



Maximum : 27°C
Minimum : 11°C
Humidity : 37%

SUNSET
Today 06:16 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:25 AM



News Digest

Kuwaiti Ruler Sheikh Sabah Dies At 91

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruler of Kuwait who drew on his decades as the oil-rich nation's top diplomat to push for closer ties to Iraq after the 1990 Gulf War and solutions to other regional crises, died Tuesday. He was 91. In a Middle East replete with elderly rulers, Sheikh Sabah stood out for his efforts at pushing for diplomacy to resolve a bitter dispute between Qatar and other Arab nations that continues to this day. His 2006 ascension in Kuwait, a staunch US ally since the American-led

● P-02

Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles Poonch, Rajouri

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops on Tuesday continued trading gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said that the Pakistan Army on Tuesday opened fire and shelled mortars in forward areas along the LoC in three sectors Poonch and Rajouri districts. They said this prompted the Indian Army to retaliate befittingly. "The Pakistan Army violated ceasefire by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district this afternoon," a

● P-02

Man Posing As Police Officer Arrested

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a youth, who was posing as a police officer and intimidating people here in this capital city. According to a police spokesperson, police station Sherghari received a complaint on September 27 by Sohail Ahmed Pinchoo of Noorbagh alleging that he was receiving threatening calls on his phone from a person who identified himself as DySP Cargo. Accordingly, he said a case FIR No. 56/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered and

● P-02

2 Soldiers Injured In Highway Accident

Jammu Two Army personnel were seriously injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 50-feet gorge in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. The accident took place near NarsooNallah on Dhar road around 2.15 pm when the vehicle was moving from Jammu to Udhampur, a police official said. He said two army personnel travelling in the vehicle were seriously injured and were shifted to a military hospital Udhampur.

Militants Flee After Brief Encounter

Anantnag- Militants "seem to have fled" after an encounter with joint team of police and army in MarahamaSangam area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, a police officer said on Tuesday. He said that militants and the joint team of forces had exchanged fire after the former attacked a patrol in Marahama area this afternoon. "It seems that the militants have managed to flee. However the searches in the area are still underway," the officer told GNS. There was no loss of life or injury reported during the firefight.

China Says It Does Not Recognise UT Of Ladakh

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing military standoff with India along the Line of Action Control (LAC), China on Tuesday declared that it does not recognise the Union Territory of Ladakh and called it "illegally established" by India. A belligerent China also said it was opposed to India building military infrastructure in the border areas.

"China does not recognise the so-called union territory of Ladakh illegally established by India, and opposes infrastructure construction in disputed border areas for military control purposes," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said while commenting on India's move to build roads along the border.

"According to the recent consensus reached between China and India, neither side should take any actions in border areas that would complicate the situation, so as not to affect the efforts of both sides to ease the situation," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

BJP led government in Delhi separated Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir and declared it as a Union Territory on August 5, last year. The



Never Accepted China's 1959 LAC Definition: MEA

India on Tuesday rejected China's position that it abides by its 1959 stand on the perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and asked the neighbouring country to refrain from advancing an "untenable unilateral" interpretation of the de-facto border. The stand by China spelt out by its

● P-02

bifurcation of Kashmir came into effect on October 31 (2019). Wang did not address reports that China is increasing the building of roads and other infrastructure along its side of the border. The standoff in Ladakh began in May and escalated in June to the deadliest violence between the two sides in decades - a clash on a high ridge in which soldiers used clubs, stones and their fists. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed and dozens of others were injured. China is

● PAGE 02

CHINA HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED INDIA'S INCLUSION OF CHINESE territory in India's administrative jurisdiction in the western part of the Sino-Indian border. This position is firm, consistent and has never changed,"

PREVENTIVE LAWS

HC Flays 'Callous Approach' Of Admin

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday said that due to "callous approach" of the detaining authorities, the whole purpose of the preventive laws is getting defeated in J&K.

"We are at pains to observe that in routine this Court comes across the cases in which the detention orders issued on the grounds of threat to the security and integrity of State are getting quashed due to non-adherence to technical require-

ments," said a bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Rajnesh Oswal while allowing an appeal against court's single bench order by virtue of which PSA detention of a man-Sartaj Ahmad Allie—from Kulgam.

"In many petitions the grounds taken are non-furnishing of material relied upon by the detaining Authority to the detainee; not informing the detainee about his right to make representation; not informing the detainee about the grounds of detention in the language that he understands

● PAGE 02

SC Asks J&K Govt How Long Can Mehbooba Be Detained?

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to respond to Itijia Mufti's amended plea challenging the detention of her mother, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, under the J-K Public Safety Act, saying it cannot go on forever and "some via media" should be explored.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy granted 15 days to the Union Territory to file re-

sponse and asked as to what was the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the specific law and whether the authorities proposed to continue with the detention of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader.

On the issue of the permission to attend party meetings, the top court, in a hearing conducted through video conferencing here, said that the PDP President should place such a request with the authorities.

The bench took note of the submission of lawyer

● PAGE 02

INDIA ON G-B POLLS 'Camouflaging Illegal Occupation'

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday said it has conveyed its strong protest to Pakistan over announcement of elections to the "so-called Gilgit-Baltistan" legislative assembly next month, holding that the "cosmetic exercises" are intended to camouflage the "illegal" occupation of the region by Islamabad.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said actions like holding of elections in the region can neither hide the "illegal occupation" of parts of Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Islamabad nor the "grave human rights violations and

● P-02

J&K Couldn't Achieve National eGovernance Plan In 10 Years: CAG

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has criticised the Jammu and Kashmir government for its failure in implementing the National e-Governance Plan, saying the objective of making all local public services accessible to the common man could not be achieved in the Union territory over a period of around 10 years.

In its report on Social, General, Economic (Non-Public Sector Undertakings) sectors for the financial year ended March 31, 2017, the CAG also

highlighted the shortcomings in the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and said no annual report was prepared by the erstwhile state's forest development agency since its inception in July 2010.

The report, tabled in Parliament recently, said against the approved outlay of Rs 212.10 crore for implementation of six schemes by the Information Technology Department under the NeGP, Rs 60.38 crore (28 per cent) was released by the Centre to Jammu and Kashmir.

Balance outlay of Rs 151.72 crore (72 per cent) could not be received as the confirmation regard-

ing contribution of 20 per cent State share had not been provided to Government of India. Overall fund utilisation during 2012-17 was only 41 per cent as on 31 March 2017, the CAG said.

It said the objective of providing connectivity under State Wide Area Network (SWAN) project could not be achieved as against the amount of Rs 15.25 crore received for its implementation, Rs 6.90 crore was surrendered and Rs 7.92 crore remained blocked.

Complete potential of State Data Centre (SDC) was not being utilised in absence

● PAGE 02

Amnesty Int'l Halts Operations In India

NEW DELHI- Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an "incessant witch-hunt" over unfounded and motivated allegations.

Amnesty India, in a statement, said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research work.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

● P-02

VP Naidu Tests Positive For COVID-19

NEW DELHI: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for COVID-19, the Vice President Secretariat said.

It said Naidu, 71, is asymptomatic and in good health.

"The Vice President of India who underwent a routine COVID-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health," the Secretariat tweeted.

Naidu has been advised home quarantine.

● P-02

18 More Lose Battle To Covid-19, J&K Toll 1166

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as eighteen more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of fatalities die to the virus in the Union Territory to 1166.

Eleven more Covid-19 deaths were reported from Jammu division, while seven more succumbed to the deadly infection in Kashmir Valley—two each from Srinagar and Baramulla and one each from Budgam, Anantnag and Kupwara, officials said Tuesday.

Among others who died in Jammu include a 42-year-old man from Utrakkhand, a 57-year-old man from Mishriwale, a 59-year-old woman from Polura Top Jammu and an 86-year-old man from Udhampur.

In Valley, a 55-year-old man from Singhpora Baramulla died a week after he was

admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said. Besides him, an 85-year-old woman from Nihalpora Pattan who was diagnosed with bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia also died at the tertiary care hospital, they said.

An 86-year-old man from Awoora Anantnag died at CD hospital, eight days after he was admitted to one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley, they said.

A 60-year-old woman from Budgam, they said, died three days after she was admitted to SMHS hospital with bilateral pneumonia.

With these deaths, officials said, 1166 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir

● PAGE 02

1081 New Cases Include 61 Security Men

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 1081 new cases of Covid-19, including 61 paramilitary personnel and army men, besides 50 travelers, taking the number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 74095. While Kashmir reported 441 fresh cases of coronavirus, the remaining 640 were confirmed by

● P-02

Govt Suspends Another KAS Officer

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday suspended a senior KAS officer pending enquiry into his conduct.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, KAS, Managing Director, J&K SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation, is hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956," reads a government order issued here.

"During the period of his suspension, he shall remain attached with the General Administration Department," the order said.

Sources told news agency GNS that a number of officers

● P-02

LG Offers State Chopper For Emergency Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed the Union Territory officials to use the choppers of Raj Bhawan for medical emergencies to help the people in distress.

Chairing a joint meeting of various departments at the Civil Secretariat here to review winter preparedness, LG directed the officers for strengthening of a robust response mechanism for power restoration, essential supplies, water and road connectivity during winters, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also directed the officials present in the meeting to use Raj Bhawan choppers for medical emergencies in

● P-02

Relatives Burst Firecrackers, Bridegroom Booked

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday booked a bridegroom after firecrackers were burst during his marriage ceremony on Monday in Batmaloo area, in violation of the government orders.

According to a police spokesperson, last night sound of firecrackers was heard in Reka Chowk locality of Batmaloo area of the city. On inquiry, the police spokesperson said that it was found that the firecrackers were being used during the marriage ceremony of Bilal Ahmad Shah by his family and friends.

"In this regard case

● P-02

Teacher Held For Circulating 'Threatening' Posters

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday arrested a private school teacher for his alleged involvement in circulating threatening posters of a militant outfit in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

According to a police spokesperson, the villagers of Gundipora filed a complaint with the police stating that on September 10, posters of Lashkar-I-Islam were found pasted in the area in which threat had been issued to some youth, including girl students, accusing them of indulging into prostitution besides being informers of the state forces. The posters, police spokesperson said created a fear psychosis among the people, especially those who had been given life threats.

