

J&K Battles Dengue Surge: Cases Exceed 4000, One Death Reported

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing a continuous rise in dengue cases this year, with 4,315 cases and one death confirmed so far.

Data reveals that of the 4,315 dengue cases reported, 2,716 are from Jammu, 462 from Samba, 388 from Kathua, 216 from Udhampur, 160 from Reasi, 112 from Rajouri, 57 from Poonch, 95 from Doda, 38 from Ramban, 13 from Kishtwar, 17 from Kashmir, and 31 from other states.

State Malariologist Dr D.J. Raina said that while cases continue to rise, the situation is under control. "So far, 24,927 tests have been conducted, of which 4,315 have returned positive. By this time last year, 33,394 tests were conducted, and 4,453 were positive," he said.

Dr Raina said that out of the 4,315 positive cases, 457 were admitted to hospitals. Among them, 374 have been discharged, 71 remain under treatment, and one patient has succumbed to the disease.

To curb the spread of dengue,



SIGNS OF DENGUE FEVER

the malariologist urged the public to take preventive measures, emphasizing that since there is no vaccine for

dengue, proactive prevention is essential. "Authorities are implementing effective measures to contain dengue, and while vigilance is necessary, there is no need to panic," he added.

Medical professionals advise the public to use mosquito repellents, wear long-sleeved clothing, and avoid mosquito-prone areas. Dengue-spreading mosquitoes breed in stagnant water, especially during the monsoon season, making it essential to eliminate any standing water around homes, schools, workplaces,

and nearby areas. "Preventing dengue fever begins with eliminating mosquito breeding sites and avoiding mosquito bites," doctors advised.

These mosquitoes are most active during the day, and medical experts recommend covering exposed skin, using mosquito nets for daytime rest, and spraying nets with repellents for added protection.

Common symptoms of dengue include fever, headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, rash, nausea, and vomiting. | More on P6

Iran Thwarts Israeli Attack

Israeli Opposition Call Attack A 'Showoff'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Israel launched a pre-dawn attack on various targets in Iran Saturday, apparently in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missile strikes by the Islamic Republic earlier this month. The strikes marked the first time Israel's military has openly attacked Iran.

Iran however said its air defences successfully countered the attack but four soldiers were killed and some locations suffered "limited damage". Explosions could be heard over Tehran skies until sunrise. Iran's military said the strikes targeted military bases in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces.

Following the airstrikes, Iran's Foreign Ministry said it had a right to self-defence, and "considers itself entitled and obligated to defend against foreign acts of aggression." There was no official statement by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC).

The strikes risk pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiraling violence across the Middle East, where Iranian allied groups—including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon and Ansarallah in Yemen—are already at war with Israel.

Israel's retaliatory attack on Iran on Saturday morning marked the start of a new and more dangerous phase in the two countries' yearslong conflict, but it appeared, at least for now, to have stopped short of prompting an all-out war, analysts said.

The attack was the first time that Israel has publicly acknowledged conducting a military operation inside Iran, after years of maintaining a strategic silence about its assassinations and acts of sabotage on Iranian soil. It was also one of only a handful of attacks by a foreign air force in | More on P6

Every Drop Of Blood Will Be Avenged: LG

» Takes Salute Of Passing Out Parade At Humhama

» Says New Counter-Terrorism Strategy In Place



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said every drop of innocent blood spilled in the valley will be avenged and all capabilities will be used to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

Addressing the passing

out-cum-attestation parade of the Border Security Force (BSF) at the STC, Humhama here, Sinha said Pakistan has persisted with its unholy action of carrying out terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Unfortunately, we have a neighbour who since the time of independence has continuously engaged in | More on P6

3-4 Terrorists Involved In Gulmarg Attack: Police

Three to four militants are believed to have carried out the deadly attack on an Army convoy in the Gulmarg sector of Jammu and Kashmir that left four people, including two soldiers, dead, a senior police official said on Saturday. The search operation, which entered | More on P6

USING THE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH, WE ARE COMMITTED to utilising all available capabilities to dismantle the ecosystem of terrorism."



AUTUMN'S EMBRACE: Houseboats cradled by the golden glow of chinar leaves in Srinagar. KO Photo | Muntazir Yaseen

Low Water Levels In Chenab Threaten J&K's Hydropower Plants

Agencies

Srinagar: The continued dry spell and lack of rain in the region are causing water levels in the Chenab River to drop, raising concerns for hydroelectric power generation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The declining water levels are negatively affecting power production. The Chenab River is home to several major hydroelectric projects, including the Baglihar, Salal, and Dul-Hasti power plants, with additional projects under construction. The river has the potential to generate around 16,000 megawatts of electricity.

An official from the Baglihar power project said, "During the summer, when the water level is at its peak,



we generate the full capacity of 900 megawatts. However, as the water level recedes, power generation is impacted. In winter, production drops to nearly half of the capacity."

The reduction in power

generation during winter months creates challenges, as electricity demand surges across North India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. In response to low output, the power development department | More on P6

ACCESSION DAY

Merging PoK With India Key To Peace: BJP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The BJP on Saturday commemorated Accession Day and renewed its commitment to advancing the vision of a united and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, a party spokesperson said.

Accession Day marks the anniversary of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh signing the Instrument of Accession, which formalised Jammu and Kashmir's merger with India in 1947.

The celebration was held at the BJP headquarters in Srinagar's Jawahar Nagar.

The event brought together party workers, senior leaders and citizens who honoured a significant day in the history

of Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said.

It was led by Ashok Koul, the general secretary (organisation) of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Koul emphasised the importance of Accession Day as a reminder of the Union Territory's commitment to unity and integrity within India.

He said that Kashmir of 1947 was the only way out to stop the bloodshed in the UT and when Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) would be merged with the Indian Union, peace would become a permanent feature.

"BJP is committed to its stand of retrieving the PoK from Pakistan. We believe Kashmir of 1947 is the only way out to | More on P6

Hoax Bomb Threats Govt Issues Advisory To SM Platforms

Agencies

New Delhi: Amid a spate of hoax bomb threats to multiple airlines, the IT Ministry has asked social media platforms to observe due diligence obligations and promptly remove or disable access to misinformation within the strict timelines prescribed under IT rules.

The Centre also asserted that apart from removing or disabling access to such misinformation, social media intermediaries have additional liability under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) to mandatorily report certain offences perceived to be committed by any user of their platform including those with intent to threaten unity, integrity, sovereignty or security of India. The Government, in an advisory, | More on P6

2013 FAKE CURRENCY Case

Court Acquits 2 Persons Due To 'Investigation Lapses'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Court has acquitted two persons in 2013 fake currency case, observing "serious lapses in mandatory requirements," which undermined the prosecution's case.

After hearing prosecution and defence counsel Advocate Maroof Khan, the Court of First Additional Sessions Court, Srinagar presided over by Khursheed-ul-Islam, said that lack of a clear chain of custody and procedural irregularities weakened the prosecution's case, ultimately leading to the acquittal.

In 2013, Parimpora Police apprehended Mohsin Hassan Peer and Abdul Majeed Sheikh and allegedly recovered Rs. 1.75 lakh from their possession.



Court observed that all four prosecution witnesses produced were police personnel who themselves were involved in the 2013 operation. However, the court observed discrepancies in their statements regarding the recovery and seizure of the currency.

"The overall position of the prosecution case is that the prosecution evidence is weak, fragile and crispy and does not inspire the confidence in the

mind of court, rather it creates doubt in the mind of court and that benefit of doubt will certainly tilt in favour of accused persons," court said.

Court added that On the other hand the accused persons have succeeded in searching the silver line so as to escape from the clouds of conviction hovering on their heads.

"Further, the evidence that came against the accused persons does not answer the necessary ingredients of the offence with which they are charge sheeted. Hence prosecution has not been able to prove its case to the hilt against the accused persons," court said.

NEET PG

J&K Govt Urged To Introduce Service Bonds

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: NEET PG aspirant doctors who have completed their MBBS degrees from various Institutions of the country and abroad are urging the Jammu and Kashmir administration to introduce service bonds.

A bond is required for students who pursue PG courses in government medical colleges, typically mandating service in the state for a specified number of years.

These bonds typically vary in terms of duration and specific conditions and details may change over time.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, several NEET PG aspirant doctors said that the absence of a service bond for PG doctors in Jammu and Kashmir significantly impacts the healthcare landscape and the careers

of young medical professionals. With an alarming ratio of 1,500 UG seats to fewer than 120 PG seats, many undergraduates face unemployment and frustration, leading to increased competition and congestion.

"In the coming years, as the number of practicing doctors dwindles, primarily relying on an aging workforce, public health will suffer. The current system, which operates largely due to the dedication of senior doctors, risks a severe breakdown once they begin to retire, said Dr Aqib Hassan.

Hassan said that a strategy to retain new graduates, the healthcare system may become unsustainable, threatening not only the health of the population but also the broader economy, which is heavily dependent on a robust medical workforce. Aspirants also | More on P6

Congress Rift Widens In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Several district-level leaders of Congress have sought the removal of former Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Vikar Rasool Wani from the party for "attempting to destabilise" and "inciting" indiscipline in the party, sources said Saturday.

Sources in Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) said district-level leaders were not happy with Wani, and accused him of using party leader Ghulam Nabi Monga -- who they described as a "failed Congressman" -- to destabilise the party.

"He incites others to question the decisions of the party high command vis-a-vis alliance with National Conference and other decisions concerning J-K Congress," a source in the party quoted leaders as having said.

