes in the monetary policy.

NAS & NSSO comparison

An important expectation from the new expenditure fact sheet has been its validation of GDP growth rates and its deviation from the PFCE, as indicated in National Accounts Statistics (NAS) data. Historically, private consumption derived from NAS and NSSO surveys are significantly different from each other. According to the NSSO surveys at different points, the derived PFCE in 1993-94, 1999-2000, 2004-05 and 2009-10 have varied between 48% (2004-05) and 62% in 1993-94. In 2009-10, the NSSO-based PFCE was 50% of NAS-PFCE. The food component was relatively closer to NAS estimates than the non-food component. Part of the difference could be methodological (use of imputed values for owner-occupied houses and consumption of goods produced by household) and partly owing to the exclusion of certain sectors.

The Rangarajan Committee has stated that these two estimates of consumption (NSS and NAS) do not match in any country. But what is alarming in India is that the difference between the NSS and the NAS consumption is widening over time and at the aggregate level, the NAS consumption has always been more than the NSS consumption. In 2022-23, we observe NSSO to have declined to 46% of NAS consumption with the usual inter-group variations. The rate of growth of NSSO consumption at the aggregate level and NAS consumption from 2011-12 to 2022-23 at 10.2% and 11.6% compound annual growth rate respectively is not significantly different. In view of this, the claim that NAS-PFCE overstates GDP growth (not validated by NSSO) is not borne out by facts.

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



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Plant a Tree

At a time when the whole India is gripped by a punishing heatwave, the value of growing trees assumes significance. Trees evolved before the evolution of mankind. Trees are a crucial factor to our existence not only because they produce paper and lumber, but equally because they serve as an important role in the carbon cycle. Besides providing shade and shelter, trees do offer a lot of

benefits. Trees can soothe and relax us, and help us connect with nature. Green is a calming and cool colour that helps your eyes quickly recover from strain. By planting and caring for trees, you help improve your surroundings, reduce pollution, lower energy costs, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property.

As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, top and medium compa-

nies need to take proactive steps in supporting green initiatives, which are now a part of global governance practices. These companies should go a step further by planting more trees in replacement of the trees often felled by both Central and State governments, citing reasons of 'development.' It is a pity that despite their cardinal importance to human life, we continue to keep felling trees. Reportedly, every year we cut down

over 50,000 square miles of forest worldwide for paper, agriculture, building materials and fuel.

Trees and human beings have intimately connected through the ages, and no wonder trees have captured the human imagination since the beginning of time. Said the renowned American writer and poet Kahlil Gibran, "Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky."

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Mindful Fridays

Trapped by Love

How Trauma Bonding Destroys Young Lives

Wasim Kakroo

Trauma bonding is a psychological phenomenon that often develops in relationships characterized by cycles of abuse and intermittent positive reinforcement. This bond, rooted in fear, dependence, and survival, can severely affect young people, trapping them in destructive relationships and hampering their emotional and psychological development. Understanding trauma bonding and learning how to break free from it are crucial steps toward ensuring the mental well-being of affected youth.

Understanding Trauma Bonding

Trauma bonding occurs when an abusive relationship is reinforced by intermittent rewards, such as kindness, affection, or apologies from the abuser. These occasional positive interactions create a powerful emotional bond that makes the victim feel dependent on the abuser. Over time, the victim's sense of self-worth and autonomy erodes, and they become increasingly reliant on the abusive partner for validation and security.

In youth, trauma bonding can form in various types of relationships, including romantic partnerships, friendships, and even familial connections. The developing brains of adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable to this kind of manipulation. The lack of experience in recognizing healthy relationship dynamics and a tendency to idealize relationships further exacerbate the issue.

How Trauma Bonding Destroys Lives

- Erosion of Self-Worth:** Trauma bonding can severely damage a young person's self-esteem. Constant exposure to criticism, manipulation, and abuse leads them to internalize negative beliefs about themselves. They may come to believe they deserve the mistreatment or that they are incapable of finding better relationships.
- Emotional Instability:** The cyclical nature of trauma



6 Trauma bonding can severely damage a young person's self-esteem. Constant exposure to criticism, manipulation, and abuse leads them to internalize negative beliefs about themselves. They may come to believe they deserve the mistreatment or that they are incapable of finding better relationships

bonding, marked by periods of intense affection followed by abuse, creates significant emotional turmoil. Victims often experience anxiety, depression, and mood swings, making it difficult for them to engage in other aspects of life such as education or social activities.

3. Isolation: Abusers often isolate their victims from friends, family, and other support systems. This isolation strengthens the victim's dependence on the

abuser and makes it harder for them to seek help or recognize the toxic nature of the relationship.

4. Impaired Development: Adolescence and young adulthood are critical periods for developing identity and personal values. Trauma bonding can distort these developmental processes, leading to long-term difficulties in forming healthy relationships and making independent decisions.

5. Academic and Career Impacts: The emotional and

psychological strain of a trauma-bonded relationship can hinder academic performance and career progression. Victims may struggle to concentrate, miss classes or work, and lack the motivation to pursue their goals.