Accordingly, the police spokesperson said a case FIR No. 69/2020 U/S 18, 20 ULA (P) Act, 506 IPC was

● P-02

In FOCUS 'We're Here Because We're Nowhere': Kashmir's 'Other' Pandits

Hibah Bhat

INSIDE the meditatively-calm courtyard of heavily-guarded 300-year-old Ganpatyar temple in Habba Kadal, Bharti Kumari is lost in thoughts. In the backdrop of serene Jhelum riverbank dotted with heritage marvels, she has been vainly calling out the attention of administration for last ten days.

But even as her tribe pleads—"our children sometimes sleep hungry too"—they continue to feel ditched and discarded.

"We're here because we're nowhere," Kumari says in an an-



guished voice. The 33-year-old Kashmiri Pan-

dit woman is one among dozens of non-migrant Kashmir pandits sup-

porting an indefinite hunger strike launched by Sanjay Tickoo, President of the Kashmiri Pandit Sangarash Samiti (KPSS) on September 20.

The strike aims at demanding 500 government jobs which were promised to the community of non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits during a High Court ruling in 2016 under PM Package for return and rehabilitation in 2009.

In late eighties, Kashmir witnessed a homegrown insurgency against the Indian rule followed by instances of target killings of minority communities which eventually led to a mass migration on January 19, 1990, in which most of

the Kashmiri pandits left the valley, taking with them whatever belongings they could find.

Those who did not leave the valley, decided to stay back. However, the community continues to pay a price for staying like those paying for leaving.

Living in suffocation Kumari's family was among those who refused to leave their home. Although she doesn't regret it, nothing in life fell back into place since then.

"We've been suffering ever since," complains Kumari, who was hardly 3-year-old when her community left the valley in droves.

● PAGE 02

China Says It Does Not...

believed to have also suffered casualties.

The rival countries have amassed tens of thousands of soldiers, backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets, in the Ladakh area since the deadly standoff.

After that clash, the two countries partially disengaged from the site in Ladakh's Galwan Valley and at least two other places, but the crisis has continued in at least three other areas, including the glacial Pangong Lake.

In recent weeks, the world's two most populous nations have accused each other of sending soldiers into each other's territory in the Pangong area and firing warning shots for the first time in 45 years, raising the spectre of a full-scale military conflict.

The fiercely contested control line separates Chinese- and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety. It is broken in parts where the Himalayan nations of Nepal and Bhutan border China.

According to India, the de facto border is 3,488 kilometers (2,167 miles) long, while China says it is considerably shorter.

China had responded strongly in August, 2019, after New Delhi had stripped Jammu & Kashmir of its special status and bifurcated the state as two separate union territories of J&K and Ladakh.

"China has always opposed India's inclusion of Chinese territory in India's administrative jurisdiction in the western part of the Sino-Indian border. This position is firm, consistent and has never changed," the foreign ministry had said in a statement at the time.

"In recent days, the Indian side has continued to undermine China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally amending its domestic laws. This practice is unacceptable and will not produce any effect," the 2019 statement had said.

The fresh Chinese foreign ministry statement came on a day when Indian Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, said that the prevailing situation along the Line of Actual Control was "uneasy". According to the IAF chief, a "no war, no peace" status was prevailing along the northern border amid the ongoing standoff in eastern Ladakh.

He, however, assured that the Indian armed forces were prepared for any eventuality and that the IAF was resolved to counter "any mis-adventure".

"Present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy – no war, no peace status... The recent induction of Rafales along with other aircraft has provided the IAF with substantial practical and strategic capability enhancement," Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said.

Never Accepted China's 1959...

foreign ministry insisting that it takes the 1959 line on perception of the LAC amid a nearly five-month-long border standoff in east-ern Ladakh triggered a strong reaction from India.

"India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side," MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said in response to a question by the media on the issue.

The spokesperson's comments came after a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson told Hindustan Times that China abides by the LAC as proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated November 7, 1959.

Srivastava referred to various bilateral agreements including the 1993 agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC, 1996 pact on confidence building measures (CBMs) and the 2005 agreement on political parameters and guiding principles for settlement of the boundary issue, to emphasise that both sides showed commitment to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC.

"Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is contrary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements," he said, adding the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC.

Referring to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent address to Parliament, Srivastava said it is the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the Western Sector has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo.

The MEA spokesperson also talked about repeated affirmation of the Chinese side in the last few months that the current situation in the border areas should be resolved in accordance with the agreements signed between the two countries.

"In the agreement reached between External Affairs Minister and his Chinese counterpart on 10th September also, the Chinese side has reiterated its commitment to abide by all the existing agreements," Srivastava said.

"We therefore expect that the Chinese side will sincerely and faithfully abide by all agreements and understandings in their entirety and refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC," he added.

Amnesty Int'l Halts Operations...

However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving foreign funds illegally.

In 2018, the Enforcement Directorate had carried out searches at the headquarters of Amnesty International in Bangalore. The raids were conducted for an alleged violation of the foreign exchange act.

The organisation claimed that the attacks on Amnesty International India and other outspoken human rights organisations, activists and human rights defenders are only an extension of the various "repressive policies and sustained assault by the government on those who speak truth to power".

"This is latest in the incessant witch-hunt of human rights organizations by the Government of India over unfounded and motivated allegations," Amnesty International India said.

Amnesty International India said it stands in full compliance with all applicable Indian and international laws.

"For human rights work in India, it operates through a distinct model of raising funds domestically. More than four million Indians have supported Amnesty International India's work in the last eight years and around 100,000 Indians have made financial contributions," the organisation said.

These contributions evidently cannot have any relation with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and the fact that the "government is now portraying this lawful fundraising model as money-laundering is evidence that the overboard legal framework is maliciously activated when human rights activists and groups challenge the government's grave inactions and excesses", it alleged.

"Treating human rights organisations like criminal enterprises and dissenting individuals as criminals without any credible evidence is a deliberate attempt by the Enforcement Directorate and Government of India to stoke a climate of fear and dismantle the critical voices in India," Avinash Kumar, the executive director of Amnesty International India, said.

VP Naidu Tests Positive...

His wife Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation, the tweet said.

18 More Lose Battle To Covid-19...

sofar—835 from the Valley and 331 from Jammu division. Srinagar district with 289 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (180), Baramulla (124), Budgam (82), Pulwama (69), Anantnag (63), Kulgam (43), Kupwara (67), Bandipora(37), Shopian (32), Rajouri (31), Ganderbal (28), Doda (27), Kathua (21), Samba (20), Udhampur (18), Poonch (12), Ramban (10), Kishtwar(7) and Reasi (5). (With GNS inputs)

1081 New Cases Include 61...

officials from the Jammu division. Among the infected people, officials said included 28 CRPF men, as many soldiers from Badami Bagh cantonment, five BSF personnel besides four minors and two from the police department.

Giving the district wise details, official sources said that Srinagar reported 222 cases, Budgam 29, Baramulla 62, Pulwama 24, Anant-

nag 11, Bandipora 22, Kupwara 36, Ganderbal 24, Kulgam 7, Shopian 4, Jammu 313, Rajouri 61, Udhampur 49, Kathua 29, Doda 34, Samba 44, Poonch 21, Ramban 28, Reasi 15 and Kishtwar 46. Moreover, they said, 1250 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 615 from Jammu Division and 635 from Kashmir valley.

HC Flays ‘Callous Approach’...

etc. The law on which is well settled," the court said, adding, "Due to callous approach of the detaining Authorities in passing such orders, the whole purpose of the Preventive laws is getting defeated."

The court said that either the detaining authorities are not aware about the requirements of law or they are dealing the issues of preventive detention very "casually".

"Be that as it may, time has come when the detaining Authorities must be imparted proper training about the requirements of law in passing the detention order so as to ensure that such orders are not set aside on technical grounds," the court said as per GNS and asked Registrar Judicial to send copies of the judgment to the Chief Secretary, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Home, and Law Secretary, for compliance through email. "It is made clear that any such slackness in future may invite imposition of personal cost on the officer concerned," the court said.

Meanwhile allowing the petition by Sartaj who was booked under PSA on 28 November 2018, the court ordered that he be released forthwith provided he is not detained in any other matter including FIR Nos. 260/2017 and 333/2017.

"The Learned AAC (additional advocate general) has not been able to bring to our notice any such satisfaction recorded by the detaining Authority while passing the detention order. The Single Judge though has discussed about the appellant (Sartaj) being in custody at the time of passing of detention order but has not dealt this issue in right perspective," the court said, adding, "On this ground only the appeal deserves to be allowed."

'Camouflaging Illegal Occupation'

exploitation" of people in Pakistan-controlled -Kashmir. Pakistan has announced that elections for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on November 15.

"The government of India has conveyed its strong protest to the government of Pakistan and reiterated that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of so-called Gilgit and Baltistan are an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA said Pakistan has no locus standi on territories "illegally and forcibly occupied" by it.

"Action such as these can neither hide the illegal occupation of parts of Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Pakistan nor the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom to the people residing in Pakistan occupied territories for the past seven decades," it said.

"These are cosmetic exercises intended to camouflage its illegal occupation. We call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation," the MEA said.

The MEA also asked Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation.

In a ruling earlier this year, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the prime minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

Following the verdict, India issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat here and lodged a strong protest over the apex court ruling.

The polls in Gilgit-Baltistan were to be held on August 18, but Pakistan's election commission on July 11 postponed them due to the coronavirus pandemic.

2 Collaborators Held Over...

the local police station after they lost contact with them on July 17. In their complaint, they informed the police that they had last spoken to the three, who were mainly involved in apple and walnut trading, on July 17 when the youths had informed their families that they had got a room at Ashimpورا in Shopian.

Three boys, Mohammad Imtiyaz and Ibrar Ahmed, both residents of Kathuni mohalla of Dharsakri village of Rajouri, and Mohammad Ibrar, a resident of Tarkassi village of Rajouri, left their homes to work as labourers in Kashmir's Shopian and went out of contact with their families after July 17 late evening.

A day later, the Army claimed three militants were killed in Amshipura village in the higher reaches of south Kashmir's Shopian. It initiated an inquiry after social media reports indicated that the three men were from Rajouri and had gone missing in Amshipura. The families of the three men claimed they worked as labourers in Shopian and lodged a police complaint.