"We will be seeking his immediate removal as Special Invitee Congress | More on P6

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
02252	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:00	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Tri-weekly	Thursday, Saturday, Monday
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02248	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tues, Thurs & Saturday
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35	Tri-weekly	Wed, Fri & Sunday
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10	Date Wise	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00	Weekly	Friday
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Monday
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25	Weekly	Monday
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamarhi	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday
04021	Sitamarhi	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Saturday
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tuesday
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-weekly	Tuesday, Friday, Sunday
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:00	Tri-weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:30	Tri-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04043	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sunday
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30	Weekly	Thursday
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10	Weekly	Monday
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30	Weekly	Friday
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30	Weekly	Saturday
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10	Weekly	Monday
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04608	Jammu Tawi	20:20	Howrah Jn	13:20	Date Wise	Wednesday & Monday
04607	Howrah Jn	23:45	Jammu Tawi	15:20	Date Wise	Friday & Wednesday
04680	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:40	Kamakhya	21:00	Date Wise	Monday & Saturday
04679	Kamakhya	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday
04662	Amritsar Jn	20:10	Saharsa	05:00	Date Wise	Tuesday & Sunday
04661	Saharsa	10:00	Amritsar Jn	18:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday
05001	Gorakhpur Jn	19:30	Delhi Jn	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05002	Delhi Jn	15:15	Gorakhpur Jn	09:55	Weekly	Monday
05111	Chhapra Jn	14:00	New Delhi	11:50	Weekly	Monday
05112	New Delhi	12:50	Chhapra Jn	11:30	Weekly	Tuesday

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20	Weekly	Saturday
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45	Weekly	Thursday
05023	Gorakhpur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Gorakhpur	04:45	Weekly	Monday
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45	Weekly	Friday
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Weekly	Thursday
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Saturday
02525	Kamakhya	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhya	03:40	Weekly	Sunday
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15	Weekly	Friday
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55	Bi-weekly	Friday, Monday
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	04:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Saturday

03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50	Weekly	Sunday
09075	Mumbai Central (via Bareilly)	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday
09076	Kathgodam (via Bareilly)	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55	Weekly	Thursday
07363	Hubballi Jn	20:30	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:30	Weekly	Monday
07364	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	06:15	Hubballi Jn	06:30	Weekly	Thursday
09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30	6 Days a week	Except Sunday
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Patna Jn	07:00	6 Days a week	Except Friday
04123	Prayagraj Jn	14:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04124	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Prayagraj Jn	09:00	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
05193	Chhapra	14:00	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:10	Weekly	Saturday
05194	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	00:05	Chhapra	08:00	Weekly	Monday
02417	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Friday
02418	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Saturday
04145	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Prayagraj Jn	08:55	Weekly	Thursday
04146	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Friday
02421	Subedarganj	21:35	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Sunday
02422	Delhi Jn	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Weekly	Monday
03309	Dhanbad Jn	10:10	Jammu Tawi	22:40	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
03310	Jammu Tawi	23:25	Dhanbad Jn	14:00	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
09195	Vadodara Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	19:00	Mau Jn	20:45	Weekly	Saturday
09196	Mau Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	23:15	Vadodara Jn	00:45	Weekly	Sunday
09417	Ahmedabad Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	09:10	Danapur	20:30	Weekly	Monday
09418	Danapur (via Varanasi Jn)	23:50	Ahmedabad Jn	11:10	Weekly	Tuesday
09405	Sabarmati (via Lucknow)	18:10	Patna Jn	02:00	Weekly	Tuesday
09406	Patna Jn (via Lucknow)	05:00	Sabarmati	13:30	Weekly	Thursday

Police Arrests Fraudster In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A notorious fraudster was arrested on charges of duping a Ladakh resident of a substantial sum of money by Srinagar police.

A police spokesman in a statement said "upon written information from one Rinchen Angchok son of Kunga Paldan, a resident of Nang Leh Ladakh, Srinagar police apprehended the accused person for fraudulently extracting 14,48,829 (14.5 lakhs) from the complainant on the pretext of sanctioning a petrol pump on the Leh-Manali highway, using his fake influence to deceive the victim."

The accused has been identified as Mirza Sajad Hussain Beigh son of Mirza Ali Mohd Beigh, a resident of Khushipora HMT. "Case FIR No. 117/24 under relevant sections of the law stands registered in Police Station Parimpora and the accused person has been arrested," police said.

During preliminary investigation, police added that it came to the fore that the accused person was a habitual offender involved in numerous fraudulent cases across the valley including: FIR No. 38/18 under sections 380, 109, 120 RPC of PS Baramulla; FIR No. 23/13 under section 419, 420, 468, 471 RPC of PS

Zadibal and FIR No. 44/23 under section 420, 468, 471, 120 B-IPC of PS Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Srinagar.

"In addition to these cases, the accused has multiple complaints lodged against him under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act in various Hon'ble Courts. Moreover, several Non-Bailable Warrants of arrest have been issued against him by multiple courts," Srinagar Police said.

During further investigation, it surfaced that the modus operandi of the accused was to portray himself to be a person of significant influence, often associating himself with political affiliates and participating in the electoral processes to gain security cover. Using this pretext, he would dupe people into believing that he had powerful connections and by gaining the trust of his victims, he would defraud them of large sums of money, they added.

"Police urge the general public not to fall prey to fraudsters and imposters who portray themselves as influential figures. Citizens are advised to verify the credentials of such individuals before making any financial commitments and to report any suspicious activity to their nearest police station or dial 112."

Mirwaiz Grieved Over Tragic Fire Incident At Batamaloo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil on behalf of the organization and its Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has expressed grief and sorrow over the damage of five residential houses and the burning of properties

in a terrible incident of fire at Batamaloo Srinagar, recently.

In a statement, Darul Khair on behalf of Mirwaiz, expressed heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with the six affected families and emphasized the need for all possible help of the affected families.



Advisor To CM Inaugurates Art Exhibition At City Mall Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today inaugurated today an exhibition titled 'Revelations' - Artful insights' at City Mall, Lal Chowk here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Advisor appreciated the noble mission and motive of the organizer of the event. "Such initiatives greatly help the society towards protection, promotion and preservation of our age-old cultural legacy and identity", he

maintained.

Second Lives Art Guild is an art group which comprises self taught artists. The event has been organized to showcase their talent and inspire people, especially the younger generation to evolve and polish their talent and hobbies by keeping their passion alive for inherent talent and skills for which Kashmir is famous globally.

The group's motto is to inspire masses to explore nature, art, culture, heritage and to scale off the screen time and gadgets.

The exhibition will culminate on 27th of October, 2024.

Director, Handicrafts & Handlooms Kashmir, Mehmood Shah, Former Dean Faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Professor Zargar Zahoor was also present on the occasion.

The participating artists included Dr. Jehangir Aslam, Er. Shazia Basharat, Er. Nabi, Saqib Kachroo and other young guest artists like Falak Iqbal, Iqra Shabaan, Sameer Shafi and Umar Hassan.

Enhancing Lung Health Management

GMC Srinagar Organizes Program On Latest Diagnostic Techniques

Observer News Service

Srinagar: One-day "Continuing Medical Education", (CME) program on advanced lung function testing was organized by the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The program featured comprehensive discussions on ad-

vanced diagnostic techniques, such as Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO), lung oscillometry, body plethysmography, and bronchoprovocation testing, all of which are crucial for accurate diagnosis and management of respiratory diseases.

The CME was organized under the patronage of Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean

GMC Srinagar, with Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah serving as the Organizing Secretary, and Dr. Khurshid Ahmad and Dr. Suriya Farooq as Co-organizers.


Guest speakers included distinguished experts Dr. Sundeep Salvi and Dr. Deesha Ghorpade, who shared their insights on the latest advancements in lung function testing and respiratory medicine.

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
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- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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 • QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS
 • Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
 • Mughal Road - (Open)
 • Srinagar-Leh - (Open)



HIJRI CALENDAR
23 Rabi-ul-Sani
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 22
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4: 06
Magrib	5:47
ISHA	7: 08

- 1627 - English assault on French Il de Ré
- 1644 - Second Battle of Newbury: King Charles I beats parliamentary armies
- 1702 - British troops plunder St Augustine, Florida
- 1795 - Pinckney's Treaty [Treaty of San Lorenzo] signed by Spain and US, establishing the southern boundary of the US and giving Americans right to navigate the Mississippi River
- 1806 - The French Army enters in Berlin
- 1810 - United States annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1916 - Battle of Segale: Negus Mikael, marching on the Ethiopian capital in support of his son Emperor Iyasus V, is defeated by Fitawrari abte Giyorgis, securing the throne for Empress Zauditu.
- 1922 - In Italy, Liberal Luigi Facta resigns in the face of threats from Mussolini that 'either the Government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome'
- 1924 - The Uzbek SSR is founded in the Soviet Union
- 1941 - Nazi's directs gypsy ghetto in Belgrade
- 1942 - 5th day of battle at El Alamein: heavy battles/ Australian advance
- 1948 - Israel recaptures Nizzamin in Negev
- 1954 - President Eisenhower offers aid to South Vietnam Prime Minister Ngô inh Di m
- 1957 - Celal Bayar re-elected president of Turkey
- 1958 - General Ayub Khan succeeds Iskander Mirza as President of Pakistan
- 1959 - Rare Pacific hurricane kills 2,000 in Western Mexico
- 1961 - 1st Saturn launch vehicle makes an unmanned flight test
- 1962 - Black Saturday - Russian nuclear missile crisis in Cuba
- 1966 - UN deprives South Africa of Namibia
- 1969 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to John Tinbergen
- 1971 - Republic of Congo-Kinshasa becomes Republic of Zaire
- 1972 - OPEC approves plan providing for 25 percent government ownership of all Western oil interests operating within Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia
- 1977 - NASA launches space vehicle S-200
- 1979 - St Vincent & Grenadines becomes independent of UK (National Day)
- 1981 - The Soviet submarine U 137 runs aground on the east coast of Sweden.
- 1982 - China announces its population has reached 1 billion plus people
- 1982 - IBM ROM is capable of EGA graphics
- 1986 - British government deregulates financial markets in a "Big Bang", enhancing London's status as a financial capital while increasing income inequality

From KO Archives

'Kashmiri' Held With \$71,000 In New Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- Busting the second major currency racket in the capital in a week, the enforcement directorate (ED) has arrested a person and recovered huge quantities of foreign and Indian currencies from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, ED officials searched a person, hailing from Kashmir, and recovered 71,083 dollars (over Rs 32 lakh), Rs 90,000 worth Indian currency and some documents from his car. ED special director KR.Bhargava said here today. He said the car was also seized and the Delhi

Police had been asked to check the person's, antecedents whether he had any links with militants in Kashmir.

ED sleuths had recovered nearly Rs one crore in Indian as well as foreign currency during raids last week at 11 premises belonging to ten global hawala operators and foreign exchange racketeers.

(Kashmir Observer, October 27, 2000)

From Office of the Advocate Ghulam Jeelani Kukiloo

In the case of

1. Mohammad Abdullah Sheikh S/o Habibullah Sheikh.
2. Farooq Ahmad Shiekh
3. Ishfaq Ahmad Shiekh Both son's of Mohammad Abdullah Shiekh
4. Aakil Ahmad Shiekh S/o Mohammad Abdullah Shiekh
5. Tariq Ahmad Shiekh
6. Riyaz Ahmad Shiekh
7. Mehraj Ud din Shiekh
8. Mudasir Ahmad Shiekh
9. Rafiq Ahmad Shiekh
10. Ghulam Hassan Shiekh

All son's of Hamidullah Shiekh
All residents of Singhpora, Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla. (Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.


