



Srinagar

Friday

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Muharram 02 | 1444

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Jamieson back in New Zealand squad for UAE and England T20Is

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Dr. Rashmi Singh reviews performance, functioning of Mining Deptt

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Reassess The Strategy In Combating Anti-Peace Elements: DGP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Thursday directed the officers to reassess the strategy in combating the anti-peace elements to ensure safety and security of the people.

DGP visited South Kashmir's Anantnag District on Thursday where he chaired a high level meeting of Police, Army and CRPF officers and reviewed the security scenario of South Kashmir as also security arrangements with regard to ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.



He was accompanied by Special DG CID, J&K R.R Swain, ADGP CRPF J&K, Nalin Prabhat,

ADGP Armed J&K S.J.M. Gillani, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar and IG KOS CRPF G.K Verma.

During the meeting the DGP directed the officers to

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J&K to achieve the milestones of 'Zero Poverty' & 'Housing for All' till 2024: CS



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: On the concluding day of the workshop organised by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that J&K is well on track to achieve the milestones of 'Zero Poverty' and 'Housing for All' by the year 2024.

Dr Mehta was speaking about the theme of 'Systems, Processes & Use of Technology for SDG Implementation' also attended by

Shri Anurag Goel, Former Secretary, Corporate Affairs, GoI and SDG Advisor, UNDP; various Administrative Secretaries and other UNDP Experts.

In his address, the Chief Secretary made out that the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global framework for making the required all-round progress. He stated that as discussed the process of budgeting in line with the SDGs has proved beneficial for many of the States/UTs here and J&K too is alive to this

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NEWS BRIEF

Primary school in Sattrina Kangan 'can collapse any time', say locals

GANDERBAL, JUL 20: The existing buildings of the Government Boys Primary School Sattrina Kangan in Ganderbal district have developed cracks, thus posing a threat to the lives of hundreds of students and staff members.

The residents of the area told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that both buildings are damaged and the chances of their collapse had increased manifold.

"Our children are made to study

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Nine years on, vital bridge in Pulwama awaits completion

PULWAMA, JUL 20: Even after the lapse of nine years, a vital bridge in the Rohmoo village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district is awaiting completion, due to which locals are suffering.

Locals told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the bridge, on the Romshi rivulet, was washed out during the 2014 floods. Since then, we have been facing hardships as the authorities have failed to complete its construction, they said.

Nazir Ahmad, a local, said the bridge connects Pulwama with the neighbouring Budgam district and is of vital importance.

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Jammu Crime Branch charge-sheet nine PETs in Fake Degrees case

JAMMU, JUL 20: The Economic Offences Wing of Jammu Crime Branch have charge-sheeted nine Physical Education Teachers (PETs) in District Rajouri for arranging Fake Degrees and using them for securing higher grades in the Department.

The spokesman said that 489 page Challan has been produced against eight teachers and the Agent through whom they procured Fake Bachelors Degrees in Physical Education in the name of Global Open University Nagaland.

The accused teachers and the agent are identified as Shaيدا Akhter, Gulzar Hussain, Parveen Akhter, Kuldeep

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Cloud bursts, heavy rains trigger floods in Zurhama, Jungund areas of Kupwara



■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JUL 20: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Wednesday afternoon conducted an emergency tour of the flood-affected Zurhama area of Kupwara to get first-hand appraisal of the situation.

The DDC, accompanied by Tehsildar Trehgam and local PRLs paid a visit to flood affected Gujjarpatti Zurhama and inspected Zurhama- Jungund road where a portion of road was washed-off

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CBK files chargesheet against 3 people for encroaching 25 kanal state land in Baramulla

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has produced a chargesheet against three people for alleged encroachment of 25 kanals of state land in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In a statement, EOW said that it produced the charge

report in the court of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Tangmarg in case FIR No. 28/2018 u/Ss 420, 447-A & 120-B RPC of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir against three individuals for their alleged involvement in the illegal encroachment of State land situated at Dhobiwan, Kunzer, District Baramulla.

Brief facts of the case are

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Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan undertakes Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan

undertook Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir Himalayas on Thursday. A video on social

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B R Sharma sworn in as State Election Commissioner of UT J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Braj Raj Sharma was sworn in as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.



The oath of office was administered by the

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924 KMs of road length, 53 bridges under PMGSY await completion

Will Be Completed By November 2023: J&K Government Tells Centre

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: As many 924 kilometers of road length and 53 bridges sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-1 and 11 are awaiting

completion, official documents reveal.

Documents accessed by news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Government of India last month told representatives of Jammu and Kashmir that 400 roads of 907 kilometers and 53 bridges under PMGSY-1 and 24 roads of 17 kilometers under PMGSY-11 are pending to be completed.

The issue came up for discussion during the pre-empowered committee

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Army inducts new mobility vehicles for high-altitude, difficult terrain

'New fleet of vehicles to be deployed in J&K, Ladakh'

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 20: After replacing the vintage gypsy with specifically customized indigenous Tata Safari, Indian Army has inducted first batch of new 4x4 vehicles Toyota Hilux Mountain off-Road Vehicles (MRVs) and

Mahindra Scorpio light utility vehicles (LUVs) to enhance mobility in difficult terrains and high altitude areas of Jammu -Kashmir and Ladakh.

Official sources told news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), after sustained testing of over two months under con-

trolled conditions, Northern Command of the Indian Army has received the first batch of Toyota Hilux.

"Hilux was put through over 2 months of extensive and rigorous evaluation by the Northern Command of the Indian

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Independence day celebrations matter of National pride: Dr. Abid Rasheed

Reviews Preparations Of Culture Department For Independence Day 2023

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Secretary Culture and Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today held a comprehensive review of the preparations and arrangements made by the department for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations at Civil Secretariat here.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Dr. Abid highlighted the

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Dr Abid calls on youth to preserve the timeless Art of Calligraphy

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Secretary Culture and Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah emphasized the vital role of the young generation in keeping the art of

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Dr. Rashmi Singh reviews performance, functioning of Mining Deptt

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Dr. Rashmi Singh, after taking over as Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, today chaired a meeting to review the functioning and performance of department at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the Secretary took comprehensive review of all the district besides she also assessed the progress achieved by the department in the identification of new major and minor mineral blocks across the Union Territory for e-auctioning.

The Secretary, during the course of meeting, also undertook an extensive assessment of the department's performance and functioning to ensure transparency, efficiency, and optimal resource management. The review meeting also focused on evaluating the department's achievements, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing strategic measures for the betterment of the mining sector.

The meeting was attended by Director Geology and Mining, Om



Prakash Bhagat; Managing Director, J&K Minerals, Vikram Gupta; Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu/ Kashmir, District Mineral Officers (DMOs) of all districts besides other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers, Dr.

Rashmi Singh emphasized upon the officers to consummate a strong monitoring mechanism in coordination with other departments including law enforcement agencies to optimise district wise resources potential and tackle the problems of illegal mining.

The Secretary further asked all the DMOs to expedite the process of identifying the new major and minor mineral blocks in their respective districts for e-auctioning. She also impressed upon them to establish mineral check posts at prime locations.

While reviewing other aspects

of the department, Dr. Rashmi Singh directed all DMOs that the progress on working on regular basis. She also asked the officers in meeting to sort out the issues related to e-portal so that the Mining lessees, mineral dealer licence holders as well as general public are facilitated at large.

DC Srinagar chairs District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meet

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Thursday chaired a meeting of District level Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) here at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to review the implementation of various schemes aimed to strengthen Cooperative movement and deepening its reach to the grassroots level.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Deputy Director Fisheries, Chief Agriculture Officer, DDM NABARD, Officers from J&K State Cooperative Bank, Cooperative Department, and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, who is also the Chairman District Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) took a detailed appraisal of the interventions being adopted to make Primary Cooperative Societies as vibrant entities of the economy.

A threadbare deliberation on different initiatives and key components was also held in detailed manner. The DC reviewed the status about adoption of Model Bye Laws by PACS for making them Multi-



purpose and multi-Dimensional, status of hardware purchase, District Wise targets for establishing new multipurpose PACS o Primary Dairy/Fisheries Cooperative Societies in uncovered Panchayat villages, selection of PACS for the pilot projects for worlds largest Decentralized Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector, Identification of PACS for convergence with PM-KUSUM scheme for promoting green energy at Panchayat level.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on all the members of the Committee to work in coordinated efforts in order to achieve the targets of various initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation to further strengthen the cooperative ecosystem. The DC also laid thrust on intensifying IEC activities and ensuring active involvement of the PRI members to achieve the set targets in a time bound manner.

The DC was informed that the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and IT, NABARD and CSC e-governance service India Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) enabling PACS to undertake CSC services.

The chair was also informed that in order to diversify the business activities of PACS to make them vibrant economic entities various initiatives like opening up of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, LPG/ Petrol/ Diesel distribution outlets are being undertaken by Union/State Government for which all the 07 PACS registered in Srinagar District have adopted the model bye laws.

JKTPO Team Meets Invest India, ITPO to Foster Investments and Trade Opportunities in J&K

NEW DELHI, JUL 20: A delegation from Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), led by its Managing Director, Khalid Jahangir held extensive meetings with Invest India and Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) to explore investment opportunities and strengthen trade ties in the region.

The delegation congratulated Nivruiti Rai, for the new role as MD & CEO of Invest India, and sought her support in projecting Jammu & Kashmir's potential as a prime investment destination.

Further, the visit was followed by detailed discussions regarding investment prospects in focus sectors such as Tourism, IT/ITES, Food Processing, Aayush, One District One Product (ODOP), Logistics, etc with the Sectoral Teams of Invest India. There was productive sharing of knowledge and ideas, aimed facilitate investment in areas of strength and importance for J&K. The collaboration aims to attract investments that will fuel economic development and generate employ-



ment opportunities in the region.

The JKTPO team also engaged with ITPO to study the revenue and organizational model, with a focus on finalizing plans for a Mega trade fair to be held in Srinagar in last week of September. The trade fair aims to provide a platform for exhibitors from across India and J&K to showcase their exquisite products and explore trade opportunities. On the same lines JKTPO shall be organizing the second version of mega trade fair in Jammu and will further be a flagship event of Industries & Commerce Department which will be organised annually.

The meeting at ITPO was attended by General Managers of different wings, Dy. General Managers, and Senior Managers of ITPO, emphasizing the commitment of both organizations to create a conducive environment for trade in Jammu & Kashmir.

The JKTPO team expressed their enthusiasm about the fruitful discussions and the potential outcomes of these meetings. The decisions and discussions will lead to positive impact on successful roll out of the Mega trade fair, which is expected to bolster trade opportunities, promote local products, and attract investments for the overall economic growth and prosperity of the region.

Manipur incident "outrageous": Basharat Bukhari

Says, Political, other classes must rise above vote bank & other considerations to shape the society respecting human values

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Expressing outrage over the brutal gangrape and murder of two Kuki tribe women in Manipur, former Law minister Syed Basharat Bukhari Thursday said, that the gruesome incident was grossly disturbing and utterly unacceptable in our society.

In a statement, Mr. Bukhari said that the incident has brought forth the adverse impact of the political and other narratives being built and spread through the media over so many years which somehow impact the psyche and mindset of the public resulting in such gruesome acts

"Our heads hang in shame as these daughters/ mothers and sisters belonged to all," the former minister said in the statement. He added that, a conscious campaign of spreading hatred has now become a norm with the media becoming a deliberate and willing



partner for its amplification, and the results that this hatred produces ultimately ends up in degrading the social and human values of our society.

"This is dastardly surprising that nobody seemed in a hurry to address the crises and

turmoil which is going -on for months there". Said Bukhari, adding that, "Wahi Jantay hain ye dard Jo aisay halaat se guzray houn"- "

(only those who understand the pain of such destruction who have actually passed through the same).

While condemning the incident vociferously Basharat Bukhari said that he was short of words to express his pain and anger over the incident and urged the Political and other influential classes of the society to desist from spreading hatred for vote bank politics and other relevant issues, and instead work on shaping the society where people would think thousands of times before indulging in such inhuman acts. He added that "my heart goes out for the families of these innocent daughters, mothers and sisters and I must tell all that," Batiyaan, Maiyain aur Behnie Sanjhi hoti hain"

Panen Zew Panen Kath: GHSS Dangiwa Organises day long Seminar on Importance of Mother Tongue

■ [Tajamul Bukhari](#)
■ [HT Correspondent](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 20: Under the Aegis of Dr. Rafiq Masoodi Ex-DG Doordarshan, A day long seminar was organised today at Govt. Higher Secondary School Dangiwa Rafiabad in North Kashmir's Baramulla District on the topic Panen Zaw Panen Kath. Dr. Rafiq Masoodi Ex Director General Doordarshan also presided over the function, while as Renowned writer, poet, Shabir Ahmad Shabir was the chief guest.

