

Good Morning Kashmir



NSA Doval appreciated the cooperation extended by South Africa for the ongoing G20 Presidency of India and assured India's continued support for South Africa's BRICS chairship this year.

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Two Let Terrorist Associates Arrested In B'la

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police along with security forces arrested two terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the Chak Tapper area of Kreeri Baramulla and recovered arms and ammunition and other incriminating material from their possession, officials said on Tuesday.

"Acting on specific information regarding movement of terrorists in Village Chak Tapper Kreeri, Police along with Army (29 RR) established a motor vehicle



JKTPO Showcases Rich Heritage At India GI Fair 2023

NOIDA: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of Industries & Commerce Department, J&K proudly participated in the prestigious India GI Fair 2023 organized by Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH) for showcasing the exquisite and diverse Geographical Indications (GI) products from the enchanting region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event took place at India Export



24TH VIJAY DIWAS

Defence Minister, Tri-Service Chiefs To Lay Wreath At War Memorial Today

UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

JAMMU: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with Tri-Service Chiefs will lay wreath today at War Memorial in Drass to join the nation in celebrations of 24th anniversary of India's splendour victory over Pakistan on inhuman peaks of Himalayas in Kargil, Ladakh.



As per the scheduled programme, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who has landed in Srinagar this evening, will arrive in Drass-Kargil, early in the morning via a special aircraft.

The defence minister would be received by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig (Retd) BD Mishra, Tri-Service Chiefs including Chief of Armed Staff General Manoj Pandey, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar.

This occasion will also witness the presence of Capt Vikram Batra's unit led by Lieutenant General, Y. K. Joshi (Retd), who was commanding officer of the unit and General (Retd) V P Malik, the then Army Chief. "The Minister will visit to

pay homage to the indomitable courage and sacrifice of the Indian Armed forces at the Kargil War Memorial on July 26 on the 24th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas," the officials.

Officials said that Rajnath Singh will address the troops, interact with the Commanders, and pay tribute to the martyrs.

Earlier, the celebrations were begun at Lamochan

View Point, Drass. A special event narrating the stories of Operation VIJAY was organized where an account of the epic battles on Tololing, Tiger Hill, Pt 4875 (Batra Top) and other prominent features was narrated with these very landmarks visible to the audience in front of their eyes.

The narration took everyone down the memory lane showcasing the daring feat

achieved by the valiant soldiers of the Indian Army.

General V.P. Malik (Retd), Lieutenant General (Retd) Yogesh Kumar Joshi, Northern Command Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi and Kargil War Heroes Sub Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC among war heroes, veer naris, veer matas, and relatives of the gallant soldiers, who laid down their lives during the graced the occa-

LG Pays Homage To Kargil War Bravehearts

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha paid homage to the bravehearts of Kargil War on the eve of "Kargil Vijay Diwas". "On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay my tributes to the valiant soldiers, officers, who displayed magnificent valour and the spirit of sacrifice to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the motherland," the Lt Governor said.

I respectfully bow down to the families of our Kargil War heroes. We are forever

sion. The event commenced with an audio-visual narration of the battles, which showcased the Kargil War as it unfolded.

The vivid narrations, against the backdrop of the mountains where the fierce battles were fought, recreated scenes of each battle, and the venue reverberated with tales of the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers.

CS Chairs UIDIC Meeting For 100% Aadhar Enrollment



SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday impressed upon all the concerned Departments to ensure 100 percent Aadhaar registration of individuals by activating all the enrollment centres run by them and optimum utilization of available gadgets.

He made the directions while chairing a meeting of the Unique Identification Implementation

GOC 15 Corps, DGP discuss security scenario



SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt. General Rajiv Ghai called on the Director General of Police, J&K Dilbag Singh at Police Headquarters on Tuesday.

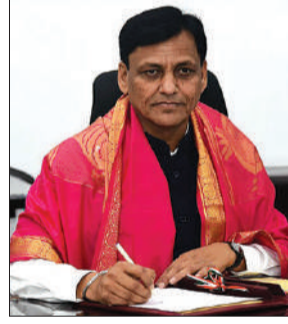
The DGP and the GOC discussed various important aspects pertaining to the prevailing

No Infiltration Till June This Year In J&K: Union Minister

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Tuesday said that there was no infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir till June end this year.

Replying to a written question, the Minister said that there has been zero infiltration into the Union Territory till June 30, 2023, 14 in 2022, 34 in 2021, 51 in 2020 and 141 in 2019.

He also said that the approach adopted by the Government of India to tackle cross-border infiltration has ensured a percep-



tible decline in infiltration. "Government of India has adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged strategy to tackle cross-border infiltration, which includes

'Govt Serious On Lifting Muharram Processions Ban In Sgr'

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday said that J&K administration is serious on lifting the decades old-ban on two large Muharram processions in Srinagar city.

He said that the administration has asked the Shia community leaders to communicate the number of people who will be participating in these two processions.

"The ball is now in their court," the official said.

He said a series of meetings were held on lifting of the ban



imposed decades ago on two large processions of Muharram on two routes of the city in the Islamic month of Muharram.

Local Shia Muslims would take out two large mourning processions on 8th and 10th day of the Muharram

Narco-Smuggling Bid Foiled In Jammu, Smuggler Killed: BSF



SRINAGAR: A Pakistani smuggler was killed as the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans foiled a narco-smug-

gling bid at the International Border in Jammu, officials said Tuesday. "In the intervening night of 24/25 July, the vigilant BSF troops

CONNECTING TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Govt Mulls Road Connectivity Between Dodhpathri To Gulmarg

SRINAGAR: In a bid to boost connectivity between the tourist destinations in Kashmir, the administration is mulling to connect famous Dodhpathri resort with Gulmarg through a proper road.

Sources privy to the development in the administration said that to scale up the road connectivity between the two tourist destinations, the administration is contemplating to connect Dodhpathri with Gulmarg via Drang.

"The project is under consideration and there are discussions to develop a road connectivity between Dodhpathri and Gulmarg, it is premature to say more on it, other than contemplations there is no such development", the official said.



The official said that the upgradation work for the Bangus Valley road connectivity is underway and that all the tourist destinations of the valley are connected with the roads and are well ahead of the timeline for resurfacing and required repairs.

"Roads leading to the tourist destinations in the valley are fully resurfaced and intact with required safety protocols like reflectors or grade separator indicators. Not just the road resurfacing but the road safety protocols

too are being taken very seriously", the official added.

The senior official also added that so far they have resurfaced, and repaired more than 60 percent of the roads in the valley and that they too have more than 400 projects underway either for fresh roads or upgradation.

Meanwhile, people from several parts of the valley have been calling for the blacktopping, and upgradation of their roads, claiming that they experience difficulties in both dry and wet weather.

The officials, however, stated that Srinagar has a road stretch of around 1758 KM of which 1394 KM is being looked up by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and that the remaining road stretch is taken care of by the R&B department—(KNO)

Have Begun Preparations For Panchayat Polls: BR Sharma

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir's State Election Commissioner BR Sharma on Tuesday said that they have begun preparations for conduct of Panchayat polls in the Union Territory.

Sharma said that they have begun preparations for holding Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir. "We have to be ready for the polls and we are making preparations in this regard," he said.

Sharma said the poll process has to be completed one month before completion of the term of existing Panchayats.

The five-year term of Panchayats would end on January 9, 2024 as they were constituted on January 10, 2019.

The last Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir were held in November-December 2018 when the erstwhile state was under



November 2023 if Centre and Jammu & Kashmir Government decides to conduct them.

The term of Block Development Councils in Jammu & Kashmir would also end on January 9 next year as they are co-terminus with Panchayats.

It would be interesting to see whether the district development councils in Jammu & Kashmir would complete their

Safina Baig, DC B'la Lay Foundation Stone Of Prestigious Project In Wagoora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In a significant development to protect flood-prone areas of Baramulla, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safena Beigh accompanied by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Tuesday laid a foundation stone of prestigious project

under "Comprehensive Plan for Flood Management Works on River Jhelum and its Tributaries at Wagoora.

The much awaited and prestigious project is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.84 Crores under FMP Phase-II Part-A with I&FC Division Sopore as an executing agency. The project will safeguard various Nallahs includ-

ing Nigli, Gundari, Balkul, Frashar, Khursi and Pohru of Baramulla district.

Incharge Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, Kashmir, Mohammad Salim Malik, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Baramulla/Bandipora- Headquarter Sopore, Mohammad Hanief besides other concerned dignitaries



were on the occasion.

After laying the foundation stone, the Chairperson, DDC Baramulla highlighted the significance of the prestigious project and asserted that the project is a step towards flood management aiming to protect flood-prone areas of the district.

Safena Beigh informed that the project comprises

various components, including improvement in the discharge carrying capacity of river Jhelum, bank and toe protection works, raising of bunds and embankments, and re-sectioning and channel improvement of the rivers.

With regard to the project, Dr Sehrish said that the project is of high importance as it was the long pending demand of

people. She said that every possible initiative will be taken to complete the project in a stipulated time frame.

The DC further informed that since Baramulla is vulnerable to floods, the infrastructure is being designed with upgraded resilient features. It also includes contingency planning for future disaster events, she added.

DDC Chairperson, DC G'bal Inspect Muharram Arrangements At Dub

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In order to take first hand appraisal of arrangements being put in place for holy month of Muharram, the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Tuesday visited Dub Ganderbal to review the Muharram arrangements there.

On the occasion, the duo visited Imbarara Dub and took stock of the availability of essential arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of congregations and mourning processions during the Muharram-ul-Haram days.

They interacted with the Imbarara Intezamia Committee and enquired about the facilities available for them.

The DC enquired about the facilities being put in place by various departments and locals appraised him about several issues regarding health care, street lights, sanitation, and other



issues.

Detailed discussions for effective management of the issues raised were held with the concerned departments.

While replying to the issues, the DC said that line departments

are already directed to ensure all related arrangements pertaining to their departments are put in place where main majlis' and processions are held during Muharram days.

Additional District Develop-

ment Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Tehsildar Wakura, Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, BDC Chairperson Wakura and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

DC Kulgam Distributes Aid, Appliances Among Differently-Abled Children

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Chief Education Office Kulgam in Collaboration with ALIMCO under the banner of Samagra Shiksha organized a three days distribution cum fitment camp for children with special needs at Kulgam.

This camp was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

While interacting with these specially-abled children, the DC said that administration is committed towards welfare and upliftment of specially-abled persons.

During the camp, 350 differently abled children were provided relevant aids and appliances as per need already assessed by a



team of professionals and experts from ALIMCO in the previous assessment camp organized w.e.f 28/10/2022 to 30/10/2022.

The aids and appliances provided include Tricycle conventional, wheel chairs, CP Chairs, MR kits, Digital type hearing aids, Brail

kits, Sugumya, Smart phones, Crutch elbow adjustable and other appliances for visually impaired students.

Present on the occasion were CEO Kulgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Qadri; ZEO Ataa Mohammad and other officers.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Defence Minister,

The narrations of battle, followed by reminiscences of actions by the war heroes themselves, brought to life the bravery, indomitable spirit, and everlasting zeal of the braves.

Later, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pandey joined, and a cultural program by the Ladakh Culture Academy and an army band display were presented by the Indian Army at the horse polo ground in Drass, Ladakh.

Later in the evening, Shaurya Sandhya was organised in the evening at the Kargil War Memorial, Dras.

The event commenced with an emotional rendition of patriotic songs by Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Fusion Band.

This was followed by solemn prayers for the bravehearts, which was conducted by Religious Teachers symbolising all major religions.

With a view to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice made by the Indian Soldiers during Op Vijay, 559 lamps, each symbolising a Braveheart, were lit at the Veer Bhoomi.

The solemn ceremony was attended by General Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff and a number of civilian and military dignitaries, Veer Naris, Veer Matas and War Heroes of Kargil. The memorabilia event was a tribute to great sacrifices made by our brave soldiers in service of the Nation.

The Kargil war took place from May to July in 1999, during which the Indian Army fought Pakistani troops in the heights of Kargil, forcing them to retreat. Since then, July 26 is observed annually as Kargil Vijay Diwas by the Indian Army.

During the two-month-long war, over 500 Indian Army and Air Force personnel sacrificed their lives, while the casualties on the Pakistani side were also significant.

Next year, India will celebrate the silver jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas—(KNO)

LG Pays Homage

indebted to them for their sacrifices and service to the nation, he added.

Two Let Terrorist

checking point (MVCP) at Bus Stop Chak Tapper Kreeri," police said.

"During checking, the joint party intercepted and arrested two suspected persons who on noticing the checkpoint tried to flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully."

Police said during their personal search, arms and ammunition including two Chinese Pistols, two Pistol Magazines, 14 live Pistol rounds and other incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession.

They have been identified as Dayem Majeed Khan, resident of Check Panjgam Bandipora and Ubair Tariq, resident of Watrina Phalwanpora Panjgam Bandipora.

"During preliminary questioning, the arrested duo revealed that they were working as terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfit LeT and had acquired arms and ammunition for target killing in District Baramulla," police said.

JKTPO Showcases

Mart Greater Noida which attracted domestic & international buyers, visitors, traders, and enthusiasts from across India and abroad.

In tune with the overarching vision of Government of Jammu & Kashmir led by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to enhance access to markets and to boost exports of niche products of J&K, JKTPO is participating in Global and domestic exhibition, buyer-seller meets, trade fairs and other prominent platforms.

The India GI Fair is a flagship event that aims to celebrate and promote the unique cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and traditional expertise that different regions in India have to offer. With Jammu and Kashmir being a treasure trove of ancient traditions and indigenous practices, the participation of traders from J&K in this event played a crucial role in highlighting the UT's exceptional GI products.

The event witnessed an impressive display of a wide range of GI-registered products like Hand-knotted Silk Carpets, Kani Shawls, Pashmina Shawls, Sozni, Saffron, Basohli Painting and Basmati.

With national and international buyers in attendance, the fair facilitated fruitful business interactions and paved the way for expanding market opportunities. The platform resulted in generation of more than 500 business leads and on spot retail sales of INR 25 lakh by J&K exhibitors.

The highlight of the fair was a prominent deal in Pashmina, where our exhibitors Ajaz Ahmad Malik & Irfan Amin both hailing from Srinagar closed deals worth INR 70 lakh with buyers from Kuwait and Oman. The deal pertains to Pashmina Rumaal, a traditional headscarf highly regarded in GCC countries.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh congratulated the exhibitors for their efforts and expressed his delight and gratitude at the overwhelming support received during the fair.

He said that the government shall continue to organize and participate in such unique platforms wherein we can exhibit the incredible diversity of our products. We are immensely proud to represent Jammu and Kashmir's skilled artisans and farmers whose expertise has been passed down through generations.

The successful deals reflect the growing demand and appreciation for our region's distinct products, creating pathways for economic growth and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir on the global stage.

CS Chairs UIDIC

Committee (UIDIC) here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, officials from UIDAI, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/Jammu and representatives from various government departments.

Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri, commenced the proceedings by presenting an overview of the Aadhaar situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It was reported that till date, 121,96,367 Aadhaar numbers have been generated, resulting in a saturation of over 90 percent population in the UT.

A breakdown of Aadhaar saturation for different age groups was also given out which include 0-5 years: 60.70%, 5-18 years: 89.2% and above 18 years: 92.4%.

Despite the positive progress, concerns were raised about lagging behind the national average in the 0-5 years age group.

The meeting focused on the urgent need for document updation by residents who have not updated their Aadhaar details in the last 10 years. In this context, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has disseminated pamphlets and posters across all blocks of Jammu and Kashmir to raise awareness regarding document updates.

An action plan was devised during the meeting to address the challenges and expedite the Aadhaar registration process which includes preparation of School-wise and class-wise lists of children requiring Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs); roster for the movement of MBU kits in the schools, besides roping in Health and ICDS for the enrollment of children in the age group of 0-5 years.

