



MUHARRAM ARRANGEMENTS:

Muharram Is The Occasion Of Utmost Religious Importance For All Of Us: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a high level meeting today to review arrangements for Muharram.

The meeting at Civil Secretariat was attended by heads of religious organisations, eminent members of Shia Community; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh M.K Sinha, ADGP

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Pakistan making efforts to engage youth towards drugs in J&K: DGP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday said as militancy was on its deathbed in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan was luring youths towards drugs.

He said Pakistan is following "Punjab model" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan is following the Punjab model to



lure Jammu and Kashmir's younger generation towards drugs as terrorism is on its deathbed", DGP Singh told media persons after inaugurating the J&K Police Martyrs' Football Tournament in Srinagar on Monday.

He said when terrorism ended in Punjab, youth and people were lured towards drugs. While terrorism vanished in Punjab, drugs remained there to destroy the generations. Same model is being followed in J&K by

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NEWS BRIEF

Kindergartens without governance

'Govt ignorant about the mechanism, data of kindergartens'

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: The private pre-paratory schools—Kindergartens in Kashmir division are functioning without any regulatory authority and mechanism and continue to go un-governed—thus raising a question on the functioning of the authorities.

Officials at the School Education Department informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), "Besides having no regulatory

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Police arrest 3 for stabbing 2 youths

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested three people for allegedly stabbing two youths in Srinagar's exhibition ground, source said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Hammad Khan, Baazil Khan and Majid Khan, all residents of the Saria-bala area of Srinagar, who have been arrested for stabbing two youths in Exhibition Ground, police said in a Sunday night tweet.

Three knives used in the offence were also recovered, police said, adding that a case under relevant sections of the law stands registered in Police Station Shergari.

"Accused Hammad Khan S/o Late Javid Ahmed, Baazil Khan S/o Lt. Javid

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Two arrested for killing stray dog in Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested two people on Monday for allegedly killing a stray dog in Srinagar's Badamwari area.

The duo has been identified as Gulzar Ahmad Beigh of Rehmaniya Colony, Lal Bazar, and Adnan Shah of Hawal Badamwari, Police said in a Sunday-night tweet.

Police said the two were arrested on charges of cruelty and brutally killing a stray dog near Badamwari Rainawari on July 21, 2023.

A case under relevant sections of the law stands registered in

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Security Experts Attribute Surge In Infiltration To Pakistan's Frustration Over G20 Success In Kashmir

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 24: As Jammu and Kashmir recently witnessed a surge in infiltration attempts from across the border with over 20 terrorists being eliminated by Army personnel in two months, security experts point to Pakistan's frustration with the successful G20 meeting in Kashmir.

The surge in the infiltration from

across the LoC gained momentum in May, around the time of the G20 event, and it continued into June and July.



Former J-K director general of police Kuldeep Khosla stressed that Pakistan has renewed its efforts to increase terrorism in the Union territory but the security forces and police have effectively countered these attempts, resulting in a decrease

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Centre likely to reserve 3 seats for Kashmiri migrants, PoJK refugees in J&K Assembly

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: The Central government is mulling to amend the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act to reserve three seats in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly for Kashmiri migrants and refugees from the Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Centre is planning to bring "The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in Parliament to reserve two seats for Kashmiri migrants and one for refu-

gees from PoJK. These members will be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, they said. According to sources, the bill states that Jammu & Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor may nominate not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman, from the community of Kashmiri migrants, to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

It further states that LG may nominate one member from displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the Jammu and Kashmir

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J&K Govt Orders Transfers And Postings Of IFS Officers

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today ordered transfer and postings of IFS officers.

According to an order issued here, Roshan



Jaggi, IFS (JK:1988), PCCF/ Director, Social Forestry, J&K is transferred and posted as PCCF/ Director, Social Forestry (Territorial) & HoFF, J&K.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS (JK:1991), PCCF/ Chief Wild Life Warden, J&K is transferred and posted as PCCF/ Director, Social Forestry, J&K. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation.

Sarvesh Rai, IFS (JK:1991), PCCF/ CEO,

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J&K Govt Invites Devotees To Machail Mata Yatra Through Scenic Himalayan Ranges

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 24: Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Kishtwar has made elaborate arrangements to invite pilgrims from all over the country to seek the blessings of Goddess Chandī Maa and experience the spiritual journey of Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2023.

The annual pilgrimage of Machail Mata nestled in the abode of the Himalayan

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Transformed PDS In J&K Ensuring Transparency, Preventing Leakages In Ration Distribution

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: From the last four years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable transformation in its Public Distribution System (PDS). Through series of innovative reforms and technology-driven initiatives, the government has successfully eliminated leakages, enhanced efficiency, and ensured the benefits of PDS



reach the deserving beneficiaries.

The government's decision to seed Aadhaar cards with PDS beneficiary records has been a game-changer in ensuring transparency and preventing leakages. By linking beneficiaries' Aadhaar information to their ration cards, the system has become fool proof, eliminating the possibility of

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15 cloudburst incidents reported in J&K in July month: MeT

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Amid frequent wet spells in the ongoing month, Jammu and Kashmir has reported 15 cloudburst incidents in the month of July while the Meteorological department (MeT) is preparing data to see whether the incidents have witnessed an upward trend.

According to the news agency—Kashmir

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Dr. Shahid inaugurates two day conference on 'Gojri language in the contemporary world'

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today inaugurated two day conference on 'Gojri language in the contemporary world'.

The two day conference is being organised by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), and brought together galaxy of scholars and experts deliberating the future of Gojri language and culture.

In his address, Dr. Shahid called for collective efforts to off-set challenges confronting the Gojri language and culture. He lauded the initiatives taken for holistic development of regional languages and culture.

In the post-inaugural session, noted writer and broadcaster, Gulab Din Tahir presented a paper on Gojri language. In his paper,



GD Tahir said that Gojri language has centuries old past with a rich treasure of literature and poetry adding that it is one of the rich languages in Northern India.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh



said that the objective of the conference is to take a holistic view of Gojri language in the backdrop of the challenges it is confronting and the opportunities that lay in its way. "It is very important to make our languages relevant

to the modern times to ensure their survival and promotion", he added.

As part of the 2-day event, music programmes and paper reading sessions were also held. The proceedings of the conference

were conducted by Editor and Head, Gojri Wing, Dr. Shahnawaz.

The conference was attended by Salam ud Din Bajad, MK Waqar, Abdul Hamid Kasana, Ghulam Haider Badana, Javed Nizami, Manisha Khaki besides Abdul Gani Arif.

100 e-buses for Srinagar: SSCL set to start trial run in next 2 days

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: The Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) is all set to start trial run of e-buses in Srinagar in next two days while over a dozen such vehicles are expected to ply on the roads here after 15 days.

Pertinently, the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) had reported that Jammu and Kashmir administration has procured 200 e-buses—100 each for twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

A total of 200 e-buses are being procured. The electrical buses with AC and heating facility with CCTV are being procured under the Smart City



project.

The electrical buses will also have digital on-boarding facility, live tracking so that the people can be aware about the timing of arrival of buses.

Chief Engineer, SSCL, Iftikhar Kakroo said that the trial run of the e-buses will be started in the next two days, adding that the mandatory processes like registration, certificate from pollution control board is being done at present.

He added that a fleet of 15 e-buses will ply on the roads after the next 15-20 days.

"As 100 e-buses have been procured for Srinagar, rest of the vehicles will be seen plying on the roads by October-November," Kakroo said.

Meeras Mahal goes online to preserve Kashmir history

SOPORE, JUL 24: Meeras Mahal, the valley's first and biggest private museum and home to more than 7,000 artefacts, has gone online, providing an ethnographic lens into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

The museum in the Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district houses ancient ornaments, coins, traditional dresses and utensils, which could now be accessed through the website www.meerasmahalmuseum.com.

It was set up in the year 2002 by renowned educationist Aatiqa Bano who worked hard to preserve Kashmir's identity and depict its rich history.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Muzzamil Bashir, President Meeras Mahal, said, "Initially, the museum was started with a Kashmiri firepot (Kondal) which was kept in a small room, and the additions keep going with gradual collections. The people mostly come here to donate things with an aim to preserve them."

Though this was just like a store room and was not fulfilling the requirements which a museum must possess, Aatiqa Bano's approach the government several times for its support but always returned disappointed, Muzzamil, who is Aatiqa Bano's nephew, said. "We are pinning hopes on the present government for its support to preserve the heritage."

He said the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Kashmir—an organization involved in mapping, documenting and preserving the cultural heritage of Kashmir—is supporting the museum. We are currently shifting the items to the newly-constructed structure, which is a gallery type and fulfilling all the needs of a museum, he added.

Most of the artefacts, Bashir said, are items of daily use that were a common sight in Kashmir until the end of the 20th century. The Meeras Mahal museum collections are classified into terracotta, woodwork, wicker and grass-ware, metal (including jewellery), stone, textiles and manuscripts, he said, adding that new addition to this Meeras is Ladakh's heritage items including dresses.

The museum's website was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Syed Sehrish Asgar last week.

The president of the museum said that putting it online was due to the efforts of Musarat Kar, President Municipal Council Sopore, who is acting as a volunteer and is deeply passionate about preserving the rich cultural heritage of her homeland. This is going to help people across the globe to know about Kashmir's rich past, he added.

During the peak season of tourism, heritage lovers, both locals including college and school students, and outsiders (foreigners) prefer to visit the Meeras Mahal to gain knowledge about the valley's rich past.

"Objects have a huge cultural and heritage value as they depict a lifestyle and living pattern of a region," the DC Baramulla said while inaugurating the website.

"The museum has been used by the local population to get an understanding of the life and times of their immediate ancestors. It gives people firsthand information of their vernacular past," she said.

With exemplary innovations, Bandipora's 'Newton' changes stereotype perceptions of rural life

BANDIPORA, JUL 24: A septuagenarian innovator from the Bandipora district of North Kashmir has been subverting conventional conceptions of rural existence by his outstanding creations.

Muhammad Ismail Mir aka "Newton" from Watapora town of the district, has been innovating since he was young and has succeeded in his mission.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Ismail said that he attended classes until 12th grade, but had to stop due to fiscal struggles at home. However, he has always cherished an enthusiasm for technological inventions. Ismail said he then joined the ITI after quitting school to gain technical education, but he had to discontinue since he would constantly challenge his professor and the issue might have reached the authorities, leading him to abandon his ITI studies prematurely.

"In 2019, he created an automated respirator that provides immense aid to critically sick patients. It enables the patient to undertake treatment without needing the assistance of a healthcare worker or anybody to continuously pump the air device in order to sustain," he said.

Ismail declared that the automated respirator was accepted by the Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. "I acquired a recognition certificate from Harvard Medical School and a money prize of Rs. 5,000 for



constructing this automated respirator model," he said.

Ismail said that when the second wave of COVID was at its peak and everybody was yearning for oxygen, he crafted a blueprint of an oxygen concentrator. "I established an oxygen concentrator as there was tremendous demand for it due to the COVID pandemic. Thus, I imagined if some company started manufacturing it here, I made a plan".

Ismail has generated a diversity of electronic prototypes previously as well. His undertakings have been extensively valued, by the public and by healthcare professionals.

Ismail experienced the death of his eldest son Dr Jamsheed to Cancer in 2019, however that didn't stop his inventive nature. Now several friends of his late son have decided to set up an in situ 'fab lab' worth 5 lac at his residence in Bandipora.

Ismail uttered that he crafted his

first invention in 2008 when he fashioned a lantern with a motion sensor with a fire alarm installation.

Ismail recently modified Kashmiri traditional winter heating gadget kangri and augmented its productivity, making it appropriate for use in any kind of weather which he claims will not merely be limited to winter use, but could also be utilized as a cooling system in the summer season.

Ismail is also functioning on a variety of recent inventions. "I am trying my part to benefit the society with whatever is practicable. Imagination and creativity are two abilities that are highly esteemed in today's society and should be admired more," he declared.

"We have an atmosphere that names invention as madness, but our victory would be in recognizing additional outrageous individuals and their outrageousness so that the creativity rebellion can disperse across our nation," he said.

Lateef Ah Ganie elected as Present of Traders Union cum Association of Langate

■ Dr. Ab. Qayoom

LANGATE, JUL 24: Lateef Ahmad Ganie declared winner as President of TRADERS UNION Cum ASSOCIATION of Langate with highest margin of 117 votes Out of total 278 votes. "It is a great honour for me that the traders elected me as their president. I will work for the development of traders as I have worked in the past as social worker for society" young elected president LTU/ association of Langate told HEADLINES TODAY. On this occasion, A number of people including political and non political organisations, Journalists, civil society members especially Chairman Municipal Committee Langate Adv. Shahnawaz Abdullah, NT. Langate Mohd Maqbool, Trad-



er's federation president Handwara Ajaz Ah sofi, General Secty of trade Handwara Shaiikh Shazad, Ab Rashid Malik (CP). Handwara and all members of Langate welfare committee including transport president Mohd Ashrif Ganie

congratulated Lateef Ah Ganie for becoming the youngest president of the Langate traders union cum association. The day long elections of TRADER'S UNION cum ASSOCIATION of Langate was held with fervour, under the chairman of election



board Ab Hamid Shah currently general secretary of Langate trade and others members of union. The voting started at early today at 8:39am and closed about 02:00 pm. Three candidates had filed their nomination papers including former presi-

dent And Majeed Shaikh, Lateef Ah Ganie and Bashir Ah Lone. The newly young president assured the people associated with trade and business that he will work tirelessly to solve the different problems faced by them. (HT)

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD Committee meeting Directs officers to make serious efforts towards curbing drug menace in district Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JULY 24: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of District Level Committee of NARCO Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the measures for controlling of drug abuse in district Kupwara.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all the officers to make serious efforts towards curbing the drug menace in the district. She directed them to ensure that IEC activities regarding Nasha Mukta Bharat are conducted in every public function including Block Divas and Back to Village programmes.