The event was thrown open by vice principal HSS Dangiwa and key note address was delivered by Dr. Imtiyaz Rasool. Poetic genesis were also discussed at length. Threadbare discussion was held over the history and future prospects of Kashmiri language and literature, the speakers Tariq Ahmad Tariq, Nazir Ibni Shabaz have talked about the relevance and the very important



role of the youth towards promotion and preservation of Mother Tongue was also stressed upon. Significance of Kashmiri language as a mother tongue for our future generation was discussed at length and a resolution was adopted that the educational institutions have a pivotal role to Play for promotion of mother tongue.

The Principal Govt. Degree col-

lege Dangiwa, Hassan Azhar, Jawhar Ramzan, Bashrat Mehraj, ZEO Dangiwa Irshad Ahmad Khan, Principal HSS Chatoosa also threw light on importance of mother tongue.

Principal Govt Higher Secondary School Dangiwa Mr. Fayaz Ahmad finally thanked the guests for gracing the occasion. Shabir Ahmad Shabir discussed technical and

critical aspects of language and Kashmiri.

The program was graced by Javid Iqbal Shah, Abdul Hameed Ganaie Headmaster GHS Dangiwa, Nazir Ahmad Naaz, Iqbal Ahamd Bhat students and civil society members have given audience to the speakers. Patron of Adbi Markaz Kamraz and former Sectary cultural academy Dr. Rafiq Masoodi urged the future

generation to accept the challenges of making their tongue as the medium of instruction. He also highlighted the threats and possible onslaught on the language by several means. Dr Masoodi appreciated the speakers, Principal and the staff of this institution who made this program successful which will go a long way in spreading the word PNIN ZYEW PANIN KATH.

The students of the institution presented cultural and literary items to enthral the audience. The News letter HSS Dangiwa 2022 highlighting the centenary celebration of the school was released by presidiums which include Chief education officer Baramulla Sh. Balbir Singh Raina, Editorial Board Headed by Ghulam Hassan Bhat and Guests. The program was moderated by Abdul Rashid Lone teacher Govt. Higher Secondary School Dangiwa. The media sectary briefed the media gallery regarding the program.

MD NHIDCL inspects Z-Morh, Zojila tunnel projects

Reviews progress of ongoing works

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JULY 20: Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Chanchal Kumar today visited Z-Morh and Zojila Road Tunnel Projects here and took comprehensive review on the progress of ongoing works on these projects.

Besides visiting the project sites, he also chaired review meetings at the site offices and took stock of progress all the components of these projects in detail.

While reviewing the



progress of Z-Morh project, the MD was informed that 77 percent work has been completed. He also interacted with Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority during the visit. The MD directed the NHIDCL officers to beautify the muck dumping areas

near Sonamarg to maintain the beautiful landscapes of this famous tourist place. Pertinently, Z-Morh project comprises of 6.5km tunnel with a parallel escape tunnel and a 5.5 km approach road. After completion, it will provide an all-weather connectivity

between Srinagar and Sonamarg.

Similarly, while reviewing Zojila project, the MD was informed that 35 percent of works have been completed as on date. He was also apprised that this project comprises of 13.153 km main tunnel and 17.814 km approach road, scheduled to be completed in the month of September 2026.

During the visit, he appreciated the efforts of ground team for constructing such projects of national importance in harsh climatic conditions. He also directed all the stakeholders of both the projects to complete the projects on scheduled timelines.

Horticulture department Kashmir organizes Awareness/ Capacity Building Programme on HADP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 20: The Directorate of Horticulture, Rajbagh Srinagar, today organized a highly informative and impactful Awareness/Capacity Building Programme on the "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)".

The event aimed to equip

officers of the Directorate and field officers of the Department of Horticulture, including Chief Horticulture Officer, DLSMS, and Horticulture Development Officers, with valuable insights into effectively implementing the HADP for the benefit of farmers and the agriculture sector.

The programme was pre-

sided over by the Director Horticulture Kashmir, Mr. G. R. Mir. During the programme, experts from the Department of Horticulture delivered comprehensive presentations, shedding light on various critical aspects of implementing the "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)." Participants were

provided with valuable knowledge and best practices to ensure the successful execution of the programme. Director Horticulture emphasized the need to achieve the set targets for the current year under the HADP. He stressed that the success of the programme would lead to significant improvements.

DC Baramulla chairs District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee meeting

Dr Sehrish accords Approval of 06 New Projects under RRP&M scheme of Architecture & Heritage

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JULY 20: A meeting of District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee (DLIC) was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the progress of works being executed on development and restoration of Religious Places/ Assets in the district.

At the outset, the DC discussed threadbare the Action Plan prepared for carrying out the restoration,



revival, preservation and maintenance of Architecture and Heritage of Religious Places/Heritage Sites in Baramulla for the current year.

On the occasion, the committee approved 6 new projects in Baramulla dis-

trict to be carried out under the scheme Revival Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The DC also asked the concerned departments to submit the Detailed Project

Report (DPR) for the same with the Department of Culture and Heritage Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, it was also informed that 5 projects have already been taken up wherein the works are in execution mode. She was informed that the work is going on in full swing on different components of the project.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather besides other officers of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Chairman DDC Budgam discusses Muharram arrangements, follow-up of Constituency visits

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JULY 20: In an effort to ensure the smooth conduct of Muharram and to review the progress of his recent visits to Chadoora and Charar i Sharief constituencies, the Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan today chaired a crucial meeting which witnessed participation from all key line departments.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Muharram observances and to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents during this occasion. Chairman DDC emphasised the significance of maintaining peace and harmony while facilitating the religious processions and gatherings throughout the district. He urged all the officials to work

in close coordination with religious leaders and community representatives to ensure a peaceful and respectful observance of Muharram.

During the meeting, Nazir Ahmad Khan also took the opportunity to review the outcomes of his recent visits to Chadoora and Charar i Sharief constituencies.

He highlighted the issues raised by the locals of Loolipora, Darwan, Kanidajan and Chararipora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER SPL SUB DIV. TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(REW) Tender Notice No.705SD Tangdar of 2023-24 Endttd No.1938-48

E-tendering DATED:19.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor, J&K UT 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 works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Panchayat	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In rupees)	E/Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Constt of footpath with tiles fixing form G road to jamia masjid nro Fared Mir Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.84	200	3680	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
2	Constt of F path form nallahTainir to HO ibranulTaseeq and others Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.85	200	3700	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
3	Constt of tile path form cham to HO Tanveer Ahmad Muneerahmed M hafiz ward 9 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.85	200	3700	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
4	Impits of footpath with p wall and tiles fixing for G road to HO Zaher Ahmad via Ho Manzoor and shakeelahmedKandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.84	200	3680	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
5	Constt of tile fixing from G Shahzad Qureshi Shakeel to HO Fazli Qureshi ward 8 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
6	Imp of footpath with tiles fixing form HO Ali haider shah to HO Zakir at Ward 2 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.91	200	3820	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
7	Tile fixing of footpath form HO naseer/Shabir Bashir ahmad and other ward 1 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.84	200	3680	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
8	Tilefixing form link road to HoJamshed khan and other ward 7 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
9	Tiles fixing footpath from Ho Muneer Ahmad to Aiyasahmad at Ward 4 Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)
10	Const of p wall NLO sadqiali and shafiq Ahmad Kandi payeen	Kandi payeen	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF(PRI)

Position of AA: TS: 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.
- Special condition: for works Adv cost upto Rs.3.00 lakhs, only DEE class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective Panchayat Haqqa shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No: 238 F of 2021 Dtd 9/7/2021. Bidder must upload any documents Residential certificate/Adhaar card/Ration card/Electricity bill showing panchayat name as residence proof the theidhe is residing the particular panchayat Haqqa
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receiptin favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority). The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security.

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	19.07.2023
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19.07.2023
03.	Bid submission start date	19.07.2023
04.	Bid submission end date	29.07.2023 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	31.07.2023at (10.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar

4.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 the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority).

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Failure of submission of Tender document fee by the bidder using the site shall entail him for blacklisting.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in in acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Beside , original/ Photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post/through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of E chalan /Treasury receiptin favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar and Earnest Money /Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar must be uploaded with the bid. The original E chalan /Treasury receipt(cost of tender document), CDR/ FDR (earnest money/ bid security) and relevant documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by registered post/ Courier / by hand before due date of submission of tender/as per time schedule specified contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

9. Price escalation and taxes:-The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines/standard bidding document Shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- 12-1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:
 - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and Principal place of Business.
 - Valid TIN No. & PAN No. along with latest sales Tax , GST clearance certificate/ acknowledgment receipt of sales Tax return file.
 - The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- 12-3. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- 12-4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- 12-5. The material shall be supplied to the contractor of his own.
- 12-8The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not full fill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- 12-9The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/specifications. Cement /steel of approved quality. No extension in quantities/ Cost is allowed in any case

DIPK-5442/23

Date: Jul 20 2023

Executive Engineer

Spl Sub Div Tangdar

ازعدالت سب جج کیواڑہ

بالجلاس: منظور احمد خان

javeed Ahmad Khatana
S/O Bashir Ahmad Khatana
R/O Zangli Kasheera Kupwara

v/s public at Large

درخواست بابت حصول

اطلاع آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندر یہ عنوان المصدر میں سال نے ایک درخواست بابت حصول D.O.B. پیش کی سال / سال کی تاریخ پیدائش 5/10/2003 - جنم ڈیپنڈ اینڈ پیدائش عدالت حد میں ایک درخواست بغرض حصول پیش کی اگر درخواست حد میں حکم صادر فرمائے مجھے سال / سالہ جاوید احمد بشیر احمد ساکنہ Zangli Kasheera Kupwara اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دو کاپیاں پانچر پچھا آمدالت حد میں 23/7/26 تک تحریری طور پر پیش کریں رمعیاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی ہوگا۔ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تحریر الصدر سب جج کیواڑہ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my Sons Date of birth (DOB) is 03/10/2018.....Now I am applying for his date of birth certificate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file His /her objection in the (BDO) office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR
F/O..... SAAD BIN SHOWKAT /R/O.....KREERI Block.... WAGOORA

اطلاع عام

بر خاص و عام کو بریعیہ استنبہ را مطلع کیا جاتا ہے جاوید اقبال ولد محمد نبیت قوم بکر ساکین مزہا پنجابیت مزہا کو D کلاس تنجیداری کارڈ بنو انا مطلوب ہے جسکیے تمام کارڈی لوازمات مکمل کر کے ہیں اگر کسی شخص یا فرد کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات ایام کے اندر درج کردا میں بعد از زمانے معیاد قابل قبول نہ ہوگا

المشتر جاوید اقبال ولد محمد حنیف قوم گجر کسانہ ساکنہ مزہا بلاک بغلیان تحصیل سر نکوت ضلع پنجہ

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOONOTICE

INVITING TENDERSNIT No.26/2812-21 of R&B/Vailoo /2023-2024/e-tendering/ DATED:20/07/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Upgradation of Kutharbala sale and service cooperative society at Utresso	50.479	1600	100958	90 days	Cooperative Societies	AAAY Class	Capex Budget 2023-24

Position of AA-Accorded
Position of TS-Accorded

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20.07.2023
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 20.07.2023 4.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 20.07.2023 4.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 04.08. 2023 4.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05.08.2023 at 10.30 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo

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:

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (Head-0059) (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailoo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan)(Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24(2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 & Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ang/ Kul 's No. 3867-70 dated: 04.08.2018 (The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo (Tendering Inviting Authority). 5% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.
- The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work which is 18 months.

DIPK-5497/23

Date: Jul 20 2023

Executive Engineer

PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO

DC Poonch inaugurates Mega Job Fair-2023 in SKC Government Degree College

Over 800 unemployed Youth Participate, 452 Candidates Shortlisted for Available Vacancies

HT News Network

POONCH, JULY 20: District Development Commissioner, Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today inaugurated a one day Job Fair/Employment Mela organized by District Employment and Counselling Centre in SKC Govt. Degree College. As many as 24 firms (agencies) participated in the Fair to make selections for more than 400 vacancies among the unemployed Youth of the District.

Around 800 unemployed youth participated in the job fair of which 452 candidates were shortlisted for the available vacancies offered by 24 Employ-

ers/Job Providers.

The Job Seekers from Mendhar, Mandi, Surankote, Poonch enthusiastically participated in the event and submitted their resumes to the participating companies.

The Government Departments also set up their stalls for providing awareness regarding different self employment schemes.

The District Development Commissioner interacted with the job seekers and job providers during the program. He emphasized the importance of the event and said it would serve as an excellent platform for introducing skilled manpower of District Poonch to the job



Providers. Besides, he said that such programmes bridge the gap between Job Seekers and Job providers. He also advised the Deputy Director Employment and Counseling Centre Poonch to make it a regular feature so as to mitigate the unemployment in the District.

Earlier, Deputy Director Employment, Mohammad Rafiq presented a welcome address and enumerated the importance of the Job Fair/Employment Mela. He urged the youth to avail the opportunity of employment provided on a single platform through job providers. He urged the youth to get registered with online portal www.jakemp.nic.in and informed them that the

portal has also been integrated with NCS portal www.ncs.gov.in, which has 1.92 lakh employers onboard. He also informed that more than 50 thousand unemployed youth from J&K have already registered themselves on the platform.