Dr Mehta called upon Deputy Director General UIDAI, Regional Office Chandigarh, that awareness campaigns be conducted by the School Education Department at all locations, besides efforts to increase the turnout in schools.

Regarding the availability of functional Aadhaar centers, it was reported that 780 permanent centers and 450 mobile tablets are operational throughout the UT. The Chief Secretary urged for activation of all these centres and optimum utilization of their resources in order to bridge the gap between the actual population and registrations made so far.

In an effort to cover all school students under Aadhaar registration, Dr Mehta directed concerned officers to ensure that 100 percent of students in schools, including those not yet registered under Aadhaar, are included within the next six months. He also emphasized on the importance of registering for Aadhaar during births, whether in government-run or private hospitals in order to saturate it on real time basis.

Furthermore, the Chief Secretary urged all officers involved to raise awareness about the Aadhaar updation process by ensuring 100 percent functionality of all Aadhaar centers.

The meeting also highlighted the approval of proposals under the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020. Some of the approved proposals include the eKYC registration of Yatriis by Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board at all counters across J&K, authentication of applicants for property-related documents by the Department of Registration, DBT linked beneficiary oriented schemes and authentication of applicants for Domicile Certificates by the Revenue Department.

Dr Mehta reaffirmed that with the comprehensive plan in place and the

commitment of all stakeholders, Jammu and Kashmir aims to achieve full Aadhaar registration, ensuring seamless services and enhancement in quality governance for its citizens.

GOC 15 Corps,

security scenario of the valley.

"During their discussion, strengthening and augmenting of security measures in order to counter the new tactics of terrorists including infiltration, pushing of drugs and arms being adopted by Pakistan were discussed," police said.

"The DGP lauded the synergy between different forces which he said has contributed immensely in foiling the ill intentions of Pakistan and the terrorists sent by it.

"The officers emphasized on sharing of intelligence between the forces on a regular basis, and also stressed on conduct of joint operations to comb out the remnants of hidden terrorists."

No Infiltration

tactical deployment of forces at the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC), use of technology like surveillance cameras, night vision cameras, heat sensing gadgets, etc, multi-tiered deployment along IB and LoC and border fencing," he added.

Deployment of intelligence personnel to collect advance and target-oriented inputs on infiltration, ambushes and foot-patrolling by the Army and the Border Security Force (BSF), establishment of Border Police Posts for generating local intelligence and taking pro-active action against infiltrators are among others, he said. (KNO)

'Govt Serious

month to mourn the death of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) grandson, Imam Husain by the army of Yazid at Karbala in Iraq. The statement by the senior government official came after a meeting with LG Manoj Sinha where the arrangements for Muharram processions were discussed.

Meanwhile, Shia leader and former minister Imran Raza Ansari told reporters that he walked out of the meeting after he had an argument with the Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta over these arrangements. (IANS Inputs)

Narco-Smuggling

neutralised a Pak smuggler while he was trying to smuggle narcotics through Ramgarh border area," said an official.

During initial search of the area, four packets of suspected narcotics, weighing approximately four kgs, were found along with the body of the Pak smuggler, he added.

Further search of the area is under progress, said the official.

Have Begun

five-year term or would also face dissolution with Panchayats—(KNO)

Ganderbal's Shiv Temple All Set For Pilgrim Tourism

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Nestled in the breathtaking landscapes of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district lies an ancient Shiv Temple. This holy site is located in Manasbal, on the front side of the Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) office.

Abdul Rasheed, a local caretaker employed as a casual laborer at the WMDA, said that the temple had submerged in the tranquil waters of the pond but today, it stands revitalized, making it a new pilgrimage attraction.

"The temple had been partially submerged, with half of its magnificent structure gracefully resting under the water's surface; however,

when the Wular Manasbal Development Authority was formed, they recognized the temple's significance and embarked on an ambitious renovation project, breathing a new life into the edifice," he said.

The Shiv Temple is a remarkable example of Kashmir's architectural brilliance, constructed using enchanting grey stones.

Over the years, it has witnessed the passage of time, preserving the essence of centuries gone by. The temple is believed to be built during the 9th century CE by King Avantivarman, the founder of the Utpala dynasty.

"Legends say that it once stood tall as a submerged stone temple, embracing



the mystique of time," said Ghulam Rasool, another

casual laborer working in the area.

Adding to the allure of the site, the pond's water is

to be remarkably sweet and healthful. Visitors are drawn not only to the temple's ancient charm but also to partake in the purity of the water, a rarity in today's bustling world.

"Tourists from all walks of life who visit Manasbal find themselves deeply moved by the beautiful display of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood exhibited by this temple," Rasool said. "It stands as a powerful symbol of unity, transcending religious boundaries and fostering harmony among diverse communities."

To protect this treasured site and preserve its pristine waters, the Manasbal Development Authority has erected a protective fence so that no pollution taints the purity of

the freshwater. The temple's maintenance and care are entrusted to the capable hands of the authority, ensuring that its sacred aura remains undisturbed for generations to come.

CEO Wular Manasbal Development Authority, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat told KNO that they ensure the temple's cleanliness and upkeep so that the visitors can bask in its divine presence without any hindrance.

As time continues to weave its tapestry, the Shiv Temple in Manasbal stands strong as a testament to the past, beckoning pilgrims and visitors alike to embrace its spiritual aura and marvel at the rich history it cradles within its ancient walls—(KNO)

AIR Sgr Set To Host Historic Pahari Show Near LoC In Keran



ZUBAIR QURESHI

SRINAGAR: In a historic move, the Government of India has brought several border areas of Jammu and Kashmir onto the tourism map, providing a much-needed boost to the region's economy and culture. Among these newly introduced destinations is Keran, and All India Radio (AIR) Srinagar will be hosting a show near the Line of Control (LoC).

The AIR's renowned current Programme 'Shaherbeen' and the Pahari Programme's team with the assistance of Army's 28 Infantry Division Kupwara, are all set to conduct a captivating Pahari Variety Cultural Show.

The event, scheduled for July 27th will take place on the serene banks of Kishenganga River in Keran, district Kupwara.

The Pahari Programme team led by Programme Executive AIR Srinagar and Producer Shaherbeen/Pahari Programme, Maqsood Ahmad, is thrilled to present this unique cultural show that promises to showcase the vibrant heritage of the Pahari community.

"We are excited to bring the rich and diverse Pahari culture to the forefront through this cultural show. The picturesque location on the banks of Kishenganga River adds an enchanting backdrop to the event," stated Maqsood Ahmad.

The show is expected to feature performances by some of the region's most renowned Pahari artists, who are eagerly looking forward to entertaining the audience with their traditional art forms.

The announcement made on AIR Srinagar invites everyone to be a part of this memorable event, which is expected to attract both locals and tourists alike. Programme Coordinator Parmjeet Singh expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "It's going to be a great programme on the banks of Kishenganga River. We hope this event will help showcase the cultural richness of the region to a wider audience."

The active participation of the Army's 28 Infantry Division Kupwara in conducting this programme marks a significant milestone, as it is the first time that such a type of programme will be conducted by All India Radio on the Line of Control (LoC).

It is believed that the Pahari Variety Cultural Show in Keran will serve as a shining example of the positive impact of tourism development on the region, fostering cultural exchange and promoting the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

With this event, the allure of the region's traditional art and culture is sure to capture the hearts of visitors, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved. (MNN)

'Govt Launched Several Schemes For Welfare Of Pregnant Women': Mandaviya

SIANS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said that the Central government has launched several schemes and initiatives for the welfare of pregnant women and malnourished children in the country.

The Minister said this in response to a query, seeking the names of the schemes being run by the government for the welfare and assistance of pregnant women and malnourished children.

Among the schemes and initiatives for the welfare of the women include Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Mandaviya said.

The PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a specialist/medical officer on the ninth day of every month, he said.

"The PMMVY is a maternity benefit program run by the Minis-



try of Women and Child Development. The scheme aims to cover women belonging to socially, economically disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society," Mandaviya said.

All pregnant women who have their pregnancy for the first child in family on or after January 1, 2017, are eligible for getting benefit under the programme, he said.

Among the schemes and initiatives for malnourished children

include Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA), to improve breastfeeding coverage and appropriate breastfeeding practices in the country, and Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy to reduce prevalence of anaemia in children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and in women of reproductive age group (15-49 years), Mandaviya added.

NHM Releases Ranking Of Public Health Facilities On JK e-Sahaj

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K National Health Mission (JKNHM) Tuesday released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e-Sahaj) for the month of June 2023.

In first phase of implementation, 578 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in phased manner.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Govt. Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu followed by Jammu Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar, GMC Baramulla and Govt. Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. Bottom five in this category include SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, Children Hospital, Bemina, Govt. Dental College, Jammu, GMC Handwara and GMC Kathua.

In the category of District Hospi-

tals first rank has been clinched by DH Budgam followed by DH Shopian, DH Samba, Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and DH Bandipora. Bottom five in this category include DH Kulgam, MCCH Anantnag, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar, DH Reasi and DH Ramban.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been clinched by CHC Banihal followed by CHC Seer, CHC Sohanjana, CHC Rajpora and CHC Marh. Bottom five in this category include CHC Kalakote, CHC Bhaderwah, CHC Taryath, CHC Kralpora and CHC Rohama.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) & UPHCs, first rank has been clinched by PHC Mattan followed by PHC Sallar, PHC Boniyar, PHC Kakapora and PHC Changa. Bottom five in this category include PHC Thakrakote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Massu, PHC Machil and PHC Keran.

Hospital Ranking has been assigned

for different categories of facilities i.e. Associated Hospitals, Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs. The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e-Sahaj for the month of June 2023, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities is shared on NHM website.

J&K Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K (JK e-Sahaj) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lieutenant Governor for different types of facilities like Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New type PHCs. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Govt. of India.

Black Bear Leaves 3 Persons Injured In Mawar Handwara



AGENCIES

KUPWARA: At least three persons were injured in a bear attack in Mawar area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district this afternoon.

Reports said that a black bear emerged at Yahama village Mawar and attacked three persons leaving them with injuries.

The injured trio identified as Javid Ahmad Pir, Bashir Ahmad Sheikh and Mohammad Yousaf Sheikh was evacuated from the site to a nearby health facility for immediate treatment.

When contacted, a Wildlife Department official told GNS that a team has been rushed to the area to catch the bear. (GNS)

Meet Shujat Ali Gazi, Who Writes Calligraphy On Muharram Banners

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: A calligraphy artist from Alamgari Bazar Srinagar is working to prepare banners in connection with the ongoing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Shujat Ali Gazi said, "This way, I contribute to the Muharram preparations."

I write specifically for Muharram purposes, he said. "I painted my first flag when I was studying in Class 6." Gazi is a self-taught artist and his family is associated with the paper mache work. "So, it was easy for me to mix up colours. After all, it is a God-given gift," he said.

Apart from banner painting, I also write Islamic calligraphy, Shujat said. "I have been with this art for more than 30 years and have learned from the basics to the top—the alphabet, and how to write in calligraphy. I have also taken inspiration from Irani calligraphy."

Gazi said he sends banners across Kashmir, adding, "Recently, I sent flags and other calligraphy items to Uttar Pradesh."—(KNO)

No MRs In Hospital Premises, Prescribe Generic Medicines Only: SKIMS Missive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The SKIMS administration on Tuesday curtailed the visits of Medical Representatives into hospital premises.

"It has been conveyed by Director General Health Services, Government of India and endorsed by Director SKIMS & Ex. Officio Secretary to Government, that all the medications prescribed in Government Hospitals should be Generic Medicines only and not in any case branded medicines," read the circular issued by SKIMS.

"In this regard, it is also reiterated that visits of Medical Representatives to Government Hospitals premises are completely curtailed. Any information about new launch may be communicated by e-mail only," it read further.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra Commences With Religious Fervor, Gaiety

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra commenced today with religious fervour and gaiety.

On the first day, ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh, DIG Range Doda-Kishtwar Ramban, Sunil Gupta along with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal, SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma, ADC Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, SDM Paddar Arun Kumar Badyal, BMO Paddar Dr. Anil Sharma, DDC Paddar Hari Krishan Chauhan, besides other officials of the Machail Mata Yatra cell, local PRIs, prominent socio-

religious personalities and hundreds of devotees paid obeisance on the auspicious occasion—first day of the pilgrimage at the Bhawan of Shri Machail Mata Ji. They prayed for peace, prosperity and development of the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, the ADGP reviewed and assessed the security arrangements made for the ongoing Yatra and issued necessary directions to Police to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Interacting with the pilgrims, ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh assured that police have made comprehensive security measures to ensure a hassle-free and safe pilgrimage. He said cut-off

timings have been rationalized for the safety of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised about various arrangements put in place this year for the convenience of the Yatris. These include providing adequate tents under the tent city at the Bhawan and accommodation facilities at Yatra Bhawan in Gulabgarh. He informed that Yatri Bhawan bookings at Gulabgarh will commence from today with a nominal charge of Rs. 50 and Rs. 20.

The DC also informed about the installation of a 30 KW solar power plant at Machail to illuminate the area and augment electricity supply, as well as the availability of helicopter service-

es for the convenience of Yatris.

Moreover, local food stalls and home stay facilities are being provided by local entrepreneurs to cater to the needs of the pilgrims. Similarly, the mobile phone connectivity in the Bhawan and en-route has been taken care of, and Micro ATMs have been installed at 6 designated points in the Paddar area.

To facilitate better access to information and services, the official website of Shree Machail Mata Yatra (shreemachailmata-yatra.com) has been launched enabling Yatris to avail information about the various facilities and to stay updated.

The administration has set up

a control room to address any queries or provide assistance to pilgrims during their journey. Pilgrims can easily contact the administration through this dedicated facility.

The commencement of the Shri Machail Ji Mata Yatra is a cherished occasion for all devotees, and the administration is dedicated to ensuring a spiritually enriching and safe experience for everyone partaking in this revered pilgrimage.

ADGP Jammu encouraged Yatris to complete the pilgrimage without any inconvenience, abide by the guidelines, cooperate with the security personnel and respect the sanctity of the pilgrimage site.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Take Action Against Errant Fair-Price Shop Owners

Since, the administration curtailed ration supply to five kgs per person for APL ration card holders. The prices of different varieties of rice have risen to all time high. It has taken a heavy toll on common Kashmiri. Previously, every essential commodity was subsidised and it would compensate much of the burden from lower income class citizens. As it is an open secret that people of the valley have lesser options in order to earn their daily life compared to the rest of the country. Firstly, six months of winter is almost going to hibernate with minimum opportunities to earn, and simultaneously fighting with chilling cold means extra spending. To make the life of the common man even more difficult has been the installation of smart meters. No doubt the initiative has been long due to phenomenal losses but the execution came suddenly and caught the people unaware. The welcome announcement by honorable LG of extra ten kg rice to deserving families should have come to every family. People are positively expectant that Shri Manoj Sinha will in the interest of his people extend it to every household. But the CAPD department also must ensure there is no discrepancy or malafide action while distributing the ration. There have been some misdeeds by some fair-price shop owners in downtown areas where they have been seen distributing only three kgs of rice to consumers. Director CAPD however ensured that no such act will be allowed where common citizens have to suffer.

The Dead Drops Of Online Terrorism



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

By fundamentalism, a person or group adopts increasingly radical views in opposition to the political, social, or religious status quo. This is when someone begins to believe in or support extremist ideas and then participates in extremist groups or acts. Online platforms have become powerful tools for extremist groups to spread their ideology, recruit individuals, and plan terrorist acts. Therefore, intelligence and counter-terrorist agencies must keep pace with the ever-changing digital landscape and adapt their functioning accordingly. This requires regular evaluation of their existing strategies to identify deficiencies and areas for improvement.