Sd/advocate

Public Notice
List of Managing Body of Salfia Edu. Instt. Russu

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation	Qual.	Phone. No.	
01	Ab Rouf Parry	Mohmad Ramzan Parry	Kanihama	Chairman	M.Ed	962243825	
02	Mohammad Rafeeq Lone	Ghulam Mohammad Lone	Russu	Member	M.Ped	6006010689	
03	Tawseef Ahmad Dar	Ghulam Mohammad Dar	Peth Kanihama	Secretary	M. Sc M.Ed	9149725309	
04	Abdul Waheed Dar	Ghulam Mohammad Dar	Russu	Principal	M.Sc, B.Ed	7889513088	
05	Ab Lateef Dar	Ab Razak Dar	Russu	Parent	10+2	7006695842	
06	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Gh. Ahmad Dar	Russu	Member/Parent	10+2	8899247346	
07	Javid Ahmad Wani	Farooq Ahmad Wani	Bachipora	Member	Molvi Fazil	7006312426	

Principal
Salfia Edu. Instt.
Russu Budgam

BMG_r



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
B/U SSI Lal Chowk
Srinagar Near Ganta Ghar

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas, Mrs Nuzhat Parvee as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices dated 21.11.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Tahir Rafiq Khan S/o: Mohammad Rafiq Khan R/o: House No 03 Baghati Barzulla Srinagar to repay an amount of Rs. 10,82,605.79/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Six Hundred Five Paise Seventy Nine Only) being the balance outstanding as on 01.10.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Physical possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the 24 day of October 2024.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 11,12,457.79 (Rupees Eleven Lac Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Seven and Paise Seventy Nine Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.10.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property.
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed / latest particulars including any accreditations)

Registered Mortgage of Residential House alongwith land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 08 Marlas , falling under Khasra No. 1770 min of Khata No. 1687 of Khawat No. 1516 situated at Mouza Natipora Tehsil Chanapora / Natipora and District Srinagar standing in the name of Tahir Rafiq Khan S/o: Mohammad Rafiq Khan R/o: House No 03, Baghati , Barzulla, Srinagar (J&K)

Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat
Authorize Officer

Dated: 24.10.2024
Place: Srinagar

ab

Do Iran Attacks Signal the End of American Hegemony?



Wajahat Qazi

More than the flurry of diplomacy that involved America's mediocre Defense Secretary Lloyd Austen and less than worthy Secretary of state, Anthony Blinken, two factors would have focused Americans' minds: the state of the global economy with high oil prices running amok post an attack and, two, the Middle East getting engulfed into a wider and deeper regional conflagration. Neither, to state the obvious, are in America's interests

Israel has just concluded its 'attacks' on Iran. These, at this point in time, appear to be more symbolic than substantive- perhaps in the nature of demonstrating to Israelis the country's ability to retaliate. This is not to say that Israel could not have made a compellingly powerful attack on Iran. With western powers having its back, and with massive arms sales and transfers to the country and the presence of thousands of marines in the Gulf, Israel's response would have been more dangerous. But this does not mean that Iran would be a push-over: despite crippling sanctions, attritional wars and double containment, Iran is neither Costa Rica nor Bhutan, for example. Above all, the will to resist is ingrained in the DNA of Iranians. What then explains Israel's rather tepid retaliation?

More than the flurry of diplomacy that involved America's mediocre Defense Secretary Lloyd Austen and less than worthy Secretary of state, Anthony Blinken, two factors would have focused Americans' minds: the state of the global economy with high oil prices running amok post an attack and, two, the Middle East getting engulfed into a wider and deeper regional conflagration. Neither, to state the obvious, are in America's interests. Damage to the global economy would affect America's economy which doing very well. An economic downturn induced by war in the Middle East would percolate back to the US. Neither the democratic party nor the Republican party presidential hopefuls would want that- nor presumably the US' deep state. A wider and a deeper conflagration would carry obvious and insidious perils in the region and beyond. Importantly, all this would have happened when China is making noises about Taiwan, North Korea is sending troops to Russia against delivery of sophisticated delivery systems and arms, the war in and over Ukraine is going badly for the West, and the global South is reconsidering the nature of its ties with the West. Added up, an Israeli attack would have bogged the US in a war (not of its choice) contra its military force posture and doctrine: ability to fight a two-front war. America, the declining hegemon, would be like Gulliver chained and maneuvered into a condition from where exit in the expansive sense of word would be well-nigh impossible.

Multiple wars on multiple fronts would drain and sap America, its power and prestige. All this explains America leaning on Israel and mute its 'retaliation'. In a convoluted way, what is happening is classic balance of power politics where the hegemon of the day is being 'balanced' by its rivals and competitors- albeit in a militarized



idiom. Stretching the argument further, American strategists are keenly aware of 'imperial overstretch' and its perils for America itself. But delineating these themes and factors is to state the obvious. The real and lasting damage is to the substance of international relations. While force and power are the foundational elements of international politics, but post 1945, norms were devised to hedge and hem the use of force in the interstate system. This normative consensus stands broken (perhaps irretrievably so) after Israel's assault on Gaza, Lebanon and its potential pre-emptive strikes on Iran. In the nature of an extremely toxic and dangerous development, it makes war kosher (or halal as the case may be) for anyone and everyone in the international state system. Countries paired in a dyadic conflict with each other now have no inhibitions to go to war against each other. (Even nuclear war can be on the anvil now). There are two other casualties post October 7, 2023: international law and soft power. The repository of both was the European Union- a union that happened through 'widening' and 'deepening' by virtue of the 'clubs' soft power and normative emphasis on international law. Now even the Europeans (even flaccid Ger-

many) is considering re-militarizing itself. While soft power, in practice, was rhetorical gloss over America's hard power but conceptually there was something to it. But even conceptually it is dead.

The world that we now inhabit is then a dangerous, polarized world with war returning as the practice to determine power relations and the solvent of conflicts. It is as alarming as can be. The onus for creating this world can be traced to America -within its wars of choice in Iraq and Afghanistan, its untrammelled focus on free market capitalism and its concomitant untrammelled globalization, overall hubris and concentration of power in the country. Is there a way out- a redemptive one? While much depends on the 'escalatory- de-escalatory' dynamic in the Middle East and how it pans out (whether Iran will counter attack and how this will denoué), the ultimate antidote to war and crafting of peace in the region and beyond may lie in a multi-polar world- the kind that would check the worst impulses of a reckless and irresponsible hegemon (read America) and lead to peace within and without. The process and path toward robust multi-polarity has begun. It's time to nudge it further.

The attack on the headquarters of a defense company in Ankara, Turkey capital, on October 23, could never have come on such a bad stage, when its President Taiyip Erdogan, currently on a visit to Russian city Kazan, is on his all time low popularity. Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said members of the PKK were "likely" responsible for an attack at Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc. (TUSA), in which five people were killed and 22 injured. PKK is Kurdish Workers Party, an outlawed terrorist organization in Turkey, European Union and United States. The next day, Turkey retaliated with attacks on PKK 32 targets. PKK did not own the responsibility.

The attack, as any defense analyst can easily adduce, can never happen until there is an internal sabotage, or else how come the attackers could scale multiple layers of security? The same way, of course, had happened in the wake of the killings of Qasim Suliemani (Iranian General), Mohsin Faqrizade (Iranian nuclear scientist), Ibrahim Raisi (Iranian President), Ismail Hannieh (Hamas President), Fawad Shukur (Hezbollah General), Hasan Nasrullah (President Hezbollah), Hashim Saifud-Din (President Hezbollah), Yahya Sinwar (President Hamas) the list is endless. To add to it, is the revenge killing of Colonel Ahsan Daqsa of Israel by Hamas after Yahya Sinwar was killed.. Either it was the 'internal informer' or the intel input given to Hamas by Russia. There has been a war going on between Palestine Hamas and Israel since October 7, 2023. Around 50,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel and almost whole of Gaza has been flattened by Israeli forces now. Israel is right now engaged in a war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Throughout the whole last year, Taiyip Erdogan has played second fiddle to the global powers, and could do precious little, despite the rhetoric for Palestinians, and obviously this has dipped his popularity inside his country as well as among the larger Muslim world to no end. No wonder, his party has already lost the Istanbul local elections in March 2024, a barometer that a political change in Turkey is on the anvil. Why Taiyip Erdogan is in such a catch -22 situation? He wanted Arab nations to rally against Israel, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and UAE but his call had no takers. This is ironically in the backdrop, that Palestine had been a part of the erstwhile Turkish Ottoman Empire, and therefore, Turkey has direct stakes inside Palestine. The Arab nations looked the other way, leaving Palestine and Turkey, the proverbial sick-man-of-Europe, with the baton of expulsion from NATO always on its head.

Notwithstanding, the contrasting features in Erdogan's stand vis-a-vis Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu, as he called him a 'Butcher of Gaza' or likened

Why Is NATO Member Turkey Cozying Up To BRICS?

Haider Abbas



Throughout the whole last year, Taiyip Erdogan has played second fiddle to the global powers, and could do precious little, despite the rhetoric for Palestinians, and obviously this has dipped his popularity inside his country as well as among the larger Muslim world to no end.

him to Adolf Hitler, yet the so-called 'no trade ban' with Israel had remained absolutely ineffective. The Turkish exports to Israel via Greece had seen a significant increase, all the while as Israel reduced Gaza to a rubble. A detailed report in TheCradle.Co can be accessed to damn it all. It is also a known fact,

that Israel, as apprehended by Erdogan, is all likely to attack Turkey, as next, but Turkey, could not, for the whole year, stand to Palestinians, on the lines of Iran, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Ansar-ul-Lah in Yemen or by Iranian supported groups in Syria and Iraq. It is very fresh in public memory as to how Turkey

had went on to openly support Israel 'great ally' Azerbaijan in its war against Armenia, while Iran and Russia had sided with the latter.

The beleaguered Erdogan, has now rushed to attend BRICS summit, and share a stage with Russian President Vladimir Putin, China Premier Xi Jinping-the two giant nations, driven to the race for de-dollarization of world economy. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia younger cousin, UAE King Sheikh Zayed Bin Nahyan participated in the same along with Indian PM Narendra Modi. A new stage as an anti-NATO, anti-US led QUAD is getting built it. India, here is also into a balancing-act, as Putin has made a Xi Jinping-Modi handshake, after five-years, all to the gaze of US and its European Union allied. India has benefitted hugely, after the Russian-Ukraine war, as Russia supplied its oil to India at a heavily discounted-rates, which resulted in the balance of oil-rates worldwide.

Obviously, much to the angst of US and its allies like Canada, Australia etc, India's presence at BRICS has roughed-up cold shoulders in the West, and this is the prime reason, for the spat between Canada and India, as Canada has accused the alleged involvement of India's Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in the killing with Hardeep Singh Najjar in Canada, and into the attempt to kill Gurbatwam Singh Pannum in US. Both Canada and India have withdrawn their respective ambassadors from each other.