Elaborating further, the Deputy Director Employment Poonch appealed to the youth to avail the benefit of self employment schemes and become successful entrepreneurs rather than the job seeker. The Principal SKC GDC Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh, while interacting with the candidates, stressed upon opting for job oriented courses for achieving success in their careers. He

encouraged them to give their best in the interviews and wished them well for their future endeavors.

The unemployed youth also expressed their gratitude to the District Administration Poonch, especially to the District Employment and Counseling Centre for organizing this job fair and bringing employers to their doorsteps. The other officers present were GM DIC Poonch, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Principal SKC GDC Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal GDC Mendhar, Dr. Mohd Azam, Principal GDC Mandi, LDM JK Bank Poonch, Ashutosh Koul, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Azmat Hussain Besides this.

Working Journalist Association Mendhar Re-elects Mr Subash Bali as President Of Association.

MS Nazki



MENDHAR// Subash Bali has been re-elected as president to continue his service on the basis of truth in Journalism while Tariq Khan as general secretary of Working Journalist Association Mendhar during general body election meet held at Dakbanglow Mendhar today.

The election process was held smoothly under the supervision of Senior Journalist Tazeem Shah Qazmi Mr. Subash Bali was unanimously re-elected as president of the body.

Advocate Aftab Hussein Shah legal advisor, Ajjaz Kohli as vice president, Tariq Khan as general secretary, Tazeem Qazmi secretary, Dawhood Khan joint secretary, Rohani Chandan - treasurer / Vinod Dutta Chairman while Senior Journalist MS Nazki as Spokesperson and Chief Advisor, Mr. Khushal BANIA Additional spokesperson and Vishal Bhasin adviser comete. Four Disciplinary Committee members are- Vinod Dutta, Ajjaz Kohli, Tazim Qazmi and Dahuod Khan. Sarfraz Qadri was also committee member.

Social Welfare Department Poonch organises 2-Day Training Program on Drug Control measures

HT News Network

POONCH, JULY 20: The Social Welfare Department Poonch today organised a two-day capacity building training programme for Village Level Committees and Youth Clubs to intensify efforts under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukht Panchayat Abhiyaan.

The programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary in the New Auditorium Hall of Shree Krishan Chander Government Degree College Poonch to spread Awareness among youth about the hazards of drugs. The programme is being conducted by the Master Trainer from State Level Coordinating Agency and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In his inaugural address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance.

TVS Motor Company partners with Indian Army for the all-women motorcycle rally to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas

HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 18: The Ram Savak, today started the plantation drive at three different farmers' fields located at Bajalta, Chak-Rakhwala and Ban area of Dansal block. By planting saplings, the director initiated the compact plantation over an area of 50 kanals.

Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, Ashwani Sharma, DLSMS Jammu, Sandeep Gupta, Horticulture Development Officer, Sandeep Sharma and a large number of farmers of the area were present.

During the programme, the Director stressed the need to encourage High Density Plantation in the

area. He said that the rainy season is very suitable for new plantations especially in the kandi area and the farmers should adopt a cluster approach to establish new orchards and take benefit of all the departmental schemes.

Awareness cum interaction programme was also conducted at Ban, where a large gathering of farmers including women and Sarpanch of the panchayat Ban, Rajinder Singh were present.

During the interaction with the farmers, the Director briefed them about the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme providing incentives / assistance to the farming community to

Sahitya Akademi kashmiri advisory board organized "GRAMALOK" in Sumbal Bandipora.

HT News Network

Bandipora Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a "Grama Lok" program today at Boys Middle School Inderkot Sumbal Bandipora. Zonal Education Office Sumbal also support in organizing this event. Sahitya Academy Kashmiri Advisory Board member Mr. Majeed Majazi while delivering the inaugural address said that under the dynamic leadership of Kashmiri Advisory Board convener Professor Shad Ramzan such programmes will continue in Kashmiri speaking areas of jammu and kashmir. Among the poets who participate in the programme are Mr. Sagar Sarfaraz, Samina Malik, Dilshad Mustafa, sabiq Ali sabiq, Salim Yusuf, Farooq Sambali, Muhtaj Ganistani and Ibrahim Sumbali. In the event, school children as well as many local villagers participated. The event was presided over by eminent educationist and president Halqa i Adab Sonawari, Mr. Shakir Shafi, while



Zonal Education Officer Sumbal was the chief guest of the event and Sheikh Ghulam Muhammad was the guest of honour. Zonal Cultural Coordinator Zone Sumbal, Mr Gh Mohammad

anchored the event and Mr Farooq Sumbali president Jehlim cultural forum sumbal presented the vote of thanks.

J&K Peoples Conference youth wing Empowers Young Minds through WISE Programme in Ganderbal

"Focusing on Empowering Local Youth and Addressing Unemployment Challenges"

HT News Network

Ganderbal, [20-7-2023] - The Youth Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (YJKPC) organized a transformative and empowering event, the WISE Programme, in the scenic town of Ganderbal. The event, held in the presence of esteemed leaders, YJKPC President Mudasar Karim, General Secretary Azad Parvaz, and Mr. Omer from Ganderbal, served as a rallying point for the region's youth to address crucial issues such as unemployment and the lack of empowerment initiatives under the JKNC tenure, especially in Manasbal, Ganderbal.

During the WISE Programme, President Mudasar Karim delivered an impassioned speech that revolved around empowering the youth and fostering their potential to create a bright future for themselves and the nation. He emphasized the need for inclusive growth, where every young individual has access to opportunities regardless of their background, caste, or creed. Mudasar Karim stressed that it is high time to create an environment where the youth can thrive, explore their talents, and contribute meaningfully to society. One of the



critical points discussed during the event was the concerning issue of unemployment among the youth in Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the pressing need for targeted policies and initiatives to address this challenge effectively. He emphasized that YJKPC aims to collaborate with both the private and public sectors to create more job opportunities and skill development programs. The ultimate goal is to empower the youth with the necessary tools to secure their livelihoods and build a prosperous future. Furthermore, the WISE Programme shed light on the perceived failure of the JKNC (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) in Manasbal, Ganderbal, in terms of providing adequate empowerment opportunities.

District Red Cross Society Kishtwar elects new Managing Committee

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JULY 20: The Annual General Meeting of the District Red Cross Society Kishtwar was held today here in the Conference hall of the Mini Secretariat DC Office during which the elections to elect the managing committee members were conducted.

Under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who also serves as the President of the District Red Cross Society, the individuals elected to key positions are Chairman, Sham Lal ADDC (elected unopposed); Vice Chairman, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. M.Y. Mir (elected with 55 votes out of 81 votes) Treasurer, Accounts Officer



DC Office, Imran Ahmed Kitchloo (elected unopposed). Further, Khalil Ahmed Poswal, Senior Superintendent of Police has been nominated as the Vice President of the District Red Cross Society by President District Red Cross Society, Dr. Devansh Yadav. The election was conducted smoothly by the Returning Officer (RO), ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak.

In addition to the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer, a total of 25 members were also elected to be part of the management committee of the District Red Cross Society.

Prior to the elections, a notice was circulated in the public domain inviting individuals to apply for membership and registration in the District Red Cross Society.

Equipped with expertise and advanced technology, Kashmir's Paras Hospital a ray of hope for patients who were moving outside state for treatment

HT News Network

Equipped with expertise and advanced technology, Kashmir's Paras Hospital a ray of hope for patients who were moving outside state for treatment Srinagar, July 20, KNT: A team of renowned doctors including Associate Director-Interventional Cardiology, Dr Mohammad Maqbool Sohail, Dr Fayaz Ahmad Rather-Consultant Interventional Cardiology and Dr Jan Mohammad Beigh-Consultant Non-Invasive Cardiology addressed to media and highlighted importance of health sector in the Valley and also emphasized on the fact that such institutes are the need of hour.

"Our only objective is to make people aware that now there is a modern setup available like our hospital and we have the expertise



to take care of complex cases. Even patients from outside Kashmir visit here to get their treatment successfully done," Associate Director of Interventional Cardiology Paras Hospital Srinagar Dr Mohammad Maqbool Sohail told reporters. All three doctors said this

hospital is a ray of hope for those heart patients who have virtually been refused for complex high-end procedures. "Despite being from Kashmir, we were forced to work outside as there was no set-up available in Kashmir hospitals. We have performed hundreds of surgeries.

Patients who were treated successfully are witness to it," they said adding that they have been taking care of all kind of cardiac procedures regularly.

Notably, Paras Hospital, Srinagar is Kashmir's first 200-bedded Corporate Super Speciality Hospital with the best state-of-the-art infrastructure and medical facilities. With the best and most highly skilled experienced doctors, nurses, and support staff Paras Hospital, Srinagar has been providing the best possible healthcare services at affordable cost to the people of Kashmir.

While highlighting a complex and challenging case,

Dr Mohammad Maqbool Sohail talked about a case of diabetes, Hypertension, and chronic obstructive Airway disease, a peripheral arterial disease involving a 67-year-old patient.

He said the patient had undergone Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery 15 years back and in 2007 he was diagnosed with as critical blockage of all major vessels of the heart. "Patient was presented to us and admitted with ischemic chest pain on minimal exertion over last 2-3 weeks causing limitation of physical activity. Coronary Angiography of native vessels and grafts was performed. All main native vessels of the heart showed.

District Level Export promotion Committee discusses Draft Export Plan for Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 20: A meeting of District Level Export Promotion Committee was today held here under the Chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Anvy Lavasa, who is also the Chairman of Committee. The meeting was convened to discuss the Draft Export Plan for Jammu district prepared by Jammu and Kashmir trade promotion Organization J&K (JKTPO). At the outset, the Functional Manager DIC Jammu Sandeep Dubey welcomed the committee members and informed about the agenda of the meeting. The consultant from JKTPO presented a PowerPoint presentation on the draft district Export action plan, detailing both hard and soft measures required to increase exports of products identified under ODOP, i.e. Basmati Rice, and products identified under District as Export Hub, i.e. Mango, Dairy Products, Sozni and Stapple.

EDITORIAL

MUHARRAM:
The Resilient Symbol
Shaping Islamic
History...

The observance of Muharram in the beautiful valley of Kashmir transcends religious significance to become a poignant symbol of resilience and unity for Muslims. With its roots stretching back to the early Islamic history, the event has evolved to acquire unique characteristics in Kashmir, weaving itself intricately into the fabric of the region's religious and cultural identity.

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, holds great significance for Muslims worldwide as it marks the martyrdom of Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, in the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD. This tragic event carries profound implications for the Muslim community, emphasizing principles such as justice, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to faith. In Kashmir, the commemoration of Muharram has undergone a transformation, leaving an indelible mark on the Muslim history of the region.

Historically, Kashmir has been a meeting point for various cultures and faiths. With the advent of Islam in the region during the 14th century, the practice of Muharram began to take root. Over the centuries, the observance has become a remarkable blend of the local culture and Islamic traditions, symbolizing the harmonious coexistence of diverse religious beliefs.

One of the significant ways in which Muharram has shaped Muslim history in Kashmir is through the tradition of mourning processions and elegies. These processions, known as "Muharram processions," witness thousands of Muslims, both young and old, marching solemnly through the streets, beating their chests and reciting heartrending elegies to commemorate Imam Husain's sacrifice. These gatherings serve as powerful reminders of unity and brotherhood, transcending sectarian divides and fostering a sense of belonging among the community.

Another pivotal aspect of Muharram in Kashmir is the propagation of the message of social justice and empathy. In a region marked by political turmoil and social unrest, the spirit of Muharram acts as a driving force for advocates of peace and harmony. It encourages individuals to stand up against oppression and tyranny, drawing parallels between the struggle of Imam Husain and the challenges faced by the Kashmiri people. Consequently, the event has been instrumental in promoting a sense of empowerment among the marginalized communities, fostering a shared sense of identity in the face of adversity.

Moreover, the occasion of Muharram serves as an epitome of cultural preservation and artistic expression in Kashmir. The traditional art of "Nauha Khwani," where elegies are recited to narrate the events of Karbala, has evolved into a cherished form of artistic expression. The poignant poetry and soul-stirring melodies not only honor the memory of Imam Husain but also serve as a means of preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region.

However, Muharram in Kashmir has also faced challenges in recent times. The region's political landscape has influenced the way the event is observed, leading to debates about public processions and gatherings. Despite these hurdles, the essence of Muharram in Kashmir continues to inspire a sense of unity, compassion, and resilience among its people.

In conclusion, Muharram in Kashmir has emerged as a powerful symbol of unity, resilience, and cultural identity for Muslims in the region. Its observance has transformed over the centuries, blending Islamic traditions with local customs, while still retaining its essence of honoring Imam Husain's sacrifice. The commemoration of Muharram in Kashmir is a testament to the profound impact that historical events can have on shaping the culture and beliefs of a community. As the valley navigates through its dynamic socio-political landscape, the spirit of Muharram remains an unwavering beacon of hope and solidarity, etching its place in the annals of Muslim history in the region.