Recently, India witnessed a series of extremist acts by some radicalized youth in various cities such as Udaipur, which later escalated to "Sar tan se juda" sloganeering and related controversy. Last year too, the NIA made several arrests in a suspected ISI module that was playing a role in radicalizing Indian youth and carrying out extremist acts in India. The above incidents highlight the issue of radicalization of Indian youth which can pose a serious challenge to India's internal security. NIA has intercepted information about recruitment propaganda for terrorist groups like AQIS, and Lashkar-e-Taiba on Telegram. Daesh is using the internet to spread its propaganda using platforms like Twitter, YouTube, etc. Through 'cyber-planners', who would be



responsible for planning terror attacks, identifying recruiters, acting as "virtual coaches" and providing guidance and encouragement throughout the process?

India has also suffered in recruitment from other countries, though less severely. In many areas, the cases of propagating hatred and violence by influencing the youth through social media are increasing. Spreading false propaganda and fraudulent ideologies on India's sensitive and provocative issues, using morphed videos or false claims of proof of injustice, etc. Manipulation is easy on the internet and more youths are falling prey to it, especially in the northeast, Kashmir. The NIA had reported the recruitment of over 300 Indian youths by the Pakistan-based Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) in 2014, who had joined hands with ISIS. ISIS has published recruitment materials in Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, and other languages are spoken in India.

To promote research in the area of radicalization relating to different

regions of India for a deeper understanding of the issue and to develop better solutions. Ensuring adequate funding for these programs, capacity building of intelligence forces, and creation of modern infrastructure to combat radicalization, especially virtual radicalization. Capacity building of the State Police as they are the first line of defense. State police forces need to work in good coordination with central security agencies to better counter the growing radicalization. Coverage of various welfare schemes of the government without discrimination, special schemes and areas for communities, promotion of mixed culture and co-existence among different communities, and constitutional safeguards for minorities are some of the steps that the government is taking to keep people away from radicalization. Launching a de-radicalization program that focuses on states with high intensity of radicalization and also developing counseling and rehabilitation centers for radicalized youth under police custody.

Increase involvement of family and religious leaders not only in the process of rehabilitating radicalized youth but also in preventing youth from moving towards radical ideologies. To prevent people from falling into the trap of extremists, to raise awareness in society about these threats through school and college education or social media accounts of security agencies. A coordinated South Asian effort to counter radicalization can also be of great help to the region as all countries in the region are facing the heat of radicalization.

The ever-evolving landscape of online recruitment and radicalization requires intelligence and counter-terrorist agencies to be flexible, adaptive, and proactive. By constantly reviewing their strategies, leveraging emerging technologies, and staying informed about the latest trends, these agencies can effectively reduce the threat posed by online radicalization in India.

Author is a TV Panelist. He can be mailed at satyuansaurabh333@gmail.com

Climate Cases Are Catching Fire Across The Globe

DELTA MERNER

With the increasing number of cases and diverse legal arguments, litigation is becoming a powerful tool to hold governments, corporations, and financial institutions accountable.

European Human Rights Court Hears Historic Climate Case Brought by Elderly Swiss Women (Photo: KlimaSeniorinnen/Twitter)

At the end of June, the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE) launched its annual report on climate litigation. This report offers a comprehensive synthesis of the latest research and developments in the climate change litigation field and outlines general trends while delving into cases filed within the past 12 months.

The report is based on data from the Sabin Center, which has documented 2,341 climate change cases to date. In the past year alone, 190 new cases have been filed. From Bulgaria to China, Finland to Turkey, climate change litigation has expanded its global reach. The 58-page report digs into all the details you could ever need, but here's a quick summary of climate litigation trends and the reasons why I think climate litigation is growing right now.

Climate cases are both growing and diversifying

While the majority of climate cases are still filed in the Global North, we are now seeing new cases emerge in the Global South as well, with a particular focus on human and constitutional rights as the basis for legal arguments. The emergence of climate litigation in the Global South indicates a shift toward a more inclusive and diverse movement.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to hold corporations accountable for the harm caused by climate change that has resulted from their products. Globally,



approximately 60 cases have been filed against the major carbon-emitting companies known as "Carbon Majors," with many of these cases originating in U.S. cities, states, and territories. These lawsuits aim to establish corporate legal responsibility for the adverse impacts of climate change and push for transformative action to mitigate its effects. However, cases are now moving beyond the Carbon Majors to include other corporate actors such as airlines and fast fashion. By pursuing legal avenues, communities and governments are seeking justice and advocating for a more sustainable future.

We are also seeing a growing focus on acknowledging and addressing current and past harms to people and communities through climate litigation. Cases like *Asmanian v. Holcim* in Switzerland have brought attention to the damages already experienced as a result of climate-related events. Arguments regarding loss and damage are becoming more prevalent, particularly in cases that follow the "polluter pays" principle. An example of this is the lawsuit *Municipalities of Puerto Rico v. Exxon Mobil Corp.*, which establishes a connection between the impacts of hurricanes and the losses suffered by affected communities. By highlighting these losses, climate litigation seeks to hold the responsible parties accountable and address the urgent need for compensation

and support for the affected communities.

In the past 12 months there have been significant developments in government framework cases, also known as systemic climate litigation or Urgenda-style cases. The Grantham report shows that domestic legal protections, such as the right to a healthy environment, and climate legislation within countries are playing a critical role in cases against governments. And challenges to the climate policy responses of governments and companies outside the United States have significantly increased.

Additionally, litigation related to investment decisions is also on the rise. These cases help establish clear parameters for decision-making in the context of climate change, ensuring that climate considerations are taken into account when making investment choices.

With cases emerging in new jurisdictions and novel legal arguments being presented, the landscape of climate litigation is evolving. As the fight against climate change intensifies, litigation continues to be a powerful tool for holding governments, corporations, and financial institutions accountable and driving the changes needed to adapt to and/or mitigate the impacts of climate change. You can learn more about this year's trends in the Grantham Research Institute report here.

Four key factors driving the increase in litigation

The Grantham report clearly shows an increasing number of communities are turning to the courts for justice and restitution. This surge can be attributed to four key factors:

1. The unfortunate reality that more and more people are facing devastating impacts from climate change. As the impacts intensify, communities are increasingly seeking justice and restitution through the courts. They are backed by the firm scientific consensus on the causes and effects of climate change, heightening awareness of the dangers to people and ecosystems, and recognition of the need for swifter and more ambitious action.

2. The failure of governments and corporations to adequately tackle climate change has created a sense of urgency among affected communities. This frustration with the lack of meaningful action has propelled individuals and organizations to turn to the courts as a crucial avenue for recourse.

3. Significant advancements in legal strategies have played a pivotal role in the increased effectiveness of climate litigation. As cases develop, jurisdictions are learning from each other to help develop effective cases in new areas.

4. The scientific community has made significant strides in bolstering climate cases

through groundbreaking research. Two areas in particular have revolutionized the field: attribution science and climate obstruction research. These scientific advancements provide powerful evidence and support for litigation, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of the links between human activities, climate change, and the resulting impacts.

The landscape of climate litigation is rapidly expanding and evolving around the world. With the increasing number of cases and diverse legal arguments, litigation is becoming a powerful tool to hold governments, corporations, and financial institutions accountable for their contributions to climate change. In fact, the Grantham report shows that these cases have far-reaching impacts: yielding direct judicial outcomes favoring climate action, while also influencing decisionmaking beyond the courtroom. I'll talk more about this in my next blog.

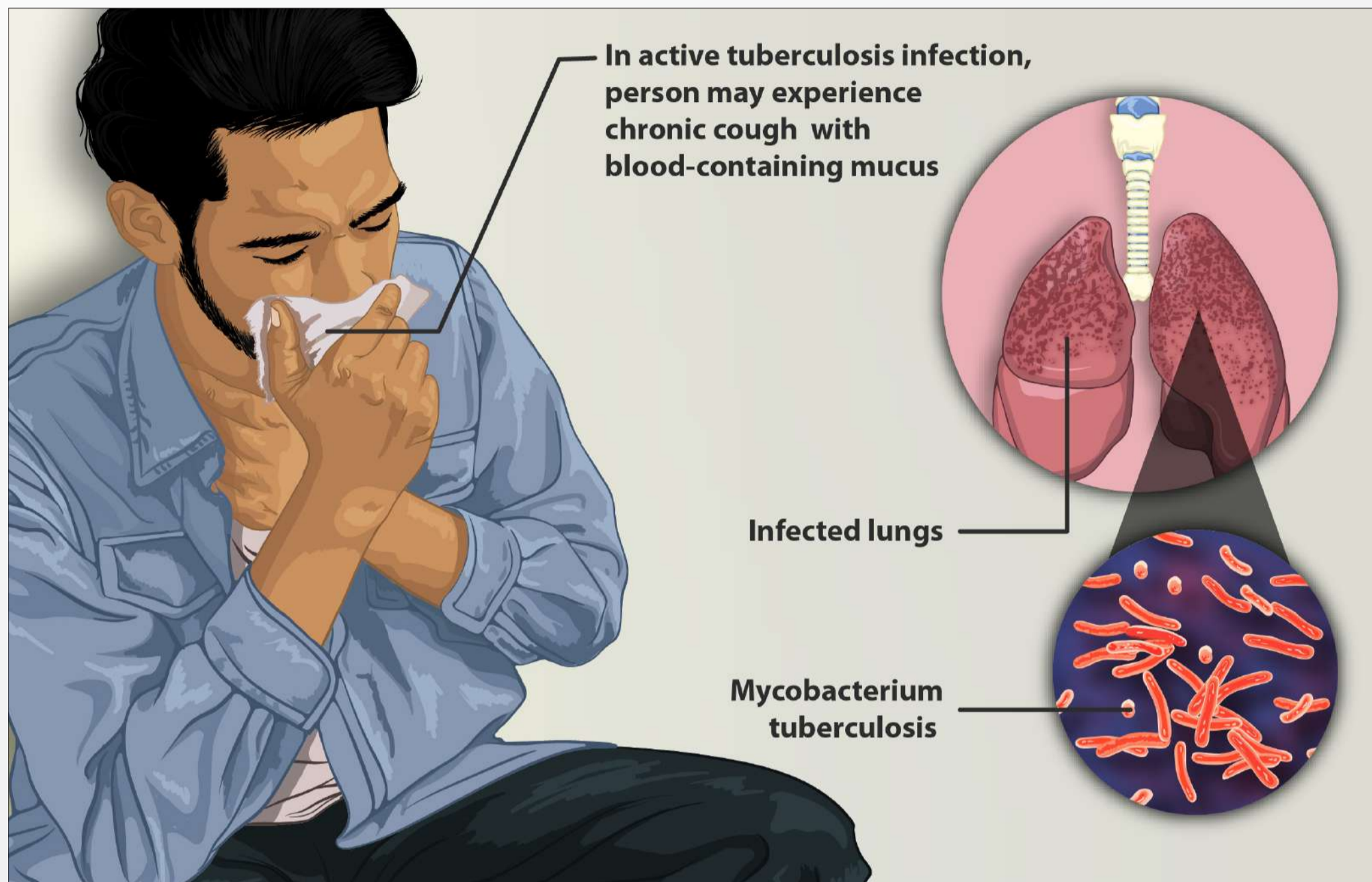
You can play a part

With these developments, we can continue to push for a sustainable and just future, where accountability and action are at the forefront of our fight against climate change. If you want regular updates on climate litigation please sign up for our newsletter.

Also, stay tuned for our fall 2023 webinar series on Science and Climate Litigation. This interactive series will feature experts sharing insight into the field of climate litigation, alongside skill-building workshops for scientists and practitioners interested in engaging in this work. Climate litigation is an exciting and rapidly expanding field, offering an abundance of opportunities for people with relevant expertise to contribute meaningfully toward environmental justice. (C-Counter Currents)

Delta Merner is the lead scientist for the Science Hub for Climate Litigation at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Strong Local Actions Pivotal To Reduce NCDs, TB And Tobacco Use



SHOBHA SHUKLA / BOBBY RAMAKANT

Unless global goals do not become a reality in the lives of every person worldwide, we will fail to deliver on those promises. Local actions are key. That is why the Mayors of several municipalities in Bangladesh and other local government leaders and experts had united to form the Bangladesh Mayors' Alliance for Healthy Cities in 2019.

"Well-coordinated actions at the local level are building blocks to deliver on global goals. If all local governments of all municipalities in Bangladesh work towards reducing (and eventually ending) tobacco use and TB, and preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), we will be able to deliver on the promises made by Bangladesh's honourable Prime Minister," said Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh and co-convenor of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Caucus for Health and Development (APCAT Parliamentarians).

Barrister Patwary was addressing the 3rd Mayors' Summit of Bangladesh held in Cox's Bazar during 21-22 July 2023 on the theme "United efforts for healthy cities." The Summit was co-hosted by the Cox's Bazar Municipality, National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Mayor Alliance for Healthy Cities, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT), AID Foundation, Tobacco Control and Research Cell (TCRC) of Bangladesh and others.

One Health approach is key to boost pandemic preparedness

"United efforts at all levels are vital if we are to end TB, or tobacco use, or prevent NCDs. Major risk factors of life-threatening and chronic NCDs (over 70% of deaths are attributed to NCDs worldwide) and TB (the deadliest of infectious diseases in most low- and middle-income nations) are common: such as tobacco, alcohol, malnutrition, obesity, lack of physi-



cal activity, etc. That is why, united, and well-coordinated efforts at the local level assume an overwhelming importance so that local people can stay healthy, prevent infections, and reduce the risk of NCDs," said Dr Tara Singh Bam, Asia Pacific Director of International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (The Union).

"Mayors play a critical role in tobacco control by implementing and enforcing policies, raising public awareness, and creating smoke-free environments in their cities to protect the health of their citizens" added Dr Bam.

"Mayors' role is also critical to address and prevent any pandemic through One Health approach," emphasized Dr Tara Singh Bam.

According to the latest WHO Global TB Report, undernourishment was the biggest risk factor for people getting sick with TB in Bangladesh in 2021, followed by tobacco use as the second biggest risk factor. Other risk factors included diabetes, alcohol and HIV.

Bangladesh aims to be tobacco-free by 2040

Bangladesh's Prime Minister has promised to make the country

tobacco-free by 2040, said SM Sirajul Haque, Mayor of Tangail in Bangladesh. He said that we cannot create a smart Bangladesh unless children and adults alike make smart decisions which are good for them and for the country. If people use tobacco then they will be unhealthy and also cause havoc on their family. Staying away from tobacco use is vital. That is why he is encouraging those who use tobacco in his Tangail region to quit tobacco use by benefitting from tobacco cessation services. Tobacco retail is not allowed within 100 metres of educational institutions and to those who are under 18 years of age, he added.

Tobacco use in Bangladesh has reduced in the past 20 years as per the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Data Observatory. From 57.6% in 2000, tobacco use has come down to 34.7% in 2020. However, tobacco consumption in Cox's Bazar was found to be higher than the national average at 43.4%.

Tobacco use is a major public health challenge in Bangladesh, with high rates of both smoking and smokeless tobacco use. Smokeless tobacco use is particularly prevalent in Bangladesh, with over 20 million people using vari-

ous forms of smokeless tobacco, like jarda and gul. Tobacco consumption in Bangladesh has significant health consequences, as it is a leading cause of NCDs such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases (heart diseases and stroke), and chronic respiratory diseases. Additionally, tobacco use has significant economic costs, both in terms of direct healthcare costs and lost productivity.

Bangladesh is the 3rd biggest tobacco growing country in the southeast Asia region of the WHO (after India and Indonesia). Land under tobacco cultivation had seen a substantial rise in Bangladesh during 2008 and 2015, but now dedicated efforts of the Bangladesh government have led to success in farmers choosing not to grow tobacco, but rather opt for cultivating other crops. Bangladesh has ratified the global tobacco treaty (formally called the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control or FCTC), Article 17 of which calls upon governments to promote economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers and individual sellers.