Regarding Nasha Mukta Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers for re-verification of Nasha Mukta Certified Panchayats and share list of left out Panchayats with the concerned Tehsildars.

Meanwhile, the

Drug Controller Officer informed that 95-100% Drug Stores/Pharmacy Shops have been covered with CCTV cameras in main markets of the district. However, CCTV coverage in peripheral areas is in progress, he added.

The Deputy Com-

missioner directed the Drug Controller Officer to chalk out strategy and submit calendar of inspections to be carried out in peripheral areas in this regard. He was also directed to close down all those shops which show non-compliance of the instructions.

The Dy. CEO present in the meeting was directed to submit the status of shops selling Tobacco Products within 100 meter radius of the Educational Institutions.

SSP Kupwara also suggested that Committees comprising of officials from Health, Revenue, Police, Education, RDD and PRIs/Religious Heads be constituted for Blockwise/Thana wise counseling session of drug addicts.

DDC Gbl reviews progress of Developmental works under District Capex Plan 2023-24

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JULY 24: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyamir today chaired the meeting of officers to discuss and review the progress of various developmental projects under District Capex Plan 2023-24 in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal. At the outset, the CPO gave a detailed overview of the estimation and tendering process under District Capex, Area Development



Fund (DDC/ BDC/ PRI grants), Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP), SBM, JJM etc. The meeting was

informed that a budget of Rs 52.39 crore is approved for District Capex for the year 2023-24 under which 1460 works including 38

ongoing have been identified of various departments for augmentation of infrastructure and other facilities in the district. It was informed that out of 1460 total works 963 works have been accorded administrative approval, authorization of 70 percent works is given and over 46 percent works stand tendered. The DDC took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes of various departments including Jal Shakti, Urban Development, RDD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Adil Yousof, S/O Mohd Yousof Bhat R/o House no. 407/1C Housing Colony Bemina, Srinagar, do hereby changes name from Adil Yousof to Adil Yousof Bhat for all future purposes. Now in this care, if anybody has any kind of objection, He/She may file the same within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

Adil Yousof Bhat
407/1C Housin Colony, Bemina Sgr
+91-959600668

Subject-Grant of Registration of the Paying Guest house/Home Stay under the name & style "THE CLOVER HOME STAY" Situated at Pazwalpora Shalimar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I, UMAR RASHID KHAN S/o Abdul Rashid khan R/O R/o Pazwalpora Shalimar Srinagar, intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay situated at R/o Pazwalpora Shalimar Srinagar 190008 under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, "THE CLOVER HOME STAY" will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable) NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay, Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Completed my 3 years diploma in electronics and communication engineering under Roll No. 190404 and Under the Reg. No- 1104-R19-2168 Session 2019-2022, Through JKSBOTE. The error is committed by the college against my father's name as MOHD IDREES instead of MOHAMMAD IDREES. Now I have applied for the correction/rectification of error in the J&K SBOTE, K.G POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE SRINAGAR. This is published for the information of the general public. The correction particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Mumtaz Ahmad
Father's Name: Mohammad Idrees
D/O B-03/03/2002
R/O:- Karnah, Gundi-Gujan, Kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umar Farooq, S/O Farooq Ahmad Dar R/o Sir Syed Abad Main Road, Bemina, Srinagar, do hereby changes name from Umar Farooq to Umar Farooq Dar for all future purposes. Now in this care, if anybody has any kind of objection, He/She may file the same within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

Umar Farooq Dar
Sir Syed Abad main road, Bemina Sgr
+91-9596999599

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applying for 8th pass Discharge certificate from Govt High School Maloora under Roll no 133018 session 2015 Adm No 659 Name Shabroza Daughter of Bashir Ahmad Ganai Residents of Maloora D.O.B 12/01/2001. if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his /her objection in office of the Headmaster Govt High School Maloora within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name, Shabroza
Daughter of Bashir Ahmad Ganai
Residents of Maloora

از عدالت سب جج کیواڑہ

بالجلاس: منظور احمد خان

Mehuru Nisa
Tabinda
Abu Bakir
SJO, DJO Javid Ahmad Gania
RJO Cheerkote Lolab
v/s public at Large

درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B

اطلاع آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرچہ عنوان السعد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B پیش کی مائل / سائل کی تاریخ پیدائش 26/06/2019 ہے۔ اگرچہ دستخط پیدائش عدالت خدائیں ایک درخواست بابت وصول پیش کی اگر درخواست خدائیں حکم صادر فرمائے سائل / سائل جلدیہ احمد ولد بشیر احمد سائل SJO Mohd Adiyaan Shabir SJO Shabir Ahmad Bhat RJO Ustaad Mohalla v/s public at Large

از عدالت سب جج کیواڑہ

بالجلاس: منظور احمد خان

Mohd Adiyaan Shabir
SJO Shabir Ahmad Bhat
RJO Ustaad Mohalla
v/s public at Large

درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B

اطلاع آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرچہ عنوان السعد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B پیش کی مائل / سائل کی تاریخ پیدائش 26/06/2019 ہے۔ اگرچہ دستخط پیدائش عدالت خدائیں ایک درخواست بابت وصول پیش کی اگر درخواست خدائیں حکم صادر فرمائے سائل / سائل جلدیہ احمد ولد بشیر احمد سائل SJO Mohd Adiyaan Shabir SJO Shabir Ahmad Bhat RJO Ustaad Mohalla v/s public at Large

تحریر الصدر سب جج کیواڑہ

از عدالت سب جج کیواڑہ

بالجلاس: منظور احمد خان

Javeed Ahmad Khatana
SJO Bashir Ahmad Khaana
RJO Zangli Kasheera Kupwara
v/s public at Large

درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B

اطلاع آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرچہ عنوان السعد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بابت وصول D.O.B پیش کی مائل / سائل کی تاریخ پیدائش 05/10/2023 ہے۔ اگرچہ دستخط پیدائش عدالت خدائیں ایک درخواست بابت وصول پیش کی اگر درخواست خدائیں حکم صادر فرمائے سائل / سائل جلدیہ احمد ولد بشیر احمد سائل SJO Javeed Ahmad Khatana Shabir SJO Bashir Ahmad Khatana RJO Zangli Kasheera v/s public at Large

تحریر الصدر سب جج کیواڑہ

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh NIT No- 61 of RnB-Sopore of 2023-2024 e-tendering DATED 24.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate 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	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bids	Class of Contractor	M.Hof/Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
01	Upgradation of road from Zahid Ahmad Dar to onwards at Sultanpora-B	3.94	200/-	7880/-	15days	04.08.2023	DEE	PRI Grants

Project Authority: DDC

Position of funds: Available

Position of AAA/TS/ Accorded

1.	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 detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:		
1	Date of issue of tender Notice	24.07.2023	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24.07.2023	03.08.2023 (upto 4 PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	24.07.2023	
4	Bid submission End date	03.08.2023 (4.00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	04.08.2023 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore	

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website 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 the same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the bid submission process.

6.2. Top participants 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.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bid online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per the time scheduled in the mentioned in Para-1

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related document set must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. 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 up to 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.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any other specified project there relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.

13. Instruction to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.

b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. and correspondence address.

c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.

d. All bidders shall upload valid GSTIN No. and PAN card.

e. All bidders shall upload valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearance certificate Form GST-3B for the Proceeding Month/ proceeding i.e. January - March

14. The bidder is his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,

Dated: 24.07.2023
DIPK-5724/23

Sd/

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Sopore

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mechanical Division Baramulla, MED Kashmir

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermedb@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	MDR/TS/2023-24/04/991-97
Date:	22.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs/Registered/Reputed Workshop holders for the below mentioned repair works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Providing, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Joystick (Part No. 00105542) for operation of Blower Assembly of Fresia Snow Cutter of Field Sub-Division Pattan.	1.26	200.00	2520/-	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. **Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 22-07-2023 (06.15 PM) onwards.

2. **Submission of Bids:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 22-07-2023 (06.30 PM) to 03-08-2023 (06.55 PM) in two covers.

3. **Opening of Bids:** The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 04-08-2023 (13.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

I.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement excluding nPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with the cash online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TSHH. Account No.: 0213010200000051.
II.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) bidder while executing agreement with the Firm.
III.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
IV.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
V.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
VI.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.

Note: Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOO which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.

- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. 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.
- The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
- The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the date of issue of Allotment Order.

DIPK-5677/23
Dated 24.7.23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla

487 TB patients registered for nutritional support in Rajouri DC calls for intensifying tuberculosis elimination measures

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JULY 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today called for effective implementation of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) to achieve elimination of the disease in the district by 2025 in consonance with the national target.

He was chairing a meeting of the members of the District Tuberculosis Forum convened to discuss action plan for effective implementation of the program.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rajinder Sharma; MS DH, Dr. Mehmood Bajar; DTO, Dr. Khalid Mansoor and other concerned officers.

The meeting was apprised of

the composition, objectives, and working of the TB Forum, and the achievements made under NTEP in the district. The meeting served as a platform to discuss different kinds of services being provided by the government to the masses under the National Tuberculosis Elimination programme.

Tuberculosis is a priority disease that has been targeted for elimination in India by 2025, and community-led participation is an essential component to achieve the target within the stipulated time frame.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the stakeholders to work in tandem for the effective implementation of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme in the district.

The attendees were informed that as of 30 June 2023, a total of 427 TB patients have been



notified in the district under the NTEP. Additionally, a total of 9,528 persons have been examined for sputum, and 1,022 CBNAAT tests, 1,667 Truenat tests, and 2,689 molecular tests have been done in the district under the NTEP.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the stakeholder to make concerted efforts to achieve 100 percent eradication of tubercu-

losis in the district. He stressed the importance of remaining in touch with tuberculosis patients and providing them with the best possible healthcare services so that they do not face any inconveniences.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the importance of effective implementation of the Nikshya Poshan Yojana, a scheme aimed at providing

nutritional support to TB patients. As of now, 487 patients have been registered under Nikshya Mitra.

The Deputy Commissioner called for mobilization and intensification of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to raise awareness about the disease and the measures to control and prevent it. Early detection and testing

of patients suffering from TB is crucial in ensuring the timely elimination of the disease from the district. The Deputy Commissioner called for increasing the testing rate of high-risk groups so that they can be provided with necessary treatment in time.

In conclusion, the meeting served as a reminder of the government's commitment to eliminating tuberculosis from the country and the crucial role of community-led participation in achieving this goal. Tuberculosis is a priority disease that has been targeted for elimination in India by 2025, and community-led participation is an essential component to achieve the target within the stipulated time frame.

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The Deputy Commissioner urged the stakeholder to make concerted efforts to achieve 100 percent eradication of tuberculosis in the district. He stressed the importance of remaining in touch with tuberculosis patients and providing them with the best possible healthcare services so that they do not face any inconveniences.

SKUAST-J organises Anti Dengue campaign

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

JAMMU, JULY 24: An Awareness Programme, as a part of July Month Anti Dengue campaign, was organized today at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Science and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu.

The program was held under the direct supervision of Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Director Health Services Jammu, who was the Chief Guest on this occasion. More than 400 students, faculty members, non teaching staff and Administrative staff of SKUAST were sensitized. A Power Point Presentation regarding the Vector Borne Diseases, in particular Dengue, was given by Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer/ State Malariologist, J&K, Jammu.

Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean Student Welfare, Dr. Anil Gupta, Medical Officer, Dr. Sushma, Medical Officers at SKUAST and Dr. Subash, NSS, Coordinator were also present on the occasion. This activity was carried out as part of the National Social Service activity of the Agriculture College.

Nowshera Forest division conducts series of plantation drives under "one beat guard one village Programme"

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JULY 24: The Nowshera Forest Division organized a number of Plantation drives under the "One Beat Guard One Village" programme. Among these, one such drive was conducted at village Prat of Sunderbani Range. Amit Kumar, Panch Panchayat Prat, other PRI members and a large number of villagers took part in the drive.

Beat Guard Salheri, Bal Raj Raina conducted the drive with the help of Block Forest Officer Dharamsal, Rajinder Dev Sharma and other staff members. A number of fruit, Medicinal and fodder plants were planted & distributed.

Some plants were also planted under "Ek Ped Lagayein Beeti Ke Naam" campaign. The plants were planted by Mahira Anjum D/O Makhan Din, Rubeena Akhter D/O Kala Khan, Suman Devi D/O Tamesh Kumar.

The PRI members and general public of the area lauded the efforts of Forest department for increasing the green cover and thanked Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri, Satyendra Maurya, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera and Sudesh Kumar, Range Officer Sunderbani/Lamberi for organising these plantation drives and creating awareness among the villagers regarding the importance of increasing tree cover. The PRI members and general public of the area lauded the efforts of Forest department for increasing the green cover and thanked Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri, Satyendra Maurya, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera and Sudesh Kumar, Range Officer

Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur for meeting staff deficiencies in far flung areas

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 24: Juhi Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson District Development Council today met several delegations here at her office in DC Office Complex.

The delegations projected a range of demanding provision of drinking water, adequate power supply, road connectivity, meeting paucity of staff in schools of far flung areas of District Udhampur.

DDC Latti, Pinky and DDC Ramnagar-II, Jattu Ram sought filling of posts left vacant after recent transfer of Teachers and masters. They said that the ATD has almost emptied the far flung areas of Chanunta, Ghordi, Ramnagar, Kulwanta where no replacement has been made after the transfers of

teachers and masters.