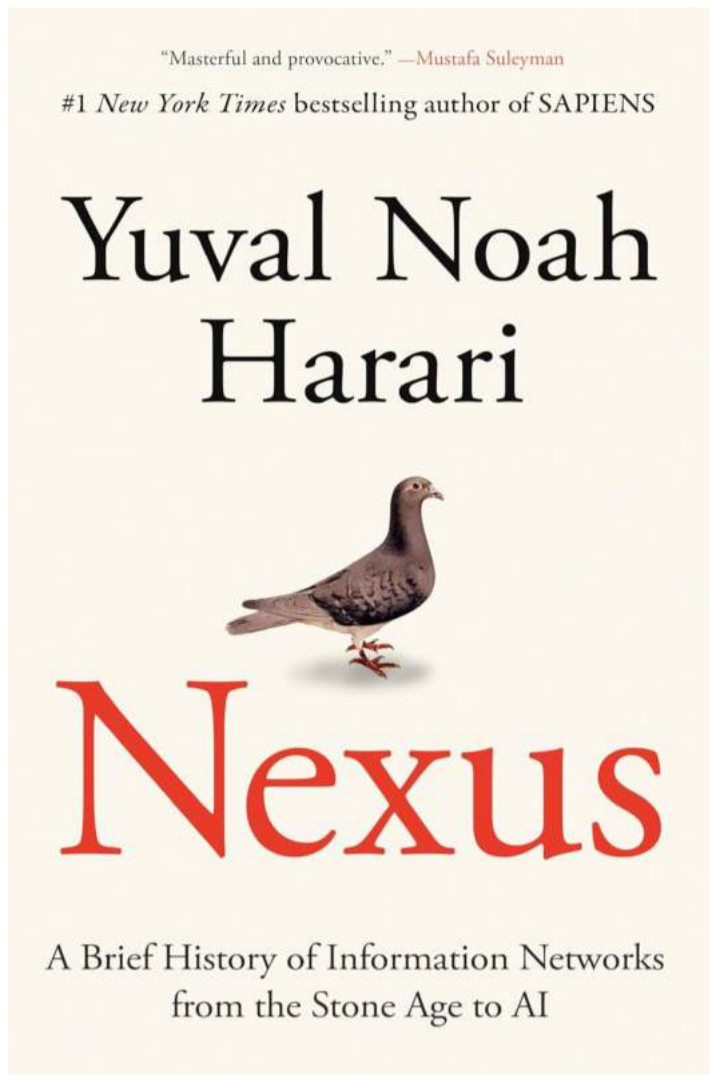
But, a new surprise has also sprung up too? To US and Israel, as US biggest ally in Middle East, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has started to engage into joint-military drills with Iran. These rare military drills have come up after Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi had visited KSA earlier this month and met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, indicating an improvement in ties between the two oil-producing nations. Both the nations had severed their diplomatic ties in 2016 after the Saudi Kingdom executed an influential Shia cleric who was a critic of the kingdom and resumed the diplomatic ties in April 2024.

Will this KSA-Iran joint gesture remain symbolic or with will transform to have any substantial impact on the geo-strategic politics of the region is all yet to unfold. Israel is raring to go for an attack on Iran, which is very likely to be retaliated, in proportionate terms this time, and this is to further catapult the whole region into a bigger war. If there is to be a change of guard in US, after November 4 elections, and Donald Trump wins over, yet perhaps, things will change in order to remain the same.

The writer is a former UP State Information Commissioner and writes on issues of national and global interest for Kashmir Observer

Non-Fiction

Technology And The Fractured World



Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI
By Yuval Noah Harari
Random House
ISBN: 978-0593734223
528pp.

Sara Danial

Yuval Noah Harari, a renowned historian and philosopher, has made a significant mark as one of today's leading public thinkers. Born in 1976 in Israel, with a PhD from the University of Oxford in 2002, he now lectures at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Harari holds a distinguished research role at the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk.

Best known for his groundbreaking works such as *Sapiens*, *Homo Deus*, and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, Harari also co-founded the social impact venture *Sapienship* with his husband, Itzik Yahav. His latest offering, *Nexus*, delves deeply into a new topic making waves these days — Artificial Intelligence (AI).

This thought-provoking book is divided into three sections, and partly based on facts, and partly on speculation. In it, Harari explores deep questions about identity, consciousness and intelligence, offering clear explanations through vivid stories and analogies. His ability to connect insights from various fields such as history, neuroscience, philosophy and artificial intelligence makes him more than just a historian — he feels like a modern-day guide to understanding our past and future.

The first section, titled 'Human Networks', delves into the nature of information and its boundless connections. It highlights the power of documents in shaping authority and challenges the illusion of perfection. In the chapter 'A Brief History of Democracy and Totalitarianism', he traces the evolution of governance. He challenges what he calls the "naive view" of information.

Yuval Noah Harari's latest book delves into how informa-

tion systems have shaped human destiny, the role of artificial intelligence in today's world and the intricate relationship between technology, power and governance

He argues that simply having more information doesn't always lead to truth — after all, the internet didn't end totalitarianism, and racism isn't something that can just be fact-checked away. At the same time, Harari pushes back against the "populist view" that objective truth doesn't exist and that information is just a tool for manipulation.

Interestingly, he points out



Yuval Noah Harari's latest book delves into how information systems have shaped human destiny, the role of artificial intelligence in today's world and the intricate relationship between technology, power and governance

that the idea of truth being subjective, now popular with right-wing politicians, originally came from left-wing thinkers such as Karl Marx and Michel Foucault. These themes come together to offer a compelling exploration of how knowledge, errors and

decision-making shape societies and nations.

In the second section, 'The Inorganic Network', Harari takes a deep dive into the unique power and pitfalls of modern networks, explaining how computers differ from the printing press by being constantly active and interconnected. He emphasises the relentless nature of digital networks that are always on, literally 24/7, yet acknowledges their fallibility, often spreading misinformation.

He argues that information is more about connecting and organising ideas and people, rather than representing reality. He describes it as a "social nexus", with early forms, such as stories, clay tablets and religious texts helping to maintain social order.

Building on ideas from *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*, he explains that humans thrived because they could cooperate in large groups, using shared stories and myths to create laws, currencies and nations. These stories didn't need to be completely accurate — they worked because they could be simplified and ignore uncomfortable truths. Through these insights, Harari sheds light on the complexity and influence of today's technological landscape.

The last section, 'Computer Politics', explores the ability of democracies to maintain meaningful conversations in an increasingly divided world, scrutinises the rise of algorithm-driven totalitarian regimes, and analyses the potential divide in our digital landscape, between a unified global empire and a fractured world. Here, Harari addresses the intricate relationship between technology, power and governance.

Harari contrasts myth and lists — myths are engaging but not always accurate, while lists capture reality but lead to bureaucracy. Both are necessary for

social order. He compares holy texts and the scientific method as different ways of addressing trust and truth. Harari extends this idea to politics, viewing democracy and totalitarianism as different information systems.

Democracy relies on decentralised information and accepts leaders' fallibility, while totalitarianism centralises control. He also notes that, starting in the 19th century, mass media enabled democracy but also helped large-scale totalitarian regimes and, today, digital media is reshaping politics.

He combines his usual blend of history, humour and far-reaching ideas, drawing on everything from religion to evolutionary biology. Some readers may enjoy his rapid shifts between topics, while others might find it overwhelming. A key point Harari raises is the parallel between holy books and artificial intelligence, both attempts to create a "superhuman authority." He warns that decisions made today about AI could have massive consequences for humanity's future, much like early decisions about the Bible have shaped history.

Harari sees AI not just as technology but as "alien intelligence" capable of becoming powerful actors in society. He worries that AI could worsen existing problems, such as cyberattacks, surveillance and online radicalisation, even creating new political movements and financial risks.

While some of his scenarios, such as an autocrat trusting AI over humans with nuclear weapons, may seem far-fetched, his overall narrative is engaging and thought-provoking. His outsider perspective on tech offers fresh insights, making his book a unique bridge between history and the AI debate.

Dawn Books

Going Down Wikipedia Rabbit Hole?

Science Says You're One Of These Three Types

Press Trust of India

If you've ever gone to look up a quick fact and just kept browsing from one article (or page, or video), to another, to another — then you know the feeling of "going down a rabbit hole". This experience of curiosity-led online wandering has become synonymous with the free, user-created encyclopedia Wikipedia.

Founded in 2001, Wikipedia is today one of the world's most popular websites. With more users than Amazon, Netflix, TikTok or ChatGPT, the site is a go-to source for people to learn about and discover new interests.

In new research involving more than 480,000 Wikipedia users in 14 languages across 50 countries, US researchers led by Dale Zhou at the University of Pennsylvania studied three distinctly different ways of going down the Wikipedia rabbit hole. These "curiosity styles" have been studied before, but not in such a large, diverse group of people using Wikipedia "naturalistically", in daily life.

The research may help us better understand the nature and importance of curiosity, its connections to wellbeing, and strategies for preventing the spread of false information.

Wikipedia: first controversial, now mature, always popular

When Wikipedia was new in the early 2000s, it sparked controversies. People such as librarians and lecturers voiced concerns about Wikipedia's potential for platforming untrue or incomplete information.

Today, the factuality of Wikipedia's existing contents

is less concerning than questions of bias, such as which topics the site's volunteer editors deem noteworthy enough to include. There are global efforts to fill gaps in Wikipedia's coverage, such as "edit-a-thons" to add entries on historically overlooked scientists and artists.

Part of what made Wikipedia groundbreaking was how it satisfies people's intrinsic learning needs by inviting navigation from page to page, luring readers into rabbit holes. This, combined with the site's participatory approach to creating and verifying pages, sparked its rapid growth. These qualities have also sustained Wikipedia as a predominant everyday information source, globally.

Research about Wikipedia has also evolved from early studies comparing it to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

This new study examines data about Wikipedia readers' activities. It looks at the different "architectural styles of curiosity" people embody when they navigate.

Busybodies, hunters and dancers

The new study explores the "knowledge networks" associated with the three main styles of curiosity: busybody, hunter and dancer. A knowledge network is a visual representation of how readers "weave a thread" across Wikipedia articles.

As the researchers explain: The busybody scouts for loose threads of novelty, the hunter pursues specific answers in a projectile path, and the dancer leaps in creative breaks with tradition across typically siloed areas of knowledge.

Earlier research had shown evidence of busybodies and



hunters, and speculated about the existence of dancers. The new study confirms that busybodies and hunters exist in multiple countries and languages. It also details the dancer style, which has been more elusive to document.

The researchers also identified geographical differences between curiosity styles.

In all 14 languages studied, busybodies tend to read more about culture, media, food, art, philosophy and religion. Hunters in 12 out of 14 languages tend to read more about science, technology, engineering

and maths.

In German and English, hunters were more drawn to pages about history and society than busybodies. The opposite was true in Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Dutch and Chinese.

Dancers were identified by their forward leaps between disparate topics, as well as the diversity of their interests.

The research team points out we still have much to learn about how curiosity is shaped by local norms. Relating these results to gender, ethnicity, access to education, and other elements will paint a fuller picture.

Curiosity is beneficial, generally ... and we have more to learn

Overall, this study supports the benefits of freer, broader browsing and reading. Following our curiosity can help us become better informed and expand our worldviews, creativity and relationships.

At the same time, people sometimes need closure more than they need exploration. This is not a bad thing or a sign of narrow-mindedness. In many situations there are benefits to moving on from information-seeking, and deciding we've learned enough for now. Endless curiosity can have

downsides. This is especially true when it's motivated not by the joy of learning, but by the discomfort of uncertainty and exclusion. As other research has found, for some people, curiosity can lead toward false information and conspiracy theories. When information has a sense of novelty, or a hint of being hidden by powerful elites, this can make it more appealing, even when it's not true.