Steps to Break Free from Trauma Bonding

- Recognize the Problem:** The first step to breaking free from a trauma bond is acknowledging the exis-

tence of the problem. This often requires a shift in perspective, understanding that the relationship is based on manipulation and control rather than love and support.

2. Seek Professional Help: Therapy can be incredibly beneficial for individuals trying to escape a trauma-bonded relationship. A licensed clinical psychologist can help them understand the dynamics of abuse, rebuild their self-esteem, and develop healthy coping mechanisms.

3. Build a Support Network: Reconnecting with friends, family, and other supportive individuals is crucial. These relationships provide the emotional support needed to counteract the isolation imposed by the abuser.

4. Educate Yourself: Learn-

ing about trauma bonding and abusive relationship dynamics can empower victims. Understanding the tactics used by abusers helps victims see through manipulation and reinforces their decision to leave.

5. Create a Safety Plan: Leaving an abusive relationship can be dangerous. It's important to have a plan that includes safe places to go, access to financial resources, and the involvement of trusted individuals who can provide immediate support.

6. Establish Boundaries: Once out of the relationship, setting clear boundaries is essential. This may include cutting off contact with the abuser and avoiding places where they might encounter them.

7. Focus on Self-Care: Healing from a trauma bond requires time and self-compassion. Engaging in activities that promote well-being, such as exercise, hobbies, and mindfulness practices, can help victims regain their sense of self and rebuild their lives.

8. Reframe Negative Thoughts: Trauma bonding often instills deeply negative beliefs about oneself. Cognitive-behavioral techniques can help victims challenge and reframe these thoughts, fostering a more positive self-image and healthier thinking patterns.

9. Focus on Future Goals: Setting and working towards personal goals can provide a sense of purpose and direction. This focus can help victims move forward, distancing themselves from the trauma and investing in their future happiness and success.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Scarcity Psychology: Must We Compete for the Good Things in Life?

Thomas Henricks

When I was teaching, I sometimes asked my students: Are the good things in life scarce?

Based on those conversations, I can report that people tended to say they are. As the students saw it, there are only so many spots in a first-year class, rooms in the dorm, and chairs in the lunchroom. Only some people will get A's and B's and ultimately graduate "with honors." Getting into, and through, graduate school only exacerbates these challenges.

Warming to the task, some argued that social life offers similar conditions. Two people interested romantically in the same boy or girl confront the fact that only one—or perhaps neither—will be successful. Losers, to put it coldly, must step back, give up, or plot their next moves. Getting into the Greek organization of one's choice was no different. Only some would be asked to join; others must explore options.

Few felt that life would change after college. There would be competition for good jobs. Housing, at least of the better sort, would be expensive and in short supply. "Moving up" in one's career would be problematic, especially since organizations no longer reciprocate the loyalty of their employees. More philosophically, other

students questioned the meaning of "good things." Surely, they claimed, the best things in life—that is, our experiences of the world—aren't limited. At any rate, they aren't of the zero-sum variety, where the desired entity is conceived as a pie. In that metaphor, a bigger slice for one person means a smaller slice for another, or perhaps no slice at all. By contrast, think of the experiences we have in the presence of a beautiful sunset, a wonderful musician, and a great work of art. Does my appreciating these things diminish them for you? Is my life made unhappy because you have a beautiful child, a supportive spouse, or a pleasant weekend at the beach? Pointedly, knowledge, values, relationships, and experiences are not the same as material possessions.

Note also that our visions of the world are socially and culturally framed. The United States, as all the students acknowledged, is a hyper-competitive society. Perhaps we are trained to see scarcity, even when it doesn't exist. Maybe we fail to imagine other possibilities of living because of those blinders.

The scarcity mentality

Long, long ago, my mother and her gal pals used to joke: "Boys are like streetcars. You miss one; another will be along in 15 minutes." Whether



or not those young women really believed their boast, that view is the opposite of the scarcity mentality.

Psychologists focus on scarcity as a perception that what we want is in short supply or otherwise difficult to obtain. Because we cannot easily obtain the "good" in question, that quest preoccupies us. The object denied to us grows in importance in our minds. We lose sight of other important things we should be doing. Some of our strategies for getting what we want become irrational, even fantastic.

In their book *Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much*, behavioral scientists Eldar Shafir and Sendhil Mullainathan studied feelings of scarcity in poor people from different countries. When people cannot meet their basic needs, such as food and safety, that lack becomes central to their thinking. Because they do not have the resources to acquire the good

in question and, more generally, to move out of poverty, they engage in practices that richer people see as "irrational." They focus on short-term, even day-to-day, strategizing. Some drift into illegal behaviors. The search for compensating satisfactions may be of the risky, escapist sort.

