

KO IMPACT

Sonawari Schoolgirl's Suicide Attempt Sparks Outpouring Of Support

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Following the publication of the heartbreaking story that highlighted the tale of a fourteen year old schoolgirl from Tirgam, Sonawari, a wave of sympathy and support has been pouring in from across Kashmir. The girl had allegedly attempted suicide by taking multiple pills after her family struggled to pay her school fees.

The catalyst for this heart-breaking step was a simple fee

reminder from school. When the girl's mother received the information, a torrent of frustration erupted, leading to a harsh outburst. "I curse the day I gave birth to you," she screamed, her words cutting deep into the child's heart.

The young girl, unable to bear the weight of her mother's words and the looming financial burden, silently consumed a lethal dose of pills.

Her condition deteriorated rapidly. By the time she was rushed to JVC hospital, her



HOW CAN WE STEP OUT OF OUR HOMES WELL DRESSED WHILE OUR CHILDREN are driven to attempt suicide over unpaid school fees?

body had been ravaged by the toxic effects of the medication.

She was virtually unresponsive, her life hanging by a thread. The girl was admitted for two days and fortunately, survived.

The story published in Kashmir Observer on October 30 gained a lot of sympathy online. In a heart-warming gesture, people from across Kashmir and the diaspora have come forward in overwhelming support for the family. Many called Kashmir Observer and expressed willingness to help the family in their time of need. A potential donor, a doctor

by profession called Kashmir Observer and expressed his concern. "How can we step out of our homes well dressed while our children are driven to attempt suicide over unpaid school fees? He offered to cover the fees and said that there was no need to disclose his identity."

The girl's family expressed deep gratitude for her school's understanding and patience, noting that they showed compassion by not pressuring her family over the unpaid fees.

"The school | [More on P6](#)

Indian Army Begins Patrolling In Eastern Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Indian Army began patrolling at Demchok on Friday, days after Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh, Army sources said.

Patrolling at Depsang is expected to resume shortly, they said.

Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points, Army sources had said on Wednesday.

The following day, Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali.

The traditional practice was observed a day after both the countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties.

Patrolling has begun at Demchok, an Army source said.

Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

The verification process after disengagement was in progress and patrolling modalities were to be decided between ground commanders, the sources had said on Wednesday.

"Talks will continue at the local commander level," they had added.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

The agreement was firming up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along | [More on P6](#)

Two Migrant Workers Shot At In Budgam

Fifth Terror Attack Since Oct 18



NOVEMBER 1 BUDGAM
2 UP Natives Shot, Injured

Observer News

Service

Srinagar: Two persons from Uttar Pradesh were shot at by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday evening, officials said.

Sufiyan and Usman were injured after being shot at in the Mazhama area of Magam in the central Kashmir district, they said.

They were taken to

OCTOBER 24 GULMARG, BARAMULLA
3 Soldiers, 2 Civilian Porters Killed.

OCTOBER 24 TRAL, PULWAMA
Laborer From UP Shot, Critically Injured.

OCTOBER 20 GANDERBAL (Z-MORH TUNNEL)
7 People, Including 6 Non-local Laborers Shot Dead

OCTOBER 18 SHOPIAN
Laborer from Bihar found dead

a hospital and were stated to be in a stable condition, the officials added.

This is the fifth attack by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley since the formation of an elected government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

On October 24, two soldiers and two Army porters were killed while another porter and a soldier were injured in a militant attack on | [More on P6](#)



Saffron Blooms In Kashmir. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Thousands Bid Emotional Farewell To Devender Singh Rana



Observer News Service

Jammu: Hundreds gathered on Friday in Jammu to pay

their last respects to senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and prominent entrepreneur Devender | [More on P6](#)

Rana's Sudden Death: Political Community Grieves

Observer News Service Jammu: Political leaders cutting across party lines were among the hundreds of mourners who on Friday gathered here to bid farewell to BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana, who passed away late on Diwali night. A prominent entrepreneur and influential politician often described as the "voice of Jammu", Rana died at a hospital in Haryana's Faridabad after a brief illness. He was 59. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah travelled from Srinagar on Friday to bid farewell to Rana, his one-time aide, | [More on P6](#)

'Beyond Politics': Omar's Farewell to One Time Buddy

Political differences were put behind as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah mourned the passing of his longtime friend and former colleague, | [More on P6](#)

J&K Targets Rs 3,000 Cr Handicraft Exports By 2029

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant boost for artisans, the government has set an ambitious target to increase Jammu and Kashmir handicrafts exports to Rs 3,000 crore annually by 2029.

Kashmiri handicrafts, especially carpets and Pashmina shawls, are renowned for their exceptional quality and intricate designs, making them highly sought after in Gulf and European markets.

Many of these crafts have historical significance, tracing back to the Mughal-Afghan and Sikh-Dogra eras, and are celebrated globally, even displayed in prestigious museums.

Currently, Kashmir's handicraft industry generates around Rs 1,200 crore in annual exports.

The government now aims to significantly raise this figure

by expanding the international reach of these unique products.

The government has set up a target of handicraft export worth Rs 3000 crore annually from Kashmir by 2029.

A senior official from the Industries and Commerce Department explained that this initiative aligns with the newly introduced J&K Export Policy. "The policy leverages the region's strengths and resources, aiming to transform Jammu and Kashmir into an export-driven economy. A core focus is on enhancing the quality and competitiveness of local products to meet global standards," the official told news agency KINS.

In recent years, handicraft exports have steadily grown, with exports rising from Rs 550 crore in 2021-2022 to Rs 1,100 crore in 2022-2023, and exceeding | [More on P6](#)



BJP Be Held Accountable: Ruhullah

Member of Parliament Agh Ruhullah Mehdi expressed deep sorrow over a recent terrorist attack on civilians in Mazhama Budgam. In a statement on social media platform X, he said, "Saddened by the news of the terrorist attack on the civilians in Mazhama Budgam. My sympathies and | [More on P6](#)

WHY THIS SUDDEN RISE in these attacks immediately after the recent elections?

Anti Polio Vaccine Terrorists Kill 7 in Pakistan

Agencies

Lahore: At least seven people, including five schoolchildren, have been killed and 23 injured in a bombing near a girls' school in southwestern Pakistan, officials said.

Friday's attack targeted police guarding a polio vaccination drive in Mastung, a town in Balochistan province.

"The target was a police van which was going to pick up a polio [vaccination] team," Senior Superintendent of Police Rahmat Ullah told the Reuters news agency.

One police officer and a shopkeeper were also killed in the explosion, senior police officer Abdul Fatah told the AFP news agency.

The blast was believed to have been caused by an improvised device attached to a motorcycle parked near the school.

No group has claimed responsibility for | [More on P6](#)

India's First Analog Space Mission Launched from Leh



Agencies

New Delhi: The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on Friday announced the launch of its first analog space mission, to study the challenges of extraterrestrial conditions that will help in future space missions.

The mission, which includes a compact, inflatable habitat named Hab-1 will simulate life

in an interplanetary habitat. It is being held in Leh, in Ladakh.

Even as India plans to launch several space missions, the new mission will help understand the challenges that future astronauts may encounter on missions beyond Earth.

"India's first analog space mission kicks off in Leh!" ISRO said in a post on X.

"This mission will simulate life in | [More on P6](#)

Warmest October Since 1901 in India

No Hint Of Winter In November

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India experienced its warmest October since 1901 with mean temperature recording 1.23 degrees Celsius above normal, the weather office said on Friday. It predicted a warmer November, not indicating the upcoming winter.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrityunjay Mohapatra attributed the warmer weather to the absence of western disturbances and the influx of easterly winds due to active low-pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal.

The mean temperature in October was recorded at 26.92 degrees Celsius, the warmest since 1901, against the normal of 25.69 degrees Celsius, Mohapatra said.

The minimum temperature



also clocked 21.85 degrees Celsius against the normal of 20.01 degrees Celsius for the country as a whole.

"In north-western India, north-westerly winds are needed for lower temperatures. The monsoonal flow was also there that does not allow fall in temperature," Mohapatra said.

He said the temperatures will continue to remain 2-5 degrees above normal in the north-western plains at least for the next two weeks, before a gradual decline towards normalcy.

Mr Mohapatra said the weather office does not count November as a winter month. He said January and February are considered as winter months, while the hints of the cold weather are available in December.

In the southern peninsula, the north-east monsoon is expected to bring above-normal rainfall in November in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and south interior Karnataka.

"The above normal to normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except northwest India and some areas of central India," the weather office said.

The delay in the onset of cold weather conditions could also be on account of the continued prevalence of neutral El Nino | [More on P6](#)

RG Kar Rape Case Not Happy With CBI Probe, Medics Announce New Protests

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Almost three months after the rape and murder of a medic at state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, junior doctors on Friday said they are not happy with the pace of probe by the CBI into the incident and announced a slew of fresh agitations.

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum was also dissatisfied with the central probe agency since the charge sheet filed before the Supreme Court in the medic's murder case named only one person as accused, who was arrested by the police before the CBI took over the investigation on a Calcutta High Court order.

"We will take | [More on P6](#)



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IIT-B Finds Way To Keep Home Temperatures Low

Press Trust Of India

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) claims to have developed a method to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures in naturally ventilated homes in collaboration with the Community Design Agency.

For maintaining comfortable indoor temperature, researchers used a numerical and simulation-based technique called Computational Fluid

Dynamics (CFD) that explores the relationship between wall materials, variations in airflow, and thermal comfort, IIT-B said in a statement. Researchers chose local and eco-efficient options such as burnt clay bricks and AAC blocks that reduce environmental emissions and transportation costs. This can improve living conditions and occupant well-being even for low-income housing in India, it stated.

"Construction materials play a major

role in defining the quality and livability of the building, and it is important to make sure that mass housing projects adopt the right material that provides comfortable living at a reasonable cost," IIT Bombay professor Albert Thomas, who led the study, said.

Community Design Agency (CDA) is a team of architects, engineers, business professionals, community planners, and artists who work alongside communities on the margins through the collaboration of various stakeholders.



“Construction materials play a major role in defining the quality and livability of the building, and it is important to make sure that mass housing projects adopt the right material that provides comfortable living at a reasonable cost

'High-intensity Workouts More Beneficial For Weight Loss In Women'

IANIS

Exercising to lose weight? High-intensity physical workouts may be more beneficial, especially for women, according to a study.

The study, published in the Journal of the Endocrine Society, showed that more than moderate exercise, and engaging in vigorous physical activity like jumping rope, swimming, and cycling can suppress hunger levels in healthy adults. Researchers from the University of Virginia in the US showed that the effect is due to ghrelin -- a hormone that stimulates appetite. They noted that hunger levels are significantly reduced after high-intensity exercise, as compared to moderate-intensity exercise or control (no exercise). Lead author Kara Anderson, from the varsity, noted that people felt 'less hungry' after high-intensity exercise compared to moderate-intensity exercise. To investigate the effect of exercise intensity and sex on ghrelin levels and appetite in untrained humans the study included eight males and six females. The participants fasted overnight and then completed exercises of varying intensity levels. This was determined by measurements of blood lactate, followed by self-reported measurements of appetite.

The results showed females had higher levels of total ghrelin compared with males. However, only females demonstrated "significantly reduced acylated ghrelin (AG)" following the intense exercise, the findings showed. AG and deacylated ghrelin (DAG) are the two forms of the hormone ghrelin.