According to the WHO, farmers in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Indonesia are gradually taking to

alternate crops that are equally or more profitable. One of the reasons for farmers giving up tobacco cultivation is the high input costs and declining domestic and international demand.

Tobacco Cultivation Control Policy of Bangladesh, 2017, has set targets to reduce tobacco cultivation at all stages by 2040. In early 2020, Bangladesh Bank notified all its branches not to sanction loans for tobacco farming, both contractual or direct. It is also increasing credit flow to farmers switching to alternative crops.

Several surveys have already identified alternative crops for different cropping seasons and for different geographical areas. Alternatives include French beans, potato, melon, sweet gourd, chilli, eggplant, groundnut, tomato, wheat, garlic, masur, mustard and leafy amaranthus, radish, coriander, okra, bitter gourd, beans, spinach and cabbage.

A report stated that farmers in water-scarce northern Bangladesh are shifting away from tobacco to grow tea, sunflower and mustard, which use less water and offer greater profits.

Strengthening leadership commitment

This Mayor's Summit aimed to enhance mayors' leadership role by prioritizing prevention of tobacco use, TB and NCDs, within the framework of strategic and operational planning, as well as in policy, fiscal, and legislative instruments. There need to be strong mechanisms to ensure that mayors and leaders at local level are held accountable for safeguarding the development and implementation of public health policies from undue influence of unhealthy commodity industries. This will involve promoting transparency, enforcing strict guidelines, and cultivating strong public-private partnerships to effectively implement programmes, while also monitoring their performance and effectiveness.

Shobha Shukla is a health and development justice advocate.

Bobby Ramakant is editor at Citizen News Service, a newswire focused on health and development justice.

10 years on, Chanapora residents await upgradation of PHC to SDH



Demand will be taken up with higher-ups: DHSK

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Even after an elapse of around ten years since foundation stone of the hospital was laid in housing colony Chanapora Srinagar, the residents have been waiting for up-gradation from PHC to sub-district hospital.

Locals said that for the last ten years they have moved from pillar to post to make this PHC function as a SDH but that didn't happen despite an amount of over Rs 20 crore spent on the building.

They said that this hospital, situated in the heart of the city, has been causing distress among local residents due to its restricted operating hours and dysfunctional Operation Theatres (OTS).

Despite substantial financial investments amounting to crores of rupees, the hospital is yet to be upgraded to a fully functional healthcare facility, leaving the community in dismay, they said.

The hospital, which currently operates from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, has faced criticism from residents who argue that the limited working hours are inadequate to cater to the medical needs of the growing population in the area.

"I had to rush my elderly mother to Chanapora Hospital during an emergency last week, but to my shock, the hospital was closed as it was past 4 p.m.," said Rakesh Sharma, a local resident was quoted as saying by news agency KNO.

"We had to travel to a different part of the city to get the necessary medical attention. It's disheartening to see a hospital in the city functioning with such restricted hours."

It is a 50-bedded hospital but it is of no use and it remains functional much like a government office," he said.

Another resident, Farida Bano, narrated her harrowing experience, saying, "Doctor consulted me for an X-Ray but when we asked them to do so,

we were told that it can't be done despite X-Ray machines as the hospital lacks manpower. This is an unacceptable situation for a hospital that received significant funds for its development."

Despite promises from the authorities to upgrade the hospital into a fully functional and well-equipped healthcare facility, progress has been slow, leaving locals disillusioned with the state of their primary medical center.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the Covid-19, hundreds of surgeries were carried out at the hospital. However, as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic came to end, surgeries were halted at the hospital giving a tough time to patients.

Concerned Counselor and community leaders have voiced their concerns and are demanding immediate action from the government.

"The lack of proper medical facilities in our area is a matter of grave concern," said J.B. Singh, a community leader.

"We have been waiting for years for Chanapora Hospital to be upgraded, but nothing substantial has been done. It's high time the authorities take this matter seriously and address the issue on an urgent basis."

As the situation continues to deteriorate, the plight of Chanapora Hospital highlights the urgent need for increased investment in healthcare infrastructure and the timely execution of promised upgrades.

The local residents hope that their voices will be heard, and the hospital will soon be transformed into a fully operational facility that can cater to the medical needs of the community around the clock.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mir Mushtaq said that the demand will be taken with higher-ups at an earliest.

"The concerns and demands of people will be taken up with higher authorities in due course of time," the spokesperson said.

Commuters decry slow pace of work on Khachkoot- Saimoh road



SALEET RASHID

PULWAMA: In south Kashmir's Pulwama district, commuters are having a tough time due to slow pace of construction work on 8 kilometres stretch of road from Khachkoot to Saimoh.

The locals told Good Morning Kashmir that the work on the project has been almost completed, however, no steps have been taken so far to macadamize the road. "Since the

last three months, there has been no progress, and we are wondering when would be the macadamization work start," Ubaid Yousaf, a local, said.

Irshad Ahmad, a resident of Khachkoot, said people had been left to suffer as they are being forced to deal with the dust due to the slow pace of the ongoing road construction project.

"We are suffering from allergy and cough due to the dust. If no steps are

taken by the concerned authorities, we have to decide to shift our house to avoid the dust," he said. Adding that the dust has increased the pollution. Schoolchildren are especially affected by it.

Motorists complain that traveling on the infested road has led them to suffer from breathing problems. Some people have taken to wearing masks to save themselves from the dust.

"The road has been dug

up for the work. When the vehicles pass, a thick layer of dust settles on the flowers. The dust has also affected our health," they said.

Locals said that if the project is completed in a stipulated time, locals of the area may have a sigh of relief.

The locals demanded immediate intervention of higher-ups into the matter and requested them to macadamize the road as soon as possible.

Khayam road in shambles, commuters aghast

ASHIQ NAIK

SRINAGAR: The road stretch leading to Khayam from Munawarabad in Central Kashmir's Srinagar is in dilapidated condition for a long time, causing immense hardships for the commuters.

The resident of the area told Good Morning Kashmir that it has been years since the road was blacktopped. "A brief shower and the dozens of potholes turn into pools of water," they said.

"Our vehicles face severe damage on a daily basis. The road is dotted with deep and large potholes which makes the journey a back-breaking exercise," said

Sher Khan, a local resident. Altaf Ahmad, another local resident of the area said that it's unfortunate that works that should have been taken up by the concerned authorities from

difficulties while traveling. Bad shape of the road leaves a bad impression. Even, during incessant rains the road gets washed off easily annoying the commuters. Children and

he said. Locals said that the potholes of this area have become accident-prone and no auto or cab is ready to ply into the area.

They said that the department has failed to macadamize the 2 km road for several years now.

"We approached the concerned department many a time, but nothing on the ground has been done to alleviate our problems," they said, adding that they have been just pacified with hollow assurances.

"We appeal to authorities for macadamization of this road so that we don't have to suffer in winter," they said.



time to time are pending. "Vehicles passing through this route face

elderly persons often fall in the water-filled ditches which leads to injuries,"

adamization of this road so that we don't have to suffer in winter," they said.

2 years after macadamization, Marhama-Sangam road in shambles

SALEET RASHID

ANANTNAG: The residents of Marhama, Sangam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday expressed dismay over the dilapidated condition of the Marhama-Sangam road.

Talking to Good Morning Kashmir, the residents said the road stretch is dotted with huge potholes and the authorities are least bothered about the people's sufferings.

The road presents a pathetic look and craves for government's attention, Abdul Rashid, a local said, adding, "Despite being macadamized around two years ago, the road has developed big potholes as the black topping didn't sustain for long."



The locals said the road acts as an important link, connecting several areas with Sangam and thousands of people and transporters pass through it daily. "It

is in a bad condition, making the movement of people very difficult," another local Irshad Ahmad said. The residents have urged the Lieutenant Gov-

ernor-led administration to look into the matter at the earliest. They also demanded an inquiry against the concerned department and contractor(s) "who are wasting the public money."

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BANDIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh e-NIT No.33/ET/R&B/Bandipora of 24-07-2023. (Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Project Authority	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Marriage Hall at Bandipora (Part A+B)	40.35	1100.00	80700.00	03 Months	14 th Finance Commission (Major Projects)	ULB Kashmir	AAY / BEE Class
2.	Construction of Old Building and Development of Lawn / construction of Garage at MC Bandipora Balance work	42.50	1100.00	85000.00	04 months	14 th Finance Commission (Major Projects)	ULB Kashmir	AAY / BEE Class

Position of AAA: - Accorded

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24/07/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/07/2023 from 6:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	24/07/2023 from 6:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	01-08-2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02-08-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).
- All bidders have to submit/upload 2% EMD of Advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Javid Ahmad Khan
Camp Clerk
R&B Division Bandipora

DIPK-5738-23
DT: 25/07/2023

Sd/= (Er. Assadullah Najar) Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora

China getting isolated in international arena; faces slump in external trade

GMK NEWS NETWORK

CHINA: There are growing signs of China getting isolated in the international arena economically. This is standing in the way of the Chinese economy recovering from the slump it had experienced during the pandemic. According to an AP report from Beijing on June 7, 2023, exports of China in May 2023 fell by 7.5 percent compared to the figure in May 2022 and imports were down by 4.5 percent; a sure sign that the economic rebound following the end of the anti-virus control is slowing as the global demand for Chinese goods is weakening.

Exports slid to \$283.5 billion, reversing the unexpectedly strong 8.5 percent growth experienced in April 2023. Imports fell by \$217.7 billion, on the top of the 7.9 percent contraction experienced in April. The global trade surplus of China fell by 16.1 percent to \$65.8 billion in May 2023. Between January and May 2023, imports of China fell by 6.7 percent compared to the same five-month period in 2022 to just over \$1 trillion while export growth fell close to zero. Exports slid up merely 0.3 percent to \$1.4 trillion.

The situation was worse in June 2023, said an AP report from Hong Kong on July 13. The exports of China tumbled by 12.4 percent compared to what they were in June 2022. Imports slid by 6.8 percent. Between January and June, 2023, the total trade of China, including exports and imports, fell nearly five percent from the figure in the comparable period in 2022. Exports slipped by 3.2 percent and imports by 6.7 percent.

The growth rate in the gross domestic product of China in

the quarter from April to June 2023 at 6.3 percent was lower than the projected rate of seven percent. It outpaced the growth rate of 4.5 percent in the quarter from January to March 2023 but is expected to slow down in the next quarter because of the fall in exports by 12.4 percent. Among the Western Bloc countries, exports of China to the United States have tumbled 18.2 percent to \$42.5 billion compared to the figure a year earlier.

Imports of American goods have sunk 9.9 percent to \$14.3 billion. The much-vaunted trade surplus of China with the United States has narrowed by nearly 22 percent to \$28 billion. With the European Union, the picture is similarly dismal. In May 2023, the imports of China from the 27-nation EU fell by 38.6 percent to \$24.5 billion compared to the same period the previous year. Exports to Europe fell by 26.6 percent to \$44.6 billion. The trade surplus of China with the EU fell by three percent to \$20 billion.

Trade has been dampened by tensions with Washington and restrictions on access to U.S. processor chips and other technology in the ongoing cold war with Beijing over security and Chinese industrial policy. The falling imports were also indicative of faltering demand within China because of the economic crisis it is facing. As far as hi-tech products are concerned, Chinese factories are mere assembly lines, assembling most of the world's smartphones and other electronic items. Now with the Western world denying advanced technology to China, these assembly lines are lying idle.

Taiwan, which is the leader in



the semiconductor industry in the world, has meanwhile decided to close its manufacturing facilities in China and shift them to India. Weakness in trade has added to the downward pressure on the economy of China. This has been coupled with lackluster factory and consumer activities and a surge in unemployment among young people.

A brief bounce-back had been experienced immediately after the withdrawal of restrictions related to the pandemic. Factory output and consumer spending had revived after the control that had cut off access to major cities for weeks at a time and blocked most international travel was lifted in December 2022.

Forecasters are saying the peak of that rebound has passed. Retail spending is recovering more slowly than expected because jittery consumers are worried about the economic outlook and possible

job losses. A government survey in April 2023 found a record of one in every five young workers in the cities was unemployed. Factory activity is contracting and employers are cutting jobs. "China's exports will remain subdued," Lloyd Chan of Oxford Economics has said in a report.

The "disappointing activity data" of April suggests "China's domestic demand recovery has lost steam following the reopening-induced bounce." The growth target set by the ruling Communist Party of China of five percent for the year 2023 in any case sounds like a distant dream. There is bad news for China on the India front also.

The India - China trade, which in recent years had risen sharply despite bilateral tensions over the border dispute, has shown the first signs of a slowdown in years; falling by nearly one percent in the first half of 2023. China's exports to India in the first half of 2023

totalled \$56.5 billion, compared to \$57.5 billion in the same period last year, according to reports from Beijing on July 13, quoting data released by Chinese customs.

India's exports to China during the same period were \$9.5 billion, compared to almost the same figure in the comparable period last year. The trade deficit of India with China in the first half of 2023 declined significantly to \$47 billion, compared to \$67 billion in the same period in 2022. Exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is the largest regional trading partner of China and one that has hitherto provided major support to the export sector of the Chinese economy, fell by nearly 17 percent in the first half of 2023 compared to the comparable period in 2022.

Ironically, while releasing figures, Chinese General Administration of Customs

spokesman Lu Daliang sounded pessimistic. He said on July 13 China would be facing more pressure to ensure stable growth in foreign trade in the latter half of the year. For this, he largely blamed the "geopolitical conflicts." Now with the larger world shunning trade relations with China, Beijing will have to depend on domestic demand, experts say.

The trends show that this is unlikely. It will be difficult for domestic demand to rebound without much stimulus from the government. Faced with a situation where most of the world is refusing to humor Beijing with stepped-up trading relations, China is falling back on Russia for external trading. Imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, have risen by 10 percent over a year, to \$11.3 billion. Exports to Russia have surged by 114 percent to \$9.3 billion.

China is buying more Russian energy to take advantage of price cuts, helping to shore up the Kremlin's cash flow after the United States, Europe, and Japan have cut off most purchases to punish Moscow for President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Beijing can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. China has now become Russia's biggest export market and an important source of manufactured goods.

To make up for the loss of export markets to the USA and the European Union, China is trying to step up trade relations with the ASEAN countries. The hype over growing relations between China and the ASEAN countries notwithstanding, there too exports have fallen. In any case, the ASEAN countries will not be able to make up for

the loss of the American market for the Chinese economy, says Bruce Pang, chief economist at JLL, a global investment management company.

In the American market, companies can sell at a higher profit margin. Experts have noted that among the 10-member ASEAN group of countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, there is plenty of distrust of Chinese policies and motivations.

The maritime claims of China are antagonizing many countries in this region. The threat of Chinese debts weighs heavily on many of the states. China is evidently facing the pinch of the cold shoulder from the Western countries, analysts say; hence the cold shoulder to the visit by U. S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to China in the first week of July 2023, when Beijing sent a flotilla to the Taiwan Strait.

According to the BBC, the key factor was the export controls imposed by Washington on some microchips. That is standing in the way of China developing its own Artificial Intelligence. The visit of the U. S. Treasury Secretary met with limited success, at best.

On July 14, 2023, China criticized a call by the German government for reducing dependency on Chinese products and decreasing other potentially unstable factors in bilateral relations as "protectionism." Foreign Ministry spokesman of China Wang Wenbin said the strategy of relations with China announced by Berlin pointed to a "systematic rivalry" and would aggravate divisions in the world. (Milap News Network)

22 countries opened special bank accounts in India to trade in Rupee: Minister

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Banks from 22 countries have opened special Rupee vostro accounts in Indian banks in order to trade in local currency as part of gradual de-dollarisation plans, the Parliament was informed on Friday.