As the authors stress, the rest of us aren't so different from our poorer neighbors. We, too, can become preoccupied with what we don't have and pursue irrational strategies to obtain these things (like playing the lottery or seeking crackpot investment schemes). The difference, of course, is that most of us have resource systems sufficient to meet our most basic needs and to keep us out of jail. We don't go to loan sharks. Moreover, our conceptions of denied goods are more elaborate and nonessential (such as a fancy automobile or a house at the beach). A friend of mine, thoroughly middle-class, once confessed

that he wanted to go into an upscale department store with a baseball bat so he could smash the most prized goods locked in the glass cases. Why? Because it bothered him so much that he couldn't afford them. Gratefully, he didn't do this. But the point is plain: Any of us can become obsessed with what we don't have, even if it's things we don't really need.

I'll add, in fairness, that psychologists also emphasize the positive aspects of the scarcity mentality. Denial, and the frustration that attends this, can motivate serious, long-term strategies to reach one's goal. That means making decisions about time, money, and other resources. We can go back to school, change our health and exercise habits, and move into different social circles. We can "invest" in the world we want to live in. True enough. But admit that such investment is much easier for those who already operate from a platform of social and economic stability.

Artificial scarcity

My mother's joke about boys being like streetcars has a fatal flaw. A few of us may be content to have a significant other of any sort. But most of us want a person of a certain type (perhaps of an age, level of appearance, and social background like our own). More than that—and despite

the encouragements of our friends, families, and, now, dating apps—we want a particular person. The fact that others may be "interested" in this person or see him or her as a "good catch" only increases our desire. Such is the psychology of scarcity.

The commitment to have what others in our reference groups value is part of our social nature. More precisely, it is a manifestation of our search for identity. Who doesn't want to belong to a group of their choosing—and, in so doing, to take on its beliefs, standards, and forms of possession? Firmly enshrined in that group, most of us want to rise within it, to have a respected position and the resources that attend this.

Pointedly, many of these trappings are things we want rather than need. After all, how much different is one car, watch, or pair of pants from another? For such reasons, I call this "artificial" or "surplus" scarcity.

This condition is what our consumer culture exploits. Portraying life as a course or career, marketers show the path to advanced social standing, security, and well-being. An apartment of our own, a car, and a big TV show that we have arrived as fully fledged adults. Even if those products didn't wear out (what used to be called "planned obsoles-

cence"), we would still find that the next stage of life demands better or more extensive conditions. Surely, we want to keep up with our family members and friends. And advertisers warn us that supplies are shrinking fast—perhaps cabins on a cruise ship or properties at a mountain retreat. "Honey, maybe we should splurge."

Reevaluating identity

Scarcity is a very real problem for those who do not have access to the basic forms of sustenance and security. For the rest of us, many of the things we hunger for are frivolities, essentially decorations for the self. One can argue that the upcoming trip to Europe and fancy automobile are rightful fruits of life's labors ("We've worked hard and deserve this.") But we should be honest that part of the pleasure is both the sense of privilege that the activity gives us and the satisfaction of regaling our friends with our exploits. We like the emotional burst that comes from the perception we have "made it." However, none of this lets us evade the question of what we should be doing with our lives and how we should best allocate our resources. Our better selves know this.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

AMARNATH YATRA 2024

Govt Reviews Road Condition Of Jammu-Srinagar Highway

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday set a deadline of June 10 for streamlining of riding surface and ensuring two way traffic movement on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in view of upcoming Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage and fruit season in the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary was addressing a meeting held with all the concerned to take stock of road condition and the current traffic scenario on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu, IG, Traffic, Secretary Transport, Secretary PWD, RO, NHAI besides Deputy Commissioners of Ramban, Udhampur, Kathua and Samba attended the meeting while outstation officers participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary took cognizance of the time being taken, at present, by both the Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) to reach from one capital city to another. He enquired about the condition of the road and the bottlenecks impeding smooth movement of traffic.

Dulloo took detailed appraisal of nearly two dozen spots on this road where commuters are facing inconvenience in their journey. He impressed upon the NHAI, Regional Officer, Jammu, to take all



possible measures to improve the riding surface of the road and ensure simultaneous two way traffic on it by 10th of June this year.

He asked for taking swift steps like enhancing width of the carriage way besides black topping all the stretches where traffic snarls are occurring due to rough surface of the road. He enjoined upon the concerned divisional and district administration to identify all such spots which needs immediate improvement so that no adversity is faced during the upcoming yatra and fruit season when thousands of fruit laden trucks are bound to cross this Highway on daily basis.

The Chief Secretary asked about the causes behind worsening condition of roads on the highway including Dalwas, Old Passi, Mehard, Marog (Ramban), Pratap Nallah (Digdol), Khooni Nallah, Panthyal, Magarkote, Hig-

ni, Lower Nachlana and Kishwari Pather. He also sought feedback from the Traffic, DCs and NHAI about the measures to be taken in this regard and fixed deadline for ironing out these difficulties in coordination with all stakeholders.

Dulloo asked the executing agencies to improve the Kathua-Katra stretch of the Highway besides ensuring its blacktopping before 20th of June without any further delay. He asked the Div Com Jammu to personally monitor this work and submit report daily on this account.