Besides hunger, ghrelin is also known to affect energy balance, appetite, glucose homeostasis, immune function, sleep, and memory. Anderson explained that exercise can be compared to a drug, whose 'dose' should be customised based on an individual's personal goals".

Meeting Sodium Recommendations Could Avert Deaths From Heart Disease: Study

Press Trust Of India

Complying with the WHO-recommended levels of sodium intake could avert three lakh deaths due to heart and chronic kidney disease in 10 years, a modelling study by the World Health Organization has estimated.

High levels of sodium -- an ingredient of salt -- are one of the main dietary risks of death and disability. Packaged foods are a major source of sodium intake in high-income countries, and increasingly becoming so in low- and middle-income countries. However, researchers, including those from The George Institute for Global Health, Hyderabad, said that India has no national strategy for sodium reduction despite people consuming double the recommended intake and increasing amounts of packaged foods.

The WHO recommends under two grams of sodium a day, which is roughly the same as less than a teaspoon or five grams of salt a day. Published in The Lancet Public Health journal, the results suggested substantial health gains and cost savings within the first ten years of compliance, including averting 1.7 million cardio-



vascular events, such as heart attacks and strokes, and 700,000 new chronic kidney disease cases, along with savings of \$800 million.

The authors said that the results from the modelling make a strong case for India to mandate the implementation of WHO's sodium benchmarks, especially as people are increasingly consuming packaged food. Slashing sodium intake in the population by 30 per cent by 2025 is one of nine global targets recommended by WHO for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Countries, including the UK, Argentina, and South Africa, have shown that setting targets regarding sodium content in packaged foods along with engaging

food manufacturers to reformulate sodium to meet the targets, can effectively lower levels across packaged foods, and thereby reduce intake in the population, the authors said.

In India, few interventions address the issue of consuming high levels of sodium, they said. Launched in 2018 by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the current national initiative, 'Eat Right India', aims to educate people about healthy eating, including cutting down on sodium, the researchers said.

However, how adopting sodium targets for packaged foods could potentially impact intake across the country's population was not known, they said.

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Pir Bashir Ahmad
S/o Pir Mohammad Yaseen
R/o Wusan Bangil Tehsil Karhama bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have to correct my name in my passport from Halima Mohammad Macci W/o Mohammad Makki to Halima W/o Mohammad Makki R/o Sangeen Darwaza Badamwari in this regard if anybody is having any objection he /she may contact passport office Srinagar with in 07 days after publication of this notice after that no objection will be accepted . fko

From Office of the Advocate Advocate M. A Sofi

In the case of
1) Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
S/o Sultan Bhat
2). Mohammad Ishaq Bhat
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
3). Ali Mohammad Malik
S/o Mohammad Yousuf Malik
4). Rubena D/O Mohammad Yousuf Malik
5). Gulzar Ahmad Bhat
S/o Sultan Bhat
6). Javid Ahmad Wani
S/o Mohammad Ishaq Wani
7). Mohammad Ibrahim Wani
S/o Ghulam Rasool Wani
8) Ghulam Mohammad khanday
S/o Ghulam Hussain khanday
9). Showkat Ali Wani
S/o Mohammad Jaffer Wani
10). Ghulam Mohi Ud din Sofi
S/o Mohammad Ishaq Sofi
All residents of Diver Yakhman Pora , Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla (Caveator)

Vs
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.
FKO Sd/advocate

Public Notice

The name of my ward in school records has been wrongly written as Aleena Reyaz while her correct name is Aleena Riyaz which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Riyaz Ahmad Bhat
F/o Aleena Riyaz
R/o Bodu Bagh Khanyar Srinagar abko

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Youth Hospitalized After Assault In Kanipora

Agencies

Srinagar: A 21-year-old youth sustained injuries after at least five assailants assaulted him over a financial dispute in Kanipora area of Srinagar outskirts. The victim has been identified as Sahir Ahmad Malik, a resident of BK Pora. According to Sahir's family, the attackers brutally beat him, leaving him in a pool of blood before fleeing the scene. "We rushed Sahir to the hospital, where he is receiving medical treatment," the family said.

The family told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that they filed a police complaint, and an FIR has been registered at Police Station Nowgam. They demanded swift action against the assailants, calling for their immediate arrest. "We want justice for Sahir," the family urged. "The perpetrators must be held accountable for their heinous crime." The Police confirmed the registration of the FIR and assured a thorough investigation. "We are investigating the matter and will take necessary action against those involved." [KNT]

Mirwaiz Urges Minimal Social Media Use Among Kashmiri Youth

Agencies

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, on Friday called for a blanket ban on online betting apps in the region, warning that these apps are increasingly consuming the younger generation and leading to severe financial losses. Speaking at the Friday sermon at the Kashmir Grand Mosque, Mirwaiz highlighted cases of youth facing financial devastation and even depression due to addiction to betting apps. Mirwaiz recounted specific cases, sharing that a young man from Baramulla recently lost Rs. 79 lakh, while another from Pulwama lost Rs. 42 lakh, forcing his family to sell their home. "Another youth lost Rs. 32 lakh and has fallen into depression," he said, expressing concern over the widespread impact of such apps, which

often feature prominent sports and movie stars as brand ambassadors. Mirwaiz lamented the influence of mobile phones and social media on the youth, stating, "Our children have mobile phones, and their parents often don't know what they're accessing. Social media has become like a drug, and we must ensure minimal use of mobile devices." He appealed to the government to take swift action, pointing out that states like Assam, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, and Nagaland have already imposed bans on these apps. He concluded by urging the authorities to prioritize banning these platforms in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent further harm. "These apps lure youth with promises of easy money but devastate their lives instead. This is haram and must be stopped immediately."—(KNO)

Potholes On Qamarwari-Parimpora Road Irks Commuters

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents and commuters have voiced serious concerns over the deteriorated condition of the main road from Qamarwari-Mandi stretch in Parimpora, where numerous potholes and patches have turned the route into a daily hazard for drivers and pedestrians. The locals from the area and pedestrians said that the Qamarwari to Parimpora Mandi road is pivotal and a busy one too. It connects Srinagar city with Parimpora and needs urgent attention from authority, as potholes have made it very dangerous, they said. A scooty rider expressed his frustration, saying, "The potholes and patches make it nearly impossible to ride safely." He said this road is busy with traffic all the day and if these potholes were not filled immediately, there is every possibility of a major accident. Another resident, who frequently commutes on this stretch, added that

Many residents are now calling for urgent action from authorities to address the road's condition, saying the delays in repairs could lead to severe accidents and injuries.

"every day, I see people struggling to avoid these potholes, swerving dangerously close to oncoming traffic. It has become a nightmare for us, and we are worried that someone could get seriously hurt if nothing is done soon." Pertinently, locals report that these road conditions not only slow down traffic but also increase the risk of accidents, particularly for two-wheeler riders. Many residents are now calling for urgent action from authorities to address the road's condition, saying the delays in repairs could lead to severe accidents and injuries.



Sakeena Conducts Surprise Inspection Of SMHS, Super Speciality Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Masood, conducted surprise inspections of SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar and took stock of medical care facilities and availability of essential services for patients.

During her visit to SMHS Hospital, the Minister inspected various departments of the hospital and took on spot assessment of healthcare facilities. She inspected ICU, emergency wards and other units of the hospital to gather first hand appraisal of their cleaning as well as other facilities available there.

Engaging with doctors and other paramedics on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the importance of quality healthcare, especially in emergency wards of the hospital. "This hospital receives a large number of referral cases and therefore we need to have facilities and other sources available to deal with them dedicatedly", she said. The Minister also discussed strategies with the hospital administration, doctors and paramedics for

improving response time during emergency cases.

Sakeena Masood, during the interaction, reiterated that the government is committed to improve health care facilities in all hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. "Development of the health sector is the top priority of our government and we are dedicated to establishing a world class health care

units as well as medical equipment available in the hospital.

She interacted with heads of different specialities of the hospital and took appraisal from them about the current status of medical care facilities available in the hospital.

Later, the Minister also chaired a brief meeting with the Principal GMC Srinagar, Administrator Associated Hospitals, MS

During the inspection, Sakeena Masood also interacted with patients and their attendants, taking on spot feedback from them about the healthcare services provided in the hospital.

system in J&K", she stated.

During the inspection, Sakeena Masood also interacted with patients and their attendants, taking on spot feedback from them about the healthcare services provided in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Masood also visited Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar and took assessment of medical facilities available in the hospital. She toured the hospital and inspected various

SMHS hospital, MS Super Speciality hospital, heads of different departments of both hospitals and other senior doctors.

Interacting with them, she pledged the government's commitment towards enhancing healthcare infrastructure and medical services across Jammu and Kashmir. She assured that the genuine issues related to human resources will be looked at on priority and addressed promptly.

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 26
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	4: 00
Magrib	5:41
ISHA	7: 02

HIJRI CALENDAR
29 Rabi-ul-Sani
1446

- 676 - Donus begins his reign as Catholic Pope replacing Pope Adeodatus II
- 1327 - King Alfonso IV of Aragon crowned
- 1355 - English invasion army under King Edward lands at Calais
- 1642 - Second Battle of Breitenfeld, aka First Battle of Leipzig; victory for the Swedish army under Field Marshal Lennart Torstenson over Holy Roman Empire army under Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of Austria
- 1675 - A combined attack by the Plymouth, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut colonies attacks the Great Swamp Fort, owned by the Narragansetts during King Philip's War
- 1698 - Scottish settlers make landfall in Panama, establishing the ill-fated 'Darien Venture' colony
- 1772 - Boston: anti-English Committee of Correspondence forms
- 1783 - General George Washington, later 1st US President, bids farewell to his army after the American Revolutionary War
- 1835 - 2nd Seminole War begins in Osceola
- 1841 - Akbar Khan successfully revolts against Shah Shuja in Afghanistan
- 1861 - American Civil War: Western Department Union General John C. Fremont is relieved of command and replaced by David Hunter.
- 1868 - Time zone: New Zealand officially adopts a standard time to be observed nationally.
- 1880 - James A. Garfield (R) elected 20th US President
- 1898 - Theodor Herzl arrives in Jerusalem
- 1914 - Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire
- 1914 - Great Britain declares the entire North Sea a military area: neutral ships will transit it at their own risk
- 1917 - Balfour Declaration proclaims support for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1917 - Lansing-Ishii Agreement; US recognizes Japan's privileges in China
- 1920 - Warren G. Harding elected 29th US President
- 1942 - 11th day of battle at El Alamein: British assault on Tel el Aqqaqir
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman re-elected in an upset over Republican Thomas E. Dewey
- 1954 - Taiwan & US sign military pact
- 1956 - Hungary appeals for UN assistance against Soviet invasion
- 1956 - Israel captures Gaza & Sheham
- 1959 - The first section of the M1 motorway, the first inter-urban motorway in the United Kingdom, is opened between the present junctions 5 and 18, along with the M10 motorway and M45 motorway
- 1964 - Faisal succeeds Saud as king of Saudi Arabia
- 1966 - The Cuban Adjustment Act comes into force, allowing 123,000 Cubans opportunity to apply for permanent residence in the US
- 1972 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalinsk USSR
- 1972 - Government of the Republic of Ireland introduce a bill to remove the special position of the Catholic Church from the Irish Constitution
- 1974 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1976 - Jimmy Carter (D) defeats Gerald Ford (R) for US President
- 1977 - Microbiologist Carl R. Woese and scientists from the University of Illinois announce the identification of methanogens, a form of microbial life (Archaea) dating back some 3.5 billion years
- 1978 - Crew of Soyuz 29 returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 31
- 1982 - Fire in Salung tunnel, Afghanistan, 1,000+ Russians die
- 1984 - Velma Barfield becomes the first woman executed in the United States since 1962
- 1988 - Computers virus strikes Pentagon, SDI research lab & 6 universities
- 1991- Bartholomew I becomes the Patriarch of Constantinople, head of 300 million followers of the Eastern Orthodox Church
- 1992- First test flight of Airbus A330
- 2000- The first crew arrives at the International Space Station

SAD DEMISE



With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of the late Fa-reeda, beloved wife of the late Abdul Rehman Molvi, of Riyazat Teng, Khanyar, Srinagar, on 1st November 2024. She was a pillar of strength and kindness, deeply loved and respected by all who knew her.