How Long Can Mehbooba...

Nitya Ramakrishnan, appearing for Iltija, that Mufti's daughter and other relatives should be allowed to meet her in detention. Even people in jails are allowed to meet their families, the lawyer argued.

The bench said he requests for visitation and meetings may be placed before the authorities concerned and allowed. At the outset of the brief hearing, the bench said that it would like to deal with certain issues as to what can be the maximum period of detention under the law and asked the authorities about the period of detention to which she may be kept.

"Find some via media out. Detention can't be forever," the bench observed, while posting the matter for hearing on October 15 after filing of the fresh reply of the UT administration to the amended plea of Iltija.

Referring to the earlier reply of the UT authorities, the bench said that it needed to go through the reply and "will have to see what is to be done".

The top court, in February this year, had issued notice to the UT authorities on the habeas corpus (bring the person) plea of Iltija challenging the detention of her mother and had sought the re-sponse by March 18.

The PDP president was put under detention on the eve of abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 on August 5 last year.

In her application, filed in the pending petition, Iltija said it has been filed praying for permission to amend the plea and seeking a writ of habeas corpus.

"The amendment sought is to include grounds of challenge and additional prayers for challenging the orders of confirmation (dated February 26) and subsequent extensions (May 5 and July 31) of the detention order (of Mehbooba) impugned in the writ petition," the application reads.

The writ petition has challenged Mehbooba's detention on several grounds. It contends that the grounds and the dossier for detention are "stale, vague and that they suffer from non-application of mind, malice in law and that they violate the provisions of Section 8(3)(b) of the PSA".

"The detention order based on stale grounds have become staler even more since the petition was filed and the respondent administration has continued to act with total non-application of mind and the malice in law has only been reinforced and aggravated in confirming and extending the order of detention for further periods," it said.

Seeking permission to allow her to amend the section of the writ petition entitled Prayers , Iltija pleaded for issuance of the writ in the nature of habeas corpus commanding the respondents – the central and Jammu and Kashmir governments – to produce Mehbooba forthwith before the court for being set at liberty.

Pleading for direction or order quashing the impugned order of detention and subsequent extension orders, the application sought appropriate compensation to Mehbooba for the "illegal detention that she has suffered" and to award costs of the litigation to the petitioner.

"I have challenged her PSA order and the subsequent extensions to ensure her continued detention. Her detention is illegal and questionable in a democracy," Iltija had said, adding "a key opposition leader has been jailed for over a year without recourse to trial."

J&K Couldn't Achieve National ...

of SWAN and backend computerisation of user departments. Failure to firm up the requirements jeopardised the work on the State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) project, it said, adding, implementation of the Common Service Centres project was impacted due to lack of coordinated efforts in ensuring availability of services, absence of a reliable connectivity, lack of awareness or sensitisation and delays in the roll out process.

On the NAP, the CAG said the overall forest cover to geographical area in Jammu and Kashmir decreased from 16.09 percent in 2009 to 15.78 per cent in 2015.

Against target of 66 percent of geographical area in hills to be covered under forest and tree cover as per National Forest Policy 1988, only 24.02 per cent was under forest and tree cover, leaving a short-fall of 41.98 percent of the envisaged goal, the report said.

It said seven forest development agencies could not be brought under the ambit of NAP by the state forest development agency during 2010-17, despite the fact that five forest development agencies had formulated and submitted their plans (2010-15) costing Rs 37.59 crore to the state agency which was not forwarded to the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board.

The Receipt of funds from the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board by the State Forest Development Agency were allocated disproportionately to Forest Development Agencies. Against release of Rs 4.44 crore by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board to the State Forest Development Agency for 15 Forest Development Agencies, only Rs 1.80 crore were released (2013-14), whereas against release of Rs 5.46 crore for nine Forest Development Agencies, Rs 9.23 crore were released (2011-14), it said.

The CAG said the funds of Rs 24.46 crore were retained by the state forest development agency up to 265 days and further there was delay in release of Rs 6.30 crore up to 681 days by the forest development agencies to the village forest committees.

Delay in submission of annual works programme by the State Forest Development Agency to National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board resulted in non-receipt of grant of Rs 11.72 crore during 2010-15, the report said.

It said neither five year Perspective Plan nor Annual Plan of Operations was prepared by the Forest Development Agencies. Only Annual Works Programme of the forest territorial area were prepared and that too without the consultation with the Village Forest Committees/ potential village members.

The report said no entry point activities were undertaken in any of the 11 forest development agencies test-checked in audit despite Rs 1.03 crore being approved in the annual works programme of 10 agencies for undertaking such activities.

No training and capacity building measures were undertaken for skill development as no provision was made in the works programme by 11 Forest Development Agencies test-checked in Audit. No plantation journal showing year/compartment/ species-wise and geo-reference details of the plantation was maintained, as such impact assessment to monitor survival vis-a-vis mortality against plantation could not be analysed, it said.

It said No Annual Report was prepared by the state forest development agency since its inception in July 2010.

The Governing Body met only once (April 2014) as against seven times, whereas the Executive Body conducted only five meetings as against at least 27 meetings during 2010-16.

Govt Suspends Another KAS...

who have cases pending against them before anti-graft bodies are being suspended till completion of the inquiry against them.

Bhushan's suspension come almost a week after the J&K Government suspended two senior officials pending an inquiry into their conduct in a case pertaining to Rs 250-crore bank loan fraud.

LG Offers State Chopper For...

addition to the Heli Services extended by the Central Government in the cut off areas such as Tangdhar, Gurez, Keran and Macchail. "Take early measures for ensuring uninterrupted drinking water and power supply, besides, put in place a strong mechanism for ensuring smooth movement of traffic for continuous road connectivity ahead of the winter season with special focus on far-flung and snowbound areas. Apart from available helicopter service to cut off areas, the administration should use choppers at Raj Bhawan to help those in distress," Sinha, as per the official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG also directed to ensure availability of public utilities like wood, ration, medicines and other basic amenities. For the road connectivity, the LG, he said directed for acquiring all the necessary machinery required for snow clearance from all the main and internal roads.

"In order to clear the inner lanes of villages off snow, where machines cannot be deployed, the administration can hire the trained manpower, and must clear the snow for smooth movement," the LG said.

Stressing upon synergy between the departments, Sinha, the official spokesperson said directed the officers to monitor and keep a close watch on the functioning of their respective departments pertaining to winter preparedness for better coordination to avoid inconvenience to the public.

"While reviewing the winter preparedness of the Power Department, the LG enquired about the availability and surplus of power transformers for the coming winter season. He directed the Power Department for establishment of a task force to ensure power supply and gave strict directions for the availability of surplus transformers to cater to the need during the winter season," the official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG directed the Jal Shakti Department to take all the measures required to ensure that there is no scarcity of drinking water.

"He also stressed upon enough stock of fuel, cooking gas before harsh winter slams the region," the official spokesperson said.

"The LG also asked the top government officials to put in place every available facility including emergency services such as power back-up for hospitals, water pumping stations, important government offices and state of the art ambulance services at all hospitals, especially in the higher reaches area," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the officials in the meeting said snow control rooms will be established in every district headquarters by 15th October for smooth operation of snow clearance mechanically and manually.

Relatives Burst Firecrackers,...

FIR 138/2020 u/s 188 IPC stands registered in the matter. Investigation of the case is in progress," the police spokesperson said. He urged people not to use firecrackers anywhere within the territorial jurisdiction of District Srinagar.

"It is worth mentioning here that it is prohibited to use firecrackers within the territorial jurisdiction of District Srinagar. An order in this regard stands promulgated by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar," the police spokesperson said.

‘We’re Here Because We’re...

As she grew up, she missed the experience of living a "normal-life" without the fear of getting killed or attacked.

"During our school days the common sight would be crackdowns, stone-pelting and what not," she recalls.

At home, Kumari would make all the efforts to focus on her studies but that too would go in vain because the air would always be filled with smoke, cries and sound of gun-shots.

But more than that, what has been haunting her is the lack of financial upliftment and better opportunities for the people in her community.

"I've played 6 Nationals and I wanted to continue playing but there was no way I could," says Kumari in disillusionment, who failed to continue her B.ed due to financial shortfall.

Like Kumari, many others from her community are having a hard time to meet basic requirements.

"I know a family which has no proper or regular source of earning," says 26-year-old Vasundhara, another pandit woman, sitting in sup-

port of the strike.

She's herself living on the edge with hardly any means to support her family.

"I had finally bagged a job before the pandemic, but even that is gone now," says Vasundhara, who lost her job as a teacher due to the cost cuts and employee layoffs phenomenon that emerge amidst the Covid-19 lockdown, multiplying the problems of especially those in the private sector.

She lives in a two-storey house that had almost submerged under the floods in 2014, which she think can fall with a slightest earthquake. And there's no way she can renovate it.

"We've suffered both financially and mentally here and no one cares," sighs Vashundhara who feels that the "golden time" of their lives is already wasted and what's just another day for the government are moments of grief and distress for the pandits living in the valley.

Official Lip service

"Recently, Lieutenant Governor announced something that is already there and nothing new," continues Kumari who compares the announcement as putting a candy in a baby's mouth.

On September 23, LG Manoj Sinha approved the re-allocation of 1997 number of unfilled supernumerary posts for recruitment of registered Kashmiri migrants and non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits, who are willing to serve and settle down in Valley under the Prime Minister's Package.

But as per the people part of the hunger strike, the problem lies not in the criteria, rather in the implementation of the orders and the schemes.

"I don't understand why there's a delay in providing us jobs despite the clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the high court order," asks Kumari.

The delay, she says, is only making many people from her community ineligible for the jobs which follow a certain age criteria.

Vasundhara and Kumari both argue that there's conscious negligence towards their cause, which is to secure the rights of the non-migrants Kashmiri pandits, from certain departments, authorities and the government of past and present.

"If we were to specifically blame someone, it would be the Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R) Department for not taking any action," says Vasundhara while referring the possibility of the further deterioration in the health of Sanjay Tickoo, who is leading the hunger strike at the moment.