He also took stock of the physical progress achieved on construction of grade separators at Bemina, Sanat Nagar and Nowgam crossings in Srinagar. He also reviewed the work done, so far, on the overhead Railway crossing Bridge near Bijbehara. He asked for expediting work on all these

projects for timely completion.

In a presentation given by IG Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti, a detailed analysis of the previous traffic halts along with their durations was highlighted. The reasons for each such disruption was spotlighted and the cause of suspensions experienced this month were particularly brought to fore.

It was informed that the incessant rains on 29th and 30th of April had eroded the loop of the old road at Magerkote which was used to pass traffic in one direction. It was added that the construction work on fly-overs, via-ducts and tunnels at several locations is sometimes causing difficulty in smooth passage of traffic.

It was also revealed that the traffic Department in collaboration with the district administration Ramban have identified 19 spots for taking certain corrective measures there. The steps like road widening, compacting and blacktopping at these stretches would be finished in next couple of weeks by taking a dry day in between, the meeting was apprised.

The meeting was informed that the road condition would be substantially upgraded by NHAI before the onset of fruit, vegetable season and commencement of Shri Amarnathji yatra this year for convenience of all the travellers going to and fro from Srinagar to Jammu and vice-versa.

CS Reviews Progress on New Criminal Laws in JK



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high level meeting of senior functionaries in Home, Police and Law Departments to assess preparations being made for implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K recently passed by the Parliament.

Principal Secretary, Home, Director General Prisons, ADGP, Headquarters, Director Prosecution, Secretary Law, Director FSL and other concerned officers attended the meeting while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the capacity building and training of concerned staff, conducted so far. He emphasised the need for collaborative efforts of all stakeholders for effective implementation of these laws in the UT.

Dulloo asked about the status of dissemination of relevant informative material regarding the new laws among the police officers and different sections of the society including

women and students for their awareness. He also asked about different logistic measures and technological upgradations to be made for better implementation of these laws on ground.

He took stock of the necessary amendments to be incorporated in Police Manual. He asked about the status of issuing different Statutory Orders (SOs) in this regard. He enquired about the changes to be made in rationalization or creation of posts, seeking of clarifications from the Law Department and integration of different portals with the rechristened apparatus of law enforcement agencies.

In its presentation, the Police Department threw light on different initiatives being taken for smooth implementation of these laws. It was revealed that capacity building and training of staff, deployment of additional manpower and upgradation of hardware and technological interventions are being planned as part of implementation strategy for these new laws.

It was informed that till date

nearly 6984 police personnel have been trained in the training institutions in addition to orientation of 106 prosecutors. Besides, it was apprised that 72 officers are going to attend the batch-wise training program at CAPT, Bhopal along with 30 officers from the Judicial Academy.

The meeting further deliberated on the plan for establishment of district mobile forensic units as per provisions of the act. It also had discourse over the changes to be made in Prisons, Prosecution and other allied Departments. It was revealed that the committees and study groups have been constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these in the UT.

Pertinently, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam had been recently notified by the MHA for implementation from July, 2024. These would replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

DRUG MENACE

Admin Order Installation Of CCTV In Bandipora

KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Thursday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee under NCORD (Narco Coordination) and Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) at Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting covered a range of progressive initiatives regarding drug de-addiction and rehabilitation efforts implemented within the district.

The DC conducted a comprehensive review of activities organised by different departments including Drugs Controller, Health Department, Social Welfare, Education, District Drug De-addiction Centre and Addiction Treatment Facility.

He also assessed the actions taken to combat illicit crop cultivation and its eradication within the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the significance of a comprehensive approach involving prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and community assistance.

He highlighted the importance of implementing effective strategies to prevent substance abuse, offer treatment to those requiring assistance, and support their path to recovery and rehabilitation.

Shakeel ul Rehman also emphasized the importance of outreach programs to encourage individuals to seek assistance when necessary. Additionally, he highlighted the priority of addressing vulnerable sections and specific age groups in drug de-addiction efforts.

He also asked the concerned departments, including Health, DDAC, ARTO, Excise, Police, Social Welfare office, CEO Office, to work collectively and in coordination with district administration.

The DC also urged Padma Shri awardee Faisal Ali Dar to work in coordination with concerned departments and involve Youth Icons, sports icons in awareness programs to encourage youth participation.

During the meeting, the DC asked concerned officers to initiate strict action under rules against retail outlet owners for non-installation of CCTVs and stressed the drug control department to ensure 100 percent installation of CCTVs and computerized billing by all medical shops and Jan Ashudi Kendras.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Umar Shafi Pandit; SP Mohammad Shafaat, DIO Dr. Naseer Ahmad, ARTO, CAO, Tehsildars, MS District Hospital, Padma Shree Faisal Ali Dar, Representatives of Drug De Addiction Center, and other concerned.

Div Com Visits Gulmarg; Prioritizes Tourism Sector Regulation

KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: In a significant move aimed at boosting tourism and addressing local concerns, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday undertook a visit to Gulmarg and conducted a series of meetings with various stakeholders including hoteliers, ponywalas, Tourist guides and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) drivers.