The new study emphasises that different curiosity styles do not lead simply or universally to creativity or wellbeing. People's contexts and circum-

stances vary.

Each of us, like Goldilocks, can follow our curiosity to find not too much, not too little, but the information that is "just right". The researchers also hint at evidence for a spectrum of new curiosity styles beyond the main three, which will surely spark more research in future.

Stay curious and enjoy the rabbit hole

This study also suggests ways Wikipedia (and sites like it) could better support curiosity-driven exploration. For example, rather than suggesting pages based on their popularity or similarity to other pages, Wikipedia could try showing readers their own dynamic knowledge network.

As a Wikipedian would say, this new study is noteworthy. It shows how smaller-scale, exploratory research into people's reading and browsing can be translated to a much larger scale across languages and cultures.

As AI becomes more influential and the problems of misinformation grow, understanding technologies that shape our access to information — and how we use them — is more important than ever. We know YouTube recommendations can be a radicalising pipeline to extremist content, for example, and ChatGPT is largely indifferent to the truth.

Studying Wikipedia readers reveals a rich picture of people's freely expressed, diverse online curiosities. It shows an alternative to technologies built on narrower assumptions about what people value, how we learn, and how we want to explore online.

The Conversation

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Battles Dengue

The advisory warns that individuals experiencing severe symptoms—such as stomach pain, persistent vomiting, bleeding from the nose or gums, blood in the vomit or stool and restlessness—should seek immediate medical attention.

Last year, Jammu & Kashmir reported approximately 6,403 dengue cases, and 2022 saw a record high of 8,269 cases with 18 fatalities. (KNO)

Iran Thwarts

Iran since its war with Iraq in the 1980s.

Although it was a significant moment, Iran did not immediately set a time frame for a retaliation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said his country has no limits when it comes to defending its interests, its territorial integrity and its people.

An earlier statement from the Foreign Ministry said that while Iran was "obliged to defend itself," it was aware of its "responsibilities for regional peace and security," avoiding the kind of bombastic language that characterized Iran's initial responses to previous Israeli attacks.

That eased fears that an uncontrollable conflict was about to break out, even if the prospect of such a clash has edged ever closer.

U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters Israel gave him a heads-up before the strikes and said it looked like "they didn't hit anything but military targets." He said he had just finished a call with intelligence officials.

"I hope this is the end," he said.

Two regional officials briefed by Iran told Reuters that several high-level meetings were held in Tehran to determine the scope of Iran's response. One official said the damage was "very minimal" but added that several Revolutionary Guards bases in and around Tehran were also hit.

Iranian news sites aired footage of passengers at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, seemingly meant to show there was little impact.

Israel's military, signalling it did not expect an immediate Iranian response, said there was no change to public safety restrictions across the country.

After the strikes, the streets in Iran's capital were calm and children went to school and shops opened. There were long lines at the gas stations—a regular occurrence in Tehran when military violence flares as people stock up on fuel.

What Route Did Israeli Planes Take

Israel's military said scores of jets completed three waves of strikes before dawn against missile factories and other sites near Tehran and in western Iran. Arab states situated between Israel and Iran have been particularly worried that use of their airspace could prompt retaliation against them.

Jordanian television quoted a source in the country's armed forces as saying no military planes had been allowed through its airspace. A Saudi official also said that Saudi airspace had not been used for the strike.

A regional intelligence source said Israeli jets had flown across southern Syria, emitting sonic booms near the Jordanian border, and then across Iraq.

Arab, US Reaction

Saudi Arabia, which has mended fences with Iran after years of regional rivalry, and had been edging towards better ties with Israel before the war in Gaza, condemned the attack as a violation of Iranian sovereignty and international law.

The United States warned against further retaliation, and Britain and Germany said Iran should not respond. "All acts of escalation are condemnable and must stop," the spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general said.

Saudi Arabia was one of multiple countries in the region condemning the strike, calling it a violation of Iran's "sovereignty and a violation of international laws and norms."

Both Hezbollah and Hamas condemned Israel's attack, with Hezbollah saying it would not affect Tehran's support for Lebanese and Palestinians fighting Israel.

Attack a Showoff

Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, criticized the decision to avoid "strategic and economic targets," saying on X that "we could and should have exacted a much heavier price from Iran."

Israeli media outlets have cast doubt on the effectiveness of the Israeli attack on Iran, describing it as a largely symbolic move that failed to achieve any significant strategic goals. Reports from Kan and other sources highlighted a growing sense of dissatisfaction within Israel regarding the operation's limited impact.

Arab Affairs correspondent Roy Kays suggested that if he were in [Sayyed Ali] Khamenei's position, he would get back to sleep and assess the situation regarding the attack on Iran the following morning.

The recent attack on Iran was largely a showoff that failed to achieve any strategic objectives, as per Israeli media.

Furthermore, media reports suggested that the limited response to Iran was politically motivated, designed to reassure Prime Minister Netanyahu's supporters that action had been taken.

Analyst Rami Yitzhar, once a senior officer in the Israeli military police, believed

that the attack on Iran, which he described as "minuscule and weak," was a political trick by Netanyahu to show his supporters that he had done something against Tehran.

Commenting on the "explosive" statement of the Israeli army spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, about the attack, Yitzhar said it was "to some extent full of elements of false self-glorification, but his (Hagari's) body language proves that he understands that it was just a show" and that "the sole purpose of this action was political: to show Netanyahu's voters that we did something, and that is all."

Meanwhile, Israeli media reported that former Mossad Intelligence Division chief Brigadier General (Res.) Amnon Sofrin warned that Iran possesses the capability to launch a highly potent operation against Israel.

Every Drop Of

terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite the poverty and hunger afflicting its citizens, it persists with its unholy actions of supporting terrorism and trafficking narcotics," he said.

Referring to recent terror attacks in Ganderbal and Baramulla districts, the LG said the terrorists targeted "our brave soldiers, civilians, workers involved in infrastructure projects and some labourers who had come from other places".

"It has been resolved that every drop of blood shed will be avenged by our security forces. In such a situation, India's first line of defence must fulfil its duties with greater vigilance," he added.

A local doctor and six non-local labourers were gunned down by terrorists at a tunnel-construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal on Sunday, while the attack near the popular tourist destination of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Thursday left four people, including two soldiers, dead.

Sinha said the objective of the government and security forces is to uproot terrorism and create an environment where citizens can realise their dreams and aspirations.

"The Border Security Force has consistently played its role in achieving this vision. We must assure the public that continuous, effective and strict action will be taken against terrorists and their support structure.

"Using the whole-of-government approach, we are committed to utilising all available capabilities to dismantle the ecosystem of terrorism," he said.

The LG said strengthening the anti-terrorism grid through coordination between the BSF, Army, police and other agencies is a priority for the government.

The BSF plays a crucial role in all operations to prevent infiltration and safeguard India's borders, he said.

3-4 Terrorists

the second day, was halted at the last light on Friday and was resumed on Saturday morning, the official said.

"According to the evidence we got from there, 3-4 militants were involved in the attack," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Baramulla, Mohammad Zaid Malik told reporters in the north Kashmir district.

The police, Army and paramilitary forces are carrying out the search operation, which has been extended to Baba Reshi and forest areas in Gulmarg as well as the built-up area before it, the SSP said.

The SSP said security forces had been carrying out many input-based search operations on the militants in the Pattan-Kreeri area of the Baramulla district in the days ahead of the attack.

Two soldiers and two Army porters were killed in the attack on Thursday, while another porter and a soldier were injured. Terrorists opened fire on an Army vehicle, 6 km from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg in the Bota Pathri area, when it was headed for the Nagin post in the Affarwat range.

On Friday, security forces deployed drones and helicopters for a massive search operation in the area and along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gulmarg sector.

Security forces were also using human and technical intelligence inputs to aid the search operation launched to trace and neutralise the terrorists behind the attack, officials said.

Senior officers of the police and Army are overseeing the operation.

The area is completely dominated by the Army and there were reports recently that a terrorist group had infiltrated during early summer and taken shelter in the higher reaches of the Affarwat range.

Low Water Levels

often resorts to unscheduled power cuts, leaving residents to cope with frequent outages.

Hydropower generated from Chenab is transmitted to the northern grid for distribution. While the Power Grid Corporation of India claims it has alternative energy sources to offset the reduced hydroelectric output, the situation on the ground tells a different story, with power shortages persisting.

With a new political administration now governing Jammu and Kashmir, residents are hoping for improved power supply during the harsh winter months. (KNO)

Merging PoK

stop bloodshed in this part of the Valley. Once PoK will be merged with J&K of India, things would change and peace would become a permanent feature here," Koul said on the sidelines of a function.

The J&K BJP unit had organised a function to celebrate October 26 as Accessions Day. "The accession day is a moment of pride for us. We are thankful to the J&K administration for declaring this day as a holiday so that people of J&K could celebrate it," Koul said.

He said that Accession Day is no less than a festival for the people of J&K. About the recent spate of attacks in Kashmir, Koul said it is not for the first time attacks are taking place here. "Earlier, we saw such attacks in Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua. We have condemned it to the highest form. Those behind killing innocents will be punished sternly by the security forces," he said.

Koul said like National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah, other leaders of J&K must speak in one voice to condemn the attack. "All leaders must unanimously oppose talks with Pakistan unless it stops terrorism in Kashmir. BJP's stand is clear talks and terror can't go hand in hand," he said.

About Statehood restoration, Koul said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah passed the resolution in the cabinet and the same was cleared by the LG Manoj Sinha as well. "The copy of resolution was presented to Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Now it is up to the leadership to take a call on its restoration," Koul said.

"Restoration Of Statehood Not Political Issue"

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Saturday said restoration of statehood to the Union Territory is not a political issue but a policy matter, and any haste on the subject should be avoided since J-K has already suffered immensely due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the past 35 years.

Raina was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a BJP event in Udhampur district to mark the anniversary of Accession Day.

Extending his warm greetings to the people, Raina said every citizen of J-K will continue to work tirelessly for the unity and integrity of the nation and to uphold the tricolour with feelings of patriotism and dedication.

Responding to a question on restoration of statehood to the UT, Raina said J&K is a sensitive border region which bore the brunt of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years with its people facing extreme difficult circumstances.

"Peace, harmony and prosperity have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir over the past 10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and through the hard work of J-K's citizens, the army, police and the paramilitary forces.

"Now that a newly-elected government has been sworn in following the Assembly elections, I feel the sensitive issues should be discussed and addressed through mutual cooperation without playing politics," Raina said.

"The decisions should not be rushed, particularly on the crucial matters. Restoration of statehood is not a political issue but a policy matter and the UT government should continue its dialogue with the Centre. Any haste on the subject should be avoided," the BJP leader added.

He also said that terrorists carried out fatal attacks in Ganderbal and Gulmarg days after the swearing-in of the (National Conference) government on October 16 because the enemies of peace wanted the bloodbath to continue in J-K.