Simply put, vostro accounts enable domestic banks to provide international banking services clients who have global banking needs. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State (External Affairs) Rajkumar Ranjan Singh listed out the names of the countries. They include Belarus, Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, Maldives, Kazakhstan and United Kingdom.

"Government is engaged with Indian trading community including the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to simplify the administrative procedures to implement this mechanism," the minister said.

The Reserve Bank of India last year put in place



an arrangement, allowing transactions in domestic currencies to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to bring in increasing interest towards rupee. The internationalisation of the rupee gathered steam following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) announcement of a mechanism to settle payments for international trade in rupees, especially for India's exports. The RBI allowed invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian Rupee on July 11, 2022.

Experts widely believe if the mechanism fructifies then it may go a long

way in internationalising the Indian currency rupee in the long run.

A currency can be termed "international" if it is widely accepted worldwide as a medium of exchange.

To examine issues related to internationalisation of INR and suggest a way forward, the RBI had constituted an Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) in December 2021.

The panel has recently come up with a report, where it made various short-term and long-term recommendations.

In the short-run, the members of the Group recommended enabling rupee

as an additional settlement currency in existing multi-lateral mechanisms; integrating Indian payment systems with other countries for cross-border transactions; inclusion of G-Secs (or government bonds) in global bond indices; and providing equitable incentives to exporters for rupee trade settlement.

In the long-run, its recommendations included a review of taxes on Masala bonds (Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued outside India by Indian entities); international use of Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) for cross-border trade transactions; examining taxation issues in financial markets to harmonise tax regimes of India and other financial centers; and allowing banking services in rupee outside India through off-shore branches of Indian banks.

Stating India as one of the fastest-growing countries which showed remarkable resilience even in the face of major headwinds, the IDG said it feels that the rupee has the potential to become an internationalised currency. (Milap News Network)

Building Future of Children in Rural Border Villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a noble effort to provide access to quality education for every child and uplift the rural border villages of RS Pura and Suchetgarh in Jammu and Kashmir, founder chairperson of NGO 'Support', Dr. Navneet Kour, and chairman of POJK Displaced People Front Vinod Kumar, joined hands to conduct a series of career counseling and awareness campaigns.

The initiative aimed to motivate the youth of these bordering villages to pursue their education through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and actively participate in sports activities, including inter-village volleyball and cricket matches, promoting a healthy lifestyle among them. Additionally, various skill projects were introduced to empower the youth, and counseling sessions conducted by Vinod Kumar and Dr. Navneet Kour highlighted the importance of education and raised awareness about drug addiction.

Speaking about the

campaign, Dr. Navneet Kour emphasized, "Our aim is to bring students back to school and also provide them with skill training, making them financially sustainable." According to surveys, there is a staggering 75

percent dropout rate and a lack of education in this region, highlighting the urgent need for education reforms and community outreach initiatives. During the event, registrations were opened for dropout children who couldn't complete their basic education. Recognizing the gap in the education system for bringing quality education to their doorstep, NGO SUP-

PORT and POJK Displaced People Front have proposed the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya schools in these border areas to provide children with access to quality education. Introducing Government Skill Training Programs to these

communities will further empower them and generate employment opportunities for the marginalized. "Together, we can bring reforms in our society through educational outreach programs," Vinod Kumar said. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 250 men, women, young boys, and girls actively participating and supporting this edu-



effort from the government's welfare schemes on education and skill building," Navneet Kour said. Prominent figures from various villages, including Swaran Singh, Rajinder Je, Manjit Kaur, Asha Devi, and several Sarpanchs and members of Panchayats, graced the program, showing their commitment to empowering the children of these rural areas. (Milap News Network)

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Young writer Muskan Nargis unveils debut book "Struggle of a Single Parent" in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Muskaan Nargis, a young Kashmiri writer, unveiled her debut book "Struggle of a Single Parent" during a literary gathering at a hotel in the Srinagar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Overwhelmed with joy, Muskan Nargis expressed her gratitude to all those who supported her throughout her journey as a writer. She shared her hope that her book would resonate with readers and shed light on the challenges faced by single parents in society. The event saw an impressive turnout, with various dignitaries from across the valley in

attendance to support the budding author.

Renowned writer and author Parvaiz Manooos, and President, Sagar Cultural Forum Choker Patan, Sagar Nazir, were chief guests. Writer Sarim Iqbal was present as the guest of honour.

During his speech, Parvaiz Manooos expressed his admiration for Muskan Nargis' literary prowess, commending her for choosing the path of literature at a time when the youth were addicted to drugs and were exporting their time through social media.

He stated, "In today's era, where the young generation is addicted to drugs and spent much of their

time on smartphones, it is truly exceptional to witness Muskan Nargis' dedication to the world of literature." Sagar Nazir also lauded the young writer's efforts in bringing forward her unique perspective. He praised her courage in presenting a fictionalized version of a true story, allowing it to reach a wider audience.

"Muskan Nargis has displayed tremendous courage in remaining faithful to the truth while crafting a compelling narrative that touches the heart. Her ability to shed light on real-life struggles through her write-up is commendable," he remarked. (Milap News Network)

Pakistan: Heavy rains cause urban flooding in Sindh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SINDH: Heavy rains on Sunday hit Pakistan's Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Dadu districts of Sindh province, causing urban flooding in the wake of the breakdown of the drainage system and suspending power supply, Dawn reported.

It started raining heavily in Pakistan's Hyderabad on Saturday night and continued into Sunday till 2 am when it rained around 45 minutes. The power supply went off with the first drop of rain causing a massive breakdown early on Sunday.

At around 4:30 pm, the second spell of rain started and continued till 10 pm intermittently, paralyzing civic life in the absence of electricity and the non-functioning of Wasa pumping stations. The rainwater flooded all main roads, roundabouts and low-lying localities.

As per Dawn, the power breakdown struck the Hyder-

abad region, particularly Hyderabad city, prompting the district administration to struggle to clear rainwater from main roads and roundabouts.

Pakistan's Met Office recorded around 50 mm of rain in Hyderabad city. It also rained in Hala, Matari, Tando Allahyar, Jamshoro and Nawabshah.

Moderate rain soaked the city of Mirpurkhas and other district towns intermittently turning main roads and streets into pools of water and flooding all depressions and low-lying areas.

In some low-lying localities, rainwater entered a number of houses, forcing the families to shift to safer places. Rainwater could not be drained from the roads and streets as the pumping stations did not function without a power supply.

Many motorbikes and cars stopped functioning while trying to navigate through the rainwater, according to Dawn. (Milap News Network)

Pak economic woes continue as gas prices likely to rise by 45 percent amid IMF's demand

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ISLAMABAD: Even though Pakistan has been able to secure an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, the road ahead is not going to be easy, as after electricity rates, Islamabad is planning to jack up gas prices as well by over 45 percent in line with IMF's demand, ARY News reported on Monday citing sources.

The Pakistan federal government has shared a plan with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the increase in the gas price.

The international lender has asked Pakistan not to delay the rise in the gas tariff to reduce circular debt, ARY news reported.

The IMF wants the federal cabinet to approve the Circular Debt Management Plan 2024 by the end of July as the performance

of the institutions cannot be reviewed with the Circular Debt Management Plan 2023, ARY news reported.

The new plan is aimed at paying a whopping circular debt of 392 billion Pakistani Rupees (PKR).

The IMF even wants Pakistan to freeze the power sector circular debt at 2374 billion PKR and devise a 10-year plan to pay the debt of the sector, ARY news reported.

Earlier in June, the federal cabinet authorised a significant increase in the electricity base rate through circulation summary as a move to meet the IMF terms.

The government recommended an increase of PKR 3 per unit for the non-protected residential consumers using 1 to 100 units which will take the current per unit cost from PKR 13.48/unit to 16.48/unit.

Similarly, for the residential consumers using above 700 units, the government proposed a hike of Rs 7.5/unit from the existing PKR 35.22/unit to 42.72/unit.

The federal government has increased the basic power tariff by Rs3 for some customers and by Rs7.5 per unit for some other consumers, ARY news reported citing sources.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's external debt servicing obligations are 2.44 billion USD for the current month of July 2023, including 2.07 billion USD in non-guaranteed debt owed to China, according to 'The News International'.

Another USD 1 billion safe deposit from China is also due, so Islamabad and Beijing are currently working on the rollover of around USD 3 billion bilateral debt within the ongoing month. (Milap News Network)

Moon-bound Chandrayaan-3 gets farther from the earth on voyage

SIANS

CHENNAI: India's moon-bound spacecraft, Chandrayaan-3, travelled further towards its destination with the Indian space agency on Tuesday raising its orbit further for the fifth time.

On August 1, the Chandrayaan-3 will take the 'moon spaceway' when the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will guide it to the TransLunar Injection (TLI).

On Tuesday, the ISRO said: "The orbit-raising maneuver (Earth-bound perigee firing) is performed successfully from ISTRAC/ISRO, Bengaluru. The spacecraft is expected to attain an orbit of 127609 km x 236 km. The achieved orbit will be confirmed after the observations."

"The next firing, the TransLunar Injection (TLI), is planned for August 1, 2023, between 12 midnight and 1 am IST," the ISRO said.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was put into orbit on July 15, in a copy-book style by India's heavy



lift rocket LVM3. On the same day, the first orbit raising was done and the second orbit raising was carried out on July 17.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft comprises a propulsion module (weighing 2,148 kg), a lander (1,723.89 kg), and a rover (26 kg), the ISRO said.

The main object of the mission is to safely land the lander on the lunar soil.

The lander will get separated from the propulsion module a couple of days after it enters lunar orbit and is expected to make a soft-landing near the South Pole of the moon at 5.47 p.m. on August 23.

The moon will descend to the moon from a height of about 100 km from the moon's surface. The soft landing is a tricky issue as it involves a series of complex manoeuvres consisting of rough and fine braking. Imaging of the landing site region prior to landing will be done for finding safe and hazard-free zones.

Subsequent to the soft landing, the six-wheeled rover will roll out and carry out experiments on the lunar surface for a period of one lunar day which is equal to 14 Earth days.

DGCA received applications to de-register 54 aircraft leased to Go First: Govt

SIANS

NEW DELHI: The government said on Monday that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received applications from lessors for de-registration of 54 aircraft leased to Go First, adding that processing of the applications by the DGCA is subject to the outcome of the cases lying before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and Delhi High Court.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V.K. Singh said that Go First has submitted its resumption plan to DGCA for operating 150 flights daily with 26 aircraft.

"The DGCA has been closely monitoring the situation since the announcement made by Go First on May 2 to cancel its flights and its application for insolvency filed under Section 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

"In the wake of suspension of operations by Go First, airlines have been advised to self-regulate

the air fares and maintain reasonable price levels and also to introduce new flights on the sectors that had a substantial number of Go First flights," the minister said.

Go First have filed applications with the DGCA seeking de-registration and repossession of 20 planes leased to Wadia Group and the action taken so far.

Sushil Modi's question

to tackle the situation created by closure of Go First airlines."

Replying to another question on the share of different airlines and number of passengers



Singh added in his reply that a total number of 358 leased aircraft have been removed from the civil aircraft registry since January 2018 till date.

The minister was replying to a query raised by BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi, who asked whether it is a fact that aircraft lessors of

read: "Number of leased planes de-registered and repossessed by lessors in the last five years, year-wise and company-wise. Whether Go First has submitted any plan to start its operation with a number of aircraft and daily flights and steps taken by the government

carried by each in the last six months, month-wise and airline-wise, Singh said that a total number of 7,61,03,790 passengers in scheduled domestic operations and 1,36,32,621 passengers in scheduled international operations have been carried in the last six months.

Tata Motors Q1 PAT at Rs 3,300 crore, to rejig capital structure

SIANS

CHENNAI: Automobile major Tata Motors Ltd closed the first quarter of FY24 with a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,300.65 crore.

The company's Board also approved the simplification and consolidation of its capital structure.

Tata Motors closed Q1FY24 with a total income of Rs 103,596.62 crore (against Q1FY23's Rs72,822.02 crore) and a net profit of Rs 3,300.65 crore (against a net loss of Rs.4,950.97 crore).

The Tata Motors Board at their meeting on Tuesday gave their nod for the reduction of capital by cancelling the entire 'A' Ordinary shares and issue and allotting Ordinary shares that would rank pari passu with the existing Ordinary shares.

The holders of 'A' Ordinary shares will get seven ordinary shares for every 10 shares ('A' Ordinary shares) held by them as capital reduction consideration.

According to Tata Motors, after the delisting of the American Depository Shares from the New York Stock

Exchange as of January 23, 2023, the company has two types of listed equity securities, namely Ordinary Shares and 'A' Ordinary Shares.

The 'A' Ordinary Shares carry 1/10th of voting rights of Ordinary Shares and are entitled to five percentage points higher dividend. These shares were first issued by Tata Motors in 2008 and subsequently in a further QIP in 2010 and rights issue in 2015.

Regulatory changes have, since then, restricted the issuance of such instruments with differential voting rights and Tata Motors remains the only large listed company with such an instrument, the company said.

The capital restructuring will lead to a reduction in the outstanding equity shares by 4.2 per cent, making it value accretive for all shareholders, the company claimed. Post capital rejig, the voting rights of the promoter and promoter group will go down to 42.64 per cent while that of the public will go up to 57.36 per cent from 54.19 per cent.

Average cost of data breach in India reaches over Rs 17cr: Report

SIANS

NEW DELHI: The average cost of a data breach in India reached Rs 17.9 crore in 2023, almost a 28 per cent increase since 2020, a new report said on Tuesday.

According to tech major IBM, detection and escalation costs jumped 45 per cent over this same time frame, representing the highest portion of breach costs, and indicating a shift towards more complex breach investigations.

At nearly 22 per cent, the most common attack type in India was phishing, followed by stolen or compromised credentials (16 per cent).

Social engineering was the costliest root cause of breaches at Rs 19.1 crore, followed by malicious insider threats, which amounted to about Rs 18.8 crore.

"The report shows that security AI and automation had the biggest impact on keeping breach costs down and cutting time off the investigation -- and yet a majority of organizations in India still haven't deployed these technologies," said Viswanath



Ramaswamy, Vice President, Technology, IBM India & South Asia.

Moreover, the report showed that about 28 per cent of data breaches resulted in the loss of data spanning multiple types of environments in India (i.e., public cloud, private cloud, on-prem) -- indicating that attackers were

able to compromise multiple environments while avoiding detection.

The report also found that while 95 per cent of organisations studied globally have experienced more than one breach, these breached organisations were more likely to pass incident costs onto consumers (57 per cent) than to increase security investments (51 per cent).

In India, companies with extensive use of AI and automation experienced a data breach lifecycle that was 153 days shorter compared to studied organizations that have not deployed these technologies (225 days versus 378 days).

Organisations that used security AI and automation extensively saw nearly Rs 9.5 crore less in data breach costs than organisations that did not use these technologies.

Webb telescope detects water vapour in rocky planet-forming zone

SIANS

WASHINGTON: The powerful next generation James Webb Space Telescope has detected water vapour in a planetary system located 370 light-years away.

PDS 70 is a K-type star, cooler than Sun and hosts both an inner disk and outer disk of gas and dust, separated by a 8 billion kilometre gap, and within that gap are two known gas-giant planets.

Webb's MIRI (Mid-Infrared Instrument) detected the presence of water in the inner disk of the system, at distances of less than 160 million kilometres from the star -- the region where rocky, terrestrial planets may be forming.

This is the first detection of water in the terrestrial region of a disk already known to host two or more protoplanets, said researchers in the paper published in the journal Nature.

"We've seen water in



other disks, but not so close in and in a system where planets are currently assembling. We couldn't make this type of measurement before Webb," said lead author Giulia Perotti of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg, Germany.

"This discovery is extremely exciting, as it probes the region where rocky planets similar to Earth typically form," added MPIA director Thomas Henning, a co-author on the paper.