Mrs. Pathania, took up the issue with the Department of School Education, underscoring the need for provision of adequate staff schools in far flung areas and staff-deficient schools, while making a pointed reference towards recent transfers which have evoked much furor amongst the public and students community. She pointed out that scores of high schools in the far flung pockets of district Udhampur have been left staff-less and headless too.

She raised a viable point with CEO Udhampur over violation of parameters spelled out by national education policy which mandates that pupil teacher ratio should be maintained at 30:01.

Another spirited deputa-tion from Block Khooon led

Rana urges LG to establish Sanskrit University in Jammu

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI JULY 24: Underscoring the crucial need of promoting and preserving Dev Vani Sanskrit to enlighten the generations about their glorious heritage and ethos, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today urged Lieutenant Governor Mr Manoj Sinha to take with the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development the popular demand of establishing a Sanskrit University in the Utterbaini area of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Establishment of a Sanskrit University in this part of the country will be in consonance with India's rich heritage, which will also encourage scholars to carry out research and disseminate most valued



ancient literature and scriptures to wider audiences", Mr Rana said while supporting the memorandum formulated by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Vedic Sanathan Trust for consideration of the government the issue pertaining to establishing Open Sanskrit University in Jammu.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President Shri Kailash Jyotish Vedic Sanathan Trust

met Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and State BJP General Secretary Vibodh Gupta at New Delhi and said that due to the lack of Sanskrit institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, Sanskrit students are not getting enough opportunities and facilities, especially the students of hilly and remote areas. He stressed the need for establishing Sanskrit Department in every institution

in which subjects like Kashmir Shaivism, Shakti Pad-dhati, Siddhant Jyotish, Sanskrit grammar, Sanskrit literature like Mammata, Kalhan, Vilan etc. are included in the form of specialization.

With this, it will be very beneficial for Jammu and Kashmir, which is considered to be the homeland of Vedic culture and ancient Sanskrit. Along with this, the Sanskrit Ministry should be established in Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of Rajasthan state. He said Sanskrit language should have been made compulsory in the schools of Jammu and Kashmir from the first primary. Establishment of Jammu Kashmir Sanskrit Academy and Jammu Kashmir Sanskrit Sansthan on the lines.

Mayor Jammu, PCCF launch Greening Jammu Campaign

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 24: The Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rajinder Sharma today launched plant distribution campaign in Jammu City today under Green JK initiative of the J&K Forest Department by flagging of the mobile Vans here from Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk, carrying plants of different fruit and ornamental species for distributing the same amongst the people of Jammu City. During the campaign, all the wards of the Municipal Corporation of Jammu shall be covered and provided good plant species for plantation. The aim of the initiative is to Green and



clean Jammu. He appealed to the people to plant trees in their houses, strips, public parks and to protect them. He informed that the JMC has operationalized "The Tree Authority" for the plantation and protection of trees in the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He emphasized that the JMC and the Forest Department have to work in close tandem to make Jammu green

and pollution free. Earlier, the event started by planting a ceremonial plant by the Mayor and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force in the premises of the Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk. A Green March comprising staff of the Forest Department was also taken out from Forest Resource Management Centre.

3- Day Capacity building training on Drug Demand Reduction commences at Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 24: A Three Day capacity building training programme on Early Detection of Users and Vulnerable Persons and Role of Frontline workers under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction commenced here today. The training event has been organized by the Department of Social Welfare here at Riwaayat Hall. Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya was the chief guest while Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr Vinod Kumar was the guest of honour at the inaugural function. In his address, the Chief Guest enumerated the harmful effects of Drugs and appre-



ciated the Social Welfare department for organizing this awareness training programme. The DC said that such programmes go a long way to create awareness among the public in general and the young generation in particular. He urged the participants to spread awareness about the drug abuse and illicit trafficking in their surroundings to make the society healthy. The DC requested

the participants to join hands in fighting the drug abuse to eliminate this social evil from the society to make India a drug free nation. He stressed on inter district coordination for elimination of drugs from society and thanked the Social Welfare department as well as participants. The Senior Superintendent of Police hazards of drug addiction including the psychological impact on.

DC Doda discusses Bhaderwah Tourism Promotion Plan with private stakeholders

■ HT News Network

DODA, JULY 24: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, today convened a meeting with private stakeholders to seek their suggestions to formulate a comprehensive plan for the promotion of tourism in Bhaderwah.

The meeting aimed to harness the potential of Bhaderwah as a prominent tourist destination and to seek the inputs and suggestions of private stakeholders for effective implementation of the plan.

The DC emphasized on creating Shopping Malls, luxury hotels, Gaming facilities, food courts, and other amenities to attract international and domestic tourists. He stressed on the stakeholders to make all the arrangements in advance for the upcoming Mela Pat and Kailash Yatra. He informed that the administration is mulling to hold cultural programmes during these two religious festivities to showcase the district's rich culture and heritage to the tourists and pilgrims.

It was also informed in the



meeting that this year more than two lakh tourists have chosen Bhaderwah as their favourite destination by visiting here and a huge footfall is expected during the ongoing Summer, Kailash Yatra

and Mela Pat.

The meeting witnessed the participation of several private stakeholders, including hoteliers, tour operators, adventure sports organizers, and local representatives.

The DC apprised the stakeholders of the vision and objectives of the tourism promotion in the district.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized that Bhaderwah with its rich cultural heritage, scenic beauty, and adventurous treks offer a variety of attractions for tourists. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts between the government and private stakeholders to attract tourists and promote the region's unique attractions.

The private stakeholders provided valuable inputs and

suggestions to tap the tourism potential of Bhaderwah. They highlighted the need for better infrastructure, improved connectivity and promotional strategy to attract maximum tourists. The stakeholders also emphasised the importance of preserving the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage while developing tourism infrastructure.

The DC assured to work closely with all stakeholders to create a conducive environment for the growth of the tourism sector in Bhaderwah.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyaan enters Phase -14th in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JULY 24: Kisan Samark Abhiyan entered phase 14th here in District Udhampur as an orientation program was organised today at Panchayat Kambel Danga in zone Jib. After the successful completion of 13 phases of "Kisan Sampark Abhiyan" started on April 24, 2023 in the district, 159 panchayats out of total 236 panchayats have been covered with the participation of more than 17000 farmers. During the programmes farmers were acquainted with latest schemes of Agriculture and Allied Departments, besides newest initiatives launched by the Government for the farming community. The programme provided awareness to farmers on 29 projects involving different stakeholders and lending agencies. The farmers are being made aware by different means viz screening of videos and by providing printed materials. While speaking on the occasion, BDC Chairman, Balwan Singh lauded the Agriculture Department for creating awareness amongst the farmers under holistic agriculture.

EDITORIAL

Alarming rise in Drug Abuse : A Call for Urgent Action

In a recent statement, the Director-General of Police (DGP) shed light on the alarming rise of drug abuse and its corroboration to rising Crime rate across Kashmir. This official revelation has sent shockwaves through the nation, forcing us to confront the harsh reality that addiction has permeated even the most idyllic corners of our country. As we grapple with this deeply concerning issue, it is imperative for both the government and society to unite and take decisive action to curb this rising menace.

Kashmir, known for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, has sadly become entangled in the clutches of a drug epidemic. The DGP's statement highlights the high intake of drugs, particularly in Srinagar, which has contributed to a surge in social crimes. As addiction tightens its grip on the youth, instances of theft, violence, and other offenses have escalated, casting a dark shadow over the once peaceful valley.

One of the most disheartening aspects of this crisis is its impact on the younger generation. With drug abuse becoming more prevalent among Kashmiri youth, their dreams and aspirations are being stifled, and their potential is being squandered. An urgent intervention is needed to break this vicious cycle and provide these young individuals with avenues for constructive growth and development.

While pointing fingers may be tempting, it is essential to acknowledge that the drug issue in Kashmir is multifaceted. It is not merely a law and order problem, but a reflection of the socio-economic challenges faced by the region. Unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, and feelings of alienation have left many susceptible to the lure of drugs as an escape from their harsh realities. As such, any solution must encompass a holistic approach that addresses the root causes while providing necessary support to those affected.

The government must prioritize the allocation of resources and attention to tackle this crisis. Enhancing law enforcement efforts to disrupt drug trafficking networks is crucial, but it must be accompanied by rehabilitation and de-addiction programs for those trapped in the clutches of addiction. Collaborating with non-governmental organizations and community leaders can bolster these initiatives, ensuring a comprehensive support system is in place.

Education plays a vital role in prevention. Schools and colleges must incorporate drug awareness programs into their curricula to educate students about the dangers of substance abuse. Raising awareness can empower young minds to make informed decisions and resist the temptation of drugs.

Additionally, promoting sports, arts, and other extracurricular activities can provide a positive outlet for the youth to channel their energies constructively. Creating vocational training centers and job opportunities will not only address unemployment but also instill a sense of purpose and belonging within the community.

Srinagar's drug problem is not isolated; it mirrors a larger national challenge. As a nation, we must treat drug abuse as a public health issue rather than a moral failing. Eradicating the stigma associated with addiction is paramount in encouraging individuals to seek help and support without fear of judgment.

Beyond policy changes, communities need to rally together to support those struggling with addiction. Family, friends, and neighbors can play a crucial role in the recovery process by offering empathy, understanding, and encouragement to those seeking treatment.

In conclusion, the DGP's recent statement has shed much-needed light on the escalating drug crisis in Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar. This issue demands immediate attention, comprehensive solutions, and collective efforts from the government, civil society, and citizens alike. By addressing the root causes of addiction, providing support to affected individuals, and fostering a nurturing environment, we can pave the way for a drug-free and prosperous Kashmir, and in turn, a stronger and healthier nation. Let us come together, with empathy and determination, to combat this menace and secure a brighter future for the generations to come.

Global Initiative Is Needed To Stop Immediately Russia-Ukraine War

Spending On Nuclear As Also Other Dangerous Weapons Is On The Rise



DR ARUN MITRA

The recent report on the state of annual assessment of the state of armaments, disarmament and international security released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 12th June 2023 is startling. The report highlights that the 'number of operational nuclear weapons has increased because several countries have expanded their long-term force modernization plans'. At present it is estimated that there were 12 512 warheads in January 2023. Out of this about 9576 were in military stockpiles for potential use which is 86 more than in January 2022.

Of those, an estimated 3844 warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft, and around 2000—nearly all of which belonged to Russia or the USA—were kept in a state of high operational alert, meaning that they were fitted to missiles or held at airbases hosting nuclear bombers. The report further elaborates that Russia and the USA together possess almost 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in its fourth annual report on nuclear weapon spending today: "Wasted: 2022 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending" has come out with the data of country wise spending on nuclear weapons in 2022. The United States: \$43.7 billion, \$83,143/ minute; China: \$11.7 billion, \$22,219/ minute; Russia: \$9.6 billion, \$18,228/ minute; The United Kingdom: \$6.8 billion, \$12,975/ minute; France: \$5.6 billion, \$10,603/ minute; India: \$2.7 billion, \$5,181/ minute; Israel: \$1.2 billion, \$2,226/ minute; Pakistan: \$1 billion, \$1,967/ minute; North Korea: \$589 million, \$1,221/ minute.



Comparing it with social needs the report says that the year 2022 Nuclear weapons spending for the entire year could have Covered 37% of climate change adaptation costs for developing countries or Set up 16 million homes with solar power or Paid the annual salary of 740 thousand nurses. Nuclear weapons spending per minute in 2022 could have Provided clean water sanitation for 2.4 thousand people or Paid for 3.9 thousand COVID vaccines or Hired three high-school science teachers or Paid for 20 U.S. public housing units.

These reports point out the danger of existence to the mankind in case of their use. They also caution us about the resource crunch which is created as a result of wasteful expenditure on the arms race.

The arms race is increasing at a time when the world has just come out of the pandemic. The global capacity to deal with the pandemic stands exposed. In the present world of science and technology we witnessed 6,943,390 deaths globally as per the WHO till 14th

June 2023. Unofficial figures could be even higher. The problem of unavailability of drugs, equipment and vaccines has been very acute. Smaller countries which lacked resources and knowhow to make vaccines or drugs suffered the most. Vaccine producing companies made huge profits during this period. There are reports of black mail of the small countries by these companies.

These countries had to accept several clauses which would favour only the vaccine manufacturer. In an article published in the Journal of Postgraduate Medicine, Education and Research, Dr Samir Malhotra, Professor of Pharmacology Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh has pointed that the COVID-19 scare forced many governments to enter into contracts with the companies developing vaccines. Many of these contracts had confidentiality clauses according to which the company was exempted "from any civil liability for serious side effects arising from the use of the vaccine, indefi-

nately". Not only that, and this is shocking, these countries should "put up sovereign assets as collateral to guarantee indemnity". Such assets could include embassy buildings, cultural assets, etc. While people were starving because of loss of jobs and means of livelihood, the corporate sector made huge profits.

It is a matter of anguish that the polity around the world has learnt little lesson from these events. Instead of serious introspection to divert wasteful expenditure from arms race to health needs, the expenditure on arms race continues to rise unabated. We need huge funds to plan future health of the planet. We have to meticulously design strategies to manage the communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Peace movement is faced with challenging tasks to save and promote health of the mankind. There is urgent need to build and strengthen the narrative for peace and disarmament. With the efforts of ICAN and scientific knowledge on the consequences on nuclear war by the IPPNW have been able to get the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) passed in the UN General Assembly on 7th July 2017. The treaty has already entered into force with the ratification by required number of countries.