Abrogation Myth

On August 5, last year, the BJP-led central government scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to further integrate the former state with the Indian union.

Although the decision created quite a stir in the valley, many people outside Kashmir, especially migrant pandits, welcomed it thinking it would become a gateway for them to go back home.

"If they aren't able to do anything for those who're already here, how will they rehabilitate those coming from outside?" asks Vasundhara in a fierce tone.

It's a myth that Article 370 is a win for Hindutva or a pandit community, Sanjay Tickoo says.

"So far, the community has not been able to see any positive changes out of it [abrogation] for their upliftment."

"Ready to come out on roads"

Already, it has been ten days since Kumari and Vasundhara along with others from her community are sitting inside the courtyard of the temple in support of the hunger strike. But so far, they've not got any reaction from the government.

However, they refuse to be the inheritors of the grief and misery of their ancestors.

But the frontman Tickoo hardly has any hopes.

"If someone had to do something, they would not have delayed," he says.

However, the women in the courtyard assert that they would not let go of their rights and would go out on streets if the situation arises.

Teacher Held For Circulating...

registered at the Kakpora police station and investigations were started. "During the course of investigation some suspects of the area were rounded up for questioning," the police spokesperson said.

He said during questioning of the suspects, Muzamil Ahmad Dar of Gundibagh was found involved in the case. Dar, a teacher at a private educational institute at Pampore, he said was arrested on September 21.

"During the course of investigations, it came to fore that the accused had personal enmity with some persons of the area and in order to defame them, he had prepared posters on the letter head of fake outfit and pasted them at public places," the police spokesperson said.

Kuwaiti Ruler Sheikh Sabah...

war that expelled occupying Iraqi troops, came after parliament voted unanimously to oust his predecessor, the ailing Sheikh Saad Al Abdul-lah Al Sabah, just nine days into his rule.

Yet, as Kuwait's ruling emir, he struggled with internal political disputes, the fallout of the 2011 Arab Spring protests and seesawing crude oil prices that chewed into a national budget providing cradle-to-grave subsidies.

He represents the older generation of Gulf leaders who valued discretion and moderation and the importance of personal ties amongst fellow monarchs, said Kristin Diwan, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington who studies Kuwait.

No question he has suffered from the lack of deference and respect shown by the younger and more brash young princes holding power today. State television announced his death after playing Quranic prayers.

Sheikh Sabah is expected to be succeeded by his half brother, the crown prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles...

defence spokesman said.

At about 1715 hours, Pakistan violated ceasefire in Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district, he said, adding the Indian Army retaliated befittingly.

The exchanges are going on when the reports came in.

Earlier, at about 0430 hours, the Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector, the defence spokesman said.

Several animals suffered injuries in the shelling in Balnoi area, officials said.

The Pakistan Army has violated ceasefire 47 times this month so far. An army personnel was killed and two others, including an officer, was injured on September 5 as Pakistani troops used heavy fire and mortar shells along the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district, officials said.

On September 2, one JCO was killed by the Pakistan Army along the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

Man Posing As Police Officer...

investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, the police spokesperson said that the accused was identified, arrested and shifted to the police station. The police spokesperson identified the imposter as Nazir Ahmad Sheikh of Bota Kadal here.

"The accused person has deliberately registered his name as DySP CM Residence in Truecaller app with the intention to cheat and threaten the public," the police spokesperson said.

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Sarai Dangerpora Srinagar, KMR

LG for Innovative Measures for Conservation of Dal, Other Water Bodies

- Effective Solid Waste Management shall be put in place for Srinagar city
- Long & Short term solutions should go parallel

SRINAGAR : Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has stressed upon innovative and efficient measures for conservation and preservation of world-renowned Dal lake, Wular lake and other water bodies.

“Effective Solid Waste Management shall be put in place not only for houseboats but for the whole Srinagar city for the holistic conservation of Dal lake”, he added. He called for zero release of sewage waste of household and commercial establishments into Dal lake. He also stressed upon similar efforts for Wular Lake and Jhelum river since they are interconnected.

The Lt Governor was chairing a meeting with the Committee of

Experts (CoE) to deliberate on various important measures required to restore the ecosystem of Dal lake.

The meeting was attended by members of the Committee of Expert (CoE) including Former MD, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation & Consultant to the CoE, Dr. E Sreedharan; Member Coordinator, CoE& Former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, Dr. Nivedita P Haran; MD Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, Dr Mangu Singh; Adv. M.C. Mehta, Environmentalist, and other senior officers, through virtual mode.

The Lt Governor welcomed the suggestions and recommendations made by the CoE and said that all the

vital inputs will play an imperative role in framing future action plan for the restoration of the lake. The CoE briefed the Lt Governor about major steps required for safeguarding and conservation of Dal lake.

A threadbare discussion was held on important issues like preventing sewage waste flowing into the lake, bio-digesters for all houseboats, demarcation of the lake's boundary, empowering Lakes authority, putting a check on encroachment and its removal, sewage treatment plant for houseboats, rehabilitation, extending all the requisite facilities to tourists etc.

The Lt Governor laid special emphasis on formulating long term

and short-term solutions and said that these solutions should go parallel for their effective implementation.

Preservation of the unique biodiversity of Dal lake is the topmost priority of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and the UT Government is also committed to provide all the necessary support for the restoration of the ecosystem of the lake, he added.

He said that the implementation of all recommendations should be realistic and thrust shall be given on public-private participation. From project formation to implementation, all the authorities involved in the protection of Dal Lake to work in convergence mode for better coordination and shall be empowered for effective administration, he added.

In order to achieve results on the ground, there is a need to put rigorous efforts and fix responsibility for clearing the water bodies from encroachment and securing the banks of the lakes, besides ensuring that no illegal construction shall take place along the periphery and catchment areas of these water bodies, the Lt Governor maintained.

He further emphasized on carrying out the work on restoration, maintenance and preservation and other ancillary issues of the Dal Lake in consonance with the High Court directions and taking all the ecological factors into consideration.

Govt Launches e-MARG online payment to contractors

SRINAGAR : Principal Secretary, R&B Department, Shailendra Kumar, today launched e-MARG online payment to contractors for maintenance of PMGSY Roads here at the Civil Secretariat.

Principal Secretary said that e-MARG is an e-Governance solution to monitor maintenance of roads and assist the JKRRDA (Jammu & Kashmir Rural Road Development Authority) officials, Contractors and Banks.

He said the department and other stakeholders are currently using e-MARG for monitoring of roads as an effective tool for asset and

financial management. “This digital service is unique in its own way as it is a convergence of e-governance using GIS, mobile messaging services and secure encryption”, he added.

During launch of e-MARG online payment system, some other important features of the service were also highlighted including web-based centrally managed application which facilitates online bill generation and payment, online submission and tracking of bills by contractors, statutory deductions of Income Tax, Labour cess etc.

Sarmad reviews functioning of Tourism Deptt

Asks for formulating activity calendar

SRINAGAR : Secretary, Youth Services, Sports, Culture & Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez reviewed the functioning of Tourism Department in a meeting of officers here today.

Addressing the meeting, Sarmad Hafeez asked the Department to make all arrangements for the coming seasons as tourism is gradually being opened all across with all COVID protocols and precautions. He said the world has now realized to live with COVID and all activities are being planned

accordingly. He said the need has been felt of practicing responsible tourism in view of COVID pandemic and efforts should be made in the direction.

The Tourism Secretary asked the Department to prepare a calendar of activities for the coming seasons with specific themes and projections. He said Jammu & Kashmir has the uniqueness of one stop destination that it presents a unique bouquet of activities and destinations to tourists all around the year.

Grameen Sneh Foundation Hands Over Safety Gear To MCCH Anantnag

Grameen Sneh Foundation -Pan India Non government Organisation under the initiative HAUSLA RAHAT handed over safety gear (PPE kits, masks, shoe covers, gloves) to superintendent Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) Anantnag. On behalf of MCCH Ang. Dr. SM Indrabai received the items. Speaking on the occasion President GSF Sneha Routray said that it is just a beginning and in future much bigger and more important issues will be addressed. It is to mention here that GSF has started a full fledged chapter in J&K especially for under privileged ones. President GSF said that in the initial phase mass sensitisation will be done followed by Health Check up camps with focus on 7 most chronic diseases. The CEO GSF Mr. Inamul Haq Rafiqi while addressing the gathering highlighted the plans and initiatives of GSF. The Hospital Administration and general public hailed the efforts made by GSF



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION LRCR SRINAGAR
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Email-Id: exenlrcr@gmail.com
Ph/Fax: 01942503220

ABRIVATED Fresh E-TENDER NOTICE SERIAL NO.(36) of 2020-21

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est.Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost offT/ Doc.	Earnest Money	Time	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class r	MH of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Improvement up gradation of road surface BWO of Pl of 50 mm thick macadam 25 mm thick semidense including tack coat and seal coat at Madina Colony Bemina in patches streches	10.04 lacs [Inc. C/o Bitumen]	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 20080/-	10 Cal days	06/10/2020 11.00 AM	"AAY" Class with HMPH Or HMPH	C&T

Position of AAA/TS Accorded
Position of funds Available

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



1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28/09/2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28/09/2020 4.00 PM to 05-10-2020 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28-09-2020 from 04.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	05-10-2020 04.00 PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06/10/2020 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Left River Circular Road Division Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
LRCR Divn. Sgr

DIPK-6505/20

Note:-Taxes as admissible for deduction shall be deducted a source at the rates at the time of payment of the gross Amount of bills of the contractors.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Mrs. : Masooda Akhter W/o: Mr Showkat Ahmad R/o: Baghi Hyder Hyderpora (Transferor) of LMV Maruti 800.

Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 3523. Chasis number 2545987 Engine no. 3559603 Model 2006. in favour of Shri.. Ab. Rashid S/o. Ab Karim Sofi R/o Mahjoor Nagar Main Road Sgr. (Transferee)


Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Srinagar Times.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1545
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE



Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohd Yasin Hajam S/o: Ghulam Ali Hajam R/o: Gund Arjun Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04E-7559 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Budgam. .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1539
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE



Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Mrs : Nahida Hassan S/o: Parvaiz Ahmad R/o: Kremshore Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04D-9192 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Budgam. .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1548
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE



Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Mrs : Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o: Mohammad Ramzan Dar R/o: Pallar Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04E-7957 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Amira Kadal.


Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1542
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE



Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri :Rouf Ahmad Mir S/o: Gh Ahmad Mir R/o: Mehnoora Sogam Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04E-5476 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Chadoora. .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1538
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri. : Ghulam Mohammad Bhat W/o: Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat R/o: Main Chowk Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Grand i10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 0009. Chasis number 251824 Engine no. 600407

Model 2015. in favour of Shri.. Ghulam Rasool Dar S/o. Mohammad Akram Dar R/o Badipora Chadoora Budgam. (Transferee) as well as HPA Cancellation with J&K Bank B/U Budgam is also required.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1541
Dated 29/09/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
12 Safar
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 03
ZUHR	12: 22
ASR	4:37
Magrib	6:23
ISHA	7:43

This Day In History

- 1520 Suleiman the Magnificent succeeds his father Selam I as Ottoman Sultan (rules till 1566)
- 1939 - Germany & Russia agree to partition Poland
- 1939 - Britain first evacuates citizens in anticipation of war.
- 1940 - 47 German aircraft shot down above England
- 1958 - French Guinee becomes independent republic Guinea
- 1966 - Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland) gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1967 - BBC starts its own popular music radio station (Radio 1)
- 1968 - 1st Boeing 747 rolls out
- 1980 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1980 - Ethernet specifications published by Xerox working with Intel and Digital Equipment Corporation.
- 1981 - Seoul, South Korea, is selected to host 1988 Summer Olympics
- 1986 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1986 - US releases soviet spy Gennadiy Zakharov
- 1986 - Mordechai Vanunu, who revealed details of Israel covert nuclear program to British media, is kidnapped in Rome, Italy
- 1988 - IBM announces shipment of 3 millionth PS/2 personal computer
- 1989 - NASA closes down tracking stations in Hawaii & Ascension
- 1989 - Senegambia separates back into Gambia & Senegal
- 1990 - The Dalai Lama unveils the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights in Canada's capital city of Ottawa.
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-68 (Endeavour 7), launches into orbit
- 1997 - Microsoft releases Internet Explorer 4
- 1999 - Japan's worst nuclear accident at a uranium reprocessing facility in T kai-mura, northeast of Tokyo.
- 2004 - The first images of a live giant squid in its natural habitat are taken 600 miles south of Tokyo.
- 2004 - The AIM-54 Phoenix, the primary missile for the F-14 Tomcat, retired from service. Almost two years later, the Tomcat retires.
- 2005 The controversial drawings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) are printed in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten.
- 2006 - the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Constitutional Act that proclaimed the new Constitution of Serbia.
- 2012 - Two opposition Venezuelan politicians are shot dead a week before the presidential election
- 2012 - Car bomb blasts kill at least 32 people across Iraq

From KO Archives

Israeli counter-insurgency experts in Kashmir?

Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI- A team of counter-insurgency experts from Israel art touring Kashmir on the invitation of Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, news reports said Saturday. The team is headed by Eli Katzir of the Counter-Terrorism Combat Unit of the Israeli prime minister's office, reports said adding that other members of the group include senior Israeli police commanders and military intelligence personnel. There was no immediate confirmation of the report but the times of India newspaper today said the team will prepare a feasibility study of India's security needs in Kashmir, where Muslim insurgents have waged an armed homeland campaign since 1989.

The newspaper said the Israelis will also visit other areas in India which are plagued by insurgencies.

Home Minister Advani during a trip to Israel in June had sought help from Tel Aviv to fight cross-border militancy in Kashmir, where around 34,000 people have died in violence linked to Muslim secessionism.

Israel reportedly agreed to transfer information, military hardware and counter-terrorism methods, but said it will not participate in training Indian personnel or dispatch Israeli experts to India. The Israeli daily Haaretz in a similar report on Friday also said the visit was in line with Advani's June visit "India is particularly interests in improving security along its border with Pakistan, especially in Kashmir, and in particular with blocking guerrilla infiltrations it said adding experts wound up their trip cm Today.

REPORT DENIED

The government today denied a press report that home minister L.K. Advani has invited a team of Israeli counter-terrorism experts to the country.

It is officially clarified that no such team Mas been invited by the home minister, an official spokesperson said.

Kashmir Observer, September 30, 2000

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K O V I E W

Time to unlock

At a time when India's coronavirus cases have crossed six million and the number of deaths as a result of the contagion is over 95000, the government is mulling further opening up of the economy. In the Unlock 5 that is set to start from October 1, the government is likely to announce further relaxations that allow more economic activities to take place. One can expect some action on reopening of schools and colleges and also cinema halls. There are likely to be more measures to reopen previously closed sectors that will be known in the coming days.

One thing is clear, the union government is gradually moving towards re-opening the economy as it fears the economic fallout from stay-at-home measures will be worse than the virus. Indian economy like many economies across the world has already gone into recession. In India, the impact of the pandemic has been devastating. Millions of people have lost jobs. Millions of migrant labourers have lost livelihood and shelter in the cities forcing them to go back to their homes in the villages. This has triggered a massive suffering in its wake. And it will only get worse if the economy is not reopened.

Government has thus done well to take steps towards resuming the economic activity. In the west too, the governments are similarly moving towards getting back to normal life. And this is happening even as the Covid-19 cases are spiking and the experts are warning of a second wave of infections. But the further damage to the economy is seen to be a cure worse than the disease. More so in a country like India where a significant population lives below the poverty line. In the absence of jobs, people will die of hunger. Government is therefore doing well to unlock the economy. It should, however, make the businesses accountable for any laxity in implementing the norms of social distancing.

The world, meanwhile, is waiting for a vaccine with a bated breath. Though some vaccine candidates are in phase-3 trials, we are still some time away from their use against the contagion. So, the governments worldwide have no option but to buy time till the vaccines are ready and can be produced on a mass scale. Though the cases in India have spiked exponentially in recent past, the number of infections is not huge given the size of its population. Moreover, on a positive note, the recoveries in India have been higher than the global average. With hopefully, the vaccine around the corner, things from hereon are only expected to look up. While the union government will need to take measures to steer the nation through this critical period, the onus is also on the ordinary people to exercise the safety precautions to ensure the infection is held in check.

OTHER OPINION

The NDA's labour laws

As part of its economic reforms programme, the Union government passed three codes on labour laws recently. These, along with the Code on Wages enacted in 2019, complete the labour market reforms agenda of the National Democratic Alliance government. The reforms aim to achieve two main objectives. The first is to rationalize the existing bits and pieces of legislations pertaining to labour markets into four simplified codes covering wages, workers' rights, industrial relations, occupational safety and social security. The second objective is to energize economic activities by making it easier for employers to hire and fire workers without creating additional uncertainty for the latter. Indian industry has long been constrained by archaic labour laws that had the aim of protecting workers from arbitrary exploitation in a labour-surplus economy. Although the aim was certainly laudable, it made it extremely difficult for employers to be flexible in disengaging workers. Indeed, labour began to be treated as a fixed cost by employers and they began to find ways and means, through suitable choice of technology, to minimize employment. The paradoxical outcome was high unemployment with labour-saving technologies being preferred by even small and micro enterprises. In the informal sector, which employs the largest segment of the nation's labour force, workers had hardly any rights worth mentioning. In the organized sector, on realizing that it was difficult for the employers to retrench them, militant workers often went on strike and disrupted production on flimsy grounds.

The new codes aim to correct many of these anomalies. For instance, the right to strike remains but the notice period has been increased. Similarly, employers will find it easier to offer employment to workers on a contractual basis provided they are treated on a par with regular workers in terms of working hours, pay and benefits like gratuity. Finally, economies with easy flexibility enable employers to hire and fire. But they also have a wide social security network, which provides safety to individual workers when they are not employed. This task of protection is taken up by the State and not left as the private liability of an employer. The new codes aim to provide additional and wider cover for India's embryonic social security apparatus. These changes are certainly going to benefit employers. The rules that protect workers must be followed strictly. Only then would Indian industry become mature and more efficient.

Telegraph India



Future of Kashmir Politics

The significance of Gupkar declaration is limited to giving the establishment parties in the Valley an agenda point that makes their politics relevant to the post-Article 370 Kashmir. Nothing more, nothing less

RIYAZ WANI

As of now, the importance of Gupkar declaration is only in giving the establishment parties an agenda point that makes their politics relevant to the transformed situation

It took just fifteen days for New Delhi to take steps to address the demand in Buddhist majority Leh for constitutional safeguards to protect region's demography. According to 2011 census, the population of Leh is just 1,33,487. But this fact didn't come in the way of the centre not considering Leh's demand on an urgent basis. Contrary to this, population of Muslim majority Kashmir Valley in J&K is over 7 million but a similar demand for protection to local demography has no takers in New Delhi. This, despite the fact, that the six political parties that comprise the three-fourth of the entire mainstream politics of J&K passed a resolution - also called Gupkar declaration - to this effect.

In Ladakh again, Muslim majority Kargil with a population of 1,40,802 wants to stay as a part of Kashmir Valley and also agrees with Gupkar declaration but New Delhi doesn't give a damn about it. Kargil leadership has also challenged Leh's remit to speak for whole of Ladakh but to no avail.

In J&K, centre has similarly shown it is sensitive to the public sentiment in the Hindu majority Jammu. This is why, it was only after Jammu protested against jobs in J&K being made available to outsiders, that centre reserved all of them for the domiciles of J&K.

Jammu thus holds key to how New Delhi deals with J&K. And so far the region has given little indication that it is unhappy with the existing state of affairs beyond a point. At one level, the situation in Jammu is not greatly different from that of Ladakh. The region is also witnessing a degree of anxiety about the post-Article 370 state of affairs and for more or less similar reasons: loss of jobs, land and identity. People apprehend that their region will be the first destination for the eligible outsiders choosing to settle in J&K.

But as things stand, these apprehensions are not deep enough to cause people to protest publicly. Besides, in case of Jammu, the fears of a demographic change are being trumped by the expectation of development of the region and

more importantly the anticipated shift of political power away from Kashmir Valley. In fact, under the current dispensation this shift has already happened. And with demarcation that is supposed to give more Assembly seats to Jammu, this power-shift will also be inherited by a future democratic government. So, unlike Leh, Jammu is least likely to hit the road against the prospect of a demographic change and the potential loss of land to outsiders.