Three days of mourning will be observed. The Fatiha Khwai gathering will take place on Sunday, 3rd November, at 10:30 AM at the graveyard behind Zindshah Masjid, Rainawari, Srinagar

For details, please contact: 7889377176.
May Allah grant her Jannah and give patience to her family.



OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN distress myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER / Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT / Help Poor Voluntary Trust.

is initiating a **Free 8 weeks Group Therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.



If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Dareshi Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

The recent rise in festival sales and the surge in advertising across social media platforms often lead consumers to believe they are receiving significant discounts. However, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) display may not accurately represent a product's true value, creating a "decoy effect" where consumers perceive the offer as more beneficial than it truly is. The truth behind the tag: festival sales and social media ads often mislead with inflated MRPs. Some brands or retailers artificially raise the maximum retail price (MRP) of products, then offer "discounts based on the inflated price. This practice makes discounts look more appealing than they actually are, leading consumers to believe they are getting a great deal when, in reality, the product may still be overpriced. Advertisers particularly on social media may use "decoy pricing" by introducing a product at higher price print alongside discount items that seem more attractive in comparison, influencing buyers' perception and nudging them towards products they might not have otherwise chosen. Sales that claim to be for limited time only can create urgency, pushing consumers to buy quickly without comparing price. In reality, these deals are often extended beyond the advertised timeframe or reappear shortly after. Hence, the urgency is artificial.

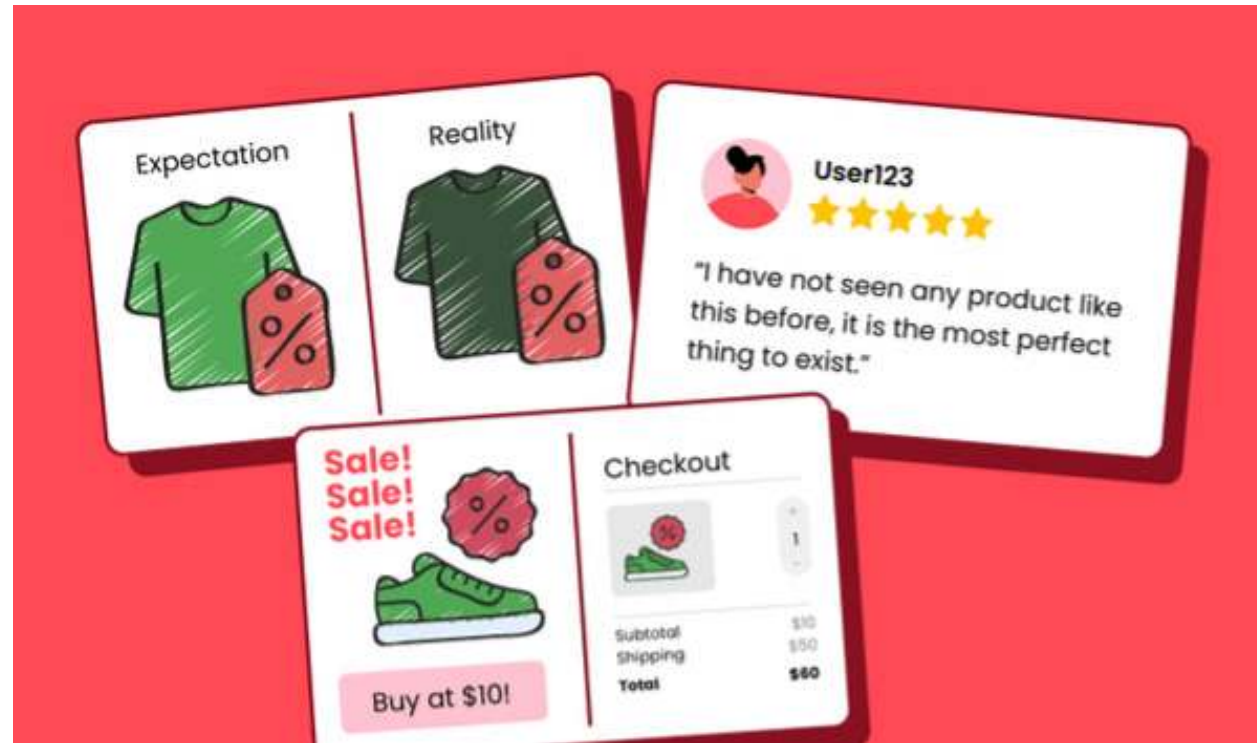
Many ads on social media leverage influencers who may not disclose paid partnerships, leading consumers to believe the recommendations are genuine. Influencers often promote products as "must-haves" with "amazing discounts," "creating a perception of quality or necessity that may not be accurate. Some festival sales offer bundled deals - multiple items at lower price - while the saving is minimal or nonexistent compared to buying individually. Consumers might feel compelled to buy more because they think they are getting better value even though this might not be the case. These practices exploit consumers' psychology, creating a perception of value or scarcity that doesn't reflect the product's real worth.

Recently, social media has seen an increase in deceptive tactics where some advertisers or influencers intentionally break or damage items, creating exaggerated or staged scenarios purely for the sake of gaining attention or promoting products. These staged "dramas" are often designed to manipulate viewers' emotions, making them believe that the product is essential or has special qualities that solve problems or prevent issues like those shown. This tactic misleads consumers by creating a false sense of urgency or need, and ultimately, it skews perceptions of the product's ac-

How Price Tags Lie

How festival sales and social media ads create a "decoy effect on shoppers"

Syed Mudasir Mushtaq



“Earning a profit is legitimate, but it should be balanced with fair pricing, quality assurance, and transparency. By respecting the true value of money, businesses can build trust with consumers, fostering a marketplace where both parties benefit”

tual usefulness or quality. Such practices not only deceive potential buyers but also erode trust in advertising and social media promotions.

Recently, a troubling trend has emerged on social media where fake online stores showcase popular branded items at unusually low prices to attract unsuspecting buyers. Once an order is placed, consumers are often shocked to receive empty boxes, poor-quality knockoffs, or completely unrelated items instead of what was advertised. To make matters worse, these fraudulent sites typically have no recognized return policies or customer support, leaving customers with no way to get a refund or return the items. This practice not only leads

to financial loss for consumers but also damages the reputation of genuine brands as fake sites continue to exploit their names for profit.

Consumer's Responsibility:

Consumers have a responsibility to make informed choices and protect themselves, especially in an environment with rising cases of misleading advertising and fraudulent online practices. Key responsibilities include:

1. Research Before Buying: Consumers should take time to research the product, seller, and website. This includes reading reviews, comparing prices, and

understanding the product's specifications and return policies.

2. Avoid Impulsive Purchases: Responsible consumers are cautious about "too-good-to-be-true" deals and avoid making hasty purchases, particularly from unfamiliar sites or during flash sales that create artificial urgency.
3. Verify Authenticity: Checking for authenticity is essential, especially with branded items. Consumers can look for official brand websites or verified retailer partnerships to ensure they are buying genuine products.
4. Understand Rights and Policies:

Consumers should be familiar with their rights, such as return and refund policies, warranty information, and privacy policies, especially when buying online.

5. Report Fraudulent Activity: If consumers encounter fake or misleading ads, reporting them to appropriate consumer protection agencies or platforms can help prevent others from falling victim to scams.

By taking these steps, consumers not only protect themselves but also contribute to a more transparent and reliable marketplace

Role of Government:

Last but not least, every citizen, young or old, rich or poor is a consumer of some goods or services from the time of his/her birth to death. It is therefore, necessary that every consumer not only gets a full measure of the value for money he/she spends, but also that his interests are fully safeguarded. As enjoined in the constitution of India, Government has to play a vital role in protection and empowerment of consumers. Government should ensure establishment of an effective and responsive administration which is not only citizen friendly but it is also transparent and accountable. It should evolve various consumer related policies and activate the Consumer Affairs Departments, not in the shape of toothless tiger but entrusted with authority to play an essential role in safeguarding consumers through protection, enforcement and awareness initiatives. The FCS & Consumer Affairs Department is a conspicuous example and has played a standout role not only in protecting consumers and regulating markets but also in generating substantial revenue through fines imposed from erring marketers.

The aim of this article is not opposing business or the pursuit of livelihood; however, to emphasize the importance of valuing consumers' money. Earning a profit is legitimate, but it should be balanced with fair pricing, quality assurance, and transparency. By respecting the true value of money, businesses can build trust with consumers, fostering a marketplace where both parties benefit. This perspective encourages ethical business practices that prioritize long-term relationships and consumer satisfaction over short-term gains.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is PG. Pub. Administration, Dip. Consumer Protection/Food Safety

Veggies Put RBI In A Bind

Specialised oversight and long-term strategies on crops will help tame inflation.

Ashok Gulati, Bidisha Chanda and Ranjana Roy

Reserve Bank of Governor Shaktikanta Das categorically stated in the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting that it was risky to reduce the repo rate as inflation was still not at a comfortable level of 4%. The September inflation, measured by the consumer price index (CPI), surged to 5.5%, while food inflation crossed 9.2%. So, the RBI's uneasiness in committing to reduce the repo rate is understandable.

But a bigger question is, how far can the RBI tame inflation, especially when it is driven by food, largely by vegetables? Vegetable inflation is 36% and its overall contribution to CPI inflation is 42.8%. The top 10 commodities that contributed most to CPI inflation in September are all vegetables — no wonder they have put the RBI in a bind.

To be fair to the RBI, let us see its record in taming inflation since it adopted the flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework, with a target of 4% +/- 2%. Our analysis of 101 months shows that CPI inflation exceeded the 4% target 72% of the time, and in 28% of the cases, it surpassed the upper threshold of 6% (see graphic).

Various factors have impacted CPI inflation during this period. These have ranged from plunging international prices, especially of crude oil and food, to reducing fiscal deficit in the initial years (2016 to 2019) when inflation was tamed below 4%. But thereafter, disruptions in supply chains during Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 pushed global as well domestic inflation up.

The outsized influence of consumer food price inflation (CFPI) on overall CPI inflation boils down to the outdated weights assigned to food and beverages in the CPI basket. Currently, they account for 45.9% of CPI, with food alone making up 39%, based on a 2011-12 consumption survey.



It is high time these weights are updated based on the 2022-23 consumption survey.

The RBI still deserves credit for maintaining inflation at levels lower than many emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). According to International Monetary Fund data, in 2024, India's inflation stood at 4.4%, well below the EMDEs' average of 7.9%. But greater the proportion of food in the overall CPI, the harder it becomes for monetary policy alone to control inflation. So, replacing old food weights in CPI by new ones, likely to be 5-6 percentage points less, should be a priority to reflect the reality better.