The meeting, held at the prestigious Golf Club Gulmarg, focused on enhancing the tourism experience in Gulmarg, addressing the challenges faced by local businesses, and exploring new opportunities for sustainable development in the region.

Bidhuri emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the administration and local stakeholders to ensure a thriving tourism sector that benefits the local economy.

Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, Waseem Raja provided a detailed briefing during the visit. He outlined the initiatives to promote eco-friendly tourism and improve the overall tourist experience, including safety protocols, upgraded facilities



and promotional strategies to attract more visitors.

Hoteliers raised issues related to infrastructure maintenance, safety measures and promotional activities to attract more tourists. Ponywalas and ATV members discussed the need for better facilities and regulatory measures to ensure the safety and satisfaction of visitors.

During the meeting, the Div Com directed the CEO Gulmarg Development Authority to allocate specific routes for ponywalas and ATV drivers to operate on, aiming to enhance regulation and management of their activities. This directive ensures a structured approach to their movements, contributing to improved organization and oversight.

Additionally, Div Com emphasized the provision of uni-

forms and identity cards for registered ponywalas, ATV drivers, and tourist guides, promoting professionalism and accountability within the industry while also facilitating easier identification for tourists. By implementing these measures, the authorities can better monitor and enforce compliance with regulations, thereby promoting safety and integrity within the tourism sector.

Bidhuri assured all stakeholders of the administration's commitment to addressing their concerns and working towards the overall development of Gulmarg as a premier tourist destination. He also highlighted the government's ongoing initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and promoting eco-friendly tourism practices.

Govt Reviews Implementation Of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Thursday reviewed implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat.

The Secretary emphasized creation of a Project Management Unit under ABDM in the UT. He directed all officers and officials to work hard in order to guarantee that ABDM is fully implemented across the J&K. He directed the authorities to expedite the process of establishment of Project Management Unit under ABDM on schedule in order to avoid any delay in implementation of ABDM ecosystem in public and private health facilities throughout the UT.

Highlighting the importance of digital interventions in healthcare delivery, Dr. Abid Rasheed stressed on utilization of technology to expedite and enhance the quality of healthcare services for

patients in need. He directed the officers to identify the stakeholders and challenges that impede effective adoption of digital health ecosystem. He also asked for outlining a roadmap to achieve this vision for all the stakeholders in the ABDM ecosystem.



The Secretary emphasized the necessity for all officers to work in coordination to improve the process of digitalization in the healthcare system besides elevating the quality of facilities being given to patients in hospitals through this technological revolution in roadmap across the UT.

Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan delivered a detailed presentation highlighting various aspects of the Mission, encompassing status of ABDM in the UT, manpower in Project Management Unit under ABDM, upcoming infrastructure, targets achieved and operational status of HMIS (JK e-Sahaj) in Public Health Facilities across J&K.

Mission Director also highlighted the achievements of ABDM in terms of Health Professional Registry of Doctors and Nurses, Health Facility Registry, Digital Health Incentive Scheme, Scan & Share (QR code-based OPD registration Service), overview on Micro-site project under ABDM in J&K, ongoing Capacity Building trainings and IEC in all districts of the UT.

Among others the meeting was attended by various senior officers including the Additional Mission Director, ABDM, FA/CAO, ABDM, Consultants ABDM and other officers of ABDM, J&K.

Dr. Rizvi Assumes Charge As Regional Director IGNOU

SRINAGAR:- Dr. A. H. Rizvi on Thursday assumed the charge as Regional Director IGNOU - Srinagar Regional Centre, taking over the duties from Dr. Shah Nawaz Ahmad Dar, who concluded his two-year deputation period.

Dr. Rizvi has a vast experience in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education. With over 16 years of teaching and administrative involvement in ODL, his track record reflects a steadfast commitment to excellence and innovation.

Expressing privilege at the opportunity to serve at one of the largest Open Universities, Dr. Rizvi highlighted IGNOU's mandate to extend higher education opportunities across all segments of society in the Kashmir valley, aiming to bring education to learners' doorsteps.

Dr. Rizvi reiterated his commitment to serve the learner



community, emphasizing its pivotal role in shaping the nation's future. Upon assuming his duties, he engaged with the officers of the Regional Centre, advising a learner-centered approach. He also extended gratitude to all staff members of RC Srinagar for their warm welcome.

IUST's Journalism Students Visit Kashmir Observer



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: As part of its Industry Connect initiative, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Thursday organised an educational trip for its students to Kashmir Observer—daily newspaper—at Boulevard, here.

The aim of the field visit was to help students get acquainted with the functioning of various departments of a daily newspaper as well as understand the role of editors, reporters, designers and photojournalists. The educational trip was coordinated by Dr. Rabia Noor, Assistant Professor, DJMC, IUST.

While interacting with students, Multimedia Head of the organisation, Nazir Ganaie, said nowadays journalists working in a newspaper don't stick to just print stories but get to do a lot of other things like multimedia stories.