Where does this leave Kashmir Valley? Nowhere. The Valley could have hoped for some restraint by centre in the execution of its J&K project only if some of its elements say demographic change had been resolutely opposed in Jammu. There is, no doubt, an undercurrent of unease in Jammu over these issues but the people are willing to overlook it as the new dispensation gives the majority community in the region a political weight that is

gle for rights and empowerment in the Valley? On its face, it doesn't, Gupkar declaration, notwithstanding. Truth is it would hardly bother New Delhi, should demand for restoration of autonomy become a part of the political agenda of the Kashmiri parties either individually or collectively. In the existing situation, these parties will hardly be in a position to take this demand to the streets. And even if they did and held a peaceful rally or a protest, so what? The Valley has little political clout at the national level to force any ruling party at New Delhi to change its mind, let alone the BJP.

Also, as for the revocation of Article 370, there is now a broad consensus across the political spectrum in the country, Congress included. Congress may have been a party to Gupkar declaration, but at the national level, the party is only against the manner in which Article 370 was read down, not the

In case of Jammu, the fears of a demographic change are being trumped by the expectation of development of the region and more importantly the anticipated shift of political power away from Kashmir Valley

disproportionately bigger than its demographic strength.

Jammu would certainly have fought any attempt at a demographic change and loss of land and jobs, had the region been carved into either a separate state or a union territory just like Ladakh. And it is probably for the same probable reason that New Delhi didn't trifurcate J&K despite the longstanding demand for statehood in Jammu.

This has created a structural reality that is inherently aligned against Kashmir Valley. And the people in the Valley are deeply conscious of this fact. The new situation has created a massive sense of disempowerment, something that Farooq Abdullah in an interview to Karan Thapar described as "a feeling of slavery".

Does this reality leave any scope or space for a peaceful struggle

act of doing so. For the BJP, on the other hand, acting tough with Kashmir wins it more popular support. And in the remaining four years of its power the party thus seems set to take its project to remake Kashmir in its own image to its logical conclusion.

This reality neither affords space to local politics nor lends it any power to force centre to modify its existing approach to Kashmir. As of now, the importance of Gupkar declaration is only in giving the establishment parties an agenda point that makes their politics relevant to the transformed situation. They have something to go to people with, something to fight for. Nothing more, nothing less.

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Known deaths by unknown gunmen of Kashmir

The gruesome murder of Mr. Babar Qadri, a 40 year old man, has kindled the painful pain that still sends chills through our bodies when Kashmir lost a dedicated professional and a fearless individual, Mr. Shujaat Bukhari, two years ago.

Unfortunately, the term "unknown gunman" is colloquial in Kashmir. It hides the frequency and realm of agonizing pain, suffering, and numbness that Kashmir has witnessed over the years especially after the start of the armed struggle.

Qadri was assassinated within the precincts of his home. That tells us everything about life and living in Kashmir; danger here may be with you, near you, and always around you.

Qadri was well aware about the danger to his life, and had witnessed, studied, and ultimately faced the ugly reality of how fearless voices in Kashmir have had to face a sudden throttled death. It is yet another example that clearly demonstrates the uncanny-scenes-of-living-hell-in-Kashmir. The question that haunts every-

one in Kashmir is the mystification around the term "unknown" in a region where surveillance allows no secrecy.

This new incident of death is part of the vicious assassination cycle that had started when Kashmir became the part of political problem between India and Pakistan in 1947. The conflict has consolidated its dreadful roots, and instead of reaching to a solution it has penetrated deeper.

Humanity is witness to all episodes of historical and political realities of Kashmir, yet, steps from the

global leaders and community have remained half-baked and inconsequential. If principles of human rights and justice were truly valued in the world, ideally, Kashmir conflict would have been resolved decades ago.

Mere condemnations will not help Kashmiris. Firm, strategic and honest steps need to be taken to bring to Kashmir long lasting peace.

Afroz Shah
afroz.shah@gmail.com

Women Should Fight For Balance Not Equality

Women demanding equality with men are making a mockery of themselves.

NAHILA BASHIR MALIK

Seeking light from a faraway source when a glowing lamp is already in our house looks a tad uncanny. The whole point of making this argument is not to question anyone's choice of inspiration though, but to analyse our own illusions.

It's so disappointing to see how some vocal Muslim women are demanding equality at the cost of their true stature. I don't disregard advocating feminism, but I sincerely wonder over some icon choices.

While Bronte sisters, Virginia Wolf, Jane Austen, and Sarah Grimke are hailed as heroes and champions of the women cause, I haven't seen many feminists talking about Syeda Fatimah az-Zahra, the commander of faithful women in both the worlds.

As an epitome of many women-related emancipatory initiatives, the contribution and the person of the prophet's beloved daughter is being conveniently brushed aside in the larger discourse of feminism.

Seeking light from a faraway source when a glowing lamp is already in our house looks a tad uncanny. The whole point of making this argument is not to question anyone's choice of inspiration though, but to analyse our own illusions.

But amid this whole debate, I feel it's foolishness to label a man and a woman equal, for I believe woman is way superior than any man, especially if one looks at the history of Islam. Even our beloved prophet's conduct supports this statement.

He himself stood up every time in welcoming his daughter. There's a chapter in Holy Quran on woman's name. If only women ponder on this basic thing, they will understand who they are.

God created man and woman keeping balance in consideration between them, not equality. Equality is a smaller part of what balance is. Think about it!

Fighting for equality is not good; one should be fighting for balance. Women should invoke their powers and fight for what God has given them, without limiting themselves to social media-male bashing.

We need to kill patriarchy with its all roots but this idea is not something new.

We've all the literature available in the world. I really doubt if any other religion, book stress on women affairs as much as Quran does it.

The fact that we choose to read neighbour's book and skip the one that lies on our shelf creates cancel.



ates cancel.

Though man is responsible for giving birth to patriarchy, gullible woman is equally responsible for this menace. They've limited their horizon around this menish thing.

I remember every woman who calls herself brave and yet utters, "Bichas zanan mehno" (I'm woman) to show that she owns a sense of security.

Interestingly, a married couple in our village sometimes back was expecting a baby. The husband desired a daughter but it was his wife who kept telling him that she shall only give birth to a boy.

Incidents like these give birth to a fractured society where man keeps yelling at her woman and a woman acts total number eventually.

The problem is way big to be sold in couple of days, and obviously it will take some time to get it resolved on ground.

I leave you with a thought in the end; fight with men for equality and then burn the language itself because it's man-ish too.

Fight for balance and lay the foundation of who you are. Shun ignorance and take pride in being a woman, because that's what you are — a jewel beyond man's possession.

Hailing from south Kashmir's Anantnag, the author is currently pursuing her MBA from Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora.

Facebook has announced the latest version of its successful standalone virtual reality (VR) headset, the Oculus Quest 2. The new device packs more computing power and a sharper screen than its predecessor, and is also US\$100 cheaper.

Facebook's Oculus Quest 2 (from AUD\$479) is a powerful wireless VR headset for gaming and, Facebook hopes, much more.

The Oculus Quest 2 is the latest step in Facebook's long-term strategy of making VR more accessible and popular. Facebook recently brought all its VR work under the umbrella of Facebook Reality Labs, it has announced new applications like the Infinite Office VR workplace, and will also require a Facebook login for future Oculus devices.

The compulsory link to Facebook has many consumers concerned, considering the social media giant's chequered history with privacy and data. VR and its cousin, augmented reality (AR), are perhaps the most data-extractive digital sensors we're likely to invite into our homes in the next decade.

Why does Facebook make virtual reality headsets?

Facebook acquired VR company Oculus in 2014 for an estimated US\$2.3 billion. But where Oculus originally aimed at gamers, Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg wants VR for social media.

At the same event last year, Zuckerberg said Facebook sees VR as a pathway to a new kind of "social computing platform" using the enhanced feeling of "presence" that VR affords. For Facebook, the introduction of VR-based computing will be like the leap from text-based command line interfaces to the graphical user interfaces we use today.

This may well be right. VR affords a strong feeling of embodied presence that offers new possibilities for entertainment, training, learning and connecting with others at a distance.

But if the VR future is the one Facebook is "working in the lab" on, it will function via the company's existing social computing platform and business model of extracting data to deliver targeted advertisements.

Virtual reality collects real data

A VR headset collects data about the user, but also about the outside world. This is one of the key ethical issues of emerging "mixed reality" technologies.

As American VR researcher Jeremy Bailenson has written:

...commercial VR systems typically track body movements 90 times per second to display the scene appropri-

Virtual Data Games

MARCUS CARTER | BEN EGLISTON



The compulsory link to Facebook has many consumers concerned, considering the social media giant's chequered history with privacy and data.

ately, and high-end systems record 18 types of movements across the head and hands. Consequently, spending 20 minutes in a VR simulation leaves just under 2 million unique recordings of body language.

The way you move your body can be used to identify you, like a fingerprint, so everything you do in VR could be traced back to your individual identity.

Facebook's Oculus Quest headsets also use outward-facing cameras to track and map their surroundings.

In late 2019 Facebook said they "don't collect and store images or 3D maps of your environment on our serv-

ers today". Note the word today, which tech journalist Ben Lang notes makes clear the company is not ruling out anything in the future.

Virtual reality leads to augmented reality

Facebook wants to collect this data to facilitate its plans for augmented reality (AR).

Where VR takes a user to a fully virtual environment, AR combines virtual elements with our real surroundings.

Last year Facebook unveiled the Live Maps application, a vision of an expansive surveillance apparatus presumably powered by AR glasses and

data collected from Oculus Insight. Live Maps will provide many minor conveniences for Facebook users, like letting you know you've left your keys on the coffee table.

Now Facebook have announced their first steps towards making this a reality: Project Aria. This will involve people wearing glasses-like sensors around Seattle and the San Francisco Bay area, to collect the data to build what Wired co-founder Kevin Kelly calls "the mirrorworld", the next big tech platform.

Read more: Pokémon Go wants to make 3D scans of the whole world for

'planet-scale augmented reality experiences'. Is that good?