PDS 70 is estimated to be 5.4 million years old. This is relatively old in terms of stars with planet-forming disks, which made the discovery of water vapour surprising.

Astronomers haven't yet detected any planets form-

ing within the inner disk of PDS 70. However, they do see the raw materials for building rocky worlds in the form of silicates.

The detection of water vapour implies that if rocky planets are forming there, they will have water available to them from the beginning.

The origin of water is also not clear. The team aims to use two more of Webb's instruments, NIRC2 (Near-Infrared Camera) and NIRSpec (Near-Infrared Spectrograph) to study the PDS 70 system in an effort to glean an even greater understanding.

Webb is an international programme led by NASA with its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and the Canadian Space Agency.

Walmart and Flipkart sign MoU with I&C Department to bolster growth of MSMEs

UNI

HYDERABAD: Walmart and Flipkart have come together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Telangana, aiming to bolster the growth and capabilities of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in

the state. The MoU signing ceremony took place in the presence of Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Telangana, and Joseph Julian KG, Program Director, Swasti, a release said on Tuesday.

The collaboration aims to create a conducive ecosystem

for local MSMEs, enabling them to access a broader domestic market, leverage online retail platforms, and sustain their growth and commercialization.

As part of the partnership, Walmart will extend support to help MSMEs digitize their businesses, enabling them to become part of both offline and online domestic supply

chains. Through the Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program (Walmart Vriddhi), small businesses and entrepreneurs will have access to a comprehensive learning platform, offering free training, expert assistance, and customized tools essential for their business growth and expansion.

Phone No: 01957225532 Email: eomcbandipora@gmail.com

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANDIPORA

Subject:- Election of Vice president of Municipal Council Bandipora.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner Bandipora No:-DEO/BPR/2C/23/313-20, dated:- 24-07-2023, the meeting for Election of vice president Municipal Council Bandipora shall conducted on 31-07-2023(Monday) at 11:30 Am in Town Hall of Municipal Council Bandipora, the details for filling of Nomination papers are as under:-

1. Date of Issuance of Nomination Form_26-07-2023 (10 am to 04 pm).
2. Date of receipt of Nomination form_27-07-2023 (10 am to 04 pm).
3. Date of scrutinizing of Nomination Form_29-07-2023(10 am to 1 pm).
4. Date of withdrawal form_29-07-2023 (1 pm to 4 pm).
5. Date of Election of Vice President_31-07-2023(11:30 am to 12:30 Pm).
6. Date of Counting_31-07-2023 (12: 30 Pm).

All the Elected Councillors are informed to attend the Voting on Scheduled Date and time at Town Hall of Municipal Council Bandipora to Participate in the Election of Vice President as per above details.

No:- MC /Bpr/Elec/23/1165-73 Dated:- 25-07-2023

DIPK-NB-2220-23 DT: 25/07/2023

Chief Executive officer, Municipal Council Bandipora.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LAKE DIVISION NO.II, STP HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR, J&K LAKES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, SRINAGAR.

(Phone and Fax No.0194-2414194) e mail:xen2lcma@gmail.com,deptt. website:www.lcma.in

Gist of N.I.T No. LD- 2ND/ 07 of 2023-24(e).

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Time of Comp.	Class of contract	Tender fee (Rs)
1.	Construction and Installation of Curtain Wall/Folded Screen around abluion pond at Dargah Shareef Hazratbal.	16,55,100.00	33,102.00	20 days	BEE/CEE	700.00

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir IT, e-tenders on item wise percentage basis are in double cover system are invited from Registered Civil Contractors of PWD/CPWD/MES for the below mentioned work/s:-

Online bidding schedule:

01.	Date of issue of tender Notice.	24.07.2023.
02.	Start date for downloading of bidding documents.	25.07.2023 (10.00AM)
03.	Bid submission start date	25.07.2023 (11.00 A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	16.08.2023 (02.00 P.M)
05.	Date and time of opening of bids (Technical & Financial) on line.	17.08.2023 (4.30 P.M)
06.	Tender inviting authority.	
07.	Tender opening/receiving authority.	Executive Engineer Lake Division No: 2 nd J&K LCMA Miskeen Bagh Srinagar.
09.	EMD to be pledged to	
10.	Tender fee to be drawn in favour of:	Tender fee to be deposited into account No: CDG/018501020000003, JK Bank Upper Sathu through E-Challan/Treasury receipt, / Pay in slip. Note: NIT No. and S.No. of the work shall be mentioned on paying slip while depositing the fee. The fee must be deposited between publishing date of NIT and bid submission end date. No before or after-wards shall be entertained.

General Term and conditions:

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule.
2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule.
3. The complete bidding process will be on line.

No: LD-II/ 1871-1892 Dated: 24.07.2023

DIPK-NB-2215-23 DT: 25/07/2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Lake Division NO.2nd

Women Set For Saree Walkathon In London On National Handloom Day

IANAS

LONDON: Around 500 women are set to participate in a first-of-its-kind saree walkathon, which will be held in London to mark National Handloom Day on August 7, and raise awareness about Indian handloom.

The women, wearing the drapes representing different states of India, will walk past the iconic and historical landmarks on August 6, London-based news website UK Malayalees reported.

The walkathon will begin from Trafalgar Square and move to the historic Parliament Square in Westminster, London, via 10 Downing Street.

The event is organised by the British Women In Sarees group and is supported by the Inspiring Indian Women group.

"The modern Indian woman of today believes in traversing



the world beyond her cocoon and she does all that and more, in a saree while redefining

the codes of power dressing," Dipti Jain of British Women in Sarees group, which is hosting

the event, told ukmalayalees. com. "The British Women in

Sarees group was formed out of this idea. It is a group of empowered women who take pride in

flaunting handloom sarees and representing the unique cultural melting pot that is India. It is a not-for-profit organisation which likes to organise events to promote our National Heritage and make everyone around the world aware of the toil, handwork and artistry which goes behind weaving each of these masterpieces," Jain told the website.

She had also organised the very first event at the Ladies Day Royal Ascot Races on June 16, 2022 in Berkshire, where several women from the Indian subcontinent turned up in sarees.

"As residents of UK, we felt elated and proud of the inclusivity that the stage provided us to pay homage to our roots, India. The world watched us but the limelight that our sarees fetched provided us the platform to raise awareness about

the plight of artisans and weavers who need support to continue and pass on their craft to the next generation," Jain said. The proceeds from the event were given to a community of weavers in Nanoor, West Bengal.

"As we grow bigger, we intend to reach out, grow and connect with more artisans and weavers who need support. This will be our way of preserving ancient handicrafts," she told UKMalayalees.

At the upcoming walkathon, a team of 30 women from Kerala will be showcasing the traditional settu mundu and handloom sarees bought directly from the weavers to support them.

They will also do a traditional Kerala dance at the Parliament Square before finishing off with a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Bangladesh Dengue Death Toll Jumps To 185



UNI

Dhaka: The death toll from the viral dengue outbreak in Bangladesh has risen to 185 so far this year, while reported cases have reached 35,270, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported.

In the last 24 hours as of 8:00 a.m. local time Monday, DGHS said nine people died of the mosquito-borne disease, raising the death toll to 138 so far this month. According to the figure reported by the DGHS under the Ministry of Health, 27,292 more dengue cases were recorded during the first 24 days in July after 5,956 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease last month.

A total of 2,293 fresh dengue cases including 1,238 in Dhaka were reported in the 24 hours till 8:00 a.m. local time Monday, the DGHS data showed.

DGHS said 27,622 dengue patients returned home after receiving treatment from various hospitals across the country from Jan. 1 to July 24 this year.

In order to fight the rising number of dengue cases, Bangladesh health authorities have strengthened measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes and conduct anti-larval operations.

Greek Govt Pledges Support To Fire-Affected Areas

IANAS

ATHENS: The Greek government has pledged its full support to fire-affected areas of the country, with several wildfires still continuing to rage as of Tuesday.

"We will rebuild all that was lost, compensate those affected," Xinhua news agency quoted Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis as saying during a debate in Parliament on Monday.

While welcoming his Bulgarian counterpart Nikolai Denkov, who is currently visiting Athens, Mitsotakis also thanked Bulgaria for helping Greece to battle the devastating forest fires that hit the country in July.

"These are (...) unfortunately the real consequences of climate change. We have another difficult summer ahead of us, but we are doing the best we can," Mitsotakis said.

There were no casualties, but forested areas and residential zones were damaged during the more than 500 fires which have broken out nationwide in the past 12 days, said Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias.

As well as climate change, many fires are still caused by arson or criminal negligence, Kikilias said.

Therefore, fines for causing fire by criminal negligence will be increased, and the personnel of the Arson Crimes Directorate will be doubled.

According to the latest update from the Fire Service, firefighters



were still battling for a seventh day three fronts on Rhodes Island in southeastern Greece.

Nearly 20,000 people, including many tourists, were evacuated as a precautionary measure from a dozen settlements and seaside resorts in the area during the weekend.

Four more settlements were evacuated on Monday, as winds measuring up to seven on the Beaufort scale were blowing in the region.

Fire-fighting forces faced similar difficult weather conditions on the southern part of Evia Island, where a fire broke out on Sunday, and settlements were also evacuated on Monday.

However, the situation was improving on Monday in the north-east of the island of Corfu, the Fire Service said.

Some 2,000 locals and tourists who were evacuated on Sunday were gradually returning to their homes and hotels on Monday, according to AMNA.

Since last week, Greece has been experiencing one of its worst heatwaves in decades, with temperatures reaching up to 45 degrees Celsius.

After a short respite on Monday, the high temperatures were forecast to continue on Tuesday and Wednesday, meteorologists said.

3 Palestinians Killed In West Bank



IANAS

RAMALLAH: Three Palestinians were killed on Tuesday by Israeli soldiers in the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank.

The Israeli troops stormed a vehicle and opened fire, Xinhua news agency quoted Palestinian security forces as saying.

The forces also claimed that the soldiers prevented Palestinian ambulances from reaching the vehicle.

An Israeli army spokesman told state media that the troops killed the three armed Palestinians after they opened fire at an Israeli army checkpoint near the city of Nablus.

According to the spokesman, the three militants arrived at an area near the checkpoint and opened fire from a distance of 100 metres at the soldiers who were stationed there.

Since January, 24 people, most of them Israelis, have been killed in a series of attacks carried out by Palestinians, and about 200 Palestinians, including children and women, were killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, according to official figures.

Death Toll From Algeria Wildfires Rises To 34



IANAS

ALGIERS: The death toll from the raging wildfires in Algeria has increased to 34, including 10 soldiers, the Interior Ministry said in an update.

The Ministry said some 8,000 people were battling the blazes across 11 provinces, supported by 529 trucks and several firefighting helicopters, reports Xinhua news agency.

The fires started overnight on Sunday mainly in the provinces of Bejaia, Jijel, and Bouira, but quickly spread due to strong winds, causing significant damage.

As of Tuesday, a total of 97 fires were raging in the forests of 16 provinces.

27 Armed Conflicts Continue To Devastate Lives: UNGA Prez

IANAS

UNITED NATIONS: UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Csaba Korosi said on that 27 ongoing armed conflicts across the world are continuing to devastate lives.

"As we look around the globe today, 27 armed conflicts continue to devastate lives," Korosi told a joint debate on the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund at the UN headquarters in New York.

The UNGA President said that two decades ago, about five countries each year suffered more than one simultaneous war or insurgency, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Now 15 do. Three-fold increase. The number of conflict-related deaths has reached a 28-year high and over 100 million people have been forcibly displaced," he added.

Korosi noted that conflicts have become more complex, and civil wars have a significantly stronger foreign involvement.

"And an increase of one degree in local temperature raises the chance of intergroup conflict by more than 10 per cent," he continued.

"These realities should be a wake-up call," stressed the UNGA President.

"Unless we place the prevention of conflict at the core of our peace efforts, our 2030 promise of a safe, sustainable future will slip beyond the reach of many of our commu-



nities."

Speaking of the Peacebuilding Commission, he said that 18 years after its creation, the commission "is strategically placed to help the UN keep pace with today's evolving threats".

As an advisory body to two key UN institutions, he said, the commission has unique chances to advance coherence and assist both the General Assembly and the Security Council in fulfilling their mandates.

"The General Assembly could benefit from more substantive advice on specific situations, as well as on cross-cutting issues, such as the water crisis, which are major drivers of violence," he said.

"For this end, I suggest that the PGA (UNGA president) and the chair of the Peacebuilding Commission should hold regular consultations, similar to those with the presidents of the Security Council and Economic and Social Council," he added.

Korosi said that from war and violent extremism to the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, "global developments are demanding that we invest more in the peaceful future we aspire to achieve."

"The suffering we see -- from North to South, and East to West -- offers clear proof that the costs of our inaction far outweigh the price of proactive investment in prevention," the UNGA president stressed.

In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund approved record levels of support to 37 countries, according to Korosi.

He further mentioned that in the previous General Assembly resolution, member states confirmed their commitment to exploring all possibilities for sustained financing in peacebuilding.

"In this spirit, I urge you to contribute to the fund. To reflect that, if no progress is made today, our goal to save lives will remain elusive tomorrow. We know we are paying too steep a price for conflict."

He expressed the hope that the debate would inspire innovative ideas to strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders at every stage of the peace continuum.

5.5 Magnitude Quake Hit Turkey



UNI

ANKARA: A 5.5-magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey on Tuesday, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said.

The earthquake was recorded at 08:44 local time (05:44 GMT), with its epicenter located 65 kilometers (40.3 miles) from the city of Osmaniye and 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) from the city of Kozan in southern Turkey, the EMSC said. The depth of the quake was estimated at 10 kilometers (6.2 miles).

The head of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Yunus Sezer, said later in the day that there were no casualties from the earthquake.

"At the moment, there are no negative situations after the magnitude 5.5 earthquake that occurred at 08:44 in Kozan district of Adana province," Sezer said on Twitter.

According to monitoring data on the EMSC website, this earthquake was the strongest among a total of six earthquakes that struck the area since 05:00 local time (02:00 GMT).

The AFAD also said that the quake could be considered as one of the aftershocks of the deadly earthquakes that hit Turkey on January 6.

'Even Indian Mujahideen, PFI...': PM hits back at Opposition's INDIA alliance

UNI

NEW DELHI: Taking a dig at the opposition for naming its alliance 'INDIA,' Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday said "Today people are using names like Indian Mujahideen and Indian People's Front".

"Merely adding the name 'INDIA' doesn't make it so. 'The East India Company had also used 'INDIA' in its name, and even the name of the Indian Mujahideen includes 'India,'" BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, quoting Prime Minister Modi during his address in the BJP's Parliament Board meeting, said.

Calling opposition "directionless" Modi said "I have never seen such 'directionless' opposition and cited the 'Indian Mujahideen' and 'Popular Front of India' as he derided the opposition alliance for its new name, INDIA.

The PM said, "As the Britishers came and named themselves East India Company, in the same way, the opposition is presenting itself in the name of India."



The BJP's parliamentary party meeting was held today following the ongoing demand from the opposition for a discussion on the Manipur issue and a statement from Modi.

"PM Modi has given a statement that the Indian National Congress, East India Company was founded by a foreign national", Ravi Shankar told the

media outside parliament. "Just using the name INDIA does not mean anything. People cannot be misled merely by the use of the country's name", Mr Prasad quoted the Prime Minister as saying.

Rebutting the Modi's statement, the leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "When opposition is rais-

ing an important issue of Manipur, the Prime Minister is saying 'East India Company' which is unfortunate.

"So many members have given notices under Rule 267 since 4 days now and it's not the first time when the BJP was in the government, back in 2016, it had accepted that discussion should happen" Kharge said.

Heavy rainfall alert for multiple regions across India till July 29: IMD

SIANS

NEW DELHI: Isolated very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall activity is likely to continue over West coast till July 26 and over Telangana and Andhra Pradesh during July 25-27, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The IMD further predicted fresh spell of Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over east central India during July 26-27 while the same is expected over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, north Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh during July 25-27 and over East India between July 28 and 30.