The Real Story Of Rising Tomato
Price And Plight Of Small Farmers

LOWER SUPPLY AND MARKET IMPERFECTIONS MAKE THE VEGETABLE DEARER



DR. NILANJAN BANIK

In 2009, the Swedish car company Volkswagen ran a unique ad campaign to promote its newly launched fuel-efficient car. They hired the ad agency DDB Stockholm and transformed the standard staircase of the Stockholm metro station into a 'piano staircase' which produced musical sounds when stepped in. People responded to this environmentally friendly energy-saving 'fun' signal, although it meant more hard work. They started avoiding using the escalator adjacent to the piano stairway.

In India, the farmers are no different. During November 2022, the price of tomato in the retail market was hovering around Rs 20 a kilo. This meant that the small and marginal farmers who are the actual growers were not able to recoup the farming cost. As per an estimate by the Reserve Bank of India, the farmers in India do not even realize 50% of the retail price for major traded crops such as tomatoes. The bulk of what the final consumer pays is apportioned by the middleman and traders. The margin between what the farmers get and the consumers pay are hosts of other charges such as commissions, mandi (market) charges, Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) memberships fees, weighing and assaying charges, loading and unloading charges, and transport charges. And all of these jack up the final price.

In 2021, the Central government responded to this cascading impact of the price rise by trying to repeal the farm law. The argument was if there are more markets where farmers can buy and sell their produce, it will lead to price discovery for the small and marginal farmers, and at the same time, the retail price will come down. India has around 260 million people living in poverty and 83% of them fall in the category of small and marginal farmers (with less than 2 hectares of landholding size).

If farmers are to sell their produce, they had two options. The first is to sell directly to the government. The Central government procures 23 essential food items from the farmers through its agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) at minimum support price (MSP) which is usually higher than the market price. From the perspective of tomato growers, this should sound like a good option. However, for a perishable non-standardized crop like tomatoes, it is difficult to administer MSP. Unlike rice and wheat which can be stored naturally, tomatoes need cold storage.

Even if the government agrees to procure tomatoes at the MSP, these government-procuring outlets are not uniformly distributed with almost 70% to 80% procurement of rice and wheat procurement done



from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. Interestingly, these are states where most of the cold storage units in India are concentrated.

The second option for the farmer is to take their produce to the nearby government-designated mandi where in front of state officers they can auction produce to the middlemen.

To do that they need to store their perishable stocks in cold storage. The predominantly tomato growing states such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, etc., have relatively much less cold storage units. Even if the farmer is lucky to get access to cold storage, he needs to book a minimum quantity of 50,000 quintals for their produce, something not possible for a marginal farmer. Nearly 20% of India's tomatoes are wasted because of storage problems.

The third option for the farmers is to directly take the produce to the local mandi. But given that there are only 7700 mandis as against 6,60,000 villages, means a farmer has to arrange for transport, which again may not be a feasible option given the distance and booking a 400 quintals capacity truck all for himself. In India, the average agriculture yield is 2070 kg/hectare, and the marginal farmers given their land holding size can at the most produce 24 quintals, and therefore booking a truck is not cost-efficient.

An easier way out is to sell to village-level aggregators. In fact, in most instances, these marginal farmers are so debt-ridden they are obliged to sell their produce to the village moneylenders. In India, only 15% of the marginal farmers get access to formal credit, and most of the time they depend upon informal sources, for buying seeds, fertilizers, and other farming requirements. The cost difference for loan rates between the formal and informal sectors varies between 30-45%, annually.

Finally, in the best possible scenario if the farmer is able to take his produce to the mandis, then also it does not help. The bargaining power of the farmer is low. Under APMC Act, state government officers are meant to oversee activities related to auctioning such as the commodities traded are homogenous in quality, and the markets are equipped with basic infrastructure for taking correct weights and for making payments. In reality, however, these middlemen form a cartel and at the time of auction offer a substantially lower price to the farmers.

The argument behind repealing the farm law was that the reform in the APMC Act will allow farmers and middlemen to trade in markets, in addition to the already existing mandis. So long it was the state governments that were in the business of regulating the mandis. If additional markets for trading are created the bargaining power of the middlemen is likely to fall and the farmers will benefit. It is to be noted, it was because of the pressure from the middleman and big traders (some of whom are also state-level party workers and politicians), the central government could not repeal the farm law.

The present rise in tomato prices is purely how the marginal farmers reacted to the not so 'fun' price 'signal' they faced during last November. When the realized price is abysmally low and with the risk of pre-monsoon rainfall playing a spoilsport, it is quite natural for them to grow some other weather-resistant crops such as millets, jowar, soyabean, something they did. The cause of the price rise in tomatoes can be attributed to a lower supply and market imperfection.

(IPA Service)

(The author is Professor, School of Management, Mahindra University).

Robust Growth Forecast For Indian
Economy In 2023-24 Is Risk Ridden

Normal Weather Conditions And No Geopolitical Shocks Are Prerequisites



DR. GYAN PATHAK

Asian Development Outlook of July 2023 maintains India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 per cent for the FY 2023, the same level of its earlier forecast made three months ago in April. However, it is risk ridden, since it assumes normal weather conditions and no geopolitical shocks, which is surprising. India has already suffered heat wave conditions during the summer, and heavy monsoon rains causing floods during the monsoon that has damaged its crops.

Asian Development Bank has said in its outlook that South Asia is on course to achieve the April growth forecasts. However, it has made downward revisions for Nepal and Pakistan in 2023. It reflects chiefly tighter monetary and fiscal policies and are offset by an upward revision for Bangladesh as net exports performed better than expected. Growth projections elsewhere in South Asia are largely maintained.

The Indian economy, supported by upbeat domestic demand, is set to meet earlier projections, the outlook says. In fiscal year 2023 (FY2023, ending 31 March 2024), consumption demand in India is

expected to recover with improvement in both rural and urban demand as reflected in such indicators as consumer confidence, urban unemployment, and motor-bike sales.

Investment growth in India will remain robust, underpinned by strong bank credit growth and demand for housing, and supported by fewer interest rate hikes by the central bank. However, the global economic slowdown has suppressed merchandise trade, which will be a drag on growth, ADO July 2023 said.

On the supply side, growth will be buoyed by manufacturing as input prices cool. The service PMI has remained above 60, indicating resilient growth in the sector. Assuming normal rainfall and other weather factors, and no further geopolitical shocks, India is expected to grow by 6.4% in FY2023 and 6.7% in FY2024, as projected in ADO April 2023.

One of the bases of ADO July 20, 2023 forecast is the indicator emanating from seasonally adjusted Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Indexes, according to which India's position had improved from 55.4 in January 2023 to 58.7 in May. However, it has suffered in June to 57.8. Improvement has been seen in every month from January to May.

Growth in GDP in South Asia was estimated at 6.7 per cent in 2022, while India's GDP grew by 7.2 per cent. Economic growth in the region then declined to 5.5

per cent as per the April assessment and remained at this level in July also. Deceleration was also witnessed in India which declined to 6.4 per cent by April but maintained this level of growth as per the assessment of the second quarter in July 20, 2023.

As for inflation in South Asia is concerned, there is likely to be only a little relief in 2023, since it was forecast at 8.1 per cent for 2023 only a little less than 8.2 per cent in 2022. For India, ADO estimated a considerable relief, which was estimated at 6.7 per cent in 2022, but has declined to 5 per cent in April and 4.9 per cent in July.

As food and oil prices moderated, inflation eased below the 6.0% upper bound of the monetary policy target of RBI. Expected softening of Brent crude prices in 2023 should lower headline inflation, but core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, is expected to be stubbornly high in India.

Risk factors for Indian economy are obvious for other reasons too, which included economic activity in major advanced economies that remained weak as monetary tightening took hold. GDP growth in the United has slowed from 2022, while the euro area contracted for a second consecutive quarter and thus entered a technical recession, with leading economic activity indicators suggesting continued weakness. Further, the

exports and industrial activities in developing Asia continue to decelerate as global demand slows.

One of the risks is interest rate hikes as part of taming inflation. However, it has now begun to slow the global economy. Investment is likely to weaken further, as suggested by continued contraction in the manufacturing PMI. Retail sales have remained relatively steady since the beginning of the year, but some signs of weaker consumer confidence materialized in quarter 2, which is likely to slow consumption growth.

There are many domestic and external risks to India economy, which include food inflation, unstable rupee, large current account deficit, and uncertain economic and political developments globally. The world economy is projected to slow down due to three major factors – Russia Ukraine War, economic slowdown in China and monetary tightening in the US – through which India needs to navigate with great caution. Within the country, India needs to effectively manage the climate challenges to agricultural production, along with supply of money in the market to boost consumption. Labour market, with unprecedented unemployment rate, need urgent attention to deal with cost of living crisis that has of late taken the country in its grip.

(IPA Service)

Tahawism: Imam Tahawi's Life and Works

Abu Ja'far Ahmad Bin. Muhammad Bin. Salamah al-Azdi, al-Hajri, al-Tahawi, was born at Taha, a village in Upper Egypt. His forefathers came from the Yemen to Egypt and settled there after it had come under the

Muslim rule. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to the year of his birth. The years 229/843, 230/ 844, 238/852 and 239/853 are mentioned by different biographers. Al-Sam'ani asserts that he was born in 229/843 and this is correct. He died in Egypt in 321/933.

Al-Tahawi was mainly interested in Hadith and Fiqh, and was regarded as one of the greatest Muhaddithin and fuqaha' of his time. According to Abu Ishaq al-Shirazi, he was the last leader of Hanafi Fiqh in Egypt.

He began to study Shafi'i Law under his maternal uncle abu Ibrahim Ismail al-Muzani (d. 264/878), the most celebrated pupil of Imam al- Shafi'i, and then leaving his school he took up the study of Hanafi Law

under al-Shaikh abu Jafar Ahmad b. abi 'Imran (d. 285/898), who became the Chief Qadi of Egypt in 270/883. Different versions are given by his biographers of his conversion to Hanafi school, but the most probable reason seems to be that the system of Imam abu Hanifah appealed to his critical insight more than that of Imam Shafi'i. Al-Tahawi went to Syria in 268/882 for further studies in Hanafi Law and became a pupil of Qadi abu Khazim 'Abd al-Hamid b. Ja'far, the then Chief Justice of Syria.³ He learnt hadith from a large number of Shaikhs especially from those who visited Egypt at his time, and had also many pupils of distinction.⁴

He is a distinguished author of many important works of which the following may be mentioned here:

1. Sharh Ma'anial-Athar, 2. Mushkil alAthar, 3. Ahkam al-Qur'an, 4. Ikhtilaf al-Ulama', 5. al-Nawadir al-Fiqhiyyah, 6. Kitab al-Shurut al-Kabir, 7. al-Shurut al-Ausat, 8. Sharh al-Jami' al-Saghir, 9. Sharh al-Jami' al-Kabir, 10. al-Mukhtasar, 11. Manaqib Abi Hanifah, 12. Tarikh al-Kabir, 13. al-Radd 'ala Kitab al-Mudallisin, 14. al-Radd 'ala Abi 'Ubad, 15. al-Radd 'ala 'Isa b. Abban, 16. Hukm 'Aradi Makkah, etc.

His original contribution to Hadith literature, so far as we can estimate is that he introduced a new system of collecting legal traditions, developed a new method of interpreting and harmonizing the conflicting traditions, and adopted a new criterion for criticizing them. His predecessors and contemporaries, the authors of al-Sihah al-Sittah (the Six Canonical Compilations) collecting traditions according to their own standards and principles, left out a large number of genuine traditions.

Al-Tahawi made a strenuous effort to collect all the genuine legal traditions of the Prophet, narrated by different authorities on a particular subject, together with the opinions of the Companions of the Prophet, their-Successors and the distinguished jurists-prudents. He then scrutinized traditions (ahadith) and showed by evidence which of them were authentic, strong, weak, unknown, or such as might be supposed to have been repeated. Thus, his collection provided for the scholars an unprecedented opportunity to judge for themselves the merits or demerits of a particular tradition. The criterion for judging the genuineness of a tradition, according to the Traditionists in general, was the isnad (chain of the narrators), and so they paid greater attention to the scrutiny of the isnad than to the scrutiny of the text (matn) of a tradition. But al-Tahawi, while scrutinizing a tradition, took into consideration the matn as well as the isnad of the tradition. He also aimed at a harmonizing interpretation in case of conflicting traditions.