People are rightly concerned about the ethical implications of this kind of data extraction. Alongside Project Aria, Facebook launched its Responsible Innovation Principles page, and they're already quick to emphasise that faces and license plates will be blurred in this data collection.

As we have argued elsewhere, framing questions about VR and AR surveillance in terms of individual privacy suits companies like Facebook very well. That's because their previous failings are actually in the (un)ethical use of data (as in the case of Cambridge Analytica) and their asymmetric platform power.

We need more than just 'tech ethics'

Groups like the XR Safety Initiative recognise these emerging issues, and are beginning work on standards, guidelines and privacy frameworks to shape VR and AR development.

Many emerging technologies encounter what is known as the Collingridge problem: it is hard to predict the various impacts of a technology until it is extensively developed and widely used, but by then it is almost impossible to control or change.

We see this playing out right now, in efforts to regulate Google and Facebook's power over news media.

As David Watts argues, big tech designs its own rules of ethics to avoid scrutiny and accountability:

Feelgood, high-level data ethics principles are not fit for the purpose of regulating big tech ... The harms linked to big tech can only be addressed by proper regulation.

What might regulation of Facebook's VR look like? Germany offers one such response — their antitrust regulations have resulted in Facebook withdrawing the headset from sale. We can only hope the technology doesn't become too entrenched to be changed, or challenged.

But regulation has not always stopped Facebook in the past, who paid out US\$550 million to settle a lawsuit for breaching biometric privacy laws. In the multi-billion dollar world of big-tech, it's all a cost of doing business.

Another question we might ask ourselves is whether Facebook's virtual-reality future and others like it really need to exist. Maybe there are other ways to avoid forgetting your keys.

By arrangements with The Conversation

STUDY

Finds Busy Pictures Hinder Reading ABILITY IN CHILDREN

LEARNING TO READ IS HARD WORK FOR many kids," said Anna Fisher, associate professor of psychology and senior author on the paper. The typical design of books for beginning readers often include engaging and colourful illustrations to help define the characters and setting of the story,

Agencies

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University found that an overly busy page with extraneous images can draw the reader's attention away from the text, resulting in a lower understanding of content. Reading is the gateway for learning, but one-third of elementary school students in the United States do not read at grade level. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University are exploring how the design of reading materials affects literacy development.

The results of the study are available in the September issue of the journal npj Science of Learning. "Learning to read is hard work for many kids," said Anna Fisher, associate professor of psychology and senior author on the paper. The typical design of books for beginning readers often include engaging and colourful illustrations to help define the characters and setting of the story, offer context for the text and motivate young readers. Fisher and Cassondra Eng, a doctoral candidate in CMU's Department of Psychology and first author on

the paper, hypothesized that the extraneous images may draw the reader's eyes away from the text and disrupt the focus necessary to understand the story. The researchers sought to understand how to support young readers and optimize their experience as they become more fluent readers. In the study, 60 first- and second-grade students from the greater Pittsburgh area were asked to read from a commercially available book designed for reading practice in this age group. Half of the book consisted of the published design and the other half

was streamlined, having removed the extraneous images. Each child read from the same book. The team used a portable eye-tracker to monitor the number of times the child's gaze shifted away from the text to images on the page. To develop the streamlined version of the book, the researchers had a group of adults to identify relevant images to the text. To differentiate, extraneous images were defined as entertaining, but nonessential pictures to understand the story. For the streamlined version, the researchers kept the images that 90% of the adult participants agreed

were relevant illustrations. All other illustrations were removed. While the time each child spent on a page was similar, the researchers found that nearly all children reading the streamlined version had lower gaze shifts away from text and higher reading comprehension scores compared to the text in the commercially designed version of the book. In particular, children who are more prone to look away from text benefited the most from the streamlined version of the book. "During these primary school years, children are in a transi-

tion period in which they are increasingly expected to read independently, but even more so in the wake of stay-at-home orders as children are using technology with less in-person guidance from teachers," said Eng. "This is exciting because we can design materials grounded in learning theories that can be most helpful to children and enrich their experiences with technology." Fisher notes one limitation to this study was that her team only evaluated reading using a single book. According to Fisher, these

findings highlight ways to improve the design of educational materials, especially for beginning readers. By simply limiting extraneous illustrations, children can have an easier time focusing and better reading comprehension as a result. "This is not a silver bullet and will not solve all challenges in learning to read," said Fisher. "But if we can take steps to make practicing reading a little bit easier and reduce some of the barriers, we [can help children] engage with the printed material and derive enjoyment from this activity."

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/1932/MVD/ARTO/ANG Date:-29/09/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Tawkeer Ahmad Wani S/O Bashir Ahmad Wani R/O Sahibabad Achabal Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-0850(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Mohd Abdullah Najar S/O Ghulam Mohd Najar R/O Sahibabad Achabal Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with Shriram TPT Finance Co.Ltd.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.ART0/ANG/2020/101/1918 Date:-16/09/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Shabir Ahma Bhat S/O Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/O Khanday Mohalla Nipora(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Truk Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-7052(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. GC/ANG. and Mr.Abdul Majeed Lone S/O Ghulam Mohammad Lone R/O Nowshara Bijbehara Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation / Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Marhama.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir. Mechanical Division Anantnag.

Gist of short term tender Notice No MDA/TS/Tender/04of 2020-21 dated: 28-09-2020.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT J&K, sealed Tenders affixed with Rs.6/= revenue stamps are invited from the registered suppliers /contractors having valid GST registration for Supply of Filter kits for various Diesel Road Rollers of Wilson make.

S. NO	Particulars of work	Advertise cost (RS)	Earnest Money (RS)	Sale of tender documents from.	Last date of Submission of tender.	Date of opening.	Position of funds.
01	Supply of Filter kits (S4) for various Diesel Road Rollers of Wilson make.	30000.00	600.00	29-09-2020 to 08-10-2020	09-10-2020	09-10-2020	Available

The detailed tender documents containing complete specifications, terms and conditions of this tender notice can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours from 29-09-2020 to 08-10-2020 2:00 PM) against the cash payment of Rs:-200.00 (Non-refundable).The documents shall be issued after production of following certificates.

01. Original valid registration certificate from competent authority.

02. PAN card.

03. GST clearance of previous quarter

The tenders should be accompanied with the earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR worth Rs 600.00 pledged to The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag Without which no tender shall be entertained and are submitted to The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag on or before 09-10-2020 up to 2.00 PM and shall be opened on the same day or any other working day convenient to The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag. The tenderer who wish to participate in the bidding process shall remain present at the time of opening of tenders. The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

No:-MDA/TS – 705 /1481
Dated:-28-09-2020

DIPK-6560/20

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division Anantnag.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division, Budgam

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:98/MDB/5786-5804 of 2020-21 DATED:28.09.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K (Union Territory), e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item 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 Rs)	E/M (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	MH of Account
1	Construction of tile lane from Main road Iskenderpora to H/O Gull Bhat and Construction of culvert at Ward No: 01 MC Beerwah	0.50 Lacs	200/-	1000/-	10 days	DEE	IDMT
2	Construction of tile lane from H/O Gh. Qadir Zargar to H/O Ab. Majid Sheikh and Construction of cement concrete lane from H/O Ab. Majeed Sheikh to GrateKhul at ward No: 2 at MC Beerwah	0.50 Lacs	200/-	1000/-	10 days	DEE	IDMT
3	Construction of drain from H/O Gh. Mohammad Matoo to Masjid Sharief Yousuf abad at Ward No: 04 MC Beerwah	0.70 Lacs	200/-	1400/-	10 days	DEE	IDMT

(i) Position of AAA: - Accorded (ii) Position of funds: Available

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 details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28.09.2020 4.00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.09.2020 from 4.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	28.09.2020 from 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	12.10.2020 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

1. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

2. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division, Budgam.

No:5786-5804
Date:28.09.2020

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar,

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NIT NO.43/XEN/EDS/2020-21 OF 09-2020

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	E/M (Amt In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt in Rs)	Time of completion	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of One No. Bed Room with One No. Bath Rooms and other allied works at House No S-2 at Sonwar Srinagar.	6.50 lacs	13000/-	600/-	30 days	06-10-2020	DEE/CEE
2	Construction of Wooden Almirah/ Cabinets for Record Purposes and Enclosing of Space in Corridor (Ground Floor) including providing and Fixing of Curtain Rods and other allied works at Anticorruption Head Quarter Peerbagh Srinagar.	13.25 lacs	26500/-	600/-	45 days	06-10-2020	DEE/CEE/ BEE
3	Up- gradation of Govt. Quarter No. J-29 Jawahar Nagar Sgr.	2.70 lacs	5400/-	200/-	25 days	06-10-2020	DEE
4	Cleaning of Pipe Drainage including Dewatering Sump at New Secretariat Srinagar.	0.65 lacs	1300/-	200/-	7 days	06-10-2020	DEE

Position of AAA/TS Submitted

1. Date of Publishing 28-09-2020

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 3.00 PM on 28-09-2020.

a. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from- 28-09-2020 up to 3.00 PM to 05-10-2020 up to 4.00 PM.

b. The complete bidding process will be on line.

c. The bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar on 06-10-2020 at 11.00 AM.

d. The lowest bidder i.e. Lowest-1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within three days from opening of financial bids

e. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan/receipt and upload the same.

DIPK-6509/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/1567-76/2020/T-1
Dated: - 28-09-2020

Threat to evacuate US diplomats from Iraq raises fear of war

Agencies

Washington: Washington has made preparations to withdraw diplomats from Iraq after warning Baghdad it could shut its embassy, two Iraqi officials and two Western diplomats said, a step Iraqis fear could turn their country into a battle zone.

Any move by the United States to scale down its diplomatic presence in a country where it has up to 5,000 troops would be widely seen in the region as an escalation of its confrontation



with Iran, which Washington

blames for missile and bomb attacks.

That in turn would open the possibility of military action, with just weeks to go before an election in which President Donald Trump has campaigned on a hard line towards Tehran and its proxies. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened to close the embassy in a phone call a week ago to President Barham Salih, two Iraqi government sources said. The conversation was initially reported by an Iraqi news website.

By Sunday, Washington had begun preparations to withdraw diplomatic staff if such a decision is taken, those sources and the two Western diplomats said.