He advised students to be multi-taskers. "Suppose if you

are into editing, learn multiple software," he said. "In the era of Artificial Intelligence and social media, things are drastically changing everyday, so it is important to stay up-to-date," he added.

Discussing the role of newsroom, News Editor, Farzana Nisar, said great journalism takes a knack for asking the right questions. "There's no magic formula, no secret handshake. But there is a hunger, a curiosity, a drive to understand the world and share that understanding with others," she said. Auqib Javeed, a senior reporter, shared some practical tips on reporting with students while suggesting them to strike a balance between all versions of a story. He advised the students to compare the stories from five different newspapers everyday and the treatment they are given.

Students were later given a tour of various sections of the news organisation, including news room, multimedia room, designing section, etc.

Education is cornerstone For women empowerment: CUKashmir VC

KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Thursday described education as the cornerstone for women empowerment in the country and said the varsity is playing a pivotal role in empowering women through innovative and inclusive programmes designed to promote gender equity, equality, leadership, and professional development.

"By educating women, we not only uplift individuals, but also strengthen communities and the nation at large. Education is a powerful tool for social and economic empowerment and in India, where societal norms have historically restricted women's opportunities, education serves as a beacon of hope and progress," Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said in his presidential address during the culmination programme in connection with the celebration

of International Women's Day-2024 also marking the completion of 15-years of the Central University of Kashmir.

University of Kashmir, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nilofar Khan, BOPEE, Chairperson, Dr. Minu Mahajan, Head Mahaveer Institute and Emeritus Scientist, Dr. Kaiser Jamil, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Chairperson, ICC and IWC, and Dean School of Languages, Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, female students, faculty members and administrative staff were present.

The university, earlier, organised several programmes from the last few weeks to commemorate the International Women's Day.

CUKashmir VC described women as an embodiment of love and affection and underscored the need of creating a culture where women are respected, valued, and given equal opportunities to thrive in all spheres of life.

Extreme Heat Across India Sparks Public Health Crisis, Warn Experts

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Extreme temperatures across India are having their worst impact in the country's teeming megacities, experts said Thursday, warning that the heat is fast becoming a public health crisis.

India is enduring a crushing heatwave with temperatures in several cities sizzling well above 45 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Temperature readings in the capital New Delhi rose into the high 40s Celsius this week, with power usage in the city -- where the population is estimated at more than 30 million -- surging to a record high on Wednesday. "Cities are more vulnerable to the compounding effects of urbanisation and climate change," said Aarti Khosla, director at research institute Climate Trends.

"Expect a greater number of hotter days, prolonged dry spells and less rainy days as weather patterns continue to change due to increased human emissions," she told AFP.

Heat ward and ice baths

In Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, a specialised unit is busy treating patients with heat-related illnesses.

Equipped with immersion ice baths, the unit has treated eight heat-struck patients in



the past week. One person died Wednesday, medics said, with a body temperature that had surged to a fatal 41.5C (106.7F).

Among those admitted to the unit were manual labourers, most aged between 40 and 50, who work under the blazing sun.

"Treatment depends upon very quick, very rapid intervention and very rapid cooling," hospital director Ajay Shukla said, warning that the mortality rate for severe cases is around "60-80 percent".

The rising temperatures hit the vulnerable the hardest, including those on the economic margins, experts said. "When the individual is

dehydrated, extreme heat exposure will thicken their blood and cause organs to shut down, resulting in death within hours, popularly called 'heat stroke'," said Vidhya Venugopal, director at Sri Ram Institute of Higher Education and Research in Chennai. "We urgently need... action to protect exposed populations."

'About survivability'

India is no stranger to searing summer temperatures but years of scientific research have found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

The highest confirmed tem-

perature ever recorded in India was 51C (123.8F), in Phalodi on the edge of Rajasthan's Thar Desert in 2016.

Khosla, from Climate Trends, described heatwaves as "the single largest threat to India's well-being today", adding that recent high temperatures were "proof that the issue is now about survivability".

No relief comes at night. A study published by New Delhi's Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) this month said Indian cities were not cooling down after sunset as much as they had in the decade of 2001-2010.

It found temperatures then had dropped after dusk nearly

2C more than today. "Hot nights are as dangerous as midday peak temperatures," it said. "People get little chance to recover from daytime heat... exerting prolonged stress on the body."

'Caused by burning coal'

Researchers say human-induced climate change has driven the devastating heat impact in India and should be taken as a warning.

"The suffering India is facing this week is worse because of climate change, caused by burning coal, oil and gas and deforestation," said Friederike Otto, a climatologist at the Imperial College London and director of World Weather Attribution.

The world's most populous nation is the third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases but has committed to achieve a net zero emissions economy by 2070 -- two decades after most of the industrialised West. For now, it is overwhelmingly reliant on coal for power generation.

The government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is seeking a third term in ongoing elections, says the fossil fuel remains central to meeting India's rising energy needs and lifting millions out of poverty. "What we are seeing in India is exactly what scientists said would happen if we didn't stop heating the planet," Otto said.