"The conspiracy to kill innocent people was hatched from across the border. J-K has already witnessed a lot of bloodshed as Pakistan-sponsored terrorism has created graveyards and cremation grounds here," he claimed.

Stating that the efforts of PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah along with the sacrifices of the security personnel have resulted in an improved situation in the Union Territory, Raina said, "In my opinion, the J-K government should coordinate with the Centre for the welfare of its people and avoid all sensitive issues, provocative actions or statements."

Meanwhile, the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) and several other groups also celebrated Accession Day on Saturday, highlighting the "historic" role of Maharaja Hari Singh and the supreme sacrifice made by the Dogra warriors led by Brigadier Rajinder Singh.

While BJP workers paid floral tributes to the Maharaja at their party headquarters and offices across Jammu, YRS organised its main function at Tawi bridge where the statue of the Dogra ruler was garlanded. (inputs from agencies)

Govt Issues

reminded social media intermediaries that they are obligated under IT rules to provide information under their control or possession and assist investigative agencies within stipulated timeline of up to 72 hours.

The move assumes significance as more than 275 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats in the past 12 days. Most of the threats were issued through social media. On Friday alone, over 25 domestic and international flights operated by Indian carriers received bomb threats.

"In addition to the above, the IT Rules, 2021 obligates the intermediaries to provide information under its control or possession, or assistance to the Government agency which is lawfully authorised for investigative or protective or cyber security activities, for the purposes of verification of identity, or for the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, of offences under any law for the time being in

force, or for cyber security incidents, well within the stipulated timeframes (as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours)," the advisory issued by IT Ministry said.

The advisory said that considering the "serious nature of the situation", the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology "reminds with emphasis" that all the intermediaries including social media intermediaries must make reasonable efforts to disallow such malicious acts including hoax bomb threats from being disseminated on their platforms.

The intermediaries including social media intermediaries must observe their due diligence obligations that include the prompt removal or disabling access to such unlawful information specified under the IT Rules, 2021, including hoax bomb threats, well within the strict time-lines as prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021.

Government said that Social media intermediaries have a due diligence obligation under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) to promptly remove such misinformation that affects public order and security of the state.

"As part of such due diligence obligations, it is the responsibility of concerned intermediaries including social media intermediaries to promptly take necessary action under the IT Rules, 2021 by not allowing any user to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful or false information.

"Further, the exemption from liability for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by social media intermediaries as provided under section 79 of the IT Act shall not apply if such intermediaries do not follow the due diligence obligations as prescribed under the IT Act read with IT Rules, 2021 or abetted or aided, in the commission of the unlawful act," the IT Ministry said.

In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the due diligence obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, the provision of section 79 of the IT Act shall not be applicable to such intermediary and they shall be liable for consequential action as provided under any law including the IT Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023.

"As reported in the news, multiple hoax bomb threats have been received by various airlines operating in India through various means including social media intermediaries during last few days. Airline travellers and security agencies are being affected due to such hoax bomb threats that disrupt the normal course of operations of the Airlines," it said.

The instances of malicious acts in the form of hoax bomb threats to such airlines lead to potential threat to the public order and security of the state, it said adding such hoax bomb threats while affecting a large number of citizens also destabilises the economic security of the country.

"Further, the scale of spread of such hoax bomb threats has been observed to be dangerously unrestrained due to the availability of the option of 'forwarding/re-sharing/ re-posting/ re-tweeting' on social media platforms. Such hoax bomb threats are mostly misinformation that is massively disrupting the public order, operations of airlines and security of the airline travellers," it noted.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Friday had assured the government is committed to taking strict action against those behind hoax bomb threats.

Earlier this week, Naidu said the government plans to take legislative actions to deal with instances of bomb threats to airlines, including placing perpetrators of such threats on the no-fly list.

The government also pulled up social media platforms Meta and X earlier this week and asked them to share data about hoax bomb threat messages to airlines.

Court Acquits 2

insufficient to prove the guilt of accused persons beyond any pale of doubt.

The Investigating Officer and a Forensic Science Laboratory expert, key figures in establishing the authenticity of the currency, were not produced before court as witnesses. The absence of the IO's testimony led the Court to highlight "serious lapses in mandatory requirements," which undermined the prosecution's case.

The court questioned the credibility of the investigation, emphasizing that the seized currency was not sealed on-site, raising doubts about its authenticity.

While referring to various provisions of law and Supreme Court judgments, the Court said that the lack of a clear chain of custody and procedural irregularities weakened the prosecution's case, ultimately leading to the acquittal.

"The prosecution evidence is weak, fragile, and does not inspire confidence. The accused are acquitted," the Court added.

As per prosecution, in December 2013 Police at a checkpoint in Parimpora apprehended Peer and Sheikh, recovering what was claimed to be counterfeit currency totalling Rs. 1.75 lakh. The accused were subsequently charged under Sections 489-B and 489-C of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) for allegedly trafficking and possessing fake currency.(KNO)

J&K Govt Urged

say to ensure a healthier future for J&K, urgent reforms are needed to attract and retain young doctors in the state.

Dr Sumaya, another NEET PG aspirant said that the absence of a bond policy in Jammu and Kashmir is crippling the

careers of young doctors.

"Without a commitment to serve the state, medical professionals are leaving JK, exacerbating the existing shortage. This brain drain undermines healthcare development, particularly in rural areas. The lack of accountability and investment in local talent discourages doctors from staying and contributing to their community. Implementing a reasonable bond period would ensure specialists serve the state, addressing healthcare disparities and promoting medical excellence," Dr Sumaya said.

She urged the policymakers to reassess and introduce a bond policy, retaining JK's medical talent and strengthening its healthcare ecosystem.

Aspirants also say before 2022 Jammu and Kashmir didn't take part in all India quota meaning all our post-graduation seats were reserved for JK students.

"After 2022, 50% of our PG seats go to all India quota and it's a sad state of affairs because all those seats are taken by non-domiciles who prefer Jammu and Kashmir as they don't have to serve a service bond here. An example is someone from Karnataka is getting MD medicine at their rank in their hometown and will not take it there but will rather choose JK because Karnataka has a service bond of 1 year while JK doesn't have a bond," Dr Saif Ali said.

Saif added that J&K has become a hospice for students from all over India to do their post-graduation while the local students suffer and the overall healthcare system suffers as well.

The NEET PG aspirants said that they met the Health and Medical Education, Minister Sakina Itoo however, no assurance was given to them and they were told to contact Secretary Health & Medical Education Syed Abid Rasheed, who could not be contacted.

Kashmir Observer tried to contact the minister and Secretary Health & Medical Education J&K, Syed Abid Rasheed, Abid but he did not respond to repeated calls.

Pertinently, the Union Territory of New Delhi is the latest to introduce the service bond.

"The Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi is pleased to introduce a one-year Service Bond for All India Quota and State Quota Undergraduate and Postgraduate medical students after completion of their course (including internship period) in the medical institutions of Delhi, wherein the students passing out of the Undergraduate/ Post Graduate (including super-speciality courses), would be mandatorily required to serve in the medical institutions under GNCT of Delhi for a period of One year," the notice by Deputy Secretary (Medical Education) reads.

This mandatory one year service bond will be applicable from the next academic session pursuant to the issue of this order," the notice adds.

Congress Rift

Working Committee (CWC) given the fact that he doesn't deserve this position," the source said.

The JKPC sources said it is "shameful" on his part to "incite" others to create indiscipline in the party despite having been a PCC president himself. Wani seems "desperate" and is attempting to damage the party after his removal as PCC chief, they added.

Karra was appointed as JKPC president ahead of the assembly elections.

The party leadership has confirmed reports that Wani is directly making phone calls to various leaders in Jammu as well as in Kashmir aiming to instigate them to speak against the party high command and state leadership, they said.

He is also trying to influence them to attend his close-door meetings, which are being conducted against the party's policies and programmes, they added. "We strongly condemn such manoeuvring on Wani's part," the source said.

The leaders also hit out at Monga for "creating indiscipline" in the party and said he neither has any public following nor has he won even a panchayat election from his native place.

"Monga has a compulsive habit of creating conflicts and damaging the party to serve his vested interests, which has been reported to party high command on various occasions in the past. He finds his existence in the party only by creating conflicts, and always tries to portray himself larger than his life size.

"He shamelessly tries to cover up his biggest electoral achievement of garnering only 400 votes when he contested the assembly election from Baramulla," a party leader said.

The Congress leaders said they had full confidence in the leadership of PCC president Tariq Hameed Karra, terming him the tallest leader of J-K. Karra has always proved himself to be "a man of commitment" with great conviction who never bowed before power or position, they said.

"Karra is a man of principle under whose leadership Congress party will grow and deliver on the ground, his leadership and organisational skills cannot be questioned.

"Despite facing proxies and other challenges during the elections, the JKPC president registered victory with a thumping margin, which should work as an eye opener for everyone," the leader said.

"We feel proud to have Karra as JKPC president for the party's image among the people after he took over as party chief.

"We hail the decision of party high command, especially Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and LoP Rahul Gandhi for appointing him as PCC president," they added.

Sedentary Lifestyle Increases Risk Of Osteoporosis: Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: People with sedentary lifestyles and prolonged sitting habits are at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis compared to those who stay active and maintain a balanced diet, doctors warn.

Medical experts said that osteoporosis is a disease that weakens bones, making them more prone to fractures. They said osteoporosis is a major public health issue, particularly among older adults, and understanding its types can help inform appropriate treatment and prevention measures.

Dr Shariq Hussain, a physician with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said that factors contributing to osteoporosis include ageing, hormonal changes, dietary deficiencies, sedentary habits and chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and malabsorption disorders.

"Osteoporosis leads to an increased risk of fractures, bone pain, weight loss, and posture changes, which can result in back pain and even breathing difficulties," Dr Hussain added.

Another doctor, Dr Hamid highlighted the importance of diet in maintaining bone health. He recommended foods rich in calcium and vitamin D, such as dairy products, leafy greens, and fish. "Vitamin D supplements may also be necessary for those with limited



sun exposure," he added.

Dr Hamid advised that weight-bearing exercises, such as walking, jogging, and strength training, can help strengthen bones, while balance-improving exercises can reduce the risk of falls. He also warned that lifestyle habits like smoking and excessive alcohol intake negatively impact bone density and interfere with calcium absorption.

For those at high risk or already diagnosed with osteoporosis, he suggested that medications like bisphosphonates or hormone therapy, as prescribed by a doctor, can reduce bone loss and improve bone density.

Doctors also called for early screening for osteoporosis through bone density tests, such as DEXA scans, which can help detect the condition early and allow for timely intervention. Osteoporosis prevention begins with a proactive approach: balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and avoiding habits like smoking," they said, adding that early detection through screening is essential to managing this silent yet impactful disease—(KNO)

Mirwaiz Pays Tributes To Late Moulana Abbas Ansari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Saturday paid a heartfelt tribute to the late leader and founder of the Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, Moulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari, on his second death anniversary. He highlighted the late Moulana's multifaceted religious, milli and political contributions.