Al-Tahawi, like al-Maturidi, was a follower of Imam Abu Hanifah (d.150/ 767) in jurisprudence as well as in theology. He wrote a little treatise on theology named Bayan al-Sunnah w-al-Jama'ah, generally known as al'Aqidat al-Tahawiyah.⁵

In the introduction to this treatise he says he will give therein an account of the beliefs of the Ahl al-sunnah w'al-jama'ah according to the views of Imam Abu Hanifah, Abu Yusuf, and Muhammad al-Shaibani - the wellknown jurists-prudents of the community. So the importance of his creed lies in the fact that it corroborates the views of Imam Abu Hanifah, the founder of the school, that have come down to us from different sources. Al-Tahawi made no attempt to explain the views of the Imam or to solve the old theological problems by advancing any new arguments. His sole aim was to give a summary of the views of the Imam and to show indirectly that they were in conformity with the traditional views

of **Faith, according to the well-known view of Imam Abu Hanifah, consists of three elements: knowledge, belief, and confession; knowledge alone or confession alone is not faith.**⁷

Al-Maturidi holds the same view and lays emphasis on knowledge (ma'rifah) and belief (tasdiq). But, according to his explanation, knowledge is the basis of faith and confession is not in reality an integral part of faith but only an indication (alahamah) of faith, a condition for enforcement of Islamic laws and enjoyment of the rights and privileges of the Muslim community. So the belief based on the knowledge of God is the basis of faith.⁸

Al-Tahawi excludes knowledge from his definition of faith and holds that it consists in believing by heart and confessing by tongue.⁹

As regards the relation between faith and action Imam Abu Hanifah maintains that Islam demands from its followers two things: belief and practice, and both are essential for a perfect Muslim. The two are very closely related like back and belly, but they are not identical. Practice is distinct from faith and faith is distinct from practice, but both are essential elements of Islam.¹⁰

Allah has ordained practice for the faithful, faith for the infidel, and sincerity for the hypocrite

the orthodox school.

The difference between him and al-Maturidi the two celebrated authorities on the views of the Imam is quite evident. Al-Maturidi was a thorough dialectician and his main endeavour was to find out a philosophical basis for the views of the leader and to support these views by scholastic reasoning, and thereby bring them closer to the views of the rationalists.

Al-Tahawi, as a true traditionist, did not favour, as will be seen, any rational discussion or speculative thinking on the articles of faith, but preferred to believe and accept them without questioning. There is no reference in his creed to the critical examination of the method, sources, and means of knowledge, or the foundation on which his theological system is built. So his system may



be termed as dogmatic, while that of al-Maturidi as critical. The critical method followed by al-Tahawi in Hadith is quite lacking in theology. Thus, though both of them belong to the same school and uphold faithfully the doctrines of their master, they differ from each other in temperament, attitude, and trends of thought. In order to indicate the characteristics of the system of al-Tahawi and to make an estimate of his contributions to theology, we propose to give in the following pages an outline of the views of Imam Abu Hanifah along with the views of both al-Tahawi and al-Maturidi on some of the most important theological problems that arose in Muslim theology. Imam Abu Hanifah directed his movement against the Kharijites, Qadarites, Mu'tazilites, Shiites, Jabrites, the extreme Murji'ites, and the Hash-wiyah, the last being a group of the orthodox people who under the influence of the converted Jews, Christians, and Magians fell into gross anthropomorphism, and ascribed to God all the characteristics of a created being.⁶ He was the first theologian among the fuqaha' who adopted the principles

and method of reasoning and applied them to a critical examination of the articles of faith and the laws of the Shariah. That is why he and his followers were called by the Traditionists the People of Reason and Opinion (ashab al-ra'i w-al-qiyas). This rational spirit and philosophical attitude were more consistently maintained

by al-Maturidi than by al-Tahawi. Their views on the nature of faith, attributes of God, beatific vision, divine decree, and human freedom may be mentioned here to indicate the distinctive features of their methods.

Nature of Faith

Faith, according to the well-known view of Imam Abu Hanifah, consists of three elements: knowledge, belief, and confession; knowledge alone or confession alone is not faith.⁷ Al-Maturidi holds the same view and lays emphasis on knowledge (ma'rifah) and belief (tasdiq). But, according to his explanation, knowledge is the basis of faith and confession is not in reality an integral part of faith but only an indication (alahamah) of faith, a condition for enforcement of Islamic laws and enjoyment of the rights and privileges of the Muslim community. So the belief based on the knowledge of God is the basis of faith.⁸

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that Islam demands from its followers two things: belief and practice, and both are essential for a perfect Muslim. The two are very closely related like back and belly, but they are not identical. Practice is distinct from faith and faith is distinct from practice, but both are essential elements of Islam. "Allah has ordained practice for the faithful, faith for the infidel, and sincerity for the hypocrite." The term al-din (religion) includes both faith and action.¹⁰ Faith, according to him, is a living conviction of the heart - an absolute and indelible entity having its own existence independent of action. From this definition of faith he arrived at the following conclusions: (a) Faith is not liable to increase or decrease.¹¹ (b) Faith is impaired by doubt.¹² (c) The faithful are equal in faith but different in degree of superiority regarding practice.¹³ (d) No Muslim should be declared devoid of faith on account of any sin, if he does not declare it to be lawful. One may be a man of faith with bad behaviour, but not an infidel.¹⁴ (e) A believer who dies unrepentant, even though guilty of mortal sins, will not remain in hell for ever. Allah may grant him forgiveness or punish him in accordance with his sins.¹⁵ Pointing out the differences between himself and the Murji'ites, Imam Abu Hanifah says: "We do not say that sins do not harm the faithful, nor do we say that he will not enter hell, nor do we say that he will remain there for ever, although he should be a man of evil practice (fasiq), after having departed from this world as a man of faith. And we do not say that our good actions are accepted and our sins are forgiven, as the Murji'ites say.

But we say that no one who performs a good action, fulfilling all its conditions and keeping

it free of all defects, without nullifying it by infidelity, apostasy, or bad conduct during any part of his life, shall be neglected by God. God may punish in hell or grant complete forgiveness to a person who commits an evil deed (polytheism and infidelity excluded) and dies without repenting.¹⁶ The Kharijites and Mu'tazilites laid so much emphasis on the doctrine of threats (wa'id) that they led the believers to despair and take a depressing view of life; while the Murji'ites emphasized the doctrine of promise (wa'd) so much that they quite endangered the ethical basis of Islam. Imam Abu Hanifah endeavoured to strike a middle course between these two extremes. Sins, according to him, are not without consequences; a sinner is always liable to blame or punishment, but to drive him out from the fold of Islam, to declare him an infidel, or to condemn him to eternal

punishment is quite inconsistent with divine justice. His broad outlook and tolerant attitude were

consistently continued by al-Maturidi and al-Tahawi. The latter has summarized the views of his master on these questions in the following words:

"We do not declare anyone of the people of qiblah an infidel on account of a sin, so long as he does not deem it lawful. And we do not say that sin with faith does no harm to him who commits it. We entertain hope for the righteous among the faithful, but we have no certainty about them, and we do not certify that they will be in paradise. We ask forgiveness for their evil actions and we have fear for them, but we do not drive them into despair. Sense of security and despair both turn a man away from religion. The true way for the people of qiblah lies midway between these two. A faithful servant does not go out of the field of faith except by renouncing what had brought him into it."¹⁷

Al-Tahawi substituted the phrase ahl al-qiblah for mu'min and Muslim, evidently to avoid the theological controversies regarding their identification, and to make the circle of the believers wider and at the same time to give the question a practical bias. He also avoided the theoretical definition of a Muslim or mu'min, and instead described how one could be regarded as such. He says:

"We give those who follow our qiblah the name Muslim or mu'min, so long as they acknowledge what the Prophet brought with him and believe in what he said and what he narrated."¹⁸

Knowledge of God and belief in Him may save those who are guilty of mortal sins from eternal punishment, and they may entertain hope of deliverance from hell through divine mercy and the intercession of the righteous. "Those who are guilty of grievous sins will not remain eternally in hell, if they died as unitarians, even if they were not repentant. They are left to God's will and judgment; if He wills He will forgive them out of His other gods with Himself; other sins He may forgive if He pleases; ¹⁹ and if He wills He will punish them in hell in proportion to their sins as demanded by His justice. Then He will bring them out of it through His mercy and the intercession of His obedient people, and finally He will send them to paradise. This is because Allah is the Lord of those who know Him well, and He has not destined them in either world to be like those who denied Him, went astray from His guidance, and did not obtain His help and favour."²⁰

It may be noticed here that, although al-Tahawi did not include knowledge in his definition of faith, he was fully conscious of the cognitive aspect of it. As regards intercession, Imam Abu Hanifah seems to restrict it to the prophets in general and particularly to Prophet Muhammad,²¹ but al-Tahawi extends this privilege to the righteous and the pious among the faithful. As regards the independent character of faith and equality of the faithful, al-Tahawi says: "Faith is one and the faithful are equal; their comparative eminence lies in fear²² (of Allah), in righteousness, in disobeying lust, and in pursuing what is best. All the believers are friends of the Merciful. The most honourable among them before God are those who are the most obedient and the best followers of the Holy Qur'an."²³ On the question whether it is obligatory for a man to know God before

the advent of His messenger, and whether to follow precedence (taqlid)²⁴ is allowed in matters of faith, al-Tahawi does not express his opinion explicitly, though his master was quite outspoken on these questions. These questions pertain to the Mu'tazilites doctrine of promise and threat (al-wa'd w'al-wa'id), which gave rise to the discussion of the nature and value of reason and revelation. They held that as God has endowed men with reason and they can easily perceive by proper use of this faculty that the world has a creator, it is obligatory on their part to know God even if the call of the Prophet does not reach them. But they were divided as to whether knowledge of God is acquired and a posteriori (kasabi) or necessary and a priori (duri).²⁵ Imam Abu Hanifah agreed with the Mu'tazilites on the original question and maintained

that "no one can have any excuse for ignorance about his creator, as he sees the creation of the heaven and the earth of his own as well as of others. So even if Allah should not have sent any messenger to the people, it was obligatory on them to know Him by means of their intellect."

Remaining views of Tahawism on attributes of God, beatific vision, divine decree, and human freedom will be discussed on next Friday.

"Guilty will not be spared" PM assures nation on Manipur violence ahead of parliament

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, July 20 (UNI) Making a strong remark over the incident in Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that it "brings shame to humanity" and what has happened to daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven and the "guilty will not be spared."

Addressing the media, before the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The whole country is being insulted, and 140 crore countrymen are feeling ashamed. I assure the countrymen that no culprit will be spared. What has happened to these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven."

PM Modi also advised the Members of Parliament to make the best use of this session.

"All the political parties and all the MPs should make the best use of this session. This session holds much significance because the bills introduced in this ses-



sion are directly connected to the public interest," he said.

"Discussion plays a significant role, the sharper the discussion, the better the decisions, which will give far-reaching results in the public interest," the PM said.

"The Data Protection Bill, introduced at a time when our youth is leading the digital world, gives a new sense of faith to people and raises the stature of India before the world," he added.

The Prime Minister said, the bills being brought in this session are directly related to the public.

"Our young generation, which is leading in a way with the digital world, at that time the Data Protection Bill is going to give a new confidence to every citizen of the country and enhance India's prestige in the world," he added.

In this Parliament session, the Union government is likely to discuss a total of 31 bills, including those that were already introduced in the lower house.

The data protection bill is another anticipated bill for discussion, which the Centre has been keen to address.

Ahead of the Monsoon

Session of Parliament, the government convened an all-party meeting Wednesday and sought cooperation from all political parties for the smooth functioning of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Briefing the media after the meeting, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said the government is ready to discuss all issues following the rules and regulations and with the permission of the Speaker.

He appealed to the opposition parties for their cooperation. The Monsoon session of Parliament will take place from today (Thursday) to August 11.

During the meeting, several opposition leaders raised their demand to discuss the Manipur violence in Parliament.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, Prof Ramgopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, M. Thambi Durai of the AIADMK, and Lalan Singh of JDU, among others.

"Sad No One Cares": Supreme Court To Delhi, Lt Governor On Key Appointment

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Hearing the interlinked issues of the Delhi ordinance on bureaucrats and the appointment of the chief of the city's power regulator - which have been at the centre of the face-off between the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor - the Supreme Court referred the ordinance question to a Constitution Bench and decided to make the appointment itself.

When the Supreme Court was informed today that the AAP-ruled Delhi government and the LG had failed to arrive at a consensus on one name for the head of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), the bench said "it is sad no one cares about the institution" and decided that it will make the appointment.

Senior Advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the LG, suggested that the President has appointed a DERC chairperson and the court should either grant an injunction against the chairman or let him continue.

Appearing for the Delhi



government, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi pointed out that the appointment was made based on the ordinance, which has been challenged.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, then said, "The validity of the ordinance will go to the Constitution Bench and it will take one or two months. How can the DERC not function till then?"

The court also heard arguments on an ad-hoc appointment and the list that the regulator's chief should be picked from. The Chief Justice asked the lawyers, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the Cen-

tre, to wait for some time. "We will take our own call. We will not see any list," said CJI Chandrachud, adding that the matter will be heard next on August 4.

During a hearing on July 17, the Supreme Court had said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena have to rise above political bickering.

It had also suggested a way of breaking the impasse on the Centre's controversial ordinance, which had upturned a judgment of the Supreme Court granting greater control to the Delhi government over its bureaucrats.