Let us dive deeper into food inflation. The recent surge in vegetable inflation, particularly driven by tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP), is a direct manifestation of structural weaknesses in India's agricultural supply chains, compounded by adverse climatic conditions. In September, vegetable inflation contributed a staggering 63% to the CFPI, with year-on-year price increases of 42.4% for tomatoes, 66.2% for onions, and 65.3% for potatoes. These figures are not mere anomalies;

they are symptomatic of deeper inefficiencies and vulnerabilities in their value chains that demand urgent policy attention.

Tomatoes follow the classic "cobweb model" of price cycles, where short supply quickly pushes up prices due to their perishable nature. Current prices of ₹60-80/kg stem from delayed kharif arrivals due to heavy rains in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka's key production belts — Chikkaballapura and Kolar — suffered 20-30% yield loss from white fly infestations, worsening the supply shortage and fuelling food inflation.

Onion retail prices, currently at ₹50-60/kg, highlight severe supply disruptions. Among the three growing seasons, only the rabi crop can be stored from March to October, serving as a buffer during lean months. This year, onion storage is slightly lower than last year, with Maharashtra reporting a 1.3 lakh metric tonne storage loss. Incessant rainfall in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh has damaged the kharif crop, delaying arrivals and

tightening supply.

Stored stocks of potatoes are released from May to November, the highest in October as the rabi potato starts to perish by then. The lower arrival to mandis has led to spike in prices. A part of the surge can be attributed to the low base effect from the previous year.

India's recurring price volatility in TOP crops demands a more resilient agricultural policy. While Operation Greens launched in 2018 aimed to stabilise prices by streamlining value chains, its expansion to cover all fruits and vegetables diluted its original focus. As a result, supply disruptions and significant post-harvest losses — 18-26% for potatoes, 25% for onions, and 11.6% for tomatoes — continue to drive up retail prices. Such losses should not be taken lightly; after all, a spike in onion prices in the 1998 elections caused the Vajpayee government to collapse.

Short-term measures like the recent 40% export duty on onions reveal the government's consumer bias and knee-jerk reactions. The solution lies in processing a portion of TOP crops during surplus periods: converting at least 10-15% of tomato production into paste and puree, and dehydrating onion into products like flakes and powder. Successful models, like Jain Irrigation's onion dehydration partnership with farmers, show how such initiatives can reduce wastage and boost farmers' income.

What is needed is a dedicated agency, staffed with experts, focused exclusively on TOP. Without such specialised oversight and long-term strategies, the RBI will remain in a bind on repo rates. It needs to press for these long-term strategies with the government, as it goes beyond its jurisdiction. Only then it can heave a sigh of relief and tame vegetable inflation.

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

Embracing Patience and Tolerance

Fundamental Principles for Navigating Life's Challenges

Zulfiqar Ali

Humans are the most versatile creatures ever created by the Almighty Allah. We as humans have been bestowed with the privilege of being God's representatives on Earth and granted free will, elevating us above angels. However, our human intellect is confined within the limits of our perceptual abilities. In today's rapidly changing world, we often find ourselves impulsive, anxious, and melancholic. Nevertheless, through patience and tolerance, we can bring a distinctive quality to the world. This is no simple task, as our planet urgently requires each individual's best efforts. By cultivating these virtues, we can synchronize with life's natural cadence, enabling us to navigate its challenges more effectively.

The holy Quran states "He (Allah) has created man from a sperm-drop; and behold this same (man) becomes an open disputer!" [16:4]. The disputes created by man are nowadays his daily routines. Man has forgotten that his true nature, inherited by birth, was to show love, compassion, sympathy and generosity towards his fellow beings. In these fellow beings, family and relatives has been given a special preference. In Islamic literature the term "Silat-al-rahm" has been specifically used for the requirement of kinship(relationships). The prophet of Allah Prophet mohammad ﷺ says "Whoever is pleased that he be granted more wealth and that his lease of life be prolonged, then he should keep good relations with his kith and kin." (Bukhari, Adab, 12). Similarly Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talib عليه السلام (Ghurur-al-hikam) says, "I bid you not to adorn yourself with stinginess, for it will disparage you near those who are close to you and will make you hated by your relatives".

Life doesn't move on smooth tracks. It moves through ridges and furrows. The Prophet Mohammad ﷺ once said, 'Listen, obey and be patient.' (Musnad Ahmad, Hadith No. 8005). On another occasion, he observed: 'God has commanded man to be patient and forgiving.' (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 4566). So what does patience stand for? what will it yield for a common man? and what is the process to inculcate the behaviour of being patient? Let's start by simplifying the definition of patience. Patience encompasses the abil-



Endurance serves as an internal reservoir of strength when encountering life's challenges, guiding individuals through difficult times with serenity and receptiveness. This quality can also bolster mental resilience when facing hardships without grumbling, fostering positive attributes that lead to the determination needed to confront life's obstacles

ity to maintain composure and self-control in the face of adversity and provocation. It is a virtue by which you can understand and value the individuals you engage with, particularly those who challenge you or are different from you. The capacity to acknowledge the good traits and contributions of others, even when they are not immediately apparent or in line with your preferences, is the essence of appreciation. You may cultivate a sense of respect and connection as well as lessen the propensity to point the finger or offer criticism by showing empathy and appreciation.

By developing patience, individuals can learn to manage their temper and avoid making rash decisions. The practice of patience offers numerous benefits and is considered an essential component of genius. It involves enduring challenges with dignity and resilience, recognizing that our true value lies not in others' perceptions, but in our self-perception.

Patience, though often praised, is a quality few truly master. Al-Ghazali describes patience not

as mere words, but as a character trait that allows adaptation to various situations. It extends beyond simply waiting, encompassing the ability to maintain composure and calmness in difficult times while continuing to make positive contributions. Patience involves recognizing that change is unavoidable and that, given time, order and purpose will emerge from apparent chaos. It is crucial to disregard minor idiosyncrasies and instead concentrate on nurturing harmonious relationships in both personal and professional spheres. Patience teaches us about enduring challenges with dignity and resilience, which makes us understand that our true value lies not in others' perceptions, but in our self-perception.

In contrast to the past, our modern world is characterized by rapid technological advancements and a fast-paced environment. To keep up with these dynamic changes, people are forced to adapt, often making quick decisions that may be harmful or inappropriate. Individuals are becoming less patient and more aggressive, even

over minor issues.

Within a short time, seemingly insignificant problems can escalate to situations with severe and irreversible outcomes. A recent example is the stabbing incident at Parimpora Srinagar, which resulted in the loss of a young life. The primary concern is to address and understand the reasons for people's increased impatience and intolerance in today's society.

Not everyone can possess patience and tolerance, yet these virtues are attainable for all, though the possession requires significant and proper cultivation methodology. Patience can guide us to the truth, solve issues, and prevent catastrophes and wars. However, humility is a prerequisite for patience. The ability to control one's anger is essential to developing patience. Self-control during conflict is the sole reason the world exists. Men that are impatient can be quite harmful. Impulsive judges and leaders are viewed as impractical and are dreaded. Anger breeds aggression. Although it is difficult to control anger, self-reflection and meditation can

teach one how to settle disputes amicably. This is due to the fact that anger can occasionally be sparked by miscommunication and may not always be justified. Murder may result from hasty anger. To put it another way, anger breeds impatience and aggression. We can use forgiveness to counteract wrath. Patience is impossible without tolerance. Realizing patience requires tolerance, which is fundamental.

Being patient increases our self-assurance in our capacity to handle any challenges that may arise.

We are in an era of constant stress and psychological crises but we should remember the words of Allah(SWT) from the holy Quran

"O you who believe! Seek help through patience and prayers. God is with the steadfast." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:153).

"...And be patient and persevere, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere." (Al-Anfal 8:46).

"Allah loves those who endure in patience." (Al-Imran 3:146)

Islam's position on patience is clear: it is a strength that allows us to remain calm and persistent in the face of adversity. The Prophet ﷺ said: Allah Almighty says: "O son of Adam, if you are patient and restrained at the first moment of calamity, I would not be pleased with any reward for you less than Paradise". Similar to this, Imam Ali's hadith (عليه السلام) highlights how crucial it is to practice patience and tolerance when interacting with other people. The Arabic expression "عليك بالاحتفال" (Alika bil-ihimal) can be rendered as "Embrace patience" or "Adopt tolerance. The term "احتفال" describes the act of bearing, enduring, or tolerating something.

Endurance serves as an internal reservoir of strength when encountering life's challenges, guiding individuals through difficult times with serenity and receptiveness. This quality can also bolster mental resilience when facing hardships without grumbling, fostering positive attributes that lead to the determination needed to confront life's obstacles. Those who exhibit a considerable level of endurance can demonstrate self-restraint during adversity. Drawing upon their inner fortitude and the understanding that they can find true solace and inner peace.

The author is a research scholar

Entertainment or Exploitation?

The True Price of True Crime

Serene Madani

In recent years, the interest in true crime has spiked due to the rise of podcasts, documentaries, Netflix series retellings, and even storytelling mukbang content. A striking example of this phenomenon is the case of Adnan Syed, whose conviction for the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee was brought to the public's attention through the podcast Serial. Sarah Koenig, who hosts the podcast, raised questions about discrepancies and highlighted serious flaws within the case throughout the episode. Through the advocacy of new legal teams and the national attention the case received, charges against Syed were dropped and he was released from prison in 2022.

In 2023, however, a Maryland appellate court reinstated Syed's conviction, citing procedural violations. Young Lee, the brother of Hae Min Lee, did not receive appropriate notice regarding Syed's release, which the Maryland Supreme Court deemed an "injustice." This ruling has now made way for a new hearing, though the details remain uncertain. These recent developments, fueled in part by the renewed interest generated by the Serial podcast, illustrate the complex challenges and impli-

cations for all parties involved in this case.

There is an irrefutable merit to uncovering injustices and attempting to provide a voice for those who have been wronged, but unfortunately, not all cases are approached with the same level of caution. True crime's surge in popularity has sparked an ethical debate about the fine line between awareness, education, and exploitation. As we continue to turn our attention towards the latest movie or special, we must stop to ask: Should we be addressing such matters in a way that feels so detached and exploitative?

True crime content has become a mainstay of contemporary media - which is abundantly true when we look at podcasts and online channels that have amassed millions of followers. The appeal is bizarre, yet multifaceted: true crime offers suspense and often presents the inner workings of the criminal mind. For many, it is a way to engage and attend to their curiosities without being involved directly, this can be a problem when there are no boundaries and there is no concern held for the actual victims.

It bears repeating that while there is value in shedding light on systemic injustices and biases in the legal system,



the rapid capitalisation of the genre has also led to concerns over exploitation. Most of the time, these stories are told in a way that aims to attract viewers and create a spectacle of tragedy. This creates a blurred line of sorts; people who watch these videos want to be entertained and don't think too much about the ethics of it all. But this, in its very essence, is unethical.

Many documentaries, podcasts, and YouTube creators fail to centre the lives of the victims and focus instead on

the gruesome details of these events. This shift in focus often turns criminals into celebrities and dilutes the severity of these cases. Notorious murderers such as Ted Bundy and Richard Ramirez have been romanticized, and even idolized by many. This disturbing phenomenon not only disrespects the victims and their families but also highlights a deeper issue, society's complete desensitization to the suffering of others. Concurrently, families of victims are often retraumatized when the stories of their

loved ones are told for the sole purpose of consumption. They are almost always never considered for permission and are forced to relive their pain as directors and content creators profit from their suffering.