According to the IMD, the weather forecast for different regions in India from July 25 to 29 indicates a mix of light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with chances of isolated heavy and very heavy rainfall.

In Northwest India, states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and West Uttar Pradesh are expected to experience widespread rainfall during the mentioned period. "Himachal Pradesh will also receive rainfall from Tuesday to Friday, with isolated very heavy rainfall on July 26 and 27. East Rajasthan



will see rainfall from 25th to 27th, and West Rajasthan on 25th and 26th. Jammu and Kashmir will experience rainfall on July 26 and 27, with isolated heavy rainfall," the weather department said in its bulletin released on Tuesday.

Central India will also witness fairly widespread to widespread rainfall. Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh will experience rainfall from Tuesday to Friday, with isolated very heavy rainfall on July 26 and 27.

East Madhya Pradesh will have rainfall from July 26 to 28, with isolated very

heavy rainfall on July 27. The IMD further predicted that West India, regions like Konkan, Goa and ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra will experience widespread rainfall from Tuesday to Saturday, with isolated extremely heavy rainfall on July 25 and 26.

South India will also experience widespread rainfall during the period. "Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, South Interior Karnataka, and Kerala and Mahe will see rainfall till July 27, while Telangana will experience it from Tuesday to Friday.

Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal will receive rainfall on July 25 and 26. Isolated very heavy rainfall is likely in several areas during this time," said the IMD.

It further said that Northeast India will witness fairly widespread rainfall till July 29 in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, and on July 28, and 29 in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. "Isolated very heavy rainfall is expected in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya on July 27 and 28," it said.

Two GST officials charged with murder of truck driver in UP



SIANS

KANPUR: Two senior Goods and Service Tax (GST) officials in the city have been charged with murder after a truck driver was found dead in the cabin of his vehicle, police said on Tuesday.

Joint commissioner of police Anand Prakash Tiwari said the FIR was registered against GST joint commissioners Amit Mohan and Paras Nath, along with some unnamed department officials, after a son of the truck driver, Balbir Singh from Ludhiana (Punjab), alleged that his father was physically assaulted and wrongfully confined for three days.

The complainant, Govind Singh, also said his father had urged the officials to release him so that he could attend the funeral of his other son back home, but Balbir's plea fell on deaf ears.

Meanwhile, trader groups said Balbir was forcefully confined to his truck even as he kept weeping for his dead son

for three days. He was found dead in the cabin of his truck on Sunday.

After traders demanded that stringent action be taken against the accused officials within 72 hours, the police registered an FIR in the case on the complaint of Balbir's son Govind Singh, who reached Kanpur on Monday.

In his complaint, Govind said his father informed him that he was detained for some irregularities concerning his scrap-laden truck. "I learnt about his (Balbir Singh) death on Sunday evening when I got a call from police who informed me that my father was found dead in the cabin of his truck," Govind said.

Gyanesh Mishra, the general secretary of Kanpur Udyog Vyapar Mandal, said the GST officials were wrong in detaining the driver of a truck that was already in their custody.

Meanwhile, GST officials in Kanpur were not available for a comment on the issue.

Gujarat govt completes SAUNI Yojana, will benefit 98,000 people



SIANS

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat government has completed the construction of Package 8 and Package 9 of Link-3 under the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) Yojana.

The project will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit on July 27.

The completion of Packages 8 and 9 will bring water to 52,398 acres of cultivable land in 95 villages and provide potable water to over 98,000 residents in the Saurashtra region.

Package-8 includes a 2.5-meter diameter M.S. pipeline stretching 32.56 km up to Bhadar-1 and Veri Dam, with a cost of Rs 256 crores. This will provide irrigation water to more than 42,380 acres of land and potable water to over 75,000 people from the Narmada River in 57 villages.

Package-9 consists of a 2.5-meter diameter M.S. pipeline covering 36.50 km up to Aji-1 Dam and Fofal-1, with a cost of Rs 129 crores. This will bring Narmada water for irriga-

tion to more than 10,018 acres of land and supply drinking water to 23,000 people in 38 villages.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said that it has been a crucial initiative in Gujarat, with 1203 km of pipelines laid in the last 7 years.

The project has made available an estimated 71,206 million cubic feet of water, benefiting 95 reservoirs, 146 ponds, and 927 check dams, ultimately enhancing irrigation facilities for approximately 6.50 lakh acres and providing potable water to 80 lakh people.

The SAUNI Yojana is a lifeline for the drought-prone Saurashtra region, aiming to store an additional 1 million acre-feet of water from the Narmada River in 115 existing reservoirs across 11 districts.

Once completed, it will benefit more than 970 villages with irrigation water, covering 8,24,872 acres of land, and provide drinking water to 82 lakh people.

The project has already achieved 95% completion at an expenditure of Rs 18,563 crore.

MUMBAI-THANE 'MISSING LINK'

L&T to build Dahisar-Bhayander road project for Rs 1,981 crore

SIANS

MUMBAI: In a major development for Mumbai, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has awarded the tender for constructing the Dahisar-Bhayander Elevated Link Road project to the lowest bidder, Larsen & Toubro, an official said here on Tuesday.

The L&T will build the DBLR at a cost of Rs 1,981 crore within 42 months and it will be the final link of the upcoming Mumbai Coastal Road Project which will be implemented in four years.

Announcing the project details, BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal and Additional

Municipal Commissioner P. Velarasu said it will provide a better and faster alternative to cover the distance in just 10 minutes without hassles on a signal-free road along a bridge and two inter-changes. The BMC heads added that after completing the BMC's project, the L&T will also be responsible for its maintenance for three years. The project includes a 5-km-long, 8-lane, 45 metre wide bridge, linking Dahisar (Mumbai) with Bhayander (Thane), with 1.5 km falling under the BMC and 3.5 km under the Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC).

Though the BMC will implement this important

infrastructure project, it will reimburse the MBMC expenses on it through the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

Presently, only rail connectivity is available from the western suburbs between Dahisar suburb and Bhayander town. Now, a steel bridge will come up in the Dahisar Bay area, and another 350 pillars will support the 5 km of elevated cement-concrete road, with two interchanges at both ends.

It is estimated that around 75,000 vehicles will use the DBLR, with immense savings in fuel and time - currently it takes around 90-120

minutes to cover the distance via Western Express Highway, said an official.

The official added that this project would help ease the congestion on the highway and the suburban trains between Borivali-Bhayander as commuters can use the DBLR, and gain quicker access to other towns in Thane and Palghar.

In addition to this 'missing link', there will be the options of the Mumbai Coastal Road, the proposed extension of the Sea Link upto Virar, and the network of Metro Rails being extended from Mumbai to Mira Road-Bhayander towns, for the commuters.

Drugs worth Rs 45 cr seized in Assam, peddler shot while trying to flee

SIANS

GUWAHATI: Assam Police have seized drugs worth Rs 45 crore in the Cachar district and arrested three peddlers, out of which one was shot while trying to flee from custody, a top official said.

Speaking to IANS, Cachar district SP Numal Mahatta said: "A team of Special Task Force (STF) conducted an operation on Monday night near Silchar during the checking of a vehicle, 90 plastic sachets containing a white powdery

substance suspected to be heroin weighing about 2.5 kg, were recovered from the vehicle.

"The contraband substances were kept in the bonnet of the car. Along with this, at least 1 lakh yaba tablets were also seized from the vehicle."

The three arrested persons were identified as Manwar Hussain Barbhuiya, Sadar Uddin, and Ansar Alam, all residents of the district's Kalain area.

According to the police, Barbhuiya agreed to lead the police team to the des-



tinued location where the contraband was supposed to be delivered. On the way, he request-

ed to attend to the call of nature.

"Thereafter, he tried to flee taking advantage of the darkness following which two rounds were fired to stop him, one of which hit him causing injury on the left leg. He was then immediately shifted to a nearby hospital and he has been undergoing treatment," the police said in a statement.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES, DISTRICT KUPWARA

Short list of eligible applicants (Fishermen) for selection of providing Motor Cycle with Ice Box under PMMSY Scheme for the year 2023-24

S. No	Name of the Beneficiary	Parentage	Residence
01	Md. Ashraf Danthoo	Ab. Aziz Danthoo	Mallabagh
02	Mohd. Yousuf Malla	Ab. Sammad Malla	Lokipora
03	Shahid Malik	Mohd. Hayat Malik	Handwara
04	Zeeshan Bashir Dar	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Tulwari
05	Mohd. Shafi Khuroo	Ab. Kareem Khuroo	Sunwani
06	Mushtaq Ahmad Dar	Gh. Rasool Dar	Bunpora Bumhama
07	Ab. Rashid Dar	Ab. Kareem Dar	Bumhama
08	Lateef Ahmad Dar	Ab. Jabbar Dar	Matipora Drugmulla
09	Ab. Razaq Dar	Gh. Qadir Dar	Mugalpora

DIPK-5783-23
DT: 25/07/2023

Assistant Director Fisheries,
District Kupwara.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org

CORRIGENDUM 01 FOR RETENDER

Name of work: 1) Mechanical repairs to various road constructional machines of Mech. Field Subdivision City Right. 2) Mechanical repairs to various road constructional machines of Mech. Field Subdivision City Left. 3) Mechanical repairs to various road constructional machines of Mech. Field Subdivision Budgam.

Reference: 1) This office NIT: MDS/TS/2023-24/20 Date:07-07-2023 (Tender ID: 2023_PWDJK_220359_1) 2) This office NIT: MDS/TS/2023-24/21 Date:07-07-2023 (Tender ID: 2023_PWDJK_220383_1) 3) This office NIT: MDS/TS/2023-24/22 Date:07-07-2023 (Tender ID: 2023_PWDJK_220411_1)

Due to poor response, the critical dates of the above referred NITs issued for the subject works are extended as under:

S.No.	Description	New Dates
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	29-07-2023 upto 06:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	31-07-2023 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NITs shall remain unchanged.

No: MDS/TS/ 2594-2600
Date: 24-07-2023.
DIPK-5762-23
DT: 25/07/2023

Sd/
(Er. Jahan Ara)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division, Srinagar

Inter-School Sports Competitions going on in full swing across B'la



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The District Youth Services & Sports (DYS&S) department Baramulla is brimming with excitement as it hosts inter-school sports competitions at the zonal level.

In continuation of the zonal activities, Tuesday's events took place in Zone Sopore, Zone Dangerpora, Zone Nehalpora, Zone Dangiwacha, and Zone Chandoosa, where various

sports events were conducted including Volleyball, Kabaddi & Kho-Kho and the competitions were held for both boys & girls under the age group of 14 and 17.

The aim of these sports events is to encourage physical activity and also to promote teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition among the youth. The department is committed to providing a platform for young talents to shine and excel in their chosen

sports.

The zonal-level competitions are an essential part of the larger sporting calendar, and the winners and top performers from these events will move forward to represent their zones at the district level.

Speaking with regard to the event, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla, Jatinder Singh extended his gratitude to all the participating schools, teachers and students who con-

tributed to the success of these inter-school sports competitions. The enthusiasm and support from the community have been instrumental in making these events a grand success, he added.

Moreover, Jatinder Singh further elaborated that the Department is looking forward to the upcoming district-level competitions, where the best athletes from each zone will compete for glory and recognition.

West Indies recall Shimron Hetmyer, Oshane Thomas for ODI series against India

SIANS

ST. JOHNS: West Indies have recalled star batter Shimron Hetmyer and fast bowler Oshane Thomas for their upcoming three match ODI series against India, which starts on July 27 at Kensington Oval.

Hetmyer hasn't featured for the Caribbean side in almost a year, but earns a recall on the back of a solid season in the Indian Premier League with the Rajasthan Royals that netted a total of 299 runs from 13 innings.

If Hetmyer plays, it will be his first match in West Indies colours since he featured in a T20I against New Zealand in August last year and shortly before the talented 26-year-old was left out of his side's ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaign in Australia after he missed a departing flight out of the Caribbean.

The left-hander hasn't played an ODI for the West Indies in two years, with Hetmyer's last appearance in a 50-over contest coming against Australia in July 2021.

Meanwhile, pacer Thomas, who last played for West Indies in December 2021 and has been out of contention in recent times with fitness issues, has also been named in the 15-player squad, which was announced by Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Monday night.

On the other hand, Fast bowler Jayden Seales and leg-spinner Yannic Cariah have been included following their rehabilitation

from surgery while left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie is also included, having recovered from

offer a lot especially in the middle stage of the innings and he is also a potential 'finisher'," he added.

this year. On the other hand, West Indies failed to qualify for the 50-over World Cup this year after



injury. Chief selector and West Indies great Desmond Haynes is looking forward to the ODI series against India and is confident that Hetmyer and Thomas can perform well.

"We welcome Oshane and Shimron back into the group. Both have played at the international level before, with some success, and we believe they will fit well into the set-up," Haynes said.

"Oshane brings pace and is a potential wicket-taker with the new ball. Shimron's style of batting will

Regulars Nicholas Pooran and Jason Holder are unavailable for the series, with wicket-keeper batter Shai Hope once again named as captain for the three matches.

Kensington Oval hosts the first two matches of the ODI Series July 27 and July 29. The teams then move to Trinidad for the third and final ODI at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on August 1.

The ODI series is of extra importance for India, who will look to try a few things, ahead of the Men's Cricket World Cup later

they finished outside the top two in the recent ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe.

West Indies squad: Shai Hope (c), Rovman Powell (vc), Alick Athanaze, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Dominic Drakes, Shimron Hetmyer, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Kevin Sinclair, Oshane Thomas

West Indies recall Shimron Hetmyer, Oshane Thomas for ODI series against India.

Zim Afro T10

Sikandar Raza leads Bulawayo Braves to 7-wicket win over Harare Hurricanes

SIANS

HARARE: Sikandar Raza played a fantastic knock of 70 not out and led Bulawayo Braves to a convincing seven wicket win over Harare Hurricanes in a high-scoring encounter in the ongoing Zim Afro T10 at the Harare Sports Club, here.

The win on Monday evening took the Bulawayo Braves to third spot on the points table.

Asked to bat first, the Harare Hurricanes' openers started off at the speed of a hurricane, with Evin Lewis firing on all cylinders. The West Indian batter made batting look easy and took a special liking to Jack Prestwidge's bowling, smashing him for four sixes in the second over of the innings.

Alongside Lewis, the Indian batter Robin Uthappa was also dealing in big hits, as the duo

reached the 50-run mark just after the third over. The openers put on a massive 76-run partnership, before Lewis, who hit 6 sixes and 2 fours, was dismissed for 49 at the half-way stage. Uthappa was castled for 32, having hammered a couple of sixes and four boundaries during his stay.

At this point, the Braves desperately needed wickets and Patrick Dooley stepped up. He picked the wickets of Uthappa and Mohammad Nabi, to apply the brakes on the Hurricanes. Eoin Morgan was the next to depart for 7 after which Irfan Pathan (18 not out) and Donovan Ferreira (21 not out) put on a quick-fire 37-run stand to help the Hurricanes post a massive 134/4.

In response to what was a stiff target, the Braves lost Ben McDermott (8) early, after



which the duo of Kobe Herft and Sikandar Raza dug in. The captain and Herft not only thwarted the Harare bowling but also took the attack to them, and were scoring at a fast rate.

Both batters were matching each other shot for shot and that resulted in a flurry of boundaries and sixes, which not only entertained the crowd on a Monday evening but also kept the contest on a knife-edge.

Raza, who had started off the tournament in fine form, was looking dangerous and along with Herft had ensured that the Braves were never too far off the asking rate. In fact, in the final three overs, the Braves needed 32 runs.