In his tributes, Mirwaiz said that Moulana Ansari steadfastly upheld his principles and stance from the very beginning and actively participated in the movement for the recovery of the Moya Muqaddas - the sacred relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) under the leadership of the Shaheed-e-Millat and strived for the welfare and dignified life of the Kashmiri people.

As per a statement issued, he said that since the inception of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), the late leader stood by them with unwavering resolve at every stage and was a companion in OIC meetings until his demise. Mirwaiz said that Moulana



Masroor Abbas Ansari, the late leader's successor and son, continues to follow in his father's footsteps and advocates for truth and justice.

Meanwhile, on the directions of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a high-level delegation visited Nadigam Budgam to convey Mirwaiz's message of sympathy and solidarity to the family and relatives of the late Dr Shahnawaz, who tragically lost his life in last week's devastating incident.

On this occasion, Mirwaiz expressed his condolences over the phone to the young son of the deceased, Mohsin Shahnawaz, and conveyed his sorrow regarding this irreplaceable loss.

The delegation recited Fatiha for the deceased and prayed for Jannat-ul-Firdous to Dr Shahnawaz.

Dialogue Only Way To Resolve All Problems In J&K: Parra

Agencies

SRINAGAR: PDP MLA Waheed ur Rehman Parra on Saturday said that dialogue is the only way to address and resolve the issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The increasing incidents of violence are deeply unfortunate. The PDP has consistently advocated that dialogue is the only path to ending violence and resolving all conflicts. Hostilities cannot be resolved through silence," Waheed said, according to news agency KINS.

"If the government, whether at the state or central level, fails to address the broader humanitarian concerns in Kashmir, this cycle of violence will continue. While we continue to condemn violence against civilians—whether local or non-local—these condemnations alone will not stop the killings. Violence cannot solve any problem in Jammu and Kashmir, and nothing is gained through it," he said.

"Our youth are languishing in jails. Protests are ongoing across the region—from Ganderbal,



Pulwama, and Shopian to Kulgam, Srinagar, and North Kashmir. Young boys are questioned and detained under the label of OGWs (Over Ground Workers)," the PDP leader added.

He urged the government to bring Kashmiri youth held in jails across the country back to the Valley.

"Since the government was formed, there has been no discussion on the jail situation or on the ongoing violence. There is no concrete plan where the state government or the chief minister appeals to the central government to seek resolution through dialogue, political processes, and reconciliation," he concluded. (KINS)

Soldier Killed In Road Accident At Kulgam

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An army man was killed and eight others were injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down in DH Pora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Saturday.

An official said that the ac-

cident occurred in Damhal Hanjipora area of Kulgam today morning, injuring nine army personnel.

He said one of the injured jawans later succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile police has taken cognizance of the accident—(KNO)

GOLDEN GLARE FADES

Gold Sales Plummet As Prices Soar This Festive Season

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The festive wedding season in Kashmir, traditionally running from August to November, usually brings a surge in local markets for jewellery, gifts and other ceremonial items. This year, however, sales are down sharply, with reports indicating sales are reaching only 20 percent of expected levels—a dramatic 80 percent decline. Industry experts say the reason for this slump is largely due to soaring gold prices, which have tightened consumer spending.

Bashir Ahmad, president of the All Kashmir Gold Dealers and Workers Association, said that despite minor price drops, gold sales have seen a major downturn across Kashmir. "With gold prices so high, many buyers who previously intended to purchase 4 grams are now buying just 1 gram," he said.

Ahmad said that gold sales have been declining consistently over the past several years, and this year's wedding season is no exception. "While the marriage season from August to November has traditionally



driven strong sales, the current high prices are deterring purchases," he said. He added that while earlier in the year there was a temporary uptick in sales following a cut in customs duty on gold items, this momentum was short-lived as prices soon surged again.

Kashmir's jewellers said that despite ongoing wedding celebrations, sales of gold, silver and other premium items have declined compared to previous years. With 24-carat gold currently priced at Rs 80,700 per 10 grams, many customers are reluctant to make large purchases and are opting for lighter or alternative jewellery due to the high costs.

Bashir said that market ex-

pectations for steady festive demand had been dampened by fluctuating international factors, including geopolitical tensions in regions like Ukraine and the Middle East. "External factors such as recent inflation and supply chain disruptions are impacting local prices, with high-value commodities like jewellery now becoming more of a luxury than a necessity," he added.

One local merchant said, "Despite the usual wedding season rush, customers are being cautious with their purchases. The rising costs have affected the price-sensitive consumer base, which has led to reduced spending."—(KNO)

'Ladakh's Suru Valley Among World's 25 Best Destinations'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Geographic has named Suru Valley one of the world's top 25 travel destinations for 2025 for its stunning landscapes, vibrant cultural heritage and tranquil atmosphere. This prestigious recognition is expected to draw not only adventure enthusiasts but also spiritual seekers from around the globe.

Suru Valley, known for its breathtaking Himalayan scenery, is home to ancient monasteries and historical sites like the Suru Monastery, where visitors can deeply engage with local traditions. This unique combination of natural beauty and cultural heritage has made it an ideal spot for travellers in search of both adventure and spiritual solace.

Local tourism officials expressed their excitement about the recognition. "This honour is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase Suru Valley not only as a travel destination but also as a sanctu-



ary for those seeking peace and reflection," a local guide said. "We invite spiritual seekers to experience the valley's tranquillity and beauty."

Tourists can immerse themselves in Suru Valley's serene environment, with ample opportunities for meditation amid its stunning natural surroundings. "The peaceful environment here provides a perfect backdrop for spiritual growth," said Tsering Lhamo, a resident and local guide. "We hope more pilgrims come to experience this magical place."

With growing interest in Suru Valley, it promises to become a prime destination for travellers and spiritual pilgrims alike in 2025, offering a harmonious blend of adventure, culture, and spirituality.

The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Kargil also celebrated the news on X, noting that Suru Valley has been listed by National Geographic as one of the top 25 travel destinations for 2025, recognised for its awe-inspiring landscapes and serene atmosphere—(KNO)

Public Service Our Prime Focus: Jugal Kishore

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Saturday led the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here in the presence of District Development Council Chairman Bharat Bhushan, district officers and local MLAs to review development projects and welfare initiatives across district Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Members of Legislative Assembly Akhnoor, Mohan Lal; MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa; MLA Bishnah Rajeev Kumar; MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi; MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma; MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta; MLA Marh Surinder Kumar; MLA R.S. Pura-Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh Raina and MLA Suchetgarh Gharu Ram.

District Development Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya provided an in-depth Power-Point presentation that detailed the district's achievements across centrally sponsored schemes, along with an update on local developmental efforts.

Jugal Kishore Sharma reviewed the status of centrally sponsored schemes and ongoing development projects, examining the status of initiatives and assessing the impact of schemes aimed at enhancing public welfare.

Infrastructure development took centre stage as the committee deliberated on several key projects, including the strategically important Jammu-Akhnoor highway project. The need to expedite work on the flyover near Canal Head Jammu was stressed, with calls for expert consultation to accelerate the process.

The meeting particularly focussed on the Jal Jeevan Mission, with the MP expressing special concern regarding its execution and delivery. "Timely implementation of JJM is crucial for ensuring water security in our region," Sharma emphasised during the discussions.

DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan raised additional public concerns related to the Ring Road project and highlighted the importance of supporting farmers through awareness for fertiliser use. He also advocated for the improvement of procurement centre operations to genuinely assist farmers.

In addition to infrastructure, the committee reviewed various welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The discussion extended to social security schemes, PMGSY, the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), the National Food Security Scheme and the Mid-day Meal program.

Div Com, ADGP Jammu Review Preparations

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming "Run for Unity," and celebration of the UT foundation day, here at meeting.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of districts from across Jammu Division, Director Education, Joint Commissioner YSS and concerned officials. The discussions focused on key arrangements for the successful conduct of the event including the security and logistics arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to implement a comprehensive traffic diversion plan and ensure deployment of adequate security personnel along the routes and venues of Run For Unity in all the districts. He also directed for the provision of ambulance and fire tender services to be readily available during the event.

Those Behind Terror Attacks Enemies of Peace: Javid Dar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Minister for rural development and agriculture department, Javid Ahmed Dar Saturday said that the government remains resolute in tackling those responsible for disturbing peace in Kashmir.

Dar, who visited the family of the porter killed in Gulmarg attack, told reporters that the government is determined to tackle those threatening the region's stability and obstructing efforts to redress public grievances.

"Such incidents are unfortunate, but the government is serious and is in pursuit of those who are disturbing peace in the Valley," Dar said.

He said that those behind such attacks are against peo-



ple's government and want to prolong sufferings of common citizens. "These are enemies of peace and are not able to digest the fact that people participated in large numbers in the democratic process," he added.

Two army soldiers and two porters were killed a terror attack in Botapathri area of Gulmarg on Thursday—(KNO)

Coordinated Response For Fresh Challenge, Threat Analysis Underway: IGP BSF

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir frontier, Ashok Yadav said that all security agencies are concerned about the recent terror attacks in the Valley and a coordinated response is being framed while a threat analysis is also being conducted.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the passing out parade of 629 new BSF recruits at STC Humhama, IG BSF said that BSF is aware of the new threats.

"A coordinated response will be there. We are working in close coordination with other agencies," he said, in response to the query about how he sees the situation post recent surge in terror attacks. The IG BSF said that the force is doing proper threat analysis and ac-



cordingly steps are being taken. On whether there was a possibility of a rise in infiltration attempts, the IG BSF said that ahead of the snowfall, there may be some infiltration. BSF along with the army is maintaining a strong counter infiltration grid and we will ensure every attempt is foiled," he said.

The IG said that 629 new recruits were given modern training and that they will now be deployed at various frontiers to serve the nation—(KNO)

Minister, MLAs Offer Condolences To Families Of Slain Army Porters



Observers News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Javid Ahmad Dar, accompanied by MLAs Dr. Sajad Shafi and Javid Hassan Beigh, today visited the families of Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhry and Manzoor Ahmad Mir, army porters, who lost their lives in the recent Botapathri attack.

The Minister, during his visit to Uri, paid his respects at the residences of the deceased, offering condolences and assurances of support from the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Javid Dar strongly condemned the attack, labelling it as a cowardly attempt. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards maintaining peace and stability in the region, despite challenges.

This visit of government representatives demonstrated the government's solidarity with the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Minister pledged the administration's resolve to provide necessary assistance to the bereaved families during this difficult time. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

Beerwah Magam Road In Shambles, Locals Demand Repairs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The condition of the Beerwah Magam road, especially the stretch from Aripanthan to Adina, has deteriorated significantly, creating major difficulties for daily commuters.

This road serves as a crucial link for several villages and towns within the Budgam district but is now plagued by large potholes and inadequate maintenance.

Local residents and travelers have expressed frustration over the road's poor state, reporting increased travel times, frequent vehicle damage, and safety concerns. "The road is in shambles," said Ghulam Hassan, a resident of Aripanthan. "It takes us twice as long to reach Magam, and the constant bumps and potholes are damaging our vehicles."