Perhaps one of the most peculiar examples of the overconsumption of true crime media is the mukbang story hybrid videos that are popular on YouTube. When you type "true crime mukbang" in the search bar, you are immediately hit with a slew of edited thumbnails where the

creator is usually fake gasping in front of photos of the victims or posing with enormous amounts of food. The actual videos are no better, as the creators in these videos proceed to tell stories of horrific murders while downing bowls of shrimp Alfredo. The 'lightheartedness' that these creators attempt to bring to these videos falls short because not only are they not made in good faith, but also reflect a lack of tact and sensitivity.

The Black Mirror episode Loch Henry, explores these concerns poignantly. In the episode, a young couple set out to document a murder that took place, in hopes of creating a fascinating crime documentary. As they continue to investigate, they uncover not just the details of the crime, but the devastating impact it had on the victims' families and the community. This episode illustrates the moral dilemmas faced by those who choose to exploit tragedies that aren't their own, and question whether it's worth dismissing the agony of those affected. It challenges viewers to reflect on what they decide to consume and underscores how easy it is to lose sight of humanity when it is sensationalized.

As we continue to consume more stories about murder, it

becomes easier to distance ourselves away from the victims and focus solely on the thrill of these stories. When we do this, victims are then reduced to TV characters rather than real humans who suffered. This detachment also makes way for a great lack of empathy; not only for victims but for others who have been on the receiving end of trauma and injustice as well. Exaggerating or presenting details that are out of context further distorts the severity of these events, and becomes counterproductive in the larger mission of shedding light on these stories.

The popularity of true crime is unlikely to waver anytime soon, and when approached carefully, can offer an opportunity to raise awareness about real-life events and the many flaws of the justice system, but it is important to recognise the line between informative content and mindlessly consuming the story of someone's suffering just because you can. We must always remember that behind every docuseries or "mukbang story" lie real victims, their families, and the wave of misery that followed. The consumption of these stories must never come at the cost of their dignity.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Kashmir's first National Youth Parliament - Tarun Sabha 2024 concludes at NIT Srinagar

Srinagar: The first-ever National Youth Parliament - Tarun Sabha 2024 in Kashmir successfully concluded at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with over 70 students actively participating in the mega event.

It was organized under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs' National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS) and was aimed to engage students with democratic values through a simulated parliamentary session.

Participants worked diligently over the course of a week to produce a one-hour parliamentary sitting video, which was later submitted to the Ministry. Key participants included Chirag Dube, who took on the role of Prime Minister, Janvi Sharma as Speaker, and Paramjeet Kumar as Leader of Opposition and Shiva Dwivedi as ruling party MP.

Dr. Ashok Kumar served as the faculty coordinator for the event, ensuring smooth coordination and execution.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar NIT Srinagar, who served as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Dean P&D, was the Guest of Honor.

In-charge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Roohie Naaz, and Dean Student Welfare (DSW), Prof. Abdul Liman, extended



their appreciation for the successful completion of week-long National Youth Parliament - Tarun Sabha 2024 at NIT Srinagar.

They commended the efforts of the students and faculty involved, highlighting the event as a significant milestone in promoting democratic engagement and leadership development among the youth.

In his key speech, Registrar Prof. Rehman said that the objective of the Youth Parliament is to deepen the roots of democracy by fostering discipline, tolerance for diverse views, and enhancing students' understanding of parliamentary procedures and democratic governance.

"It allowed our students to learn firsthand about the functioning of the government,

constitutional values, and the importance of living in a democratic society," Prof. Rehman added.

On the occasion, Dean P&D, Dr. Yaswant Mehta said that many issues were discussed during the Youth Parliament including social justice, social reforms, economic development, communal harmony, education, Swachhata, Environment, Climate Change, labour reforms and other issues.

"These parliamentary sessions were not only informative but also transformative, allowing students to gain firsthand experience in governance and public discourse," he said.

Coordinator of the event, Dr. Ashok Kumar said the event was aimed to promote student engagement and democratic values provided an enriching

environment that encouraged participants to think critically about pressing national issues.

The event concluded with a screening of the one-hour video and felicitation ceremony, where participating students were honored with certificates and mementos by the Registrar, Dean P&D, event coordinator, and other dignitaries.

Reflecting on her role as Speaker, Janvi Sharma shared that engaging in debates on critical national issues underscored the power of dialogue in shaping opinions and driving meaningful change.

"This experience provided a profound understanding of parliamentary processes and deepened our appreciation for democratic values and governance," she said.

Vigilance awareness week concludes at CUKashmir

Ganderbal, Nov 1: The Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW)-2024, observed by the Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) to honour the legacy of first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India, Shri. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, culminated on Friday with the valedictory session and distribution of certificates among the winners of different events.

Addressing the valedictory function, Dean Academic Affairs and Chief Vigilance Officer, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said that to achieve the dream of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, it is crucial to address the root causes of corruption and work towards its eradication. "Corruption-free India can channel its resources more effectively towards healthcare, education, infrastructure, and technological advancements, ensuring inclusive growth and improved quality of life for all citizens," Prof. Shahid said. He said the higher educational institutions can contribute immensely by instilling moral and ethical values in young minds. "Students should be encouraged to uphold integrity and view corruption as detrimental to society's well-being," Prof. Shahid added.

In his presentation, Senior Superintendent of Police,

Mr. Waseem Qadri highlighted various forms of corruption, from bribery and embezzlement to nepotism and fraud, affecting every sector of society. "Corruption is a multi-faceted challenge that requires a holistic approach to address effectively. Through a combination of transparency, digitalization, robust institutions, protective laws, and ethical education, societies can work towards reducing corruption and fostering a culture of integrity," Mr. Waseem Qadri said. He said that when public systems are more responsive and less troublesome, people are less inclined to resort to corrupt practices to navigate them.

Executive Engineer, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Er. Aijaz Masood, in his address, underscored the need to sensitize the masses about the adverse effects of corruption on the families and loved ones of those indulging in it. "The families of corrupt persons suffer immensely and get socially ostracized, after they are trapped by the law enforcement agencies" he added.

Prosecuting Officer, ACB, Mr. John Mohammad in his address, said, civic responsibility initiatives, supported by the media and civil society, can foster a culture of accountability where citizens actively

participate in combating corruption. He added that citizens also play a pivotal role in holding individuals and institutions accountable. "Reporting corruption is not merely an option; it is a civic duty that strengthens governance, promotes transparency, and builds a fair society."

SHO/Trainer PTS Manigam, Mr. Mudassir Hamid in his speech, said the corruption weakens institutions, inflates costs, and hampers efficient governance, which directly impacts the quality of services and infrastructure available to citizens. "Corruption is a serious obstacle to progress. While laws and institutions play crucial roles in curbing corrupt practices, the responsibility to combat corruption does not rest on governments alone and the people have to come forward and report the corrupt practices to the concerned agencies, so that the culprits are booked," he added.

The programme convenor and Legal Advisor, Dr. Mudassir Bhat, conducted the programme proceedings and said a corruption-free India is essential for realizing a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future where every citizen can thrive. Assistant Prof. Dr. Samreen Gillani, proposed the vote of thanks.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Sonawari Schoolgirl's

authorities have been very tolerant and they did not compel us to pay the fees of our three children enrolled there," Atiq Begum, the girl's mother, said while speaking to Kashmir Observer.

Recounting the day, she said, "I received a call from the school saying my daughter was struggling to remember her lessons, and they asked me what might be the reason behind it. I didn't know. When she came home, I gave her a glass of milk and some biscuits, and she started vomiting."

"After urging her to tell me what had happened, she finally admitted that she had taken 37 pills from my medicines. I began searching for my brother's phone numbers, since I didn't have the money to take her to the hospital."

Her uncle, Mohammad Hussain, shared the family's ongoing struggles, explaining that repeated business setbacks, including a livestock venture, have plunged them into financial distress. "Poverty has brought her to such a state that she thought suicide was the only escape," he remarked.

According to records, her school in Odina, where she studies in the 5th grade, even offered a fee discount of Rs 20,000. Yet, a sum of around 86,500 rupees remains, an insurmountable debt for the family.

This incident has sparked a larger discussion on poverty's toll on mental health and education among Kashmir's youth, underscoring the urgent need for financial and psychological support for families in need. Thanks to the public response, the girl has resumed her studies, though her family's struggle for stability and support continues.

School's Chairman, Basharat Ali said that they try to be tolerant with student's families and do not force them to pay fees on time. On the suicide attempt, Basharat said that it is due to the negligence of family that the student attempted suicide.

"We did not force the poor child," Ali said.

Co-chairman, Malik Javid, added that while the school operates from rented premises and incurs its own expenses—staffing 15 individuals, including three non-teaching staff—they are committed to providing a fee waiver of 20,000 rupees. This support aims to ensure that the girl and her two siblings can continue their education without further financial hardships.

Pertinently, the story is developing, with potential donors pledging to cover the fees by Saturday. For those looking to assist the family, the girl's uncle, Mohammad Hussain, can be reached at 7780966981.

Indian Army Begins

the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following the clash.

Two Migrant

an Army vehicle six kilometres from

the tourist hotspot Gulmarg.

Earlier that day, terrorists shot at and injured Shubam Kumar, a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, in the Tral area of Pulwama district.

On October 20, a local doctor and six non-local labourers were gunned down by terrorists at a tunnel construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal. A labourer from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian district on October 18.

Thousands Bid

Singh Rana, who passed away on Thursday after a prolonged illness at a hospital in Haryana. His cremation took place at Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground here.

On Friday afternoon, Rana's mortal remains were brought to his home in Gandhi Nagar, where thousands, including top party leaders and his brother, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, paid tribute. From there, the mortal remains were carried in a flower-adorned vehicle in a procession to the cremation ground.

The air was filled with chants of "Devender Singh Rana Amar Rahe," as crowds surged to honor him during his final farewell. The last rites were performed by his son in an emotionally charged atmosphere, with politicians from across the spectrum in attendance.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary visited Rana's residence to offer their condolences. Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary expressed grief over Rana's death, saying, "J&K has lost a big leader, especially a strong voice for Jammu." Omar Abdullah left after paying his respects without speaking to the media.

A sea of people, including Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, UT Cabinet Ministers Javed Ahmed Rana and Satish Sharma, BJP MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain, elected MLAs, former MLAs, religious leaders, and various members of civil society followed the procession from Gandhi Nagar to the cremation ground.

BJP Be Held

prayers with the victims and their families."

Ruhullah condemned the attack and questioned the effectiveness of the security apparatus under the current central administration, which directly oversees Jammu and Kashmir. "The BJP regime, which is directly in control of the security in J&K, should be held accountable for these repeated failures," he remarked. He further raised concerns about a potential correlation between the recent rise in attacks and recent elections in the region, asking, "Why this sudden rise in these attacks immediately after the recent elections?"

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra strongly condemned the attack, terming it most unfortunate, and prayed for a speedy recovery of the injured.

Karra urged the government to take effective measures to curb "such inhuman, shameful and cowardice acts".

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari described the attack as the worst form of cowardice.

"Terrorists have once again attacked non-local labourers, this time

in Mazhama, leaving two of them injured. This is the worst form of cowardice on the part of the perpetrators. I pray for the swift recovery of the injured. The security agencies must ensure that the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice," he said.

The Peoples' Conference, led by Sajad Lone, said it was senseless violence.