"We have a suggestion to break the impasse. Can the LG and CM sit down and give an agreeable candidate

so that the person can be appointed for DERC? The ideal situation is both agreeing to a name for the DERC Chairperson. We don't want to step into this. We want both of you to sit together and resolve this" the court had said. Senior Advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the LG, suggested that the President has appointed a DERC chairperson and the court should either grant an injunction against the chairman or let him continue.

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Minister Patil to inaugurate silver jubilee of Kargil Victory Day in Pune

■ HT News Network

Pune, Jul 20 (UNI) Maharashtra Education Minister Chandrakant Patil will inaugurate the silver jubilee of Kargil victory here on July 22. It was announced on Wednesday.

Every year, the Sarhad Kargil International Marathon is organised at Kargil, Leh by Sarhad organisations.

The function will be held at Joshi Auditorium, Ganjwe Chowk, Navi Peth Pune.

On the initiative of Sarhad Sanstha, a 72 feet national flag has been erected by the Indian Army at the Army School in Kargil in the silver jubilee year.

Apart from this, the silver jubilee of the victory of Kargil war will be celebrated in Kargil in various ways like blood donation camp, Kargil Gaurav Yatra, publication of various books, seminars, lectures, Dr Pagaria and Zahid Bhat here.

Covid jumbo centres scam: ED arrest two

■ HT News Network

Mumbai, July 20 (UNI) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the Mumbai Covid-19 jumbo centres scam. Arrested are Raju Salunkhe and Sunil Kadam, who are reportedly employees of the BMC.

The case related to the COVID-19 jumbo centre scam was registered by the Mumbai police in August 2022 at the Azad Maidan police station on a complaint by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya. In October 2022, the case was transferred to the Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW). Later, the ED registered a PMLA case in the matter.

Manipur police begin probe over video of women being harassed

■ HT News Network

Imphal, July 20 (UNI) Manipur Police have filed a case after a video emerged of two women being paraded naked by unknown miscreants. Police said the video was taken on May 4 last. A person was picked up by police, and massive search operations were conducted after the video came to light. Manipur Police has registered a case of abduction, gang rape and murder at Nongpok Sekmai police station, the police further said. State Police are making an all-out effort to arrest the culprits at the earliest. People from across the state condemned the incident and demanded punishment of those involved in the crime. Various individuals and women's bodies have also condemned the incident. After clashes started on May 3 in Manipur between two communities, a large number of videos have emerged. Most of the videos were found offensive, inhumane, and to stop the spread of rumours, the government has banned the internet in the state. Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed from 5 am to 2 pm in the city areas. The relaxation differed from place to place in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured to take appropriate actions against the culprit, and Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has discussed the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders.

Manipur: SC takes suo motu cognisance of viral videos on violence on women

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, July 20 (UNI) Supreme Court on Thursday took suo motu cognisance of the "deeply disturbing" viral video from Manipur, where two women are seen being molested and paraded naked. "Use of women as an instrument of violence in a charged atmosphere is completely unacceptable", a bench of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, said, and granted one week time to the state and Central governments to give details about what steps have been taken. The CJI said, "The government should really step in and take action. It's simply unacceptable. It's deeply disturbing. Gross test of constitutional and human rights violations."



The CJI led bench, which was aghast, asked the Union and Manipur governments to inform by July 28, as to "what steps were taken to bring the perpetrators to book and what steps were taken to prevent such incidents in future." The CJI Dr Chandrachud, said, "The video may be from the month of May, but that does not make any difference". The CJI went on to observe that using women as an instrument in a communal clash situation to perpetrate gender violence is 'very,

very deeply concerning" to the Supreme Court. A massive protest rally surged through the streets of Manipur's Churachandpur on Friday, following a disturbing video that captured the public humiliation and abuse of two tribal women amid the state's ethnic clashes. The video of the two-month-old incident, which surfaced a day ago, depicted the women being paraded naked and sexually assaulted by a mob, triggering widespread outrage and demands.

"Downright Inhuman": Smriti Irani On Video Of Manipur Women Paraded Naked

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has said that she has spoken to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh over the May 4 video showing two women being paraded naked by some men in the state.

She termed the incident "condemnable and downright inhuman".

In a tweet on Thursday night, the Union minister said, "The horrific video of sexual assault of two women emanating from Manipur is condemnable and downright inhuman. Spoke to CM N Biren Singh ji who has informed me that investigation is currently underway and assured that no effort will be spared to bring perpetrators to justice." Later, in another tweet, she said, "PM @narendramodi ji appealed to the Chief Ministers of all the states - work with dedication for women's safety, respect and protection. Whether the incident is from Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh or Manipur, those who commit crimes against women will not be spared".

The BJP has been highlighting cases of crimes against women in Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after the video surfaced on Wednesday showing two women from one of the war-



ring communities being paraded naked by a few men from the other side. The video was doing the rounds on the eve of a planned protest march announced by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) on Thursday to highlight their plight.

Police said a case of abduction, gang rape and murder has been registered at Nongpok Sekmai police station in Thoubal district against unknown armed miscreants.

In a statement, they said an all-out effort is on to arrest the culprits at the earliest.

According to a spokesperson of ITLF, the "despicable scene, which happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, shows men con-

stantly molesting the helpless women, who cry and plead with their captors". Later, in another tweet, she said, "PM @narendramodi ji appealed to the Chief Ministers of all the states - work with dedication for women's safety, respect and protection. Whether the incident is from Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh or Manipur, those who commit crimes against women will not be spared". The BJP has been highlighting cases of crimes against women in Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after the video surfaced on Wednesday showing two women.

PM Modi To Chair Meetings Of 10 Groups Of NDA MPs From July 25: Report

New Delhi: After the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting held on Tuesday in the national capital, ten groups of the alliance's MPs have been formed to chalk out the strategy ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a BJP source said on Thursday.

As per the source, PM Modi will chair the meetings of each group from July 25. "Ten groups of the MPs have been formed. PM Modi will chair the meeting of each group. Every day, there will be a meeting of the two regions," the source told ANI. According to the source, each group will have 35-40 members.

"On the first day, the meeting for Uttar Pradesh and Northeast will be conducted. Each group will have 35-40 members," the source added.

Notably, this is the first time that the leaders of the alliance are meeting region-wise and holding deliberations to rev up the organisation in the run-up to crucial Lok Sabha General Elections.

Swedish embassy in Baghdad stormed, set alight over desecration of Holy Quran

■ HT News Network

Hundreds of protesters stormed the Swedish embassy in central Baghdad in the early hours of Thursday morning, scaling its walls and setting it on fire in protest against the expected burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

All Baghdad embassy staff were safe, the Swedish foreign ministry press office said in a statement, condemning the attack and highlighting the need for Iraqi authorities to protect diplomatic missions.

Thursday's demonstration was called by supporters of Shia cleric Muqtada Sadr to protest the second planned burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden in weeks, according to posts in a popular Telegram group linked the influential cleric and other pro-Sadr media.

Protesters clash with security forces members as they gather near the Swedish embassy in Baghdad hours after the embassy was stormed and set on fire ahead of an expected Holy Quran burning in Stockholm, in Baghdad, Iraq, July 20, 2023. — Reuters

Sadr, one of Iraq's most powerful figures, commands hundreds of thousands of followers whom he has at times called to the streets, including last summer when they occupied Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone and engaged in deadly clashes.

Swedish news agency TT reported on Wednesday that Swedish police granted an application for a public meeting outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thurs-



day. The application says the applicant seeks to burn the Holy Quran and the Iraqi flag, TT reported.

A series of videos posted to the Telegram group, One Baghdad, showed people gathering around the embassy around 1am on Thursday (2200 GMT on Wednesday) chanting pro-Sadr slogans and storming the embassy complex around an hour later.

"Yes, yes to the Quran," protesters chanted.

Videos later showed smoke rising from a building in the embassy complex and protesters standing on its roof. Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the videos.

Iraq's foreign ministry also condemned

the incident and said in a statement the Iraqi government had instructed security forces to carry out a swift investigation, identify perpetrators and hold them to account. Iraq asks Swedish ambassador to leave

Later, Iraq asked Sweden's ambassador in Baghdad to leave Iraqi soil and also recalled its charge d'affaires in Sweden, a government statement said.

The decision came after Iraq told Sweden it would sever diplomatic ties if a copy of the Holy Quran was burned again.

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani led an emergency meeting hours after the violent unrest, following which a statement issued by his office said Bagh-

dad had informed Stockholm "that any recurrence of the incident involving the burning of the Holy Quran on Swedish soil would necessitate severing diplomatic relations".

"Granting permission under the pretext of freedom of expression is viewed as provocative and contrary to international covenants and norms, which emphasise respect for religions and beliefs. Such actions are deemed a threat to peace and encourage a culture of violence and hatred,"

Protesters By dawn on Thursday, security forces had deployed inside the embassy and smoke rose from the building as fire-fighters extinguished stubborn embers, according to Reuters witnesses.

Supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr gather for a protest outside the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on July 20, 2023. — AFP

Most protesters had withdrawn, with a few dozen milling around outside the embassy. Late last month, Sadr called for protests against Sweden and the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador after the Holy Quran burning in Stockholm by an Iraqi man. Swedish police charged the man with agitation against an ethnic or national group. In a newspaper interview, he described himself as an Iraqi refugee seeking to ban the Holy Quran.

Two major protests took place outside of the Swedish embassy in Baghdad in the aftermath of that burning, with protesters breaching the embassy grounds on one occasion.

Millions hit by extreme heat on three continents

■ HT News Network

ATHENS: Millions of people across three continents suffered a sustained spell of heat on Wednesday as fires raged, health worries mounted and temperature records tumbled.

Experts pointed the finger at climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels, saying global warming had a key role in destructive weather.

Governments issued safety warnings, including in Greece which was among the nations battling wildfires.

The heat waves across Europe and the globe are "not one single phenomenon but several acting at the same time", said Robert Vautard, director of France's Pierre-Simon Laplace climate institute.

"But they are all strengthened by one factor: climate change," he added.

Two forest fires, fanned by strong winds, were raging to the west of Athens, while another broke out on the tourist island of Rhodes



— where locals had to decide whether to flee.

A firefighter tries to extinguish a wildfire burning near the village Vlyhada, near Athens, Greece on July 19. —

"I am not leaving. I started building this house when I was 27 years old by myself," said Dimitris Michaelous, a resident in the fire-threatened town of Pournari.

Greece's firefighters said Romania, Slovakia and Poland would send some 230 firefighters to help it tackle the blazes.

France said on Wednesday temperatures of up to 40

degrees Celsius were expected in parts of the country's south, including on the Mediterranean holiday island Corsica.

A high of 29.5°C was recorded in the French Alpine ski resort of Alpe d'Huez, while 40.6°C was recorded for the first time in Verdun in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

Beijing broke a 23-year-old record with 27 consecutive days of temperatures above 35°C.

"At noon, it feels like the sun is roasting my legs, it feels like my skin is burning," said Qiu Yichong, a 22-year-old student.

700 get prison terms over riots in France

■ HT News Network

PARIS: More than 700 people have been sentenced to prison over riots in France late last month, the country's justice minister said on Wednesday, lauding the "firm" response of magistrates.

In total, 1,278 verdicts have been handed down, with over 95 per cent of defendants convicted on a range of charges from vandalism to attacking police officers.

Six hundred people have already been jailed.

"It was extremely important to have a response that was firm and systematic," Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti told RTL radio. "It was essential that we re-establish national order." The most intense urban violence in France since 2005 began on June 27 after a police officer shot dead a 17-year-old boy with North African roots during a traffic stop west of Paris, in an incident recorded by a passerby. The riots were contained after four nights of serious clashes thanks to



the deployment of around 45,000 security forces, including elite police special forces and armoured vehicles.

Dupond-Moretti had led calls for courts to hand down harsh sentences as a deterrent, with some staying open over the weekend of the clashes to handle a backlog of cases.

Many suspects faced immediate appearances and some defence lawyers have raised concerns about the fairness of the judicial process and the heavy use of custodial sentences.

The average age of the over 3,700 people arrested was just 17, with the minors appearing in separate children's courts.

The number of people sentenced to prison exceeds the number in 2005 at the time of the last major riots when around 400 people were sent to jail. Dupond-Moretti had led calls for courts to hand down harsh sentences as a deterrent, with some staying open over the weekend of the clashes to handle a backlog of cases. Many suspects faced immediate appearances and some defence lawyers have raised concerns about the fairness of the judicial process and the heavy use of custodial sentences. The average age of the over 3,700 people arrested was just 17, with the minors appearing in separate children's courts.

Afghan women protest against beauty parlour ban

■ HT News Network

KABUL: Security officials shot into the air and used firehoses to disperse dozens of Afghan women protesting in Kabul on Wednesday against an order by Taliban authorities to shut down beauty parlours, the latest curb to squeeze them out of public life.

Since seizing power in August 2021, the Taliban government has barred girls and women from high schools and universities, banned them from parks, funfairs and gyms, and ordered them to cover up in public.