Now is the time to convince the countries possessing Nuclear Weapons to join the treaty. In democratic societies the voice of the people matters. There is need for intense lobbying with the decision makers. We have to build public opinion for disarmament through the promotion of mutual dialogue and trust between nations. As an immediate task tireless efforts have to be made to stop Russia Ukraine War. Any delay in ending this war could lead to catastrophic happenings. We cannot let military industrial complex to take the world for granted and make huge profits at the cost of people's lives.

IPA Service

Chinese Youth Losing Interest In Marriage Will Hit The Country's Demographic Advantage

Globally, Marriages Number Is Shrinking In A Large Number Of Countries



ANJAN ROY

China could just as well be contesting with the United States as the new super power, however internally it is facing serious problems with its younger generations turning away from traditional social norms.

China has just witnessed fewest marriages in decades. The Chinese state has an elaborate machinery for gathering information on its citizens. The latest marriage registration figures reveal fewest nuptials. This is having its impact on the Chinese demographics.

China is already witnessing a shrinking population. The overall fertility rate has dropped to 1.3 per woman. Replacement of the existing population level calls for more than two children for every woman.

What is happening in China is indicative of a complete social transformation and changes in preferences of its younger generations. This is end result of a complex interplay of economic, social and cultural developments in the country in the last fifty years.

The latest figure indicates 6.83 million couples married in 2022, down from 7.63 million in the previous year. Besides, the average age for marriage is also rising. A 10% drop in the number of marriages over a year is a matter of concern and cannot happen without deep underlying causes.

Some are ascribing this to the trauma from the experience of common people during the Covid period. The state had come down so heavily that it has created a social trauma and altogether throttled individual freedom, even as much of it as was still left. People were even debarred from leaving their apartments for months.

In one horrific incident, residents of a high rise block were left to die as a fire broke out as covid restrictions made it impossible for fire tenders to come in and douse the fire. The incident got wide coverage in Chinese media. There were wide spread protests.



As a backlash, young people are known to say "theirs was the last generation." That is, unable to really live in a free society, these younger people are loathe to bring their children in a society which is severely constricted. There are of course more secular long playing socio-economic dynamics which are discouraging increasing number of marriages.

With the rise in women empowerment and their freedom from Homs, what is being seen widely is the aversion of young women to get married. In a traditional society, the Chinese women are still expected to fulfil their role as the submissive wife, which the younger women of present day are unwilling to bear. They rather opt for career and wider opportunities from being unmarried.

The Chinese economic development has made possible for women to pursue attractive career options. Lucrative professional careers are available, as the economy was expanding and demanding new skill sets. Such jobs are giving them comfortable incomes to afford lives uncluttered by family demands.

The gender transformation in Chinese society is

having a multifarious impact as younger women feel increasingly empowered to take their own decisions about their lives rather than be dictated by the traditional social mores.

These socio-economic changes apart, there is no denying that the rising graph of youth unemployment is at the heart of many of these changes.

The primary reason for the drop is the extent of youth unemployment in China, running upto 20%. The jobs available and expectations are also showing an increasing divide. The huge youth unemployment has shown itself in various ways including, not unexpectedly, a tendency to religiosity.

There are reports that more and more younger people are visiting the Buddhist and Tao temples. They are praying for their career and their prospects.

Indeed, China is no outlier. Across the world, population numbers are falling. In China's neighbouring South Korea, birth rates are reaching rock bottom and the country's population will halve by another fifty years. Here in India, population growth rate is plummeting. (IPA Service)

Official Data On The Decline In Poverty In India Highly Questionable

IMF STAFF PAPER DOUBTS ‘SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN REDUCING POVERTY’

DR. GYAN PATHAK

Several recent studies have claimed that India has made significant progress in reducing poverty during the decades leading up to the pandemic in 2020, however, a recent Staff Paper prepared in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that the magnitude of the decline in poverty over the past decade is highly uncertain given the lack of official household expenditure data after 2011. It means, for the entire period under PM Narendra Modi's regime, there are only government's claims of reduction of poverty but no government data to substantiate such claims.

While India's robust growth over the past decade likely contributed to such a reduction, the authorities have also expanded social assistance programs, most notably through the 2013 National Food Security Act, whereby the government provided enhanced rations of food to the bottom 50 and 75 percent of the urban and rural populations, respectively.

Broader measures of poverty likely declined as well, reflecting the government's development interventions in health and education—for example, a saturation of village electrification and toilets, which was achieved in 2018.

Similarly, the Multidimensional Poverty Indicator (MPI) shows a large reduction in poverty in India, where about 275 million people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16 and about 140 million people between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Notwithstanding this considerable improvement in poverty, the large impact of the pandemic shock on economic activity has raised concerns about poverty and inequality, the report emphasized. According to the nowcasting analysis by the World Bank (2022), the global poverty rate increased by 11 percent or 70 million-



people, and the global Gini coefficient increased by over 0.5 points in 2020. As with other countries, India's economy was adversely affected by the pandemic and the associated containment measures. GDP and consumption per capita declined sharply during the first and second waves of the pandemic. Following the first wave, the employment to population ratio decreased by 7.3 percentage points, and unemployment rate spiked to above 20 percent in urban areas. Although both GDP and labor market indicators recovered quickly, the distributional impact of the pandemic could be significant given the heterogeneous shocks of the pandemic.

Though the paper used unit-level data from two nationally representative surveys for analysis of the three specific issues—to investigate the evolution of poverty and inequality in India during COVID; the factors that are associated with the impact of the pandemic on income and consumption;

and the impact of the government's food subsidy scheme—it has cast serious doubts about the quality data and therefore readjusted them to match the present ground reality as far as the authors of the study could see.

The two data set the study uses are—the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) collected by a private agency called the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

It is already known that the present ruling establishment has been repeatedly warning against the private data, but they themselves are not providing realtime data. Perhaps it is in this context the study has taken note of the 'concerns', of course without saying anything about the government about the private data regarding CPHS's representativeness. "We adjusted the sampling weights of CPHS," the paper says, while mentioning that the definition

of consumption and income as captured by the CPHS do not necessarily match the relevant variables in India's official household survey.

It is therefore, the paper says, out main emphasis is on capturing the changes and drivers of poverty and inequality during the pandemic, as opposed to estimates of the level of poverty and inequality consistent with official measures or surveys, ie, the last official survey from 2011-12. The paper also developed their analysis of labour income dynamics through the government PLFS data.

The IMF paper has concluded, first, that the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have increased poverty and inequality, but the impact has been temporary with both poverty and inequality returning to their pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021.

Secondly, demographic and labour market characteristics were the key factors associated with poverty, income, and con-

sumption changes. The analysis broadly suggests that low skill (low education) workers and those working in informal sector with no formal employment protection were more negatively impacted during the pandemic.

Lastly, the government's expansion of food subsidies has likely provided significant mitigation to the rise in poverty during the pandemic. Going forward, ongoing improvements in targeting and portability are critical to improve outcomes with limited fiscal space. It means, all will depend on the level of performance of the government in reduction of poverty and inequality, that have been suggested by several other studies as rising in the last decade.

However, the present IMF paper does not say it, but casts only doubts. While analyzing the impact of social assistance schemes on poverty and inequality, it says that there was large leakage in such programmes and only a part of subsidy reaches the intended recipients. "Prior to the Food Security Act 2013 data showed that leakage has improved to about 45%. As we do not have any data to estimate the recent leakage, we consider two scenarios. For, scenario 1, leakage is assumed to decline from about 45 per cent in 2015 to 14 per cent in early 2020, as in Bhalla et al. (2022). For scenario 2, we use a more conservative assumption where leakage declines by 0.2% each month and reaches about 30% at the end of 2021," the paper says.

In both cases, what is significant is, IMF does not rule out leakage of subsidies, such as food subsidies to poor households that are reaching to the persons for which these are not intended. We have examples, of large food subsidy diversion to industrial houses for ethanol production who are being supplied rice at subsidized rate of Rs20 per kg while poor people of Karnataka were refused rice from FCI even at the market rate of Rs34 per kg. There can be many other examples that perhaps did not reach the researchers of the present IMF study.

(IPA Service)

SATYAKI CHAKRABORTY

Spanish voters finally gave a big rebuff to the Far Right People's Party (PP) and the fascist VOX by denying them majority in the 350 member house of national assembly elections to which were held on Sunday, July 23. Despite all opinion poll predictions about the defeat of the coalition

seats and the left coalition Sumar 31. What is significant that VOX was supposed to get more seats as per all predictions but the fascist party lost 19 seats as against the 2019 elections tally and this was possible due to the last minute campaign by the Communist leader Yolanda Diaz who is the head of the Sumar coalition.

Overall, the position is that the present coalition of Sanchez and the Left are having 172 seats while the far right bloc has got a total of 170 seats. Out of the remaining eight seats, Sanchez has the possibility of getting another four which will give the present ruling coalition a clear majority in the 350 member house. Sanchez has to seek the help

members, still he can be allowed by the King to form the new government in view of heading the largest bloc. But Sanchez can again recommend fresh elections to end the instability of the new government.

Both Sanchez and the communists were elated at the results since the fascist VOX floss heavily. "Spain and all its citizens who voted have been absolutely clear," Sanchez told a jubilant crowd gathered at the Socialists' headquarters in Madrid. "The backwards-looking bloc that wanted to roll back all the progress we made over the past four years has failed." Though PP emerged as the leading party, its lead over PSOE was only 14 much less than what was projected in the opinion polls.

garnering more seats. That sealed the fate of the PP-VOX bloc and far right hope of getting majority was rebuffed.

Alberto Feijoo, who took over as head of the PP in April 2022, had focused his campaign on promising to "overthrow Sanchismo" a derogative term for Sanchez's policies. In his remarks after the counting, the far right leader said he would push for the chance to form a government as the party with most seats. It is his duty to form the next government, he said.

The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) said before the election that it had no agreement with PP and Vox while Teruel Existe told El Pais it would not support such a coalition. That way Sanchez has more options for forming the government, but he has to be ready for tough bargaining on some of the issues which the ruling coalition has been opposing since long. It will be known next month whether there is a new coalition government in Spain or the country goes for another general elections for ensuring a stable government.

For the European Left, the latest results in Spain elections have come as a big relief. The hype in media about the far right take over in Spain and the entry of the pro Franco fascists in the government for the first time since the establishment of democracy in 1975 after the death of dictator Franco, had created a big worry in the European socialist circles. Already, in other countries of Europe, Italy, Sweden, Finland and Greece, the right parties are ruling. In Portugal only, the Socialists are ruling and the Communist Party which was earlier supporting the Socialist Government, is now in opposition.

In France, the political situation is still fluid. The latest strikes in the immigrant dominated areas of Paris leading to clashes and deaths have united the trade unions. The far right party of Le Pen is campaigning for throwing out the immigrants but the Macron government is taking a soft policy as of now. In Britain only, all indications suggest the ruling Conservative Party is having its last days. The Tories lost in most of the by elections this year to Labour and the Liberals. The Labour is having a 20 per cent lead in opinion polls over the Tories. The national elections in Britain are due in 2024. The Left performance in Spain has finally given some breath of fresh air to the European Left.

(IPA Service)

Socialist Sanchez And Communist Diaz Halt Far Right Take Over In Spain

SUNDAY NATIONAL POLLS GIVE NO CLEAR WINNER BUT JOINT LEFT HAS AN EDGE

government headed by Pedro Sanchez with participation of left Podemos including the Communist Party, the ruling PSOE and the left coalition Sumar did well putting them above the total tally of the far right formation.

Out of the 37 million voters, 70 per cent voted. Despite sweltering heat currently sweeping Spain. PP got 136 seats as against 122 by the Sanchez's Party PSOE while the fascist pro Franco VOX got 33

of the Junte and ERC of Catalonia which have separatist agenda but they are more flexible to Left coalition as against the PP bloc which is totally against giving any concessions to the Catalan separatists.

The new Parliament will be convened on August 17 and in these 24 days, the ruling coalition led by Pedro Sanchez will get time to negotiate with smaller parties. If he is not able to get another four

Sanchez in his campaign focused on warning about the danger of a PP-Vox government to mobilise the electorate. The strategy appears to have paid off, with turnout reaching almost 70 percent, some 3.5 percentage points higher than in 2019. Sumar head Diaz who was instrumental in preparing the electoral list for the coalition was also happy as her campaign was most successful in the areas dominated by the VOX and VOX lost heavily instead of

Amit Shah Says "Ready For Manipur Discussion", Takes A Swipe At Opposition

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Amid Opposition protests over the horrifying video of a mob parading two Manipur women naked, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said he is ready for a discussion and asked why the Opposition is not cooperating.

Ever since the Monsoon Session of Parliament began on a stormy note over the shocking video from the northeastern state, the Opposition has been demanding a discussion. The centre has maintained that it is ready to discuss the matter. Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Lok Sabha that the centre is preparing to talk on the sensitive matter.

In a brief address in Lok Sabha, Mr Shah urged Opposition leaders to allow a debate on the issue. He said it was important for the truth in the Manipur issue to come out.

The Home Minister made the remarks after the House was adjourned thrice over



the Manipur situation. When the House met at 2.30 pm, he said MPs from both sides of the political aisle want a discussion on the issue. The Opposition MPs, however, continued the protest and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings for the day.