"We strongly condemn the cowardly attack on two innocent individuals -- Sufiyan and Usman from Uttar Pradesh -- who were shot at by militants in Budgam today. This senseless violence has left them injured and we pray for their quick recovery," the party said in a post on X.

'Beyond Politics':

Devender Singh Rana. Following the news of Rana's death, Abdullah travelled to Jammu on Friday to stand next to Rana's family during this difficult time.

Before heading to Jammu, Abdullah shared heartfelt memories of Rana on his personal X account, stating, "The terrible news from late last night isn't really sinking in."

"I know the last few years have been marked by our differences, Devender, but I prefer to focus on the fun times we shared together, the excellent work we did together, and the memories."

He added, "You have been taken from us all too soon and will be missed. May your soul rest in peace now, DSR. My heart goes out to your family as I struggle to find the words to convey my condolences to them."

The pictures along with the post showed smiling faces of Abdullah with Rana and his current political advisor Nasir Wani on the banks of a stream.

In light of Rana's passing, Abdullah cancelled all his scheduled programs, choosing instead to stand beside Rana's wife, two daughters, and son during their time of grief.

At 59 years old, Rana was a significant figure in strengthening the National Conference in the Jammu region before parting ways and joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2021.

The two leaders had recently engaged in a political rivalry during the assembly elections, marking their first direct contest since Rana's shift in allegiance.

Reflecting on their earlier collaboration, people in the know recalled Rana's commitment to his political career, including his role in the 2002 assembly elections, where he managed Abdullah's campaign in Ganderbal.

Despite facing defeat in those polls, Rana chose to stay with the National Conference, declaring, "If he (Omar) had won, he would have gladly shifted back to his business, but now that he has lost, he would prefer to stay until he did not emerge victorious."

Rana's rise within the National Conference was marked by his appointment as political advisor to the Chief Minister after the 2008 assembly elections.

Together, Abdullah and Rana navigated the challenges posed by the 2010 agitation in the region, overcoming turmoil that stemmed from both separatist movements and external influences.

As the Jammu and Kashmir political landscape mourns the loss of Devender Singh Rana, his contributions to the region and the memories shared with colleagues will be remembered in the hearts of many.

Rana's Sudden

and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

Rana's family members, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, and MLA Pawan Gupta carried his body on their shoulders for his final journey amid chants of "Rana sahib amar rahi (Long live Rana saheb)".

"Rana's death is an irreparable loss to Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP. He was a political stalwart whose influence reached beyond party and religious lines," Raina said.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary said, "He was a beloved leader whose loss has left a significant void in Jammu and Kashmir politics."

The Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma also expressed his condolences.

"This is very unfortunate. Despite ideological differences, he maintained a friendly relationship with everyone," he said.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah also expressed shock at Rana's sudden passing.

"We had a great relationship with him and his father before him. Omar liked him a lot. He (Rana) held a big position in our party in Jammu and had made the party stronger," he told reporters in Srinagar.

"We all are very sad, my whole family, my son is very sad, he was close to him. I pray God gives strength to his family to bear this loss," he added.

Senior CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami also expressed grief at Rana's passing, saying in a statement that his sudden death was shocking.

The legacy of Rana -- who is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son -- is marked by his remarkable journey from building a multi-crore automobile company to becoming a significant political figure advocating for the "Dogra chief minister" narrative in Jammu and Kashmir.

Born into a Dogra family in Doda district in 1965, Rana was the son of former bureaucrat Rajinder Singh Rana and the younger brother of Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh.

Union minister Singh took to X to express grief, saying, "Untimely demise of my brother Devender Singh Rana is a deep personal loss, which is not only irreparable and painful, but the void created will continue to haunt me for the rest of my life. I sincerely thank all those standing by me and the family in these testing times."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed shock at the death of Rana and said his "untimely demise is shocking".

In a post on X, the prime minister said, "...He (Rana) was a veteran leader, who worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress. He had just won the assembly polls and had also played a noteworthy role in making the BJP stronger in Jammu and Kashmir."

"In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and supporters. Om Shanti," he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed grief over Rana's untimely passing.

"Devendra ji, who was always dedicated to the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir and the interests of the people, made an invaluable

contribution to the progress of the region. His demise is an irreparable loss for the BJP family. I express my condolences to his family and supporters," he said.

Omar Abdullah posted an emotional message on his X handle, saying, "The terrible news from late last night isn't really sinking in. I know the last few years have been marked by our differences, Devender, but I prefer to focus on the fun times we shared together, the excellent work we did together and the memories."

"You have been taken from us all too soon and will be missed. May your soul rest in peace now, DSR. My heart goes out to your family as I struggle to find the words to convey my condolences to them," he said.

J&K Targets

Rs 1,200 crore in 2023-2024. Major exports include carpets, shawls, wood carvings, and papier-mâché, with Kashmiri carpets even gracing the newly constructed Parliament building in New Delhi.

The J&K Export Policy also emphasizes the livelihoods of around 3 lakh artisans working in the handicraft sector. Increased exports directly boost artisans' incomes and economic security.

A key part of this policy is the 'district as an export hub' approach, promoting district-level growth through local initiatives, skill development, and capacity building. This strategy aims to empower artisans and entrepreneurs to meet the expectations of the global market. (KINS)

Anti Polio Vaccine

the attack. But Islamabad has frequently blamed the Taliban government in neighbouring Afghanistan for failing to root out attacks on Pakistan from across the border.

The attacks have coincided with Pakistan's third nationwide polio campaign, which was launched on Monday amid a significant rise in cases of the viral disease.

It aims to vaccinate 45 million children under five across 71 districts and comes in response to 41 polio cases reported predominantly in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh.

Polio cases had dropped in 2023 to six, from 20 in 2022. Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only countries where polio is endemic.

Armed groups have previously targeted polio teams, spreading false conspiracy theories that the vaccinations are part of a Western sterilisation programme.

India's First

an interplanetary habitat to tackle the challenges of a base station beyond Earth," the space agency added.

Hab-1 is equipped with essentials like a hydroponics farm, kitchen, and sanitation facilities. It provides a self-sustaining environment, offering valuable data as India is planning long-duration space missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

The mission is a collaborative effort by the Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and is supported by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

Ladakh was chosen as the place for the mission due to its unique geological characteristics that closely resemble Martian and lunar landscapes.

Its cold, arid conditions and high altitude will provide an ideal environment for testing technologies and strategies necessary for long-duration space missions.

Warmest October

conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The weather office said the probability forecast indicates a higher chance of La Nina conditions developing during November-December in a gradual manner.

"ENSO (El Nino-Southern Oscillation) conditions are slowly evolving towards the negative side and La Nina can set in by December," Mohapatra said, acknowledging that the weather forecasting agencies the world over have got their El Nino forecasts wrong this year.

In the winter months, the La Nina causes a very cold wave-like jet stream to flow across Afghanistan, Iran and the Hindu Kush mountains. These strong and cold winds impact the degree of cold in India.

Not Happy

out a rally in Kolkata on November 9 from College Square to Esplanade along with members of civil society organisations. There will be similar rallies in different parts of West Bengal," Forum spokesperson Debashis Halder told a press meet at R G Kar Hospital.

A mass convention will be also held on November 9 on Rani Rashmoni Avenue in Esplanade area demanding justice for the murdered medic.

"We are also giving a call to light lamps at every locality of Bengal on November 4," Halder said.

He said that the junior doctors feel from media reports that the role of "other perpetrators" of the crime has not been fully spelt out in the CBI charge sheet which only named one person directly involved in the crime.

"Has the role of other arrested persons including former (RG Kar hospital) principal Sandip Ghosh been entirely investigated?" Halder asked.

Ghosh was initially arrested in a related case of financial irregularities at the hospital when he was at the helm there. He, however, was later linked to rape and murder case.

Voicing dissatisfaction over the pace of the CBI investigation, Halder said that the junior doctors apprehend that such a probe may help the accused get bail.

"Why such a routine kind of investigation was held? We wish to know what steps the central agency has undertaken against higher authorities in the hospital and whether the sleuths talked to higher-ups in the health department," Halder said.

He said the junior doctors had organised a rally to the CBI office here before Diwali to press for expediting the probe, but given the present situation, they are "forced to intensify" their stir.

The ruling Trinamool Congress criticised the junior doctors for resorting to agitation again.

Claiming that the agitation by junior doctors is lacking direction, senior TMC MP Kalyan Bandyopadhyay said, "The movement seems to be hijacked by CPI(M) as the junior doctors have no concrete issue any more."

The CBI is investigating the R G Kar incident and the case is sub-judice, he said. "What is the point in chalking out one programme after another inconveniencing the common man?" he asked.

Rare Russell's Viper Spotted In Ganderbal

Agencies

GANDERBAL: In a surprising discovery, a Russell's viper was spotted near the office of the Horticulture Officer in Duderhama, Ganderbal district in central Kashmir. The sighting has raised concerns among local residents due to the snake's venomous nature.

Wildlife officials quickly intervened, rescuing the snake and relocating it to a safer environment. "We rescued the Russell's viper and shifted it to a safer location. There is no need to panic," an official said.

Local authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report any further sightings.

Manzoor Ahmad, a snake rescuer from the Wildlife Department, expressed his astonishment at the rare presence of the Russell's viper in Kashmir. "A wildlife warden found this snake species today in Duderhama, and it caught the attention of locals when I shared it on social media," Ahmad explained. "I wanted to confirm whether such species were present in the area, and my search led me to realise this is the first recorded sighting of a Russell's viper in Kashmir."

Ahmad said that while pit



vipers are common in the region, the Russell's viper, with its distinctive patches, is not typically found in Kashmir. "We usually don't have such species here. They are found in Jammu, not here," he said. "When I found it six days ago, I was surprised because we don't have this species."

While Manzoor conducted research, he found no prior information indicating the presence of Russell's vipers in Kashmir. He urged locals to report any sightings and to exercise caution. "If anyone encounters such species, please report it and avoid unnecessary movements outside," he added.

Wildlife officials continue to monitor the situation and have called for awareness among people regarding local wildlife and the risks associated with venomous snakes—(KNO)

Unregulated Mining Degrading Water Bodies In Kashmir: NIDM

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Unregulated extraction of natural resources from riverbeds in Kashmir is heightening the region's risk of flash floods, according to a report by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

The report highlights that unchecked mining of sand, gravel, and boulders fuels construction, compromising flood defenses and making rivers more susceptible to sudden flooding.

To address these risks, the NIDM calls for sustainable measures, including creating alternative flood channels, enhancing urban drainage systems, restoring natural waterways and wetlands, and factoring in flood and earthquake vulnerability in city planning.

The report also notes that many developmental activities proceed without considering the region's environmental, geological, and ecological constraints. It stresses the need



to improve early warning systems to better manage flood risks in Kashmir, an area highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including avalanches, earthquakes, and floods.

While agencies like the IMD and the Irrigation and Flood Control Department have strengthened early warning systems, the report emphasizes that further improvements are needed, especially in light of major events like the 2014 floods.

The NIDM also recommends more efficient use of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to enhance disaster preparedness and relief. Additionally, it calls for upgrading the Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development to a State Institute of Disaster Management (SIDM) to strengthen capacity-building and support disaster management efforts across the region. (KINS)

Fire Damages 3 Houses In South Kashmir's Kulgam



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Three residential houses were gutted in a fire incident in Daderkoot area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that fire broke out late last night in which four structures including three double-storey houses

and a cow shed got damaged.