Commuters, including students, office workers, and traders, are among those most



affected by the deteriorating conditions. "We're forced to navigate through this hazardous road daily," said Faizan Ahmad, a student. "It's especially dangerous during rainy days when the potholes are filled with water, making it even harder to travel safely."

Local businesses have also been impacted, as traders face difficulties transporting goods efficiently. "The poor road condition is affecting our livelihood," said Bilal Ahmad, a local trader. "We're incurring extra costs due to vehicle repairs and wasted time."

Residents have criticized the lack of action from authorities despite repeated complaints. (KNS).

India Lose First Home Series In 12 Years As NZ Win 2nd Test

Press Trust of India

PUNE: India crashed to their first Test series defeat at home in 12 years with Mitchel Santner yet again exposing their frailties against quality spin bowling as the crushing 113-run defeat in the second match enervated the team's pole position in the World Test Championship.

If the hosts endured their first defeat after 18 consecutive Test series victories, New Zealand celebrated their first ever series-victory on the Indian soil in nearly 70 years.

The Kiwis have been travelling to this part of the world since 1955 but Black Caps could never break the Indian citadel all these years.

Indian batters, once considered the best players of the spin bowling, danced to the tune of Santner, who dominated the home line-up with 13 wickets in the match, including seven in the first innings.



In pursuit of 359, Indian batters cut a sorry figure once again. They were bowled out for 245 with Yashasvi Jaiswal's 77 and Ravindra Jadeja (42) being the only ones to resist the Kiwis.

India's successive batting collapses, beginning with the historic low of 46 all-out in

the first essay of Bengaluru Test which they lost by eight wickets, culminated with first series loss at home since 2012-13 when England vanquished them.

Kiwis broke India's string of 18 consecutive Test series wins at home. It was also India's

only fourth Test series defeat in their own backyard since turn of the century.

The heavy defeat means that India stay on top in the WTC table with 98 points but their percentage points (62.82) got hit badly as Australia are now marginally behind at 62.50.

Before travelling to Australia for the Border Gavaskar Trophy, it was imperative for India to win the series at home and consolidate their top position to ensure that they make the WTC final.

India's task has only got tougher now because of the sheer challenge Australia are going to pose before them.

Santner's (7/53 and 6/104) 13 wickets in the game heralded a remarkable triumph for New Zealand, who mastered the conditions and played better cricket than India to beat Rohit Sharma's team in their own game.

BRIEF SCORES:

New Zealand: 259 and 255 all out in 69.4 overs (Tom Latham 86, Glenn Phillips 48, Tom Blundell 41) beat India: 156 and 245 all-out in 60.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 77, Ravindra Jadeja 42; Mitchell Santner 6/104).

News MAKERS

LG Inaugurates Ranji Trophy Session At Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium



Observer News Service

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the first session of Ranji Trophy at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here. The LG interacted with the players and J&K Cricket Association officials during his visit.

J&K cricket team played Services on the day in an Elite Group A Round 3 matchup. The team is fifth in the Group A standings.

"Had a wonderful interaction with the players & coaching staff of Jammu Kashmir and Services Teams ahead of their Ranji Trophy match in Srinagar," the Office of LG on X posted about the interaction.

On Day 1, J&K bowlers ripped through Services and bowled them out for a meager 71 runs in 25.1 overs. Aquib Nabi and Yudhvir Singh took 5 wickets each.

In reply, J&K batters were 183/7 in 54.1 overs at stumps. Shubham Khajuria top scored for the team, making 55 from 94 balls.

With a first innings lead of 112 runs J&K will now look to win the game over the next three days.

Srinagar Premier League: J&K Police Beats Iqbal Sports 3-0

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the "My Youth My Pride" Srinagar Premier League 2024, J&K Police XI defeated Iqbal Sports FC 3-0 on Saturday at TRC Stadium here.

Hayat opened the scoring for Police, finding the back of the net in the 5th minute. Rishab made it 2-0 in the third minute of added time. In the second half, Jahangir scored the third goal of the game in the 63rd minute.

In Sunday's game, J&K Bank FC will take on Kashmir Aveng-



ers FC at TRC Stadium. The game will kick off at 3:00 PM.

YSS Budgam's Trekking Camp For Boys Begins In Yousmarg

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam began its trekking camp for boys at Yousmarg on Saturday. On the first day of the camp, the team hiked to Dragdollan.

"This camp aims to help young people stay fit and care for the environment. The boys also participated in fun activities that taught them about nature and its preservation," the department said in a press release.

The trekking camp is part of DYSSO Budgam's effort to encourage kids to join sports and outdoor activities, the department said. "By taking part in events like this, the department



hopes to inspire a love for adventure and a deeper appreciation for the outdoors," it added.

AAI All India Inter-Zonal Chess & Carrom Tourney Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The AAI All India Inter-Zonal Chess and Carrom Tournament 2024-25 concluded on Saturday at Indoor Sports Complex here. Organised by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) Regional Sports Control Board (Northern Region) in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Carrom Association, this event brought together top talents.

The tournament was inaugurated on Wednesday at SKICC, Srinagar, with an opening ceremony attended by Javid Anjum, Airport Director Srinagar, G.L. Verma - GM HR CHQ, Rajiv Kapoor - General Manager HR (Northern Region).

V.D. Narayan - Secretary General, International Carrom Federation, Bharti Narayan - General Secretary, All India Carrom Federation, and

Kabra Altaf - National Gold Champion in Judo.

Representatives from the Jammu and Kashmir Carrom Association, including Adil Rashid Shah (President), Mudaris Khan (General Secretary), Adfar Jan (Treasurer), along with members Sameer Ahmad, Arif Sultan, Sheikh Saqib, officials, and umpires, were also in attendance.

The closing ceremony honored the winners and runners-up, with trophies and certificates awarded by the dignitaries. The event highlighted the spirit of sportsmanship, celebrating the dedication and achievements of all participants.

HERE IS A LIST OF THE WINNERS:

Team Championship Women
WINNER - SOUTH REGION: S. Lakshmi, S. Sivakami, R. Radha, M.S. Sudhamani.

Team Championship Men
WINNER - SOUTH REGION: M. Praveen, V. Jagan, H.N. Basha, K. Suresh.

WOMEN DOUBLES - Urmila Verma & Anjali Gupta
MEN DOUBLES - M. Praveen & H.N. Basha

WOMEN SINGLES - S. Lakshmi
MEN SINGLES - M. Praveen

Vinicius Jr Favourite To Win First Ballon d'Or

Agencies

MADRID: Vinicius Jr's remarkable performances at Real Madrid have put the 24-year-old forward as the odds-on favourite to claim his first Ballon d'Or when the award for the best player in the world is announced in Paris on Monday.

Vinicius scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 appearances that were key to help the Spanish powerhouse to a near perfect 2023-24 campaign in which they reclaimed the LaLiga title and grabbed a record-extending 15th European Cup. The Brazilian scored in the Champions League final and was named as the competition's best player.

Bookmakers backed Vinicius to win the award ahead of Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri and Englishman Jude Bellingham.

He is aiming to become the first Brazilian since Kaka in 2007 to win the award and just the third person not named Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to claim it since 2008.



This will be the first time since 2003 in which neither Messi nor Ronaldo made the final 30-man list of nominees.

Portugal's Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, also failed to receive a nomination last year after moving to Saudi Arabia. Messi, who won for a record eighth time in 2023, missed out despite

Argentina's Copa America triumph.

Previous winners Luka Modric (2018) and Karim Benzema (2022) are also not in France Football's shortlist.

Vinicius' closest challenger appears to be Rodri, the player Pep Guardiola said is "the best midfielder in the world". Rodri was instrumental

in helping City win their fourth consecutive Premier League trophy and was named the best player at this year's European Championship after helping Spain lift a record-extending fourth title.

Bellingham was named LaLiga MVP after scoring a career best 19 goals in a sparkling debut campaign and helping England reach the Euro 2024 final.

However, despite a lacklustre Copa America campaign with struggling Brazil, Vinicius' stellar performances in the Champions League have put him in pole-position.

He became the first Brazilian to score in two Champions League finals, having scored the only goal in the 2022 final against Liverpool and again this year in the 2-0 win against Borussia Dortmund.

In the women's Ballon d'Or Feminin, Champions League winners Barcelona have six nominees in total, including last year's winner Aitana Bonmati and two-time winner Alexia Putellas.

Nigeria Awarded 3-0 Win Over Libya After Airport Drama

Agencies

CAPE TOWN: Nigeria have been awarded a 3-0 victory over Libya, and three vital points, from their scheduled Africa Cup of Nations qualifier earlier this month which they refused to play after being stuck in a remote Libyan airport for half a day before the match.

The disciplinary committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on Saturday awarded the match to Nigeria 3-0, putting them on the brink of qualifying for next year's finals as they sit top of Group D.

The three points took Nigeria to 10 with two matches left to play, four ahead of second-placed Benin and five ahead of Rwanda. Libya have a single point from four games and are in last place. The top two teams in the group qualify for the 2025 finals in Morocco.

Nigeria had refused to play the match in Benghazi on Oct. 15, citing mis-



treatment on arrival in the country some 48 hours before the scheduled kick-off.

Nigerian players and officials were kept in a locked airport for more than 16 hours, almost 250km away from their intended destination, after their charter flight was redirected while on approach to Benghazi and instead landed in Bayda.

They said they had no access to food or water and no contact from Libyan officials during the episode, and they decided to fly back to Nigeria rather than fulfil the fixture.

The Libya Football Federation said the incident was not deliberate, adding that their players had also faced travel difficulties when they played in Nige-

ria four days earlier.

Libya had earlier complained about the treatment of their players and officials for arrival in Nigeria for their qualifier in Uyo on Oct. 11, when their flight landed hours away from the match venue and the players endured long travel delays.

Nigeria won that match 1-0.

Pakistan Beat England By Nine Wickets To Win Series 2-1



Agencies

Pakistan made some bold selection calls and milked their home advantage to fashion a remarkable 2-1 series victory against an England team, who will return home plagued by self-doubts.

Few expected Shan Masood and his men to bounce back in such a fashion after Bangladesh blanked them 2-0 in their previous test series at home.

When England inflicted an innings defeat on them in the series opener in Multan to grab a 1-0 lead in the series, it was quite on the expected lines.

Pakistan selectors then did the unthinkable and dropped three of the biggest names in Pakistan cricket, going by current reputation.

Batting mainstay Babar Azam and frontline pacers Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi were axed and Pakistan recognised spin as their strong suit.

They levelled the series on a used pitch in Multan and then rolled out a raging turner in Rawalpindi where Noman Ali and Sajid Khan dismantled England.

The spin duo claimed 39 of the 40 English wickets in the last two tests, justifying their selection.

They were so dominant in Rawalpindi that Pakistan did not bowl Aamer Jamal, their lone seamer, in the decider at all.