When Parliament met for the Monsoon Session Thursday, at least 15 Opposition MPs moved adjournment notices, seeking a discussion on situation in the northeastern state where ethnic violence has claimed more than a 100 lives over the past few months. The centre agreed

to discuss the matter but chaos erupted over a technicality. The Opposition MPs wanted that the matter be discussed under Rule 267. Under this rule, all business in the House is suspended and a specific matter is discussed. In Rajya Sabha, 27 MPs had submitted notices to raise a discussion under Rule 267. The Centre, however, was only ready for a discussion under Rule 176, which provides for a short duration discussion.

Countering the Opposition's charge on the sexual assault of women in Manipur, the ruling BJP has said atrocities of women across

all states, including the Opposition-ruled Rajasthan and West Bengal, need to be discussed. The Opposition MPs wanted that the matter be discussed under Rule 267. Under this rule, all business in the House is suspended and a specific matter is discussed. In Rajya Sabha, 27 MPs had submitted notices to raise a discussion under Rule 267. The Centre, however, was only ready for a discussion under Rule 176, which provides for a short duration discussion. Home Minister Amit Shah today asked why the Opposition is not cooperating.

On "Merciless" Loan Recovery, Finance Minister's Instructions To Banks

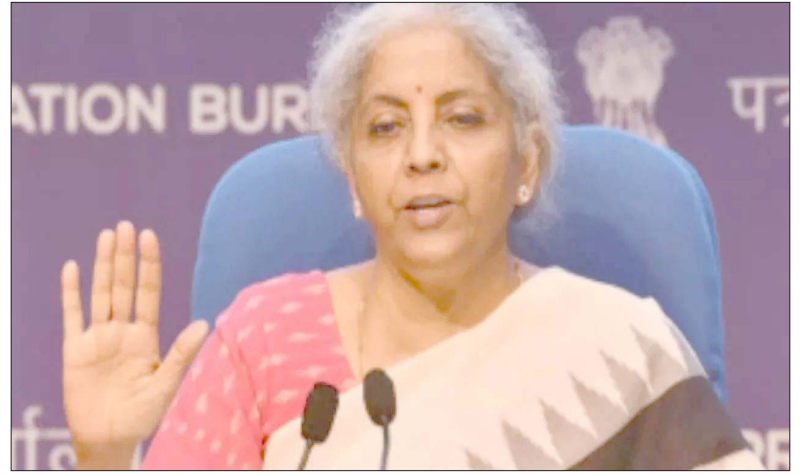
Nirmala Sitharaman said banks should approach the matter with humanity and sensitivity in mind.

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the government has instructed both public and private banks that harsh steps should not be taken when it comes to the process of loan repayment and that they should handle such cases with humanity and sensitivity.

Ms Sitharaman said this while making an intervention during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on a question related to repayment of loans taken by small borrowers.

"I have heard complaints about how mercilessly loan repayments have been followed up by some banks. The government has instructed all banks, both public and private, that harsh steps should not be taken when it comes to the process of loan repayment, and they should approach the matter with humanity and sensitivity in mind," she said. The Madras High Court had last month observed if banks have to recover outstanding loan amount, the same has to be recovered in accordance with the procedure established by law. "Coercive method of recovery by private agents, if appointed by banks, is not permissible. The banks certainly cannot use muscle power to recover the loan amount," it said, while disposing of a public interest litigation petition alleging coercive methods being used against farmers.

The Reserve Bank of India had in a 2008 circular warned banks that it might consider imposing a ban on a bank from engaging recovery agents



if it receives complaints about the agents. Further, the banks had been asked to periodically review their recovery mechanism and give their feedback/ suggestions for improvement in the guidelines.

The central bank has since regularly issued circulars aimed at curbing harassment by recovery agents hired by banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies.

The RBI had in March this year fined RBL Bank Ltd 2.27 crore for not complying with certain directives on loan recovery agents. The RBI noticed "deficiencies in regulatory compliance" after it examined complaints received against the Mumbai-based lender's recovery agents during the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22, the central bank had said in a statement. The central bank has also imposed penalties on several coop-

erative banks for contravention of its different norms. In August last year, it issued fresh instructions barring recovery agents from resorting to intimidation of borrowers, as well as calling them before 8 am and after 7 pm. "I have heard complaints about how mercilessly loan repayments have been followed up by some banks. The government has instructed all banks, both public and private, that harsh steps should not be taken when it comes to the process of loan repayment, and they should approach the matter with humanity and sensitivity in mind," she said. The Madras High Court had last month observed if banks have to recover outstanding loan amount, the same has to be recovered in accordance with the procedure established by law. "Coercive method of recovery by private agents, if appointed by banks,

Karnataka High Court Judges Get Death Threats On WhatsApp, Case Filed

■ HT News Network

Bengaluru: The Central Crime Police Station here has registered a First Information Report against unknown suspects after the press relations officer of the High Court of Karnataka lodged a complaint about threats to the lives of several judges including himself, police said on Monday. K Muralidhar lodged a complaint on July 14. He had received messages on the WhatsApp messenger from an international number at around 7 PM on July 12. His mobile number is the one provided to him officially by the High Court. The message in Hindi, Urdu and English allegedly threatened to kill Muralidhar and six judges of the High Court including Justice Mohammed Nawaz, Justice H T Narendras Prasad, Justice Ashok G Nijagannavar (retired), Justice H P Sandesh, Justice K Natarajan and Justice B Veerappa (retired) through a 'Dubai gang', police said.

Parliamentary Panel Suggests Setting Up Specialised Security Agency For Airports

■ HT News Network

A Parliamentary panel on Monday asked the government to look at the feasibility of setting up a specialised security agency for airports amid rising air passenger traffic. Besides, the committee has proposed constituting a special airline wing to deal with police and courts in unruly air passenger behaviour cases and urged aviation regulator DGCA to enforce a zero-tolerance policy for such incidents. These are among the recommendations made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which tabled its report in Parliament on Monday. Out of a total of 353 units deployed by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), 66 units or 18.7 per cent are deployed at the airports, the panel said and added that the civil aviation sector is expected to grow at a faster pace and that will increase the need for manpower engaged in providing security at airports.

Supreme Court Refuses To Put Assam Delimitation Exercise On Hold

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The delimitation process in Assam will continue, but the Supreme Court will examine whether the Election Commission can carry out the process on its own. Delimitation used to be a joint effort that also included courts, but the government had handed the power to the Commission in 2008. Redrawing the borders of Assam's assembly and parliamentary constituencies was done last in 1976. Fresh efforts to repeat the process started in 2005. Earlier this month, the Election Commission held a three-day sitting to discuss the objections to the first draft, which was presented in 2007. While hearing a plea by nine opposition parties today, the top court issued a notice to the Centre, seeking a response to their appeal. It also sought a reply from the Election Commission on pleas challenging the delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha and assembly seats in Assam.

NEP 3rd anniversary : PM Modi to inaugurate two-day ABSS in Delhi on July 29

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, July 24 (UNI) In connection with the third anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the two-day Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) in New Delhi on July 29.

NEP was introduced in 2020 with the aim of transforming India into a global knowledge superpower through broad-based, flexible, and multi-disciplinary education tailored to the needs of the 21st century.

In the lead-up to the third anniversary of the NEP, the heads of institutes of higher learning and officials of Skill Development institutes shared the achievements and highlights of the implementation journey of NEP with the media. Prof BS Murthy, the Director of IIT Hyderabad, highlighted



that the institute pioneered the introduction of Fractal Academics, offering courses with credits ranging from 0.5 to 3, allowing students to gain breadth and depth in subjects of their interest.

The curriculum in all undergraduate programs incorporates 10 percent liberal arts, and students can earn credits from outside the institute. To encourage entrepreneurship leading to Atmanirbhar Bharat, IIT-H supports student innovations through BUILD (Bold & Unique Ideas Leading Development) projects and provides a semester

break with 6 credits for pursuing such innovations.

The institute has also established Technology Research Park (TRP) for industries and Technology Incubation Park (TIP) for startups with 150,000 sqft of space each to encourage innovation with industry support, he added. Prof B Jagdeeshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, mentioned the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits and the Multiple Entry and Exit facility for all Integrated Masters' programs, offering 19 programs in total. The University also offered 14 Diploma courses through the Centre for Distance and Virtual Learning, and in line with the multi-disciplinary approach outlined in NEP, it has introduced new courses such as Introduction to Gender Studies.

India Rejects \$1 Billion Bid By Chinese Carmaker To Set Up EV Factory: Report

■ HT News Network

India rejected Chinese carmaker BYD Co.'s proposal to build a \$1 billion electric-vehicle plant in partnership with a local company, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The government dismissed the plan from BYD and Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. on national security concerns, the people said, asking not to be identified as the decision is not yet public. The use of Chinese home-grown technology is a concern, one of the people said. Foreign direct investment in India's automobile sector doesn't typically require approval. Investment proposals from countries that share a border with India, however, need political and security clearance from the ministries of external and home affairs. BYD declined to comment. Representatives for Megha, which was established in 1989 and has infrastructure projects in sectors from power to transport, didn't return phone calls or an email seeking comment.

Spokespeople for the Finance Ministry, the Heavy Industries Ministry and the Ministry of Home Affairs, which were all assessing BYD's proposal and vet invest-



ment coming into the country, didn't respond to requests for comment.

India is restricting Chinese investment following a number of deadly clashes along the disputed border between the two nations, which have strained relations. Great Wall Motor Co. failed in an attempt to buy a mothballed General Motors Co. plant after it couldn't get approval to close the deal. The Economic Times reported the government's rejection of BYD's investment plan on Saturday.

The government was probing SAIC Motor Corp.'s local unit MG Motor India Pvt over alleged financial irregularities, Bloomberg News reported last year. MG Motor has since announced plans to dilute its 100% share of the business, and aims to have it majority-owned by an Indian firm in two to four years.

Indo-US Ties Much Stronger After PM Modi's State Visit: Biden Administration Official

■ HT News Network

Post the first state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, the two countries are forging much closer bilateral ties with high-level visits on all fronts, a senior Biden administration official has said, observing that India and the US have never had a stronger relationship than now.

PM Modi visited the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden and met him on all three days of his stay here between June 21 and June 23. On June 22, the two leaders spent time together for more than eight hours, the official said. Biden also held a private dinner for PM Modi on June 21. India and the United States have never had a stronger relationship than right now, the official said post-Modi visit, it has never been deeper in the memory of the president.

The official said China was a major issue of discussion between the two

leaders. "In reality... it (China) is not the glue of our relationship at all, but it's one of the factors and I think we're gonna have that glue for a long time to come," the official, familiar with the discussions between the two leaders last month, said on condition of anonymity.

Both India and the United States believe that China poses a major national security threat to them, the official said, noting that the Biden administration thinks New Delhi has been ahead of Washington in terms of handling Beijing.

The Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya had a meeting with the Dalai Lama a couple of weeks ago in New Delhi, and "the Chinese kind of went nuts about that", the official noted.

"They (Indians) are in some ways were ahead of us. It is much more existential for them in terms of countering the China threat. Whether it's banning Tik-



Tok, whether it was building up mobile networks with no Chinese equipment, they've actually shown a way forward of what de-risking looks like. And that's why I think they're so critical," said the official.

"At the same time, they still depend on a lot of Chinese things, just like we do. China has been a real irritant in the G-20 for them....," the official noted, giving an insight into the G-20 discussions and the balancing act

that India is doing to bring all stakeholders together.

In India "Modi's popularity is about 80 per cent in some polls, so is America's," the senior administration said. "That's not just reflected at the very top which is where we usually write about or hear about. It's, I think, underneath that at the government-to-government level business-to-business level. And then people to people," the official said.

"Vice Versa, if the bridge from India to America is a steel reinforced four-lane highway, a strong, stable bridge; I would describe in years past the bridge from America to India has been like a rope bridge with every other plank missing. Like we don't know India and Indians anywhere near the level that India and Indians know America and Americans. I think that's beginning to change," said the official, referring to a large

number of high-level visits to India.

There's hardly a week or two that goes by without a major US government representative being in the country. And then on the business side, it's like a steady stream of CEOs, he said, adding "some have better strategies than others, but everybody's like rushing India."

"It's one of those moments where, if you rewind the clock, China 15 years ago was raising people at this pace out of poverty into the middle class. India is actually doing it a little faster than China was 15 or 20 years ago. You just look at the metrics, whether it's the number one source of student visas now, India surpassed China last year, whether it's the investment, which is a record level, and we're the number one trading partner for India for the first time. And another number of other metrics," the official said.

Russian Missile Strikes On Ukraine Destroys Historic Orthodox Church: Report

■ HT News Network

Kyiv, Ukraine: The Russian missile strikes that killed at least one and injured many have destroyed a famous Orthodox cathedral in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa, reported CNN.

In the latest wave of attacks on Odesa, several other historic buildings have also been destroyed.

The largest church structure in Odesa is the Transfiguration Cathedral. It was consecrated in 1809 and later demolished in 1936 during the Soviet era. However, when Ukraine became an independent nation, the structure underwent a reconstruction. Videos circulating on social media revealed the cathedral's interior was filled with debris. According to Ukrainian officials, the patroness of the city's icon had been rescued from the ruins, CNN reported.

The cathedral is located in Odesa's city



centre, which UNESCO designated a World

Heritage Site in response to the invasion

threat from Russia.

The Russian missiles have damaged as many as twenty-five architectural monuments in Odesa, the Ukrainian port city, alleged a Ukrainian local official, reported CNN.

Russia "deliberately aimed their missiles at the historic city centre of Odesa" which is protected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said Oleh Kiper, the head of the region's military administration.

"Everything that was built with hard work by great architects is now being destroyed by cynical inhumans," said Mr Kiper. Odesa is a significant cultural hub with long ties to Russia. Earlier this week, Russia launched a barrage of drones and missiles overnight at the Ukrainian port city of Odesa, CNN reported. Russia had cited Ukraine's attack on the Crimea bridge for launching a strike on Odesa.

Twitter website replaces bird logo with X

■ HT News Network

Twitter launched its new logo on Monday, replacing the blue bird with a white X on a black background as the company moves toward rebranding as X.

The social media network's website showed the company's new logo, but its URL was still showing as twitter.com and the blue "Tweet" button was visible.

Some users saw a blue version of the X logo, suggesting the rollout was not yet finalised.

Owner Elon Musk and the company's CEO had revealed the new logo on Sunday, saying the company would be renamed X and move later into payments, banking and commerce.

Founded in 2006, Twitter takes its name from the sound of birds chattering, and it has used avian branding since its early days, when the company bought a stock symbol of a light blue bird for \$15, according to the design website Creative Bloq.

Tweeting a picture of the company's new logo Sunday night, Twitter chief executive Linda Yaccarino said "X is here! Let's do this."

Flash floods claim 31 lives in Afghanistan

■ HT News Network

KABUL: Flash floods caused by torrential rain have so far killed 31 people since Friday, with more than 40 people missing. Shafullah Rahimi, spokesman for the disaster management ministry, said extensive damage had been caused to property and farmland.

Twenty-six of the deaths occurred in Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak province, 46 kilometres east of Kabul, after the rain washed away hundreds of houses, most of them built of earth.

Four more people died in Kabul, and a total of over 70 were injured in both the districts.

Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said urgent aid was being rushed to the main disaster zone in Jalrez district.

Mujahid issued a condolence message, calling on aid groups and the Kabul administration to help the bereaved families.

Although Afghanistan lies on the western edge of the monsoon footprint, flash floods happen regularly during the wet season as heavy rain courses down dry riverbeds.

Rahimi, the disaster ministry spokesman, told a presser that 604 houses had been fully or partially damaged and hundreds of acres of agricultural land and orchards destroyed in Jalrez since Friday.

Netanyahu says 'doing great' after surgery ahead of key judicial vote

■ HT News Network

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was "doing great" on Sunday following surgery to fit a pacemaker, as his hard-right government's controversial judicial overhaul plan neared a key vote in parliament.

Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Jerusalem to oppose Netanyahu's proposal to curb the powers of judges, which critics fear will undermine Israel's democracy, while lawmakers started discussing a major plank of the package.

Demonstrators backing the government and its reform plans rallied in Tel Aviv, the epicentre of 29 straight weeks of anti-government protests.

A vote is expected in the Knesset today on a bill that would limit Supreme Court judges' ability to strike down government decisions they deem "unreasonable".

As the crisis looked set to come to a head, Netanyahu's office announced overnight that the 73-year-old would undergo surgery to fit a pacemaker, days after he had been hospitalised for a reported spell of dizziness.

Trump's deputy terms his conduct during Capitol attack reckless

■ HT News Network

WASHINGTON: Former US vice president and Republican presidential candidate Mike Pence said on Sunday he felt former President Donald Trump's words and actions leading up to the Capitol attacks on Jan 6, 2021, were reckless though not likely criminal.

"While his words were reckless, based on what I know, I am not yet convinced that they were criminal," Pence told CNN's State of the Union show. Trump said on Tuesday he had received a letter saying he is a target of a grand jury investigation into efforts to overturn his 2020 presidential election defeat.

The letter represented the clearest sign to date that Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, may face federal criminal charges around his efforts to remain in power after losing the election to Democrat Joe Biden. "I hope it does not come to that," Pence said on a potential Trump indictment over efforts to overturn the 2020 election. He said it should be left to the American public to determine whether Trump was responsible. "His actions were reckless," Pence said. He added: "I don't honestly know what his intention was" on Jan 6, 2021. Ahead of the 2021 Capitol attacks by Trump supporters, the then-president repeatedly lambasted Pence for refusing to try to prevent Congress from certifying Biden's win in the 2020 election.

Pence said on Sunday that Trump was wrong in thinking the former vice president could overturn the outcome of the election. Some rioters chanted "hang Mike Pence" during the Capitol riots.

Biden Urges Israeli Leaders Not To Rush "Divisive" Judicial Reforms

Washington: President Joe Biden urged Israel in a statement Sunday not to rush increasingly "divisive" judicial reforms, given the other challenges facing the US ally.

In a statement first published by news site Axios and later shared with AFP by the White House, Biden said, "It doesn't make sense for Israeli leaders to rush this - the focus should be on pulling people together and finding consensus." "From the perspective of Israel's friends in the United States, it looks like the current judicial reform proposal is becoming more divisive, not less," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks to bring his controversial proposal to curb the power of judges to a vote in the Knesset as soon as Monday. The proposal triggered dueling protests over the weekend between supporters of the proposal and those who fear it will undermine Israel's democracy. The driving force behind the reforms, Justice Minister Yariv Levin, said the bill being put to lawmakers on Monday had undergone changes to accommodate critics, but added that the coalition was still open to "understandings." Netanyahu faced other

challenges over the weekend, not the least of which was a trip to the hospital to have a pacemaker fitted after he was hospitalized for a reported spell of dizziness.

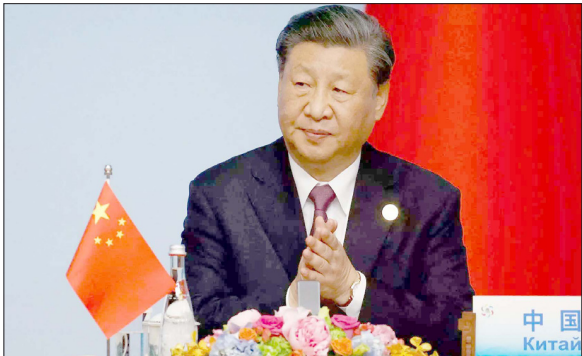
His government, which includes far-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies, argues that the proposed reforms will prevent overreach by unelected judges and ensure a better balance of power. Opponents accuse the 73-year-old Netanyahu, who has been fighting corruption charges in court, of a conflict of interest and some protesters have labelled him the "crime minister."

China's Economy "Facing New Difficulties", Say Top Leaders

■ HT News Network

Beijing, China: China's top leaders said the country's economy was facing "new difficulties and challenges" in a meeting of the 24-person Politburo on Monday, state media reported. "The meeting pointed out that the current economic operation is facing new difficulties and challenges, mainly due to insufficient domestic demand, operational difficulties for some enterprises, high risks and hidden dangers in key areas, and a complex and severe external environment," a readout of the meeting on state broadcaster CCTV said. China's leaders meet annually at the end of July to review the country's economic situation before their traditional summer break in August. The post-Covid recovery in the world's second-largest economy has been running out of steam in recent months, due in large part to sluggish consumer spending.

The Politburo agreed on Monday that China must



"implement precise and effective macroeconomic regulation, strengthen countercyclical regulation and policy reserves", according to CCTV. The meeting, headed by President Xi Jinping, also called for efforts to expand domestic consumption and "adjust and optimise real estate policies in a timely manner", CCTV said. The post-Covid recovery in the world's second-largest economy has been running out of steam in recent months, due in large part to sluggish consumer spending. China's top leaders said the country's economy was facing "new difficulties and challenges" in a meeting of the 24-person Politburo on Monday, state

media reported. "The meeting pointed out that the current economic operation is facing new difficulties and challenges, mainly due to insufficient domestic demand, operational difficulties for some enterprises, high risks and hidden dangers in key areas, and a complex and severe external environment," a readout of the meeting on state broadcaster CCTV said. China's leaders meet annually at the end of July to review the country's economic situation before their traditional summer break in August. The post-Covid recovery in the world's second-largest economy has been running out of steam in recent months.

Taiwan Holds Annual Air-Raid Drill Amid Tensions With China

■ HT News Network

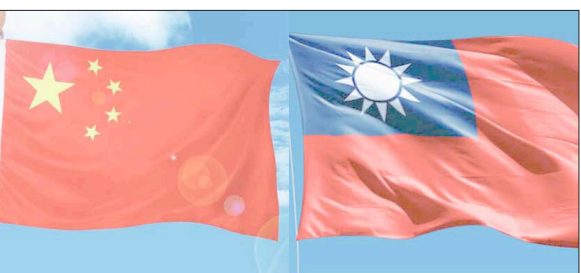
Taipei, Taiwan: Cities across northern Taiwan ordered cars off roads and people to stay indoors on Monday for an annual air-raid exercise as the island steps up preparations in the event of a Chinese attack amid rising military threats from Beijing.

Sirens sounded at 1:30 p.m. (0530 GMT) for the mandatory street evacuation drills, which effectively shut towns and cities including its capital Taipei for 30 minutes.

An "air raid alert", asking people to evacuate to safety immediately, was sent via text message.

"When you receive the text message, please be aware of the wordings such as 'test' and 'drill' and stay calm," Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said in a reminder to the public on Facebook about an hour before the exercise named Wan An, which means everlasting peace.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its territory, has been staging regular exercises



around the island for the past three years, to pressure Taipei to accept Beijing's claim of sovereignty despite the island's strong rejections.

In the bustling shopping district of Ximending in Taipei, some shops pulled down their shutters and police directed passersby and vehicles including food delivery drivers on motorcycles to move to the side of the road and seek shelter.

Tourists with luggage were seen taking shelter in a subway station, some shocked and not sure what had happened.

"I heard the siren and I was worried, not knowing what happened especially we are foreigners in a foreign country," said Lee Jang Ho, a tourist from South Korea.

Among the various drills

carried out by authorities in Taipei, some citizens were instructed to seek shelter in basement parking lots with their hands covering their eyes and ears while keeping their mouths open - to minimise the impact of blast waves from missiles.

Sirens sounded 30 minutes later to give the all-clear. Other parts of Taiwan, where periodic air-raid drills are required by law, will carry out street evacuation drills this week.

Beijing has stepped up its warnings against a trip to the United States by Taiwan vice president and presidential frontrunner William Lai next month, while the top U.S. diplomat in Taipei urged China not to take "provocative" action in response to the brief transits.

15 dead, all missing passengers found after Indonesia boat sinks

■ HT News Network

At least 15 people were killed on Monday after a wooden boat sank off the coast of Indonesia's Sulawesi island, search and rescue officials said, adding that all missing passengers had been accounted for.

The boat sank with 48 people onboard just after midnight (5pm GMT on Sunday), the local office of Indonesia's search and rescue agency said in a statement.

Six people were rescued and taken to hospital for treatment, it added, and the cause of the sinking was being investigated.

Muhamad Arafah, head of the local search and rescue agency in Kendari city



in Southeast Sulawesi, said in the statement that the 27 other passengers had been accounted for and all the victims had been identified. The agency had earlier reported that 19 were missing and that search efforts were ongoing, but Arafah said the operation had now been "declared finished and closed".

This handout photo from Indonesia's National Rescue

Agency (Basarnas) taken and released on July 24 shows members of a rescue team setting out to conduct search and rescue operations in Buton Tengah, southwest Sulawesi after a

The boat was crossing a bay between the villages of Lanto and Lagili in Central Buton regency on Muna island, said local rescue office spokesperson Wahyudin, who like many

Indonesians goes by one name.

The spokesman told AFP that the passengers had previously been recorded as missing because they had "rescued themselves, and once they got on land, they went home".

The vessel was a wooden passenger boat and not a ferry as initially reported, according to Wahyudin. He refused to confirm local media reports the boat was overcrowded.

Indonesian media reported that villagers had travelled for a local celebration and gathered on an overcrowded boat that capsized on its way back across the bay. It is common in Indonesia for the actual number of passengers on a boat to differ from the manifest.

UN Command says in 'conversation' with North Korea over US soldier

■ HT News Network

The UN Command has started a conversation with Pyongyang over American soldier Travis King, who ran across the border into North Korea last week, its deputy commander said on Monday.

"A conversation has commenced with the KPA through the mechanism of the armistice agreement," Lieutenant General Andrew Harrison said at a press briefing, referring to North Korea's military, the Korean People's Army.

The UN Command is a US-led multinational force that oversees the Korean War truce. The two Koreas remain technically at war because the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice and not a peace treaty.

"The primary concern for us is for Private King's welfare," Harrison said, adding that the incident was "still subject to investigation". Harrison said that, under the armistice agreement, there was a mechanism allowing the UN Command to communicate with the North's military in the Joint Security Area (JSA).

"That process has started" but due to the "very delicate nature of these negotiations", he said he would not go into further detail. "Obviously there is someone's welfare at stake and clearly we are in a very difficult and complex situation which I don't want to risk by speculation or going into too much detail about the communications that have existed."

DC Bandipora reviews progress of District Jal Jeevan Mission Directs for close coordination among line departments; timely completion of projects

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JULY 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Monday convened a meeting to review the progress and discuss further strategies to ensure the efficient implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted the importance of mission and emphasized the need for collective efforts from all the concerned to meet the targets effectively. He said that the commendable progress has already been made in this direction so far.

The meeting assessed various aspects regarding the mission thoroughly including the status of implementation, funds allocation, technological interventions, and community participation besides water quality and testing.

The meeting reviewed the current status of the ongoing water supply projects, with a focus on identifying any bottlenecks and finding ways to expedite their completion. It also discussed allocation and utilization of funds for different initiatives under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The DC stressed on the officers for transparent financial management and to ensure that the allocated



resources are put to optimum use.

The meeting emphasized the need for regular water quality testing and monitoring to safeguard public health.

Dr. Owais reiterated his commitment to providing each household tap water and making Bandipora a model district for successful Jal Jeevan Mission implementation. He urged all officers and concerned officials to work in close coordination towards achieving the targets well ahead of schedule and timeline.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Ali Afsar Khan; Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; ACR Bandipora, JD Planning,

SE Hydraulic HQ Sopore, Executive Engineers Jal Shakti Department, DPMU JJM Bandipora besides other concerned officers.

On the occasion, Project Manager, DPMU, JJM, Bandipora gave a detailed presentation of the latest progress of all projects in the District. Dr. Owais reiterated his commitment to providing each household tap water and making Bandipora a model district for successful Jal Jeevan Mission implementation. He urged all officers and concerned officials to work in close coordination towards achieving the targets well ahead of schedule and timeline.

DC Kathua reviews progress of JJM schemes

HT News Network

KATHUA, JULY 24: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress achieved under flagship Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

At the outset, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic R. K. Gupta apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the financial and physical progress achieved under the Mission.

The SE apprised the meeting that out of 299 approved schemes, 152 works have been completed so far. It was further given out in the meeting that scope of constructing Dugwells will be explored at 44 identified sites where water table is found to be

low. Regarding the construction of Over Head tanks, it was informed that out of 171 OHTs, works for 159 have been allotted.

The DC directed SE Hydraulic to prioritize the works taken up under JJM so that all the schemes can be completed within the set timeline.

To ensure uninterrupted execution of works, the DC stressed on obtaining clearances from the Forest department prior to initiation of the works. He also called for meeting the codal formalities so as to facilitate easy approval from the PARIVESH portal.

Underlining the need for quality asset creation within set timelines, the DC called upon the engineers to take PRIs on board for proper monitoring of the assets being created in their respective areas. He further called for speed-



up the works to rule out any chance of carrying forward any financial liabilities.

While interacting with the Contractors executing the JJM works, the DC laid thrust on removing bottlenecks, ruling out any scope of inordinate delay to ensure timeline completion.

ADDC Kathua, Ankur Mahajan;

XEN PHE, Vikram Dogra; Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh; ACD Kishore Singh Katoch; CMO and other concerned officers attended the meeting. At the outset, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic R. K. Gupta apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the financial and physical progress achieved under the Mission.

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Kailash Yatra Sewa Sang Trust Bhadarwah Holds Meeting

Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, July 24: Kailash Yatra Sewa Sang Trust Bhadarwah organised a meeting under the Chairmanship of Advocate Chander kant Gupta advisor to the Trust. All the members/ Poney Supplier/ Langer in charge of Kailash Kund and welding and repairers attended the meeting.

The meeting was called in connection with the celebration of Kailash Kund Yatra Bhadarwah commencing from 1st of September 2023 to 14th of September 2023.

As per release, Charri will be taken out from ancient Vasuki temple Gatha and will proceed towards Kailash Kund on 11th of September and will return on 13th of September 2023.

In the meeting a detailed discussion was held regarding the preparation of Shelters, Sheds, Repair of footpaths, renovation of temple, free langer for Yatris from 2nd of September 2023 to 14th of Sep 2023, leveling of space for Yatris at Kailash Kund. All the trust members agreed and decided to start preparation without loss of time, release further added.

LCMA conducts mega Cleanliness drive at Moti Mohalla inside lake

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 24: In view of Muharram, a mega cleanliness drive was today held at Moti Mohalla inside the lake by Lake Conservation and Management Authority Srinagar in collaboration with the White Globe NGO.

The routes of mourning processions were completely cleaned in order to maintain the clean and hygienic surroundings in the said areas. In addition the nallahs were also cleaned by solid waste management team of LCMA.

This special drive has been started on 20th of July, 2023 which will continue for 10 days.

Secretary LCMA has made a fervent appeal to general public to avoid littering in water bodies. "In view of Muharram we should ensure our surroundings especially water bodies un-littered. Our future lies with our environment and we all should collectively realize our responsibility on this front", he added.

The main focus of this drive is to go for the cleanliness in the hamlets inside the Dal Lake, Secretary LCMA said.

Project officer LCMA, chairperson White Globe NGO and other officials from LCMA were present during the said drive.

Director Fisheries conducts tour of Kulgam.

FAROOQ RATHER

Kulgam, 23-July Director Fisheries J&K UT, Mohammad Farooq Dar (JKAS), conducted extensive tour of District Kulgam to take stock of developmental programmes of Fisheries sector in the District. He visited Trout Hatchery Chancer and reviewed the distribution of Trout seed to Private Fish farmers. He inspected Hatchery and directed for its immediate repairs before onset of breeding season, besides completion of 2nd hatchery house. Director inspected Trout Rearing Unit Chawalgam and stressed for maintenance and upkeeping of the farm.

During the tour, Director Fisheries also visited various private fish farms and took first hand appraisal of issues projected by the farmers. He advised the farming community to avail the benefits of PMMSY, HADP and other Schemes to diversify their fish farming activities as the District offers tremendous potential for Trout farming. Later, Director Fisheries visited anglers Hut at Ahrabal and inspected the feasibility of available land at the unit for establishment of aqua-park/ mini Aquarium. He directed the District Fisheries Officer to prepare a proposal for establishment of aqua-park/ mini Aquarium at the available piece of land at the unit. It will promote the tourist attraction for the Tourist destination. Director Fisheries was accompanied by Assistant Director Fisheries Kulgam and other Officers / officials of the Department.

Director Agriculture flags-off batch of farmers on training program

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 24: A batch of farmers was today flagged-off by the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chaudhry Mohammad Iqbal from Agriculture Complex Lal Mandi Srinagar on a training program to central institute of Temperate Horticulture under Human Resource development program MIDH organized by department of Agriculture Kashmir.

Director while interacting with the farmers on the occasion said that the visit has been organised for making the farmers aware of the latest technologies for commercial agriculture, Realtime trends in organic farming and cultivation of different crop on scientific lines.

He impressed upon the farmers to interact with the farm scientists, experts, and extension functionaries to get acquainted with upto date methodologies in crop cultivation on scientific lines.

He asked the farmers to enhance their technical skills in the field of integrated farming and to adopt the advanced technologies for cultivation of different crops after learning from such training programs.

Chaudhry said that under holistic agriculture development program special attention has been given to the capacity building of farmers and to achieve this target a number of programs have been devised.

Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Manohar Lal Sharma; District Agriculture Officer Srinagar, DSCO, Apiculture Development Officer Srinagar Shaikh Farhan and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Safeena Beigh visits Delina; reviews arrangements for smooth observance of Muharram Processions

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JULY 24: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safeena Beigh accompanied by team of officers today visited Delina and took stock of the arrangements being put in place for smooth observance of Muharram processions. During her visit, the Chairperson interacted with prominent citizens and Intizamiya committee for the hassle-free conduct of Majlis and processions. Special attention was given



to crowd management, ensuring the smooth flow of processions.

While responding to the suggestions and issues put forth by the representatives of the community, Safeena Beigh assured them that all their genuine demands will be looked into on priority.

On the occasion, the Chairperson directed the Municipal Officer to ensure cleanliness around the

Imambaras, mosques and roads where from processions will come out during the Muharram processions.

Moreover, the Department of PHE and PDD were asked to ensure adequate water and electricity supply with foolproof standby arrangements.

Furthermore, the Chairperson DDC urged all concerned stakeholders to cooperate and extend their support to ensure the successful conduct of Muharram-ul-Haram events while maintaining peace and harmony in the district.

Poonch authorities seize 5 vehicles involved in illegal transportation of minor minerals

HT News Network

POONCH, JULY 24: A coordinated effort of the Police and Mining Department led to seizure of five vehicles involved in the illegal transportation of minor minerals here in the Poonch district. The operation was carried out under the direction

of Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary and in the presence of District Mining Officer Javid Iqbal. The joint operation was aimed at to curb the illegal transportation of minor minerals and tighten the noose around the perpetrators. Two tippers and one JCB were seized in Behram-gala and one dumper and one tipper

were seized in Potha by a joint team of the Police and Mining Department. The vehicles were handed over to the police for safe custody. The DMO Javid Iqbal warned that such illegal activities would not be tolerated and that those found guilty would be punished as per the law. He further urged the public to cooperate.

DC Reasi chairs NCORD meeting

HT News Network

REASI, JULY 24: A meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held today here under the Chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal to discuss the Action Plan to counter the menace of drug abuse in the district.

The DC reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, areas of concern, age group of addicts and hot



spots of drug abuse in the District. The DC took feedback from all the block officers and laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns in Schools and Colleges to sensitize students and common masses about ill effects of drugs as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug abuse.

The DC also directed the concerned officers to ask the owners of all medical shops, clinical establishments to install CCTV cam-

eras for surveillance with regard to the containment of sale of psychotropic drugs.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the Reasi Administration has adopted a zero tolerance policy against drug suppliers and traffickers.

SSP Reasi Amit Gupta, ADC Abdul Star, Dy. SP Reasi Neeraj Padyar, SDM Katra Deepak Dubey, Tehsildar Reasi, District Social Officer, CMO Reasi, Drug Inspector and other concerned.

J&K Bank's Q1 PAT zooms 97% YoY to Rs 326 Cr The idea is to keep strengthening the core to ensure continuous and sustainable growth: Baldev Prakash

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 24: In an impressive Q1 performance, J&K Bank's net profit has jumped 97% Year-on-Year to almost double its profit-after-tax (PAT) to Rs 326.45 Cr for the first quarter of FY 2023-24 when compared to Rs 165.97 Cr recorded for the April-June quarter last financial year.

The Bank announced its Q1 results today after the Bank's Board of Directors approved the quarterly numbers in a meeting held here at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Performance Highlights

The Bank's Net interest income (NII) rose 24% YoY to Rs 1283.30 Cr in the first



quarter of CFY, while as, the Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to 3.98% as compared to 3.46% registered in Q1 of FY 2023 and 3.94% recorded in the last quarter of FY 2023.

Core operating profit of the Bank witnessed a sharp spike of 38% YoY and reached Rs 528.05 Cr from Rs 381.45 Cr. Besides witnessing rise of 22% YoY and 7% QoQ in its operating income, the Bank's Cost to Income Ratio for the quarter has reduced to 65.07%

as against 69.17% recorded Q1 last FY. The Bank's Return on Assets (RoA) for the June quarter was at 0.94%.

Commenting upon the Bank's results, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "With an almost doubled Year-on-Year PAT, our Q1 performance gives us a very encouraging start to meet our annual guidance. Reflecting the gradual but marked improvement in our operations, our core operating profit has jumped 38% YoY while witnessing 17% rise on QoQ basis. With NIM at almost 4% along with 24% YoY increase in Net Interest Income, I see promising top-line growth unfolding in coming quarters."

For the First Time, We May Have Multiple Drugs That Can Slow Alzheimer's Disease

An experimental Alzheimer's disease drug, donanemab, slowed the progression of symptoms in people with early forms of the disease.

This follows the FDA's full approval earlier this month of a similar drug, lecanemab.

Both drugs are monoclonal antibodies that target the beta-amyloid protein that is involved in Alzheimer's disease.

Another drug capable of slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease may soon be available in the United States.

An experimental drug, donanemab, slowed the progression of symptoms in people with early forms of the disease, according to results of a phase 3 clinical trial.

However, side effects included potentially life-threatening swelling and bleeding in the brain.

Representatives of drugmaker Eli Lilly presented the results at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Amsterdam on July 17. The research was published the same day in JAMA Trusted Source.

This follows the Food and Drug Administration's full approval Trusted Source earlier this month of a similar drug, lecanemab (brand name Leqembi), from Japanese drugmaker Eisai and Massachusetts-based drugmaker Biogen.

Lecanemab received accelerated FDA approval Trusted Source in January 2023 based on earlier clinical trial results. The approval was upgraded Trusted Source when phase 3 results confirmed the clinical benefits of the drug.

Both drugs are monoclonal antibodies that target the beta-amyloid protein Trusted Source that is involved in Alzheimer's disease. Abnormal levels of the protein clump together to cause plaques in the brain that disrupt the function of neurons.

Scientists think that reducing the level of beta-amyloid may slow the progression of the disease.

Healthline spoke to three experts about what these drugs may mean for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, which currently affects an estimated 6.7 million American adults ages 65 and older, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Drug slowed the progression of dementia

The phase 3 clinical trial for donanemab included 1,736 people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.

MCI is an early form of memory loss or loss of other cognitive functions, such as language or visual/spatial perception. It can be a precursor to Alzheimer's disease, although some people with MCI see improvement in their symptoms.

Brain scans confirmed that all participants in the clinical trial had brain deposits of beta-amyloid and tau — another protein involved in Alzheimer's disease.



Participants were randomly assigned to receive either donanemab or an inactive placebo. These were given every four weeks by intravenous infusion for about 18 months.

The results showed that cognitive function and daily functioning continued to decline in all participants throughout the study.

However, those receiving donanemab saw a delay in that decline of about 4 months, researchers found.

When researchers looked only at people with low or medium levels of tau, those taking donanemab saw a delay in that decline of about 8 months.

Participants with high levels of tau had little to no benefit from the drug, the study found.

In addition, people who took donanemab were less likely to progress from MCI to mild dementia — which means moving from being fully independent during daily activities to requiring some assistance, the authors of a related editorial Trusted Source wrote.

They were also less likely to move from mild dementia to moderate dementia — needing some assistance with basic self-care, according to the editorial's authors.

The results of the trial also showed that there were some potentially life-threatening side effects of the drug.

Almost 37% of people who received donanemab developed swelling or bleeding in the brain, compared to 15% of those who received the placebo. Most cases in the donanemab group were mild to moderate, although three participants died as a result.