He said that there was no loss of life reported in the incident, while the cause of the fire seems to be a short circuit.

Meanwhile, two shops were damaged in a fire incident in Tarzoo village of Sopore in the wee hours today. An official said that the cause of the fire was being ascertained while the fire was brought under control.

FCIK Pushes For CM's Support As Local Electrical Units Face Exclusions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has pushed for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's support to address the ongoing exclusion of local electrical equipment manufacturers from key power sector projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a recent meeting with the Chief Minister, former FCIK President Mukhtar Yousuf highlighting the issue revealed that over 150 local electrical equipment manufacturing units have faced severe operational challenges following procurement policy changes by the Power Development Department (PDD). He stated that these changes have left local manufacturers largely without work, posing a serious threat to their very survival.

The Chamber informed the Chief Minister that the Union Power Ministry has allocated ₹5,200 crore to Jammu and Kashmir under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), nearly evenly distributed between the two regions. The funds aim to enhance the power infrastructure, including 33KV and 11KV stations and other necessary equipment, to reduce power losses and ensure uninterrupted supply.

FCIK emphasized that the PDD's transition from a central store procurement process to a turn-key project model has introduced significant challenges for local units, reducing their access to power sector development schemes.

Secretary Finance FCIK Mohammad Altaf explained that under the previous system, equipment was procured for central stores only after undergoing rigorous third-party testing. However, the new turn-key

approach combines supply and installation, which not only debar manufacturers but also manipulated quality standards.

He said that the department has been clubbing project requirements across vast areas, creating cost estimates that exceed the financial and turnover capacities of individual manufacturers.

During the meeting, Mukhtar Yousuf also presented the Chief Minister copies of three recent high-value tender notices floated by the Project Wing of the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL), totalling ₹64.89 crore. These include ₹20.29 crore for electrifying unconnected households in Tulail and Kanzalwan, ₹29.86 crore for a new 33/11 substation in Tulail, and ₹14.74 crore for electrifying unconnected households in Kupwara.

"The stringent financial and turnover requirements make it impossible for local manufacturers to participate in these tenders," he told the Chief Minister.

President FCIK Shahid Kamili requested the Chief Minister's intervention to either segregate these large tenders into smaller portions or relax the qualification criteria, allowing local manufacturers a fair chance to participate. Alternatively, he suggested that the Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (SICOP) be authorized to bid on these tenders on behalf of local units, ensuring equitable distribution upon winning any contract.

He said that a trend to exclude local enterprises from developmental projects and schemes over the past few years has shaken the confidence of local entrepreneurs who feel their manufacturing units are being sidelined in favour of outside suppliers.

Targeted Displacement Of Gujjars Shall Not Be Tolerated: Javed Rana

'Social Injustice, All Forms Of Discrimination Including Vulnerability Of Tribals To Displacement Being Addressed'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Asserting that the targeted displacement of Gujjars shall not be tolerated at all, the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Friday said that the government shall ensure implementation of Forest Rights Act in letter and spirit for traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in forests for generations.

Addressing a delegation of Gujjars from Samba, Rana underscored that government is working to end social injustice and all forms of discrimination including their vulnerability regarding displacement, an official spokesperson said.

The Minister, he said, assured that Tribal rights in land and forest shall be respected and their development shall be undertaken without disturbing their social and cultural institutions.

"Government shall ensure



implementation of Forest Rights Act in letter and spirit for traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in forests for generations, but their rights could not be recorded," Rana said.

"Tribal Affairs Department shall take all possible actions to accelerate tribal development in J&K," he added. He assured that targeted displacement of Gujjars shall not be tolerated at all.

Rana also instructed concerned divisional officers in Jammu to resolve public issues and grievances with

empathy and ensure rights of tribals over land and their livelihood are protected at all costs.

Meanwhile, a delegation of newly promoted Masters in Jammu region also called on the Minister and raised their concerns about the delay in adjustments following their promotions. The deputation submitted a memorandum outlining the series of delays in the adjustment process.

The Minister assured the delegation that the matter shall be addressed promptly.

Sopore Youth Combat Wedding Extravagance For Underprivileged Families

Volunteers Offer Complete 'Wazwaan' Arrangements For Needy Across Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid Kashmir's vibrant wedding season, a group of young volunteers from north Kashmir's Sopore launched "Panun Wazwaan," a community-driven initiative to support underprivileged families by offering free wedding feast arrangements across the Valley.

With over 14 years in the profession of catering and fest arrangements, the team of five, led by Ashiq Ahmed, Aqib Ahmed, Waseem Ahmed, Mohammed Umar and Adil Ahmed has dedicated themselves to ensuring that families struggling financially can still enjoy a traditional Kashmiri wedding feast — offering it for free to families in need.

Sharing how the idea struck him only a few days ago, Ashiq Ahmed said, "I discussed it with the other members and they immediately gave their nod," he said.

With a spirit of service, the team quickly organized under the name "Panun Wazwaan" (Our Feast) and is now ready to travel to any corner of Kashmir to set up wedding feasts free of charge.

Aqib Ahmed, another key member of the group, who was in an event, described how "Panun Wazwaan" aims to not only provide food but also the necessary utensils and arrangements.

"We launched this initia-



tive to help those who cannot afford the expenses of a wedding, whether for food preparations or essential supplies. Our mission is to bridge the gap and ease the financial pressure on families who otherwise might feel compelled to forego the joy of a traditional wedding feast. The initiative has garnered significant praise from the local community, with a 60-year-old Ghulam Mohammed calling it an "eye-opener for society."

He highlighted how the group's efforts have encouraged others to reconsider the impact of social expectations on the economically disadvantaged.

In Kashmir, where wedding season is synonymous with the grand celebration of "wazwaan," a multi-course traditional feast, such gestures

carry significant weight. Kashmiri weddings are typically known for their elaborate feasts, with a wide array of dishes like Rista, Tabak Maaz, Kabab, Rogan Josh, Gushtaba and others served in a carefully curated sequence.

However, the growing extravagance of these celebrations has placed a heavy financial burden on many families, often delaying marriages as people struggle to meet societal expectations.

This initiative not only alleviates the economic burden of hosting a wedding but also addresses the larger social issue of delayed marriages due to financial constraints. The group welcomes anyone in need to reach out via their contact, 8082420963, to bring this support to their families—(KNO)



Diwali Celebrated at Historic Sharda Temple on LoC in Teetwal

Agencies

KARNAH KUPWARA: In a historic Diwali celebration, the Sharda Yatra temple near the Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal, Kashmir, was illuminated with candles and oil lamps, drawing a large gathering of Kashmiri Pandits, locals, and army personnel. Participants came together to mark the festival of lights by illuminating the temple, sharing sweets, and paying homage at the sacred site.

Ajaz Khan, a prominent member of the reconstruction committee, led the celebration, which was described as momentous, drawing comparisons to Diwali festivities in Ayodhya. Ravinder Pandita, head of Save Sharda Committee, extended Diwali greetings to Sharda fol-

lowers globally and renewed his request to the governments of India and Pakistan to open the Sharda route via Teetwal.

Khan emphasized that reopening the route would allow more pilgrims to access the temple, enabling them to perform puja and reconnect with a vital part of their cultural heritage.

The Save Sharda Committee has spearheaded the temple's reconstruction, along with the restoration of a Sikh Gurdwara on the same site. Both structures, once part of a historic complex that included a Dharmshala, were destroyed in the tribal raids of 1947. The near-complete reconstruction is a significant step in preserving the shared heritage and promoting cross-border spiritual ties in the region. (KNS)

Central University Kashmir Celebrates National Unity Day



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: School of Social Sciences and the School of Business Studies together celebrated National Unity Day-2024 at varsity's Green Campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. K. Lakshman, Head Dept of Politics and Governance (DPG), highlighted the importance of National Unity Day and the significant contributions of the national leaders, particularly the influence of Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in establishing the Union of India.

In his address, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nikka, Dean Schools of Social Sciences urged the stu-

dents to recognize and realize the importance of being united in their actions and behavior and stated that divisions of caste, color, religion, and place of birth only teach us how to cooperate with one another. He said that India is known for unity in diversity, and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been the best example of mutual tolerance, harmony, and co-existence in view of high and rich cultural ethos.

Dr. Khalid Waseem, Sr. Assistant Prof. DPG, proposed the vote of thanks by reiterating that the idea of unity should be established beyond nation and nationalism.

Breast Cancer Emerges As Leading Threat To Women's Health In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Breast cancer has become the leading cancer among women and the primary cause of cancer-related deaths in the reproductive age group, according to doctors.

Dr. Shabnam Bashir, a leading onco-surgeon in Kashmir called for early detection and lifestyle modifications.

Dr. Shabnam, who is specially trained in breast and colorectal cancer surgeries, said there is an alarming rise in breast cancer cases and that nearly 60% of women seek treatment at advanced stages due to a lack of awareness. She described cancer as a modern epidemic, saying approximately 2 million new cases are being diagnosed worldwide each year and over 1 million deaths occur due to cancer.

Quoting the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Dr. Shabnam Bashir projected a 12% increase in cancer cases over the next five years. She warned that these estimates may be conservative due to insufficient population-based cancer registries in India.

Globally, 2.3 million new breast cancer cases are reported annually, with India accounting for about 10% (around 223,000 cases) and resulting in approximately 100,000 deaths each year. The Kashmir state cancer registry indicates a recent 5% increase in breast cancer cases in the region.

Dr. Bashir said this rise is due to lifestyle changes, urbanisation, food adulteration, pollution, radiation, chemicals in cosmetics, and stress. While increased awareness may lead to higher diagnosis rates, it also contributes to the overall rise



in cancer incidence, she added. According to the Regional Cancer Registry for Kashmir (2014-2016), 5,336 new breast cancer cases were registered at SKIMS, Soura, equating to about five new cases daily in the hospital. Data reveals that Srinagar district has the highest incidence, followed by Baramulla.

Dr. Shabnam said that currently, 1 in every 28 Indian women is at risk of developing breast cancer, with urban women facing a higher risk (1 in 22) compared to rural women (1 in 60). "There is a need to address modifiable risk factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyles, obesity, and unhealthy diets, alongside non-modifiable factors like age and family history," she stressed.

Worryingly, breast cancers in India are occurring a decade earlier than in Western countries. There has been a notable increase in young-age breast cancer and more aggressive types such as Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC).

The onco-surgeon called for creating mass awareness through public-private partnerships and collaborations to encourage early medical intervention. "While advancements have been made in cancer treatment, there is an urgent need for a focus on preventive oncology to reduce cancer incidence and alleviate the burden on healthcare systems," she added—(KNO)

IPL Auction: Punjab Kings Expected To Break The Bank For Rishabh Pant

Press Trust of India

All of them can trigger bidding wars but let there be no confusion that Pant will be cynosure of all eyes at the two-day event supposed to be held in third week of December.

The Rs 75 crore retention cap on international players coupled with Right To Match cards will certainly make it an intriguing auction as some teams, which have exhausted their retention quotas, will now have to recruit at least 15 more players for a lesser sum.

But a few others like Punjab Kings (Rs 110.5 crore) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (Rs 83 crore) will be making some insane bids.

Never before in an auction has one witnessed three IPL captains back in the pool -- Pant of Delhi Capitals, defending champions KKR's Iyer and Lucknow Super Giants' KL Rahul.

With stars like Rishabh Pant and K L Rahul up for grabs, many IPL team owners will be rubbing their hands in glad



anticipation at the upcoming players' auction which promises to create all-time record deals given the available Indian talent in the pool.