The second wicket partnership added 88 runs for the Braves, before Mohammad

Nabi had Herft caught in the deep for 41. In that very over, Raza completed his second half-century of the tournament, as the Braves edged closer to the finish line.

While Raza could not finish things off and was dismissed just before the end for a very well made 70 off 21 deliveries in which he smashed 6 sixes and five boundaries, it was Beau Webster who hit the winning runs and remained unbeaten on 12. The Braves completed the chase with 5 balls to spare.

Brief Scores: Harare Hurricanes 134/4 in 10 overs (Evin Lewis 49, Robin Uthappa 32; Patrick Dooley 2/13, Taskin Ahmed 1/22) lost by 7 wickets against Bulawayo Braves 137/3 in 9.1 overs (Sikandar Raza 70, Kobe Herft 41; Mohammad Nabi 1/18, Nandre Burger 1/27).

Paris 2024 unveils design of Olympic and Paralympic Games torch

SIANS

PARIS: With almost a year to go for Paris 2024, the organisers unveiled the design of the Olympic torch for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the headquarters of the Organising Committee, here on Tuesday.

The torch has been designed by French designer Mathieu Lehanneur, who drew inspiration from three themes of Paris 2024 for the torch: equality, water and peacefulness, to reflect the upcoming Games.

"Equality is symbolised by perfect symmetry. Water is symbolised by the wave, relief and vibration effects. Peacefulness is symbolised by the gentleness of the curves," said Lehanneur.

The torch will be carried by 11,000 Forerunners as the Olympic Torch Relay.

After being lit by the rays of the sun in Olympia, Greece in accordance with ancient tradition, the



Olympic flame will arrive in France after crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

In Marseille, on May 8, 2024, the Flame from the Paris 2024 Torch will open the Games with the Olympic Torch Relay until the Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony.

After two weeks of sporting action, the Olympic flame will be extinguished but the torch will live on.

As a symbol of the connection between Olympism and Paralympism, it will be lit once again in Stoke Mandeville, the symbolic home of the Paralympic Games, to shine its light on a new relay where it will be carried by 1,000 new torchbearers.

Harmanpreet Kaur suspended for breach of ICC Code of Conduct

SIANS

DHAKA: Criticised for her recent outbursts inside and outside the field, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended for her next two international matches following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct during the third match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Saturday.

Harmanpreet will miss India's next two matches in the Asian Games as per this punishment.

Harmanpreet was fined 50 per cent of her match fee and three demerit points were added to her disciplinary record for a Level 2 offence after she was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision".

Harmanpreet was also fined 25 per cent of her match fee for a Level 1 offence after she was found guilty of breaching article

2.7, which relates to "public criticism about an incident occurring in an international match."

The first incident occurred in the 34th over of India's innings when Kaur hit the wickets with her bat in a show of dissent after she was adjudged caught at slip off spinner



Nahida Akter. She was clearly unhappy with the decision as she felt the ball had come off her pad and expressed her frustration by smashing the stumps with her bat.

The other incident was during the presentation ceremony when Kaur criticised the umpiring in the match. Harmanpreet heavily criticised the umpires and termed their decision

disappointing.

Harmanpreet admitted the offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Akhtar Ahmed of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Tanvir Ahmed and Muhammad Kamruzzaman, third umpire Moniruzzaman and fourth umpire Ali Arman levelled the charges.

Level 2 breaches carry a penalty of between 50 and 100 per cent of a player's match fee and three or four demerit points while Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Harmanpreet's four demerit points convert to two suspension points. As two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player or player support personnel, she stands suspended from India's forthcoming matches.

India clinch Test series 1-0 as second Test ends in draw



UNI

TRINIDAD: India clinched the two-Test series 1-0 against West Indies after the second Test ended in a draw as the last day's play was called off due to incessant rains at Port of Spain here on Monday.

India were in the driver's seat as it needed to take eight wickets to clinch a whitewash with West Indies requiring 289 runs more, but rain played spoilsport.

For a change, West Indies put up a better show than the first Test in Dominica where they got Royal hammering by India inside

three days, with Rohit Sharma and Yashashvi Jaiswal cracking 103 and 171 runs.

Ravichandran Ashwin had proved his mettle with a 12-wicket match haul to hand the host an innings and 141 runs defeat in the first Test.

The offie had claimed 5-60 to help skittle out West Indies for 150 in the first innings, and in the second innings he claimed 7-71 even as Jaiswal was adjudged player-of-the-match.

Both teams earned 4 WTC points for this Test. The action now shifts to a 3-match ODI series and first two matches will be

played in Barbados. India will use these matches as preparation for 2023 World Cup to be held in India and Sri Lanka.

The Windies, meanwhile, will use this series to improve after they failed to qualify for the World Cup.

The first ODI will be played on July 27.

Brief scores: India 438 (Virat Kohli 121, Rohit Sharma 80; Jomel Warrican 3-89) & 181/2 decl. (Rohit Sharma 57, Ishan Kishan 52*; Shannon Gabriel 1-33) drew with West Indies 255 (Kraigg Brathwaite 75; Mohammed Siraj 5-60) & 76/2 (Kraigg Brathwaite 28; R Ashwin 2-33).

#BadaltaJammuKashmir

Jan Bhagidari Portal establishes transparent governance system in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jan Bhagidari Portal of Jammu and Kashmir represents a significant milestone in empowering citizens and fostering transparency in the developmental process. This exclusive online platform serves as a medium for citizens to oversee and overview all developmental works being executed in the region, ushering a new era of meaningful transparency and accountability with citizen participation.

The primary objective of Jan Bhagidari Portal is to enable citizens to actively participate in monitoring progress of various ongoing developmental projects and initiatives. Unlike traditional approaches, this portal does not require any username or password, ensuring that the informa-

tion is accessible to all without any barriers. This democratization of information empowers citizens to be informed as engaged stakeholders in the development of their region.

One of the notable features of the Jan Bhagidari Portal is its comprehensive coverage of all Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir. With this portal, not only major projects but also grassroots-level developments are brought under the public's scrutiny, leaving no room for unchecked utilization of resources.

The portal also introduces a unique scheme called "Janta ki Bhagidari" (People's Participation) which encourages active involvement of the public in decision-making process. By promoting collaboration between

government and citizens, this initiative fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among people towards their community's development.

By making all the information available on portal accessible to every citizen, the government has demonstrated a commitment to transparency in public service delivery. This open approach has led to a significant improvement in public trust and confidence in the administration, as citizens can now verify progress and effectiveness of various projects firsthand.

With the Jan Bhagidari Portal, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has set an exemplary standard for other regions to follow. It showcases the power of technology and people-centric governance in bringing about positive change and inclusive devel-

opment. By empowering citizens with information, enabling public oversight, and encouraging collaboration, the portal has proven to be an effective tool for fostering a more accountable and transparent governance system.

In conclusion, the Jan Bhagidari Portal for Jammu and Kashmir stands as a shining example of how technology and citizen participation can be harnessed to build a more accountable and transparent governance framework. It embodies the spirit of "Janta ki Bhagidari" and serves as a model for fostering greater trust and partnership between the government and its people. As this initiative continues to evolve and grow, it holds the potential to transform the developmental landscape of Jammu and Kashmir for the better.

FSEA organizes Blood Donation Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Blood Donation camp organized by the Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K signifies how a community remains in unison to help each other in difficult circumstances, said Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

The Div Com said this while presiding over as chief guest in a Blood Donation Camp organized by the Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K in collaboration with Department of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Govt. Lal Ded Hospital Srinagar at Directorate of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department Kashmir.

He highlighted the importance of blood donation and said that it is the duty of mankind to help each other and donating blood voluntarily to help people in need is one such aspect. He acknowledged the remarkable dedication and humanitarian spirit



displayed by the employees of FCS&CA and blood donors for their life-saving contributions.

Earlier, the camp was inaugurated by the Director, FCS&CA Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the employees of FCS&CA have been voluntarily coming forward every

year to donate blood to serve humanity and save precious lives. He said this year 75 pints have been donated by the donors.

The President, Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K, Aijaz Khan said that they have been organizing the Blood Donation Camp every year on eve of Muharam-ul-Haram

to facilitate Blood donation to save lives.

He said the Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K has been voluntarily coming forward to help people be it in the form of donating blood, serving people in natural calamities or during Mela Kheer Bhawani, religious occasions at Dargah Hazratbhai or serving Shri Amarnath ji Yatries. He said they always set up camps to serve people.

The camp saw an impressive turnout, with employees, officers and children of employees besides students from schools and colleges and outsiders participating in it and donating blood to save precious lives.

Khan expressed gratitude to all the distinguished guests, dedicated staff members of L.D Hospital, and the generous blood donors for their presence and participation, emphasizing the profound impact their contributions would have on saving lives.

Shyambir distributes Aids, Appliances among CWSN in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: A distribution cum fitment camp was today organized by Chief Education Office Ganderbal under SAMAGRA Shiksha component in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal, here.

The camp was presided over by the Deputy commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir as chief guest. He distributed aids and appliances among the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion the DC said that Children with Special Needs (CWSN) might be physically and mentally weak in one faculty, but excel in other faculties and said that we should tap

and focus upon their such strengths and maintained that such children must be treated as equal to other children. He also assured all possible support to such children in the district.

During the camp it was given out that Ganderbal district has 716 CWSN enrolled in Govt. Schools and 84 in Private schools.

Prior to this distribution cum fitment camp, two assessment camps were held in the Month of November 2022 at BHSS Kangan and BHSS Ganderbal where CWSN were assessed by experts from ALIMCO Kanpur. 221 CWSN attended the camps and 150 CWSN were recommended for different Aids and Appliances like wheelchairs, Cerebral Palsy chairs, tricycles, Smart Canes and Braille Kits for blind children.

Muharram

'Record-breaking' Alm-e-Sharief flags hoisted on foreshore road

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: In a first-of-its-kind in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, two tallest Alm-e-Sharief have been hoisted on Srinagar's foreshore road.

Aga Abid Hussain, a Shia leader, who headed the installation said that two Alm-e-Shariefs were hoisted on the busy foreshore road.

"The size of the first is 62 feet and the second was almost 72 feet tall," Aga said, adding that both flags have been made by locals of the area in order to show their respect and love for Imam Hussain (AS).

It took us almost a day

to install the flags as the boulevard is always busy with traffic, he said, adding that the height of 'Alm' was very much tall and we installed it in almost a day.

The locals of the area have been installing the flags there for a long time, but this time, they planned to install such two big flags. The Alm-e-Sharief is unglued from the site soon after the month of Muharram and some days of Safar, Hussain added.

Likewise, the locals and others associated with Muharram preparations have installed many other banners and hoarding on the side of the Dal Lake and foreshore road—(KNO)

MUHARRAM

Proper security arrangements for processions to be ensured: DIG Mughal

AGENCIES

POONCH: In order to review the security arrangements for Muharram in District Poonch, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Rajouri-Poonch Range Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal Tuesday convened a joint virtual meeting of Police officers and prominent Shia leaders of Poonch District.

Vinay Kumar, SSP Poonch, Mushim Ahamed ASP Poonch, Afrat Hussain DySP Hqrs Poonch along with prominent religious leaders of district Poonch including Alhaj Intizar Hussain Sofi Chairman AJP (Anjuman-e-Jafria Poonch), Sayed Zakir Haider Ex-President AJP, Najam-ul-Hassan General Secretary Shia Federation Poonch, Shamim-ul-Hasan President Tanzeem-ul-Momineen Mandi, Ali Mohd Mir Chairman S.R.Memorial, Asgar Ali

Mir President Pleara, Iftikhar A.Bazmi, Ajaz Mir, Mussarat Ali, Imtiaz Ahmed, Sayed Pagember Raza, Zeeshan Mir, Sayed Nusrat Hussain Shah attended the meeting physically from DPO Poonch, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

On the onset, SSP Poonch introduced and briefed the chair about the security arrangements made by District Police so far as the Muharram Congregations are already underway in various parts of District Poonch where in Shia Community is observing Muharram.

Heads of various Shia Organizations apprised the chair regarding the schedule of the programmes in their respective areas. In the coming days, particularly on the 8th, 9th, and 10th day of Muharram falling on 27th, 28th, and 29th July 2023, the spokesman said.

A threadbare discussion was held regarding the timings, route, likely gatherings, arrangement required, and security deployment at various locations across the Poonch District.

All participating religious leaders expressed their satisfaction over the pleasure over helping hand extended by Poonch Police till now and hoped the events will pass peacefully and successfully and in an environment of harmony and brotherhood.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal, IPS DIG R-P Range assured that all points put forth by them shall be seriously looked into and all required arrangements particularly the security deployments will be ensured at each venue and Imambaras as per the schedule provided. He emphasized upon all community leaders to

engage their volunteers to closely coordinate with local Police and other security agencies for peaceful conduct of the Muharram with all sanctity.

He also stressed upon using torch, lights, and Mashaals during night movements and also requested them to follow specified main routes only.

All necessary security steps shall be taken while making the deployments. DIG RP Range asked the district Police officers to conduct coordination meetings with other community leaders and other stakeholders to ensure all facilities to mourners during Muharram.

He emphasized to the Police officers of Poonch to hold coordination meetings with other SFs and NCA deployed there so that collective efforts are made for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Muharram activities across the RP Range.

Dy Mayor demands Compensation for Families affected by Smart City Project

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Parvaiz Qadri accompanied by officials on Monday visited the families affected by Smart City projected in summer capital, here.

Parvaiz Qadri said that the residential buildings

had developed cracks due to ongoing construction work in the area under the Smart City Project. The projects being executed by SSSL in Srinagar under Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA) do not follow all prescribed safety norms, he said.

Qadri met the families of

Dalal-Mohalla of Srinagar and assured them that he would take this matter on priority with the administration for early redressal of genuine demands.

The Deputy Mayor has also requested the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to come to the solace of the affected families and pay them compensation on priority.

DC Ganderbal chairs 13th NCORD meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Tuesday chaired a 13th meeting of the District-level NARCO Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review the measures taken by the enforcement agencies to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

During the meeting a threadbare discussion was held on various issues pertaining to incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern and hotspots of drug use and action taken

by the concerned departments with regard to curbing the menace of drugs.

The DC sought realistic data from all stakeholders regarding the status of drug addiction and cultivation of restricted crops.

While reviewing the status of cultivation of cannabis in the district, he directed Tehsildars to collect the data of cannabis cultivation, drug addicts and drug suppliers in their jurisdiction taking help of patwaris, chowkidars and lumberdars so that appropriate action is initiated accordingly.

Assistant Drug Control-

ler informed that out of total 257 retail medical shops in the district, over 70 percent of shops have installed CCTV cameras. Further about 31 percent of shops have installed computerized billing systems.

The DC directed her to intensify inspection of chemist shops to restrict illegal transport, sale and distribution of psychotropic drugs and other banned substances in the district besides ensuring 100 percent installation of CCTV cameras by all medical shops and switching to computerized billing systems by all shops.

3 houses, 6 shops gutted in Bandipora blaze

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: Three houses including six shops were destroyed while an elderly lady was injured in a massive fire in the remote Kudhara village of north Kashmir's Bandipora on Tuesday.

An official said that the fire broke out from one of the houses and rapidly spread to the neighbouring structures, resulting in damage to three residential properties. However, the cause of the

fire is not known yet.

"In the incident, properties worth lakhs of rupees were destroyed, and an 80-year-old lady identified as Noor Bagum was also injured," he said, adding that the lady was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The official said three houses that were completely destroyed belonged to the brothers, Noor Hussain and Muneer Hussain, along with their uncle Mushtaq Ahmad Khan.

There was also a structure that housed six shops, all of which have been reduced to rubble, he said, adding that the shops included medical and veterinary stores, a food store, and a Kiryana store. After visiting the location and assessing the extent of the damage, the district authorities offered assistance to the affected families. An immediate financial aid of Rs 10,000 was provided to each family along with three kitchen sets for their essential needs.—(KNO)

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