Unclaimed Money At Banks Rises 26% In 1 Year To ₹78,213 Crore: RBI



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Unclaimed deposits with banks have witnessed a 26 per cent jump year on year to ₹78,213 crore at the end of March 2024, as per the RBI Annual Report released today.

The amount with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund stood at ₹62,225 crore at the end of March 2023.

Banks including cooperative banks transfer unclaimed deposits of account holders lying in their accounts for 10 or more years to RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

As a measure to assist the account holders and with a view to consolidating and rationalising the extant instructions on inoperative accounts, the Reserve Bank issued a comprehensive guidelines earlier this year on the measures to be put in place by the banks covering various aspects of classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits, as the case may be.

The RBI advised banks for a periodic review of such accounts, measures to prevent

fraud in such accounts, grievance redress mechanism for expeditious resolution of complaints, steps to be taken for tracing the customers of inoperative accounts or unclaimed deposits including their nominees or legal heirs for re-activation of accounts, settlement of claims or closure and the process to be followed by them.

These instructions were expected to complement the ongoing efforts and initiatives taken by banks and the Reserve Bank to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants.

The revised instructions are applicable to all commercial banks (including Regional Rural Banks) and all co-operative banks and have come into effect from April 1, 2024.

To facilitate the depositors to search the unclaimed deposits across multiple banks easily and at one place, the Reserve Bank developed a centralised web portal UDGM - Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to

Access information.

BRS To Oppose Congress' "Attempt To Remove" Charminar From Telangana Emblem



Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: The opposition BRS in Telangana on Thursday said it would hold protests against the Congress government's alleged move to remove Charminar and the 'Kakatiya arch' from the state emblem.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who visited Charminar here along with other party leaders, said Charminar is the identity of Hyderabad.

Speaking to reporters, Rama Rao alleged that the Congress government does not want former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy to get a good name for the BRS government's performance during the last 10 years.

He also accused the Congress government of trying to belittle the progress achieved during the tenure of BRS.

"We oppose the Congress government's attempt to remove Charminar and the Ka-

katiya arch from the official logo of Telangana," he said, adding that the BRS would also take up protests on the issue.

He demanded that the Congress government withdraw its alleged attempt to remove the Charminar and also the arch of the Kakatiya dynasty of Warangal from the state emblem.

The proposed agitation by the BRS came in the wake of the state government's move to make a new state emblem reflecting the "struggles and sacrifices of Telangana" and also a new state song.

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar opposed popular music director M M Keeravani of Oscar-winning 'Natu Natu' fame composing music for the state song 'Jaya Jaya He Telangana' penned by poet Ande Sri.

Mr Kumar took exception to the "authority" of Keeravani, who is a native of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, over the state song of Ande Sri.

154 Skyscrapers In Mumbai Metropolitan Region, 207 Being Built: Report

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) currently has 154 high-rise towers of more than 40 floors each and over 200 skyscrapers are expected to come up in the city till 2030, according to Anarock.

Real estate consultant Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said between 2019 and 2023, 154 high-rises with over 40 floors hit the MMR market. "...between 2024 and 2030, 207 more will be completed. These projects have already been launched across the region," Puri said.

"Skyscrapers are synonymous with Mumbai's real estate landscape, and increasingly define it. Apart from its extreme shortage of developable land, the city's towering urban aesthetic has become an apt symbol of its economic

might." Anarock noted that the development of high-rises also helps decongest the city.

"Skyscrapers include amenities and residences in a single vertical space, thereby reducing residents' need to leave the premises for leisure pursuits. Apart from thereby easing traffic congestion, these buildings also tend to trigger significant infrastructure developments around them, including better roads and improved public transport facilities," the consultant said.

As per the data, South Central Mumbai has the maximum 103 high-rise towers. Of these, at least 61 towers are completed and another 42 will be completed within the 2024-2030 period.

Mumbai's Central suburbs has 87 high-rises of over 40 floors. Of these 42 are completed and another 45 towers are under construction.

Fact Check: Did Shah Rukh Khan Say Rahul Gandhi Will Be Next PM?

Press Trust of India

A screenshot of a purported post by actor Shah Rukh Khan was shared by many social media users. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be the next prime minister of India," read the alleged X post by the actor. In its investigation, the PTI Fact Check Desk found that the screenshot shared on social media was imaginary and fake. The actor has not published anything recently on the Congress leader.

Claim

An Instagram user shared on May 25 a screenshot of a purported X post by Shah Rukh Khan, which claimed that Rahul Gandhi will be the next prime minister.

An English translation to the caption read, "Now Shahrukh Khan also said Rahul Gandhi will become the Prime Minister..."

Investigation

Starting the investigation, the Desk scanned social media platforms and found that several other users had shared the same screenshot with a similar claim.

The screenshot was widely shared on YouTube as well.

The Desk then conducted a customised keyword search on Google, but could not find any report regarding any such social media post.

In the next part of investigation, the Desk scanned the official X handle of the actor but could not find any such post by him.



As can be seen in the screenshot above, Khan shared only post in the month of May, in which he urged people of Maharashtra to exercise their franchise and cast vote in the state in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls held on May 20.