The order issued last month forces the closure of thousands of beauty parlours nationwide run by women — often the only source of income for households — and outlaws one of the few remaining opportunities for them to socialise away from home.

"Don't take my bread and water," read a sign carried by one of the protesters on Butcher Street, which boasts a concentration of



the capital's salons. Public protests are rare in Afghanistan — and frequently dispersed by force — but around 50 women took part in Wednesday's gathering, quickly attracting the attention of security personnel.

Protesters later shared videos and photos with journalists that showed

authorities using a firehose to disperse them as shots could be heard in the background.

"Today we arranged this protest to talk and negotiate," said a salon worker. "But today, no one came to talk to us, to listen to us. They didn't pay any attention to us and after a while they dispersed us by aerial firing and water cannon."

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the protest breakup. "Reports of the forceful suppression of a peaceful protest by women against the ban on beauty salons — the latest denial of women's rights in Afghanistan — are deeply concerning," it said in a tweet.

AUS imposes sanctions against 35 Russian entities, 10 Russian, Belarusian Citizens

■ HT News Network

Moscow, July 20 (UNI) The Australian authorities have imposed new sanctions against 10 citizens from Russia and Belarus and 35 Russian entities in defense, technology and energy sectors, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on Thursday.

"Today Australia has imposed targeted sanctions on 35 entities in Russia's defence, technology and energy sectors, and 10 individuals, including Russian Ministers and senior officials, and senior military personnel in Belarus," Wong said in a statement. Sanctions are designed to "have maximum impact on those individuals and entities who play a role in directly or indirectly supporting" Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the statement read.

The restrictions have been introduced, in particular, against Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Belousov and Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko, as well as senior Belarusian military officials.

The sanctions list also includes major Russian defense companies, the country's largest military helicopter manufacturer and its chief, Wong said.

Moreover, the new restrictions target Russian entities involved in nuclear energy and the extraction of Arctic resources, the top Australian diplomat said.

WhatsApp messaging disruption resolved, Meta says

■ HT News Network

Meta Platforms said it had restored WhatsApp connectivity issues after thousands of users globally reported problems accessing the messaging app on Wednesday, according to outage tracking website Downdetector.com. We're back, happy chatting!" the Whatsapp Twitter account posted in a tweet.

The company had earlier said it was experiencing disruptions "receiving incoming messages and message delivery on Whatsapp," according to Meta's status dashboard. At one point, there were more than 37,000 incidents of people in the United States reporting issues with the messaging service, according to Downdetector, which tracks outages by collating status reports from a number of sources including user-submitted errors on its platform.

Meanwhile, more than 177,000 users reported issues with WhatsApp in the United Kingdom and nearly 15,000 said they faced trouble while using the messaging app in India.

Pakistan passport ranked 4th worst in world

■ HT News Network

Islamabad, July 20 (UNI) The Pakistani passport has been ranked the 'fourth worst' by this year's Henley Passport Index, a ranking of the world's 199 passports according to the number of destinations their owners can access without a prior visa.

In the latest ranking, Pakistan's travel document is only ranked higher than those of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, Dawn news reports.

Pakistan's passport permits visa-free access to 33 states, Syria's gives access to 30 destinations, Iraq's allows travel to 29 and Afghanistan's travel document only affords the bearer access to 29 destinations.

The top spot belongs to Singapore, as its passport provides citizens visa-free access to 192 destinations.

Germany, Italy and Spain tied for 2nd place, with each passport allowing access to 190 destinations.

Of the countries in the top 10, the US has seen the biggest fall in its ranking over the past decade, plummeting from 2nd place to 8th.

8 killed, 4 missing as wall collapses in rain in Pakistan

■ HT News Network

Islamabad, July 19 (UNI) At least eight people were killed and four went missing on Wednesday after a wall collapsed due to rain in Rawalpindi city of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, the rescue service reported.

The rescue service said that the incident took place in the morning on Peshawar Road in the Golrah Mor area of the city when the wall near an under-construction underpass collapsed, following heavy rain, resulting in the casualties of the laborers.

The victims were sleeping along the wall under a tent, it added.

Upon receiving the information, the rescue workers reached the site and recovered eight dead bodies from the rubble, the rescue service said, adding that a rescue operation for the missing laborers was underway.

The bodies have been shifted to a local hospital, according to the rescue service.

A Palestinian killed, 35 injured in clashes with Israeli soldiers in West Bank

■ HT News Network

Ramallah, July 20 (UNI) A Palestinian was killed, and at least 35 were injured on Wednesday midnight during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, according to Palestinian medics.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in a statement that Badder Al-Masri, 19, died in the hospital after he was shot in the chest by Israeli soldiers.

Among the 35 injured Palestinians, five were injured by live ammunition; two were in serious condition, and 30 inhaled tear gas.

Since January, 24 people, most of them Israelis, have been killed in a series of attacks carried out by Palestinians, and 175 Palestinians, including children and women, were killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, according to official figures.

Top military officials of Armenia, US hold meeting in Washington

■ HT News Network

Yerevan, July 20 (UNI) Armenian Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and First Deputy Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Edward Asryan met with US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley during his working visit to Washington, the Armenian Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.

"As part of the conference taking place in Washington, Asryan had a short conversation with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. During the conversation, the importance of the state partnership program with Kansas was emphasized," the ministry said.

Export Awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding Workshop held at Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JULY 20: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in collaboration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) today conducted an export awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding workshop at Rest House Kulgam.

The workshop aimed to educate and empower potential exporters in the region and facilitate their entry into the world of e-commerce.

The workshop was presided over by Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam.

Dr. Bilal expressed his gratitude towards the business community members from Kulgam district and emphasized the importance of industrial development, proper storage of products, promotion of One District One Product (ODOP) items, and the need to generate self-employment opportunities.

He threw light on the major products from Kulgam that possess



immense potential for exports, stressing the significance of fine-tuning and perfecting the quality of these products. As part of the export awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding workshop, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) joined forces to deliver a comprehensive session on export opportunities across various sectors.

The event marked the beginning of a series of workshops planned

across the Jammu and Kashmir region to promote exports from all districts. It included comprehensive sessions on the benefits of exports, awareness regarding the India Business Portal and India Trade Portal, credit linkages for exports, credit risk insurance facilities, and the international market potential for products from the region. Representatives from APEDA and FIEO collaborated to provide valuable insights and guidance to the workshop participants. The session aimed to equip potential exporters.

DC Baramulla reviews arrangements for I-Day 2023 Celebrations

■ **HT News Network**

BARAMULLA, JULY 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today convened a meeting of officers from different departments at Dak Bungalow here to review the arrangements for smooth Independence Day 2023 celebrations in the district.

The meeting was informed that the main function of the day will be held at District Police Lines Baramulla, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag followed by inspection of parade.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on arrangements to be put in



place at the venue for the National function, including security, seating, transportation, parking, electricity, refreshment, medicare, availability of ambulance,

deployment of fire tenders and sanitation measures.

It was given out that the march-past will be presented by contingents of JKP, CRPF, Fire and Emer-

gency and other bands which would be followed by a colorful cultural programme by students.

The Health Department was asked to depute Med-

ical teams along with ambulances at the venue to meet any eventuality.

Executive officer, Municipal Council Baramulla was directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the main venue.

The DC also directed the concerned Officer of Education Department to select the contingents and students for the national anthem and cultural programme.

The concerned departments were asked to ensure proper arrangements related to security, sanitation, seating arrangements, barricading, water supply, power supply, issuance of invitation cards and illumination of important build-

ings etc on the Independence Day.

Moreover, Dr Sehrish emphasized upon all the officers to work with synergy and mutual coordination for smooth and successful conduct of I-Day celebrations.

Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Manzoor Ahmad Raina; Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Planning, M. Yusuf; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDMs besides other officers of Police, CRPF were present in the meeting.

Mega cleanliness drive held at GDC Ganderbal

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, JULY 20: Non-teaching Staff of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal in collaboration with Municipal Council Ganderbal under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan today organised a cleanliness drive within the college premises.

The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and to create and contribute towards a cleaner and healthier environment in and around the campus.

The cleanliness drive began in the morning with an opening address by the Principal of the College Prof. Fouzia Fatima who emphasised the significance of cleanliness for a healthy society and a good academic environment.

The non-teaching staff enthusiastically participated in the programme initiative to contribute to an overall development of the college and reinforce the importance of cleanliness in all aspects of life.

Plant Clinical Camp organised at Budgam

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, JULY 20: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with IFFCO today organized a day-long plant clinical camp at Qazibagh.

Around 100 farmers from the area participated in the said camp. Besides, the programme was attended by Scientists of Kendra, experts from Div. of Soil Science, Div. of Entomology SKUAST-K, officials from the line departments, and representatives from IFFCO.

The purpose of the programme was to discuss and deliberate about the issues faced by the farmers related to the horticulture, field and vegetable Crops for their on-spot redressal.

Senior Scientist and Head KVK Budgam, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone discussed the role of KVK in insect pest and disease management of crops. He further stressed upon usage of new technology and social media for management of insect pests and diseases by getting advisories from the concerned scientists.

Dr Vaseem Yousuf (Scientist Plant Pathology) also replied to the pertinent queries raised by farmers.

During the programme free of cost pea seed was distributed among the farmers. Scientists also visited the farmers' field for on the spot assessment and recommendation for redressal of the problems.

Dr. Shakeel A. Mir discussed the soil sampling techniques from orchards and other crop fields. Dr. Shafiq Hakeem deliberated upon the apple leaf miner with management practices.

CUET-2023, CUK opens link for registration to UG programmes

■ **HT News Network**

Ganderbal, July 20: The candidates who appeared in CUET-2023 and have preferred Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, for admission to Under-Graduate programmes in integrated BA LLB, B.Sc/M.Sc Physics, B.Sc/M.Sc Zoology, B.Sc/M.Sc Mathematics and B.Sc/M.Sc. Biotechnology, are hereby informed to register for counselling.

The registration link shall open on 20th of July, and will close on 26th of July, 2023.

Furthermore, the counselling for admission to B.Tech. CSE Programme will be held on 24 and 25th of July, 2023. For further details log on to the university website www.cukashmir.ac.in.

ADDC Ganderbal discusses issues related to transport facility at Baltal

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, JULY 20: The Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani and Camp Director Base Camp Baltal, Ghan Shyam Singh today convened a meeting with the transporters and discussed range of issues related to transport facilities provided to the devotees. The meeting was attended by various representatives of transport associations and other officials from Civil and Police. The meeting discussed various issues related to transport facilities at Baltal including adherence to notified rates, timing, parking, and other related issues. While deliberating on the issues, ADDC urged them to ensure the rates notified already shall be adhered to strictly, besides the vehicle coming from other stands shall not be allowed.

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Harwan area of Srinagar

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, JULY 20: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited farms of different progressive farmers in Harwan area of Srinagar and interacted with them.

While interacting with the farmers, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of integrated farming and said that future belongs to developed, vibrant, multi-dimensional agriculture and allied sector, and integrated farming could help this achieve.

Director Agriculture said that department is working on a strategy wherein the farmers are educated to adopt integrated approach for their farms so that they could get maximum out of it in terms of business and profit.

He assured the farmers of every possible technical support from the department whenever and wherever they need it.

Chowdhary Iqbal said that they are working for the transformation of farming sector and transformation does not mean increasing productivity, but socio-economic transformation and empowerment. "We are endeavouring to convert our farmer into an agri-preneur", he added. Director Agriculture Kashmir was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Manohar Lal Sharma and other senior officers of the department. Chowdhary Iqbal said that they are working for the transformation of farming sector and transformation does not mean increasing productivity, but socio-economic transformation and empowerment. "We are endeavouring to convert our farmer into an agri-preneur", he added.

Chairman DDC Budgam assesses road for Muharram procession; addresses Khul blockage in Daffpora

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, JULY 20: The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan today visited Daffpora Budgam to assess the road conditions for the upcoming Muharram procession and to address the blockage of Khul in the area.

Accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DDC Council and Executive Engineers of Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Irrigation departments, the Chairman conducted



an on-site inspection to evaluate the condition of the road, ensuring its suitability and safety for the upcoming religious procession of Muharram. Furthermore, during the visit, Nazir Ahmad Khan also took

immediate action to address the issue of the Khul blockage, a vital waterway in the area. The concerned authorities were directed to initiate necessary measures promptly to resolve the blockage and

restore the smooth flow of water to benefit the local community.

The Chairman DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring seamless arrangements for religious events while also acknowledging the significance of maintaining essential infrastructure to meet the needs of the people in Daffpora, Budgam. He extended his gratitude to the local community and administrative officials for their cooperation during the visit and urged everyone to work collectively for the betterment of the region.

Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals; Police arrests hardcore member of sand mafia, seizes tractor in Baramulla

■ **HT News Network**

July 20: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have arrested a notorious & hardcore member of sand mafia and seized his tractor in Baramulla.

A police party under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla Shri

Altaf Ahmad-JKPS, assisted by SHO PS Baramulla arrested most notorious & hardcore member of sand mafia at Chakloo Baramulla and seized his tractor for involved in illegal transportation of minerals. He has been identified as Waseem Ahmad War son of Gh Mohiuddin War resident of Chakloo Baramulla.