The concern among the Iraqis is that pulling out diplomats would be followed quickly by military action against forces Washington blamed for attacks.

Defying US Sanctions Iranian Tanker Reaches Venezuela

Agencies

Tehran: The first tanker of a three-vessel Iranian flotilla carrying much-needed fuel for Venezuela has entered waters of the South American country in clear defiance of sanctions imposed on both countries by the US.

tions on the two states with the aim of choking their oil trade. On June 24, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced sanctions on five Iranian ship captains who delivered oil to Venezuela.

He warned mariners against doing business with the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and said,



According to Refinitiv Eikon vessel tracking data, the Iran-flagged tanker Forest, which is transporting some 270,000 barrels of fuel loaded in the Middle East, entered Venezuela's exclusive economic zone around 8:05 a.m. local time (1205 GMT) on Monday with no disturbances.

Two other Iranian tankers -- the Faxon and the Fortune -- are following the same route and are crossing the Atlantic Ocean. They are scheduled to arrive in Venezuela's waters in early October.

The Iranian vessels are expected to jointly deliver about 820,000 barrels of gasoline and other motor fuels to Venezuela. Five Iranian vessels had made a previous fuel delivery to Venezuela between May and June. Iran's fuel shipments have drawn the ire of the US, which has imposed draconian sanc-

“As a result of today's sanctions, these captains' assets will be blocked. Their careers and prospects will suffer from this designation.”

Iran slammed the US sanctions, saying such moves would not keep Tehran and Caracas from defying Washington's sanctions against both nations.

The two OPEC-member countries have taken major steps to promote bilateral trade this year by exchanging crude, fuel, food, equipment for refineries and other industrial goods.

According to a source and loading schedules of state-run oil firm PDVSA, a very large Iranian crude carrier (VLCC) is also set to leave Venezuela's Jose port this week to transfer 1.9 million barrels of Venezuelan heavy oil for National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).



China Holds Simultaneous Military Drills In Four Seas, Again

Agencies

Beijing: China began five military exercises simultaneously along different parts of its coast on Monday, the second time in two months it will have such concurrent drills against a backdrop of rising regional tension.

Two of the exercises are being held near the Paracel Islands in the disputed South China Sea, one in the East China Sea, and one in further north in the Bohai Sea, the Maritime Safety Administration said in notices on its website.

In the southern part of the Yel-

low Sea, drills including live-fire exercises will be held from Monday to Wednesday, it said in another notice.

All ships are prohibited from entering the area, it said.

In a bid to train a combat-ready military force, China holds military drills periodically, but rarely do multiple exercises happen at the same time.

Last month, China announced four separate exercises, from the Bohai Sea to the East and Yellow Seas and down to the disputed South China Sea, in what Chinese military experts said was a rare arrange-

ment of drills.

The United States sent spy planes into a no-fly zone over Chinese live-fire military drills last month. In response, China lodged “stern representations” with the United States.

China and the United States have recently been at loggerheads over a range of issues from Taiwan to the coronavirus pandemic to trade and human rights.

China has also held frequent military activities near Chinese-claimed Taiwan and has taken the usual step of declaring that such drills are directed at Taiwan.

Armenia-Azerbaijan: A local conflict with a frightening global reach

Oliver Carroll | Borzou Daragahi
Independent

The last 48 hours have seen Nagorno-Karabakh, a tiny Armenian-backed enclave inside Azerbaijan, become the focus of some of the fiercest military exchanges on the planet.

Those inside and around the territory have witnessed an almost complete theatre of war. The fighting, which broke out after an apparent Azerbaijani attack on Armenian positions on Sunday morning, has employed air power, heavy artillery, mortars and tanks. Both sides have reported dead and wounded among military and civilian populations – from dozens through to the mid-hundreds, depending on the reports.

Videos showed shells sticking into the ground from guided rockets, tanks bursting into flames, and dozens of charred bodies. There were also reports of Grad missiles, a notoriously indiscriminate rocket system, being used near to civilian populations.

For those further afield, the skirmishes might appear somewhat less than significant. The conflict between the former Soviet brethren is, after all, a long-running one. The latest round of



hostilities is far from unexpected – or even the first this year.

But with both sides digging in, the potential for a longer and catastrophic war seems obvious. And this time around, the fighting also has much broader geopolitical dimensions.

Turkey's role in apparently pushing the conflict is the major new factor at play. The regional superpower has long taken the side of Azerbaijan in the conflict – that is certainly not new. But contacts have increased since the last flare-up in July, with evidence suggesting the support has taken on a much clearer military dimension.

“They have enough to de-

stroy both countries’: How an arms race is adding deadly fuel to fire of decades-old Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

“They have enough to destroy both countries’: How an arms race is adding deadly fuel to fire of decades-old Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

In recent months, Ankara has supplied Baku with sophisticated drones and smart munitions. These were employed to devastating effect in the last 48 hours. There are also credible reports of several hundred mercenary fighters, recruited by Turkey in Syria, being deployed in the region.

Afghan peace negotiator urges new era in ties with Pak

Agencies

Kabul: The chief of Afghanistan's peace negotiating team said Tuesday on a visit to Pakistan that the time has come for the two neighboring countries to shun the suspicion, “stale rhetoric” and tired conspiracy theories that have dogged past relations.

Abdullah Abdullah is in Pakistan on a bridge-building mission meant to mend deep-rooted mistrust between the two countries. It was his first visit in 12 years.

Abdullah told the Institute of Strategic Studies in the federal capital of Islamabad that the two neighbors are on the threshold of a new relationship

our people demand it. It is more urgent than ever to look to our region as one region.”

His statements come ahead of meetings later Tuesday with Pakistan's powerful army chief and prime minister. His visit also comes at a crucial time in Afghanistan's troubled history as a government-appointed negotiation team is in the Gulf state of Qatar brokering an end to war with its Taliban foes.

Even before coming to power in 2018, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has advocated for a political end to Afghanistan's war and has been a strong critic of Washington's so-called war on terror saying it has left tens of thousands of



We cannot afford to pursue business as usual. We need fresh approaches and our people demand it. It is more urgent than ever to look to our region as one region

characterized by “mutual respect, sincere cooperation and shared prosperity.”

“I am a firm believer that after many troubling years, we now need to go beyond the usual stale rhetoric and shadowy conspiracy theories that have held us back,” Abdullah said. “We cannot afford to pursue business as usual. We need fresh approaches and

Pakistanis and Afghans dead.

But many in Afghanistan have been critical of the support the Taliban received in Pakistan following the collapse of their rule in 2001 with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. Pakistan argues its relationship with the Taliban was what gave it leverage to press the religious militia into negotiations.

Turkey indicts six more Saudis over Khashoggi murder

Agencies

Istanbul: Istanbul prosecutors are seeking life imprisonment for two of the suspects and up to five years in jail for the remaining four, a Turkish news agency reported.

Khashoggi was killed and dismembered at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on 2nd October 2018, in a case that tarnished the reputation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Khashoggi went inside the consulate to obtain paperwork for his marriage to Turkish fiancée Hatice Cengiz.

The six Saudi suspects, indicted just days ahead of the second anniversary of the journalist's death, are not in Turkey and would be tried in absentia.

In September, a Saudi court overturned death sentences handed down to five defendants after a closed-door trial in Saudi Arabia last year, sentencing them to 20 years in prison instead.

Two of the suspects, a vice



consul and an attache, were facing life jail sentences for premeditated murder with monstrous intent, the broadcaster said.

“The Saudi prosecutor performed one more act today in this parody of justice,” Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, said at the time. “But these verdicts carry no legal or moral legitimacy.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the order to murder Khashoggi came from “the highest levels” of the Saudi government but has never directly blamed Prince Mohammed.

NEWS MAKERS

Fugitive Carlos Ghosn offers executive training in troubled Lebanon

Carlos Ghosn, the former Nissan and Renault head who fled Japan where he was facing trial on financial misconduct charges, is launching a university management and business programme in Lebanon, a nation mired in a deep crisis blamed on years of misrule, mismanagement and corruption.

Nine months after his dramatic escape to Beirut from Tokyo, the Lebanese-French executive has unveiled a plan to shake up the business school at the Universite Saint-Esprit de Kaslik (USEK), a private university north of the Lebanese capital.

Ghosn, credited with turning round the Japanese and French carmakers before he faced charges of financial wrongdoing that he denies, plans programmes to coach top executives, offer technolo-



gy training and help start-ups that will create jobs.

A fugitive from a Japanese justice system he says was rigged against him, Ghosn has found refuge in Lebanon, his childhood home, where the economy is collapsing under debts amassed since the 1975-90 civil war.

A devastating blast in Beirut on 4 August has only compounded Lebanon's woes.

“Obviously I am not interested in politics, but I will dedicate time and effort into supporting Lebanon during this difficult period,” he told Reuters at the weekend, ahead of

Tuesday's formal launch during a press conference of his new university programme.

“This is about creating jobs, employment and entrepreneurs to allow society to take its role into the reconstruction of the country,” Ghosn told a press conference at USEK on Tuesday.

International executives

Ghosn, who was approached by USEK in the weeks after arriving in Lebanon at the end of December, said the programmes aimed to offer practical help. He will help supervise.

Drawing on his experience, the focus for the executive programme would be turning around companies in trouble, corporations struggling with a troubled environment and how to “make yourself invaluable” in a company.

‘No more ladies and gentlemen’: Japan Airlines embraces gender neutral greetings

Japan Airlines is ditching the phrase “ladies and gentlemen” and instead embracing gender neutral terms during in-flight and airport announcements from next month, the company said Monday.

From October 1, JAL “will abolish expressions that based on (two types of) sex and use gender-friendly expression” like “good morning” and “good evening,” a spokesperson for the airline told AFP.

Japanese, the expression generally used for such announcements is already gender-neutral, but the decision applies to other languages used by the airline.

The decision appears to be a first for major Japanese carriers, with a spokeswoman for rival ANA Holdings telling AFP they would “study the issue based on comments from



our customers.”

Same-sex marriage is not legally recognised in Japan but the government has gradually expanded rights protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens in recent years.

JAL last year operated a trial “LGBT Ally Charter” flight for same-sex partners and their families, and has already changed rules to extend spouse and family allowances

to same-