The Desk also checked the account's activity log on Social Blade, a social media analytics website, and found that no post was deleted recently.

Subsequently, the Desk concluded that a fake screenshot was shared on social media in the name of Shah Rukh Khan

CLAIM

Shah Rukh Khan said that

Rahul Gandhi will be the next prime minister.

FACT

Shah Rukh Khan did not make any such statement on social media, or in public.

CONCLUSION

Several social media users shared a purported screenshot of an X post by Shah Rukh Khan, which quoted him claiming that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be the next prime minister. In its investigation, the PTI Fact Check Desk found that a fake screenshot was shared on social media with false claim.

Air Hostess From Kolkata Arrested After Nearly 1 Kg Gold Found In Rectum

Press Trust of India

KANNUR, KERALA: An air hostess was arrested for allegedly smuggling nearly one kilogram of gold from Muscat to Kannur by concealing it in her rectum, a DRI source said today.

Based on specific intelligence by DRI Cochin, officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI - Kannur) intercepted the cabin crew member named Surabhi Khatun, a native of Kolkata, who arrived from Muscat at Kannur International Airport on May 28.

Her personal search resulted in the recovery of 960 grams of smuggled gold in compound form concealed in her rectum, the source told news agency Press Trust of India.

After interrogation and completing the necessary formalities, she was produced before the jurisdictional magistrate and remanded to 14 days to women's prison in Kannur, the source told news agency PTI.



This is the first case in India where an airline crew member has been apprehended for smuggling gold by concealing it in the rectum, the source claimed.

A detailed investigation has started and the evidence gathered so far suggests she had previously smuggled gold several times. The involvement of Kerala-based individuals in the smuggling gang is also being investigated, the source told Press Trust of India. A representative of the airline was contacted seeking its view on the issue, but is yet to respond.

Jailed For Illegally Entering Pakistan, Woman, Minor Son Handed Back To India



Press Trust of India

LAHORE: An Indian woman and her minor son, both victims of human trafficking, were handed over to Indian forces at the Wagah border after they completed their sentence of a little over one year for illegally entering Pakistan last year, a Pakistani official said on Thursday.

Wahida Begum and her minor son Faiz Khan were released from a jail in Balochistan province's Quetta after they completed their jail term of a little over a year and handed over to the Border Security Force at the Wagah border crossing on Wednesday.

According to federal government officials, Wahida, a resident of Nagaon district in Assam, was arrested along with her son while illegally entering Pakistan from Afghanistan via the Chaman border last year.

Wahida told the authorities here that she had been deceived by an Indian travel agent due to which she reached Pakistan.

"After the death of my husband in 2022, I decided to take my son to Canada. For this purpose, I sold my property and paid a hefty sum of money to an Indian agent," she said in her statement to police in Pakistan.

She said that the agent travelled with them to Dubai and from there to Afghanistan last year. He promised to take the mother and son to Canada from Afghanistan. "However, in Afghanistan, he took all of my money and our passports and managed to flee," she said.

Wahida further said that to reach India, she and her son crossed into Pakistan via the Chaman border where they were arrested by the Pakistani authorities (under the Foreigners Act).

"Later we were provided consular access and the process of verifying our citizenship took several months," she said, adding that her Pakistani lawyer informed her mother back in India about their ordeal.

E-Rickshaw Driver Drugs, Rapes 25-Year-Old Woman In Delhi, Arrested: Cops

Agencies

A 25-year-old woman was allegedly drugged, raped and robbed by an e-rickshaw driver here, police said on Thursday.

The police have arrested Mohammad Umar (24) in the case from north Delhi's Kotwali area.

"On May 26, a PCR call was received at Kotali police station regarding a robbery. A team was sent to the spot. A woman was found in an injured condition and was bleeding profusely. Her three-year-old son was sitting beside her," Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena said.

The woman, a resident of Bihar, was rushed to a hospital and her medical examination was conducted, he said.

According to police, the woman with her 3-year-old son was travelling to Punjab from Bihar to meet her husband. On May 26, she boarded the New Delhi Railway Station train and went to the Sadar market. While returning to the station via e-rickshaw, the driver allegedly offered her a drink, after which she lost consciousness, the DCP said. "According to her statement, the rickshaw puller took her to some isolated area where he raped her. When she objected to the act and tried to raise the alarm, the rickshaw puller hit her on the head with a brick," Meena said.

"She fell unconscious again, and on regaining consciousness, she found that her mobile phone and ₹3,000 cash were missing," he said.

"We formed a team and began investigating the matter. They examined about 500 CCTV footage and zeroed down a battery rickshaw," he added. A hunt was launched to identify and arrest the accused. Around 150 rickshaw owners were examined. On May 29, Umar was arrested. The police recovered the woman's mobile phone and the rickshaw used in the crime, Meena said. Umar was previously involved in a robbery case, he said.

Police said that an FIR under sections 376 (rape), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit and offence), and 379 (theft) of the Indian Penal Code. Further investigation is underway, he added.