Accordingly, a case under relevant

sections of law has been registered at Police Station Baramulla and investigation has been taken up.

Persons found indulging in illegal extraction activities shall be dealt with as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

Manipur incident "outrageous": Basharat Bukhari Says, Political, other classes must rise above vote bank & other considerations to shape the society respecting human values

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar, Expressing outrage over the brutal gangrape and murder of two Kuki tribe women in Manipur, former Law minister Syed Basharat Bukhari Thursday said, that the gruesome incident was grossly disturbing and utterly unacceptable in our society.

In a statement, Mr. Bukhari said that the incident has brought forth the adverse impact of the political and other narratives being built and spread through the media over so many years which somehow impact the psyche and mindset of the public resulting in such gruesome acts.

"Our heads hang in shame as these daughters/

mothers and sisters belonged to all," the former minister said in the statement. He added that, a conscious campaign of spreading hatred has now become a norm with the media becoming a deliberate and willing partner for its amplification, and the results that this hatred produces ultimately ends up in degrading the social and human values of our society.

"This is dastardly surprising that nobody seemed in a hurry to address the crises and turmoil which is going -on for months there". Said Bukhari, adding that, "Wahi Jantay hain ye dard Jo aisay halaat se guzray houn"- "Only those understand the pain of such destruction who have actually passed through the

same).

While condemning the incident vociferously Basharat Bukhari said that he was short of words to express his pain and anger over the incident and urged the Political and other influential classes of the society to desist from spreading hatred for vote bank politics and other relevant issues, and instead work on shaping the society where people would think thousands of times before indulging in such inhuman acts. He added that "my heart goes out for the families of these innocent daughters, mothers and sisters and I must tell all that," Batiyaan, Maiyain aur Behnie Sanjhi hoti hain" (- Daughters, mothers and sisters belong to all.)

ADDC chairs Concurrent Audit Team meeting at Bandipora

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, JULY 20: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Thursday chaired a meeting of the Concurrent Audit Team in his office chambers.

The meeting focused on addressing and expediting the examination of recently completed Languishing projects in the region.

During the meeting, files pertaining to the recently completed Languishing projects were formally handed over to the members of the Concurrent Audit Team. The officials were entrusted with the crucial task of thoroughly examining the cases of the completed projects. The examination aimed to ensure compliance with established guidelines, quality standards, and effective utilization of resources.

On the occasion the Concurrent Audit Team members were apprised of the significance of their role in evaluating the



projects' execution and highlighting any potential irregularities or areas for improvement.

The ADDC directed to adhere to the prescribed format while preparing their reports for the examined cases.

Ali Afsar Khan on the occasion set a strict deadline for the submission of the audit reports. The team was instructed to submit the detailed reports, along with their findings and recommendations, within a time period of 10 days.

Besides, concerned Officers and officials, Officers from various departments including PHE, PDD, R&B and DSEO also attended the meeting.

Why you need to add lycopene rich foods to your diet

Lycopene is a bright red carotenoid hydrocarbon found in tomatoes and other red fruits and vegetables. It is a powerful antioxidant with many health benefits. "Lycopene is a bit like a superpowered health helper. It's known as an antioxidant, and its main job is to tackle harmful substances in our body called free radicals," Dr Ushakiran Sisodia, Registered Dietician and Clinical Nutritionist Diet and Nutrition, Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital told indian-express.com.

Free radicals can harm our cells and speed up ageing and cause diseases such as cancer or cardiovascular conditions. As per some studies, lycopene may reduce the risk of some types of cancer, especially prostate cancer. "It's also thought to be good for our hearts by lowering the "bad" cholesterol and raising the "good" one, keeping blood pressure in check, and reducing inflammation and



stress in our bodies," shared Dr Sisodia. Sisodia added that foods rich in lycopene may even help keep our bones strong and protect our skin from sun damage. Tomatoes, watermelon, pink grapefruit, guava, papaya, red bell peppers, asparagus, red cabbage and

pomegranate are some foods rich in lycopene. Did you know that our bodies can get more lycopene from cooked or processed tomatoes than from the raw ones?

"So, tomato paste, sauce, and juice can give you a good lycopene boost," shared Sisodia. (Lycopene

is great, but it's no magic bullet. "It's best to get it from a varied diet rather than just depending on over the counter supplements," advised Dr Sisodia. Also, even though lycopene shows promise in fighting off cancer and heart disease, in no way can it be a

substitute for active treatment, recommended by the doctors. "Look at lycopene as a way to achieve a balance diet, more than using it with a goal to manage or prevent diseases," concluded Dr Sisodia.

Peanuts vs Almonds: Which nut is more nutritious?

In the world of nuts, peanuts and almonds reign supreme as two of the most popular choices. Their crunchy texture, delightful taste, and abundant health benefits make them a sought-after snack for the health-conscious. But when it comes to choosing between these two nutritional powerhouses, which one comes out on top? Let's delve into the facts to determine which nut offers more nourishment for your well-being.

Protein:

Both peanuts and almonds are excellent sources of plant-based protein, making them valuable additions to any diet. A 100 gm serving of peanuts contains approximately 25 gm of protein, while the same amount of almonds provides around 21 gm. So, in terms of protein content, peanuts have a slight advantage over almonds.

Heart-healthy fats:

Healthy fats play a crucial role in maintaining cardiovascular health. Peanuts and almonds boast high levels of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, which have been associated with reducing bad cholesterol levels and lowering the risk of heart disease. While the specific fat content may vary depending on factors such as roasting and processing, both nuts offer heart-protective benefits, making them excellent choices for heart-conscious individuals.



Vitamins:

When it comes to vitamins, both peanuts and almonds boast an impressive array of nutrients. Peanuts are rich in essential B vitamins such as niacin, folate, and thiamine, which are vital for energy metabolism and nervous system function. On the other hand, almonds shine with their significant vitamin E content, a potent antioxidant that supports skin health and boosts the immune system.

Minerals:

In terms of minerals, both nuts offer magnesium, a mineral essential for bone health, muscle function, and regulating blood pressure. Additionally, peanuts and almonds are excellent sources of potassium, which aids in maintaining a healthy

balance of fluids in the body and supports heart health.

Antioxidant content:

Antioxidants play a crucial role in neutralising harmful free radicals, protecting our cells from damage and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. Peanuts are a rich source of resveratrol, a potent antioxidant also found in red grapes and known for its anti-inflammatory properties. On the other hand, almonds contain a good amount of flavonoids, which have been linked to improving heart health and reducing oxidative stress.

Weight management:

For those aiming to manage their weight, both peanuts and almonds can be benefi-

cial. Despite their calorie density, studies suggest that including moderate portions of nuts in your diet may not lead to weight gain and can even aid in weight loss due

to their satiating effect.

Allergies and sensitivities:

It is essential to consider allergies and sensitivities as well while making the choice. Peanut allergies are relatively common and can cause severe reactions in some individuals. Almond allergies are less prevalent but still exist. If you have a history of allergies, it is crucial to consult with a healthcare professional before incorporating these nuts into your diet.

Peanuts vs almonds: The final verdict:

In the battle of peanuts vs almonds, both nuts emerge as nutritional champions, each with its unique set of health benefits. Peanuts take the lead in protein content and antioxidant properties, while almonds boast higher levels of vitamin E. At the end, the choice between these two nutritious nuts boils down to personal preference, dietary needs, and any potential allergies. Incorporating either or both into your diet can be a delicious and rewarding way to support your overall wellness. At the end, the choice between these two nutritious nuts boils down to personal preference, dietary needs, and any potential allergies.

NEWS

3 nutrient-rich foods to detoxify the body and flush out toxins this monsoon



As the monsoon season graces us with its refreshing showers, it also brings with it an increased risk of infections and toxins. To maintain optimal health and well-being, incorporating a detoxifying diet becomes essential. Thankfully, nature there is an abundance of nutrient-rich foods that can help in flushing out toxins, boosting immunity and revitalizing the body. Here you can find a few power-packed foods that are not only delightful for your taste buds but also effective to detoxify your body during monsoon.

Foods to detox the body

From vibrant fruits bursting with antioxidants to cleansing vegetables and invigorating herbal teas, these superfoods will help you embrace the rainy season with a refreshed and rejuvenated body:

1. Green leafy vegetables

During the monsoon season, fresh green leafy vegetables such as spinach, kale and fenugreek leaves are abundant. These vegetables are packed with essential vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that help eliminate toxins from your body. Additionally, these veggies are a great source of fiber, which aids in digestion and supports the cleansing process. Including a variety of green leafy vegetables in your diet can help purify your blood and keep your digestive system functioning optimally.

2. Turmeric

Turmeric, a golden spice with potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, has been used for centuries in traditional medicine for its detoxifying benefits. Curcumin, the active compound in turmeric, helps the liver detoxify (liver detoxification) the body by neutralizing free radicals and promoting the production of enzymes that flush out toxins. Including turmeric in your meals, whether in its raw form, as a spice, or in the popular turmeric latte, can significantly aid in detoxification and bolster your immune system during the monsoon season.

3. Whole grains

Incorporating whole grains such as brown rice, quinoa, barley and oats into your monsoon detox diet can provide essential fiber, vitamins, and minerals. These grains improve digestion, regulate blood sugar levels, and help eliminate toxins from your body. Moreover, whole grains also provide a steady release of energy, supporting overall well-being. Experiment with wholesome grain-based recipes like vegetable stir-fries or grain salads for a satisfying and nourishing meal.

Low Vitamin D? These 6 foods can increase the level in your body



Vitamin D is an extremely important compound for the growth of healthy cells, and it also helps in the absorption of calcium. According to experts, Vitamin D is helpful in preventing diseases like rickets and osteoporosis.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), Vitamin D is produced when the sun's ultraviolet rays hit your skin. The recommended daily allowance (RDA) of vitamin D is 600 international units (IU), which is 15 micrograms (mcg) for most adults. Certain foods are naturally rich in Vitamin D.

Salmon:

Fatty fish like Salmon are a great source of vitamin D. According to the United States Department of Agri-

culture (USDA) Food Composition Database, one 3.5-ounce (100-gram) serving of farmed Atlantic salmon contains 526 IU of vitamin D, or 66% of the DV. Other fatty fish like Halibut and mackerel provide 190 IU and 643 IU per 3.5-ounce (100-gram) serving, respectively.

Kale:

Kale or leaf cabbage is also a source of vitamins B and D. Studies suggest that Kale contains kaempferol and quercetin, excellent antioxidants which are very good for brain functioning.

Orange:

It is a rich source of vitamin D. Additionally, it helps our body make collagen. Collagen heals wounds and makes skin smoother.

Mushroom:

Sun-dried mushrooms are an excellent source of vitamin D.

Egg Yolk:

The yolk in the egg is loaded with vitamin D. According to studies, one egg yolk contains 41 IU of vitamin D. Eggs are also a great source of calcium, protein, zinc, and essential minerals.

Cod Liver Oil:

Cod liver oil is extremely rich in Vitamin A and D. Studies suggest that a single teaspoon of cod liver oil provides approximately 113% of your daily vitamin D requirements. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), Vitamin D is produced when the sun's ultraviolet rays hit your skin.

Intense Exercise May Help Slow Parkinson's Disease, Experts Say

Intense and rigorous exercise may help slow the progression of Parkinson's disease according to a new study.

Parkinson's disease is a condition that is newly diagnosed in almost 90,000 people each year in the United States.

Parkinson's is the second most common neurodegenerative condition in the world.

An international group of researchers has recently discovered that a rigorous exercise program may potentially slow the progression of Parkinson's disease – giving way for non-pharmaceutical approaches to helping with symptoms and treating the condition.

Parkinson's disease is a condition that is newly diagnosed in almost 90,000 people each year in the United States according to the Parkinson's Foundation. Currently, there is no cure. Clinical scientists around the world are attempting to not only find a cure but also are looking to help manage symptoms and



understand how this management works.

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative condition in the world after Alzheimer's disease and is caused by multiple years of damage.

However, the early stages of this condition are difficult to understand as many of the symptoms occur years after the damage starts. This study in rats, investigated whether rigorous physical activity could affect the brain changes present in an experimental model of Parkinson's.

Aerobic exercise has helped people with Parkinson's

A group of neuroscientists from the Faculty of

Department of Neuroscience at Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy.

Other studies have emphasized this trend.

Why exercise can help mitigate Parkinson's disease symptoms

Calabresi told Healthline that "a neurobiological explanation of the amelioration induced by physical activity" was lacking and his study worked to understand how this benefit occurred to help develop future treatments.

While some studies had shown that exercise had improved both motor and cognitive performance, none had demonstrated the precise mechanism of the beneficial effects and this study used rat modeling to understand how this benefit works.

By introducing rats to agents to cause the early effects of Parkinson's disease, scientists initiated rigorous treadmill testing to understand the reversible nature and preservation of motor control and movement with these exercises.