Aside from Pant and Rahul, there will be Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh, Washington

Sundar, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami also in the auction pool.

In case of Pant, more than money, he was not happy about his powers being curbed by GMR, the co-owners, who will run the show for the next two

years. He was also, it is learnt, not happy with Hemang Badani as head coach and Y Venugopal Rao as Team Director.

Iyer felt that as an IPL-winning captain, he deserved way more than his Rs 12.25 crore existing salary, a belief that was

not shared by the KKR bosses. As for Rahul, his approach towards T20 cricket didn't match with what the LSG owners wanted.

All three will definitely get deals but Pant could well emerge as the highest paid player of Indian Premier League if Punjab Kings, known for breaking banks every two years while shopping for a new captain and 'X-factor', decide to go for him.

"Rishabh's real bidding will start from Rs 20 crore onwards. There will be three teams who can afford to bid big for him. One is Punjab Kings with Rs 110.5 crore in its kitty. They need a new captain and a brand. RCB has Rs 83 crore and LSG have Rs 69 crore and they also need a new captain," a top official of a franchise told PTI.

"Gujarat Titans don't need a captain but they also have Rs 69 crore. DC has Rs 73 crore but why would they go for someone, they released under acrimonious circumstances," he added.

PCB Assures Quick Visas To Indian Fans For Champions Trophy

Press Trust of India

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the Federal Interior Minister, on Friday assured a brisk visa issuance policy for Indian fans wanting to visit Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy early next year.

He made the assurance during a meeting with a group of Sikh pilgrims from the United States.

Naqvi said the PCB was expecting a positive response from Indian fans to visit Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

"We will be keeping a special quota of tickets for Indian fans and will try to make the visa issuance policy brisk," Naqvi was quoted as saying by a newspaper.

Naqvi said the PCB would like to see Indian fans visit Pakistan and watch the India and Pakistan match in Lahore.

Pakistan is scheduled to host the ICC mega event in February-March 2025 but until now the ICC has still not released the tournament schedule as they wait on confirmation if the Indian government would allow its team to travel to Pakistan for the event.

The BCCI has made it clear it has to follow any policy decision of their government when it comes to visiting Pakistan.

No Indian team has travelled to Pakistan since the



2008 Mumbai terror attack. There has been no Test series between the two countries since 2007.

Short keen on Australia captaincy for Pakistan T20 series

Top order batsman Matt Short will have a role in Australia's leadership group during the Twenty20 series against Pakistan and has put his hand up to stand in as captain with Mitchell Marsh away on paternity leave.

Short has fewer than 20 white-ball internationals to his name but the 28-year-old Victorian led the Adelaide Strikers with aplomb in the last Big Bash League (BBL)

tournament when promoted to captain the T20 side.

With none of Australia's test regulars in the T20 squad against Pakistan, Short is seen among the contenders for the captaincy along with Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa and Josh Inglis.

Short told reporters on Friday he was definitely interested in the role.

"I've done it for a little bit now with the Adelaide Strikers and really enjoyed being involved in making some of the calls," he said.

"The communication (from selectors) at the moment is ... they still haven't made up their mind, but if it was me they wanted, I'd definitely put my hand up for it."

India 86/4 On Day 1 Of 3rd Test, Trail NZ By 149 Runs



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: New Zealand reduced India to 86 for 4 after being dismissed for 235 in the first innings on the opening day of the third Test here on Friday.

The spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja (5/65) and Washington Sundar (4/81) shared nine wickets between them to bowl out New Zealand shortly after tea.

While Washington continued his stellar run, Jadeja picked up his 14th five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Daryl Mitchell (82) and Will Young (71) were the top scorers for the tourists.

In reply, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (18) early. Yashasvi Jaiswal (30) and Shubman Gill (31 not out) then helped India seize control with a 53-run stand but Ajaz Patel picked up two wickets in two balls as he accounted for Jaiswal and nightwatchman Mohammed Siraj (0).

Virat Kohli was the next batter to return to the dug-out as he was run out with India losing three wickets in the space of nine balls.

Gill and Rishabh Pant (1 not out) were manning the crease at stumps, as the hosts still trailed by 149 runs.

Brief scores:

New Zealand 235 all out in 65.4.1 overs (Daryl Mitchell 82, Will Young 71; Ravindra Jadeja 5/65, Washington Sundar 4/81).

India 86 for 4 in 19 overs (Shubman Gill 31 not out, Yashasvi Jaiswal 30; Ajaz Patel 2/33).

Jadeja Happy With Another Test Fifer In Trying Conditions

Ravindra Jadeja is happy with another five-wicket haul in Test cricket but conceded that in sultry conditions on a slow turner, bowling indeed was hard work.

Jadeja's 14th five-wicket haul came after a brief period of lull as he looked menacing while mixing deliveries, pitching it on good length spots and letting the variable bounce and abrasive surface work in his favour.

However, Jadeja's assessment of the track was also an indicator that possibly Ravichandran Ashwin has lost a bit of pace in his deliveries as it required more shoulder effort to get the zip off the surface.

"I thought you need to mix and match (in terms of speed). The wicket has bounce but off the surface, the ball isn't taking off. Unless you put in a lot of shoulders and get the revs, it is difficult," Jadeja told Jio Cinema.

News MAKERS

3 Year Old Anish Is Youngest Rated Chess Player

At just three years, eight months, and 19 days, Anish Sarkar from Kaikhali in north Kolkata on Friday became the youngest rated chess player in history.

Born on January 26, 2021, Anish made his debut in competitive chess with the West Bengal state Under-9 Open in October, securing an impressive 5.5 out of 8 points and finishing 24th overall defeating two rated players -- Arav Chatterjee and Ahilaan Baishya.

He was also fortunate to get an opportunity to play against India No. 1 and World No. 4 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi in a simultaneous exhibition match during the Bengal Rapid Rating Open.

Just a week later, Anish tested his skills again in the West Bengal state Under-13 Open, where he faced older, experienced players.



Man Arrested After Burglary Of England Captain Stokes' Home



British police said on Friday one man had been arrested following a burglary at the home of England test captain Ben Stokes when he was in Pakistan last month.

The burglary happened on Oct. 17 when England were playing the second test against Pakistan, and Stokes said items including his OBE medal, jewellery and valuables were stolen. His wife and children were in the house during the incident but were unharmed. "A 32-year-old man from North Yorkshire was arrested overnight on suspicion of burglary," Durham Constabulary said in a statement on Facebook. "He has since been bailed whilst enquiries continue."

Stokes previously released photos of some stolen items, in the hope they can be recognised and help identify the criminals.

Paris Masters: Zverev Sinks Tsitsipas To Move Into Semis

Germany's Alexander Zverev beat fierce rival Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters on Friday, where he is seeking his first title after losing to Daniil Medvedev in the 2020 final.

The world number three -- the highest-ranked player left in the draw -- will face either 13th seed Holger Rune or ninth seed Alex de Minaur in Saturday's semi-final.

The 16th meeting between the 27-year-old German and 26-year-old Greek was evenly matched during a hard-fought first set.

"At the beginning, he was outplaying me but then I found my rhythm from the baseline," said Zverev on court. "And when I had my chance I used it in the first set."

The loss ends the chances of the Greek world number 11 of reaching the end-of-year ATP Finals this month -- having won the showpiece event in 2019.



Man United Hire Ruben Amorim In Bid To Restore Former Glory

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United have named Portuguese Ruben Amorim as head coach to replace Erik ten Hag, the Premier League club said on Friday, hoping one of Europe's brightest young managers can restore the struggling team to former glories.

The 39-year-old will join United on Nov. 11 with a contract until 2027, and a club option for an additional year, once he has fulfilled his obligations to Sporting -- a club he revived during his four-and-a-half years in charge.

"Ruben is one of the most exciting and highly rated young coaches in European football," United said in a statement.

"Highly decorated as both a player and coach, his titles include winning the Primeira Liga twice in Portugal with Sporting CP, the first of which was the club's first title in 19 years. "Ruud van Nistelrooy will continue to take charge of the team until Ruben joins."

The charismatic Amorim, who usually employs a crowd-pleasing 3-4-3 formation with



high pressing and possession-based football, took Sporting to Primeira Liga titles in 2021 and 2024 and they lead the standings again this season.

United, who have been in the doldrums by their standards since manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, moved swiftly to secure Amorim after axing Dutchman Ten Hag on Oct. 28 following another woeful start to the season.

The club agreed to pay 11 million euros (\$11.96 million) to trigger a release clause in Amorim's contract.

He will be United's youngest manager since 31-year-old Wilf McGuinness succeeded Matt Busby in June 1969.

SOUGHT AFTER

Amorim, whose United staff will be named at a later date, was coveted by several of Europe's top clubs, including Barcelona, Juventus, Bayern Munich and Liverpool, when they were in the market for new managers in the close season.

He was hailed as a hero for reviving Sporting after he was appointed in March 2020, the club's third manager that season, which was a remarkable feat considering his age.

Amorim had just led Braga to League Cup success after two months in charge, and enjoyed 10 wins in 13 games in all competitions, including their first away win in 65 years over Ben-

fica where he spent nine years as a player.

Sporting came calling, signing him for 10 million euros. Amorim instilled the clear identity Sporting lacked and they ended their 19-year league title drought in a remarkable 2020-21 season in which they lost once and won the League Cup.

Last season, they lost just two league games and finished 10 points ahead of second-placed Benfica.

Amorim played professionally for 14 years, mainly as a central midfielder, and featured 14 times for Portugal. He made his senior first-team debut for Belenenses in Portugal's first division in 2003 before signing for Benfica in 2008.

He retired in 2017 aged 32 after over a year without playing having torn knee ligaments and enrolled in management courses.

Amorim is no stranger to Old Trafford, having done an internship under then-United boss Jose Mourinho in 2018, and has called the Portuguese coach a "reference point" in his career.

His laid back demeanour means he is well liked by the media.

Arsenal's Arteta Looking Forward To Clash With Intense Newcastle

Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said on Friday he was looking forward to Saturday's Premier League match at Newcastle United but stressed he had moved on from the off-field controversies that marred previous meetings between the sides.

Arteta found himself in hot water after two of his last four league matches against Newcastle, beginning with a goalless draw in the 2022-23 season after which he was criticised for his behaviour on the touchline.

The Spaniard was then charged with misconduct last term after slamming the match officials following a controversial goal in a 1-0 defeat by Eddie Howe's side.

"On the touchline, I haven't got to the point I go into meditating mode. Maybe I should. When they change the rules about certain behaviours we need to adapt and that's what I've tried to do," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

"I don't want to miss any games. I can't promise that if we score a goal I won't jump



up and down on the touchline. So far it has worked."

Asked about his comments regarding the officials, Arteta said: "That's part of the past and the situation that happened that you learn from, you take a lot of positives as well. We've moved on ... They're (officials) certainly trying their best."

Arsenal, who are in third place with 18 points from nine matches, will hope to keep up their title challenge with a win at 12th-placed Newcastle, but Arteta insisted the Tyneside outfit are much better than

their league position indicates. "They are a fantastic team, really well coached. They are super intense, great stadium to play in. Looking forward to it," he told reporters.

Arsenal will be without the injured Riccardo Calafiori, while fellow defenders Ben White and Gabriel Magalhães are doubts.

Arteta added that Norway midfielder Martin Odegaard, who has been sidelined since September with an ankle injury, will also be missing against Newcastle but is closing in on a return.