Eli Lilly said it has filed for FDA approval of donanemab, and hopes to hear from the agency by the end of the year.

The phase 3 clinical trial for lecanemab showed similar benefits for people with MCI or mild dementia, with a slowing of the decline in cognition and daily functioning.

This drug was also associated with potentially life-threatening swelling and bleeding in the brain. As a result, the FDA

required the prescribing information for Legembi to include a boxed warning about these risks.

Longer time with better quality of life

Dr. Doug Scharre, director of the division of Cognitive Neurology at the Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center's Neurological Institute, said the "big news" about lecanemab and donanemab is that they not only improve people's symptoms, but they also alter the course of the disease.

However, he emphasized that the clinical benefits seen during the first year-and-a-half of treatment — the length of the phase 3 trials for these drugs — were "modest."

"It is possible that benefits may persist for longer periods," he told Healthline, "but we will have to wait and see."

With both drugs, though, there was a significant delay in declines of cognition and daily functioning, compared to the placebo group, said Dr. Christian Camargo, an assistant professor at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and a neurologist at UHealth — University of Miami Health System.

For patients, this translates to "time saved," he told Healthline, meaning additional time with better functioning.

"If you need less assistance with day-to-day activities and you can still enjoy conversations and activities, that likely reflects on quality of life," said Scharre.

Dr. Manisha Parulekar, co-director of Hackensack University Medical Center's Center for Memory Loss & Brain Health, agreed.

With these drugs, "you are able to maintain your functioning for an additional six months without needing help from your family or any other people," she told Healthline. "This helps you live independently for that extended period of time."

While the results of the trials for these treatments are promising, Camargo pointed out that Alzheimer's disease is very complex.

"People often have multiple pathologies

present, and the proteins that accumulate and damage the brain as a result of Alzheimer's disease tend to re-accumulate," he said.

Given the complexity of the disease, Parulekar thinks anti-amyloid drugs are unlikely to be the only treatment needed for Alzheimer's disease.

Still, "this group of medications has given us that next step," she said, "but we have to keep building on these developments."

Benefits only for a subset of people

The modest benefits and the potential risk of serious side effects mean that decisions about using these drugs will remain a "highly personalized and individual decision," said Camargo, requiring discussions between patients and their doctor.

This, he said, will need to take into account the person's genetic profile and other risk factors.

Parulekar said use of these drugs will also require careful patient selection, and ongoing monitoring for possible side effects such as swelling or bleeding in the brain.

In addition, these treatments work best in the early stages of the disease, she pointed. They are not designed for people with late-stage mild, moderate or severe dementia.

Unfortunately, "a lot of times people may not go to the doctor earlier on," she said. "So by the time they seek a diagnosis, they may very well be into the later mild or moderate stage of dementia."

Scharre said to improve treatment outcomes, health care providers need to be knowledgeable about how to diagnose Alzheimer's disease in the early stages.

Also, "if you or a loved one has noticed a change in your thinking or memory over the last year, you should get to your primary care provider for evaluation," he said.

Ohio State University has developed a self-administered test designed to detect early signs of cognitive, memory or thinking impairments. This is free of charge and can be taken at home or in your provider's office.

Health disparities limit reach of drugs

Camargo, who provides specialized dementia care to a socioeconomically and racially diverse community, said ensuring access to new treatments for Alzheimer's disease is of particular concern to him.

But many factors may limit the reach of these drugs.

For example, in some multi-generation households in certain communities, older adults continue to work to help support their family, he said. As a result, it may be difficult for them to go to the clinic regularly for infusions — monthly for donanemab and twice a month for Leqembi.

They also may face other barriers to treatment, such as a lack of a driver's license or access to a vehicle or public transportation.

NEWS

6 Benefits Of Consuming Paneer



Paneer also known as cottage cheese is a versatile dairy product that is widely consumed in India and other parts of the world. It is made by separating the curd from the whey and then pressing it to form a solid block of cheese. Paneer is an excellent source of protein, vitamins, and minerals. In this article, we list the many benefits of consuming paneer.

1. Good source of protein

Paneer is a good source of protein, especially for vegetarians. It contains all nine essential amino acids that are required for the proper functioning of the body. Furthermore, compared to other cheese it is a healthier option and can be consumed regularly.

2. Good for weight loss

Paneer is a low-carb and high-protein food that can help you lose weight. It keeps you feeling full for longer periods and reduces cravings for unhealthy snacks. However, paneer still is not a low-calorie food so make sure to consume it keeping that in mind.

3. Helps build muscle

As mentioned above, paneer is an amazing source of protein for vegetarians. Paneer contains high-quality protein that is essential for muscle growth and repair. It is a preferred food for bodybuilders and athletes.

4. Helps manage blood sugar

Paneer contains an amino acid called tryptophan that helps in the production of insulin. It also helps in preventing the sudden spike in blood sugar levels. Although to better manage your blood sugar, you might have to speak to a doctor and alter your diet accordingly.

5. Good for bones and teeth

When we speak of good bone and teeth health, we think of calcium. Paneer is a rich source of calcium and phosphorus that are essential for the growth and maintenance of bones and teeth. Make sure also to incorporate other calcium-rich foods into your diet.

6. Boosts immune system

Paneer contains high levels of zinc that help in boosting the immune system. It also helps reduce the risk of common illnesses like colds, flu, and infections. Furthermore, paneer as discussed is rich in protein which can help boost energy levels if you are sick.

Warning: Sharing these everyday items could endanger your health

Learning to share is perhaps one of the cornerstones of childhood. But, as adults, we learn—or even intuit—that there are some things that just should not be shared. As a physician, you already know this, but the list of things you shouldn't share may include some items you may not have considered before.

Soap. Bars of soap must be clean, right? Maybe not. Think of the bars of soap in your bathroom. They are probably shared by everyone in your household, and usually don't dry completely between uses, which may lead to an accumulation of bacteria, fungi, and yeast that could—potentially—be transferred from person to person.

Although researchers of a study done in 1988 found that germ-laden soap isn't likely to transfer bacteria, a previous study found that bars of soap were sources of continuous reinfection in dental clinics. To prevent the spread of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in athletic settings, the CDC recom-



mends not sharing bar soap. The agency also warns that in healthcare settings, handwashing with plain soap could actually increase bacterial counts on the skin and, in the case of using contaminated soap, lead to gram-negative bacilli colonization.

Flip-flops. These cheap summer staples may seem to be relatively innocuous because they are open, rather than closed like regular shoes. But be warned—they can spread athlete's foot like any other shoe. Wet shoes are particularly susceptible to harboring this fungal infection, and flip-flops are

especially the parts that go inside the shoe. And perhaps it would be wise to warn your children and teens of this as well.

Antiperspirant. Although deodorants do have some antibacterial properties to stop the breakdown of sweat by bacteria present on your skin, antiperspirants do not. Sharing roll-on antiperspirants—and even deodorants—can result in the transfer of germs, bacteria, fungi, and yeast from one person to another. Not to mention skin cells and hair. Gross! Try to stop sharing, or start using a spray.

Razors. A great rule of thumb to follow—even with those you are most intimate with—is to not share any personal item that has the potential to be exposed to blood. With their potential to cause nicks and cuts, razors absolutely fall into this category. Further, shaving—especially with a dull blade—can cause tiny nicks in the skin that may not be readily apparent, giving any viruses or bacteria on the razor an open doorway into your body.

six Summer Vegetables to Add in Your Diet

Summers can be an uncomfortable time of the year when it is so hot; you find yourself scrambling towards the AC or the fan every chance you get. The scorching heat could make you wish for a never-ending supply of cold fizzy drinks. We can't control the temperatures outside, but we can keep cool on the inside by eating healthy, hearty vegetables. In this article, we list the top 10 cooling vegetables for the summer season.

1. Cucumber

One of the most popular vegetables during summer times, cucumbers are not only nutritious but also versatile. Most often, they are consumed raw in the form of salads, or as part of beverages. Some varieties of cucumbers are added in curries like rasam.

Cucumbers have a high water content, which makes them perfect for hot days. In addition to this, they are rich in antioxidants, Vitamin K and Vitamin C. They are 96% water and serve as a good option to keep yourself hydrated.

2. Tomatoes

Though technically a fruit, tomatoes are most commonly identified as a vegetable in India. Irrespective of its 'identity crisis', tomatoes will always be an important part of the Indian diet. Consumed raw in salads and in juices, in curries, and sauces, tomatoes are heroes when it comes

to combating the summer heat. Tomatoes are a great way to stay hydrated, particularly if it is eaten raw since 94-95% of it is made up of water. Tomatoes are also rich in antioxidants like lycopene and serve as



an excellent source of vitamins (C and K), potassium and calcium.

3. Bottle Gourd

Popularly known as lauki, bottle gourds belong in this list. This vegetable is worthy of the first place in the vegetable kingdom for its taste and nutritional content. It has a long shelf life in the fridge and is often added as the vegetable component to curries. Aside from having a high water content, bottle gourds are also rich in calcium, which makes them good for the bones. For ages, it has acted as a home remedy for treating stomach issues, high cholesterol and to regulate blood sugar.

4. Brinjals

Brinjals, or eggplants, may seem

like an unlikely addition in a list of vegetables good for the summer. This wholesome vegetable is popularly consumed as a side dish in India and pairs well with almost all combinations of spices.

Brinjals are rich in fibre which makes it essential for gut health. In addition to this, brinjals contain flavonoids, vitamins and potassium and more, all of which contribute to the overall health.

5. Pumpkin

With over 40 varieties, pumpkins are a popular vegetable all over the globe (for good reasons). In India, this sweet vegetable is often a savoury side dish and serves as an accompaniment to chapattis. They can also be incorporated into sweet dishes like pumpkin kheer.

Pumpkins are very rich in Vitamin A that strengthens your immune system to fend off diseases. Additionally, pumpkins are a good source of the antioxidant, beta-carotene, which helps you combat heart disease and keeps your body temperature cool.

6. Bitter Gourd

An unsung hero, the bitter gourd may not be on anyone's favourite list, but it should be, considering its health benefits. Historically, bitter gourd juice has been used as a popular home remedy to treat various ailments of the stomach and heart. Don't let the bitter taste of this vegetable put you off; it's loaded with nutrients.

Harmanpreet Likely To Be Penalised Four Demerit Points For Her Outburst

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is likely to be penalised four demerit points for her reaction after being given out and criticising the umpiring during the third and final ODI against Bangladesh, which ended in a tie. While the ICC is yet to send out a media release on the exact penalty, Harmanpreet is in danger of becoming the first woman cricketer to be found guilty of a Level 2 breach of the ICC's code of conduct, which covers player behaviour.

After being given out caught at slip for 14, Harmanpreet smashed the stumps with her bat, and later, at the post-match presentation, called the standard of umpiring "pathetic" throughout the game.

ESPNcricinfo has learned that the match referee recommended three demerit points for equipment damage and one demerit point for criticising the match officials in public. The final decision will be taken by the ICC. It is understood that the BCCI has been talking to the ICC.

As per the ICC rules, when a player reaches four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, they are converted into suspension points and a player is banned. Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test, or two ODIs, or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player.

There are 29 women's players who have been found guilty of breaching the code of conduct in the ICC's latest list - that goes back to 2016 - released on June 7. Apart from Harmanpreet, Veda Krish-



namurthy is the other Indian player to have been found guilty twice.

The last time Harmanpreet got a demerit point was during the semi-final of the Women's World Cup 2017 against Australia. After working legspinner Kristen Beams through midwicket, she was involved in a mix-up with Deepti Sharma, before they completed the double that brought Harmanpreet's century. Instead of celebrating the milestone, Harmanpreet flung her helmet onto the ground and fired verbal volleys at Deepti. Harmanpreet was found guilty of a Level 1 offence, which she had accepted.

Players breaking the stumps - either with the bat or kicking - while reacting

to umpiring decisions is a rare occurrence in cricket. Ironically the most recent case also happened in Bangladesh. In 2021, Bangladesh allrounder Shakib Al Hasan was suspended for three matches and fined USD 5800 approx during a Dhaka Premier League T20 match between Abahani Limited and Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Shakib, who was leading Mohammedan, kicked the stumps immediately after umpire Imran Parvez turned down his lbw appeal against Mushfiqur Rahim. An over later, he ripped up all three stumps and threw them on the ground after umpire Mahfuzur Rahman called for the covers as it started to rain.

Tennis Ball Cricket Association is holding one day Selection trails at Gindun Stadium Rajbagh

SRINAGAR, JUL 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Tennis Ball Cricket Association is holding one day Selection trails on 27th of July 2023 (Thursday) at Gindun Stadium Rajbagh, Srinagar in Senior Category to Select J&K team (Men) for their onward Participation in All India Senior Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Scheduled to be held at Sundernagar (H.P) from 5th August to 7th August 2023. Interested Senior Boys Players who are desirous to participate in the

selection trails are directed to report Mr. Ab. Rashid Mobile No. 7006763920, who is in charge of the Selection trails. The Participants shall be in a proper cricketing kit and should carry with them 6 No.'s of recent Passport size Photographs and a Xerox Copy of Aadhaar Card and a Physical fitness Certificate issued by a Doctor / Physician. The Screening of the selected team shall be held at the same Venue on 28th of July, 2023 at



11:00 am, by the screening Committee of the J&K Sports Council. The J&K UT team shall leave for Sundernagar Himachal Pradesh on 3rd August 2023. The Selected players shall have to borne all expenses from Srinagar to Sundernagar Himachal Pradesh and back at their own because Sports Council is not Sponsoring the event. The Screening of the Selected team shall be held at the Same Venue on 28th July 2023 by the J&K Sports Council.

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