Record 3.1L visitors at Srinagar Tulip Garden

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

WITH winter chill giving way to a pleasant sunshine, Srinagar is witnessing a huge inflow of tourists. A major attraction in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is the Tulip Garden which has so far recorded 3.11 lakh footfalls in the 19 days since it was opened on March 23. Officials said this is the highest footfall ever recorded in the garden since it was inaugurated in 2007.

Assistant Floriculture officer Inam-ul-Rehman told this newspaper that around 3.11 lakh people visited the garden till Sunday evening. This figure included 1.10 lakh tourists.

Last year, 2.25 lakh people had visited the garden before it was closed due to the second wave of Covid-19 outbreak. The garden remained closed in 2020 after the pandemic outbreak.

The garden has 1.5 million tulips of 68 varieties and colours. It is spread over 30 hectares and situated on the foothills of Zabarwan range.

A tourist Ajit Kumar said the garden offered a "unique experience". "I am visiting the garden for the first time. No place is as beautiful as Kashmir and it is rightly called as 'Paradise on Earth'," he said.

However, the rise in mercury is a cause of concern for the gardeners. Over 100 gardeners and casual labourers are working overtime to ensure that the tulips continue to bloom in view of dry weather and above-normal temperature.

A gardener said tulips need low temperature for survival. "Since the temperature has increased, we have to irrigate the garden with care and without hurting the flower. We water the plants at night," he said.



TOURIST FOOTFALL BREAKS ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS SINCE 2007

3.11 lakh visitors in 19 days	NIL In 2020
2.25 lakh visitors in 2021	2007 opened in
1.5 mn tulips	68 varieties

Number of visitors at the Tulip Garden in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital has surpassed all records | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

'Biggest Amarnath Yatra this year'

SRINAGAR: Union Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Apurva Chand on Monday said this year's Amarnath Yatra would be the "biggest in history" and six to eight lakh pilgrims are expected to perform the annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir. The 43-day annual yatra would commence on June 30 and culminate on the Raksha Bandhan day on August 11. The official said necessary arrangements have been put in place for the yatra. Chand said adequate security measures have been taken to ensure smooth conduct of the yatra. "All security agencies are working in union for the smooth conduct of the yatra," he said, adding that security situation in Kashmir has improved as large numbers of tourists are visiting the Valley. Chand said the arrival of tourists in J&K would benefit the local economy. The yatra would commence simultaneously from the traditional Pahalgam route and from Baltal in Ganderbal. RFID tags will be used this year to keep track on the pilgrims. *ENS*

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ದುಬಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ನಿಂಬೆ ಹಣ್ಣು!

ಲಕ್ನೋ:ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಯೂ ತಾರಾಮಾರ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದೀಗ ಹೊಸಸುದ್ದಿಯೊಂದು ಉತ್ತರಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಲಕ್ನೋದಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲೀಗ ಒಂದು ಕೆಜಿ ನಿಂಬೆಹಣ್ಣಿನ ಬೆಲೆ 325 ರೂ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಒಂದು ನಿಂಬೆ ಹಣ್ಣಿಗೆ 13 ರೂ. ಗಳಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರು ಈ ಬಿಸಿಯ ಬೇಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾನಕ ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಯೋಚಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಂಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಳಿಯೂ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮಸಾಲ ಅಡುಗೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲೂ ಇದರ ಬಳಕೆ ದುಬಾರಿಯೆನಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಊಟ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೈತೊಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಾಗ ನಿಂಬೆಯ ಹೋಳು ಹಾಕಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಜನ ಇದಕ್ಕೂ ಹಣಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಬಹುದು.



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"Sucessful people are not gifted, they just work hard, then succeed on purpose"

Food prices likely pushed India's inflation to 16-month high in March

BENGALURU, REUTERS: India's retail inflation likely sped up to a 16-month high of 6.35% in March, well above the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance band for a third straight month, in part due to a sustained rise in food prices, a Reuters poll found.

The full effect of the spike in crude oil and global energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February is not expected to appear in consumer prices until April as the pass-through to consumers at fuel pumps was delayed.

The April 4-8 Reuters poll of 48 economists suggested inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), rose to 6.35% in March on an annual basis, from 6.07% in February. That would be the highest reading since November 2020.

Forecasts for the data, due for release on April 12 around 1200 GMT, ranged between 6.06% and 6.50%. None expected it to fall under 6%, the top end of the RBI's tolerance band. "We expect headline inflation to have accelerated to 6.30% y/y as food prices edged higher in sequential terms after a three-month decline until February," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist at ANZ, referring to the seasonal pattern in monthly changes in food prices.



Food prices have been at a 16-month high in March

Food prices, which account for nearly half the inflation basket, are also expected to remain elevated as supply chain problems related to the Russia-Ukraine war disrupt global grain production, supply of edible oils and fertiliser exports.

Prices of palm oil, the world's most widely used vegetable oil, surged nearly 50% this year.

Food price rises are sharply felt by millions living below the poverty line who have already taken a hit on jobs and incomes due to the pandemic.

Samiran Chakraborty, chief economist for India at Citi, said global commodity price rises will turn up in the March inflation numbers, as well as edible oils.

"Although there was a delay in the start of petrol price hikes post-state elections, retail prices have still risen by Rs 6.5/ltr over the last 10 days of March," Chakraborty said.

Unlike major central banks which are faced with inflation rates at multi-decade highs, the RBI has opted to leave interest rates steady even as inflation has crept well above its target and shows no signs of abating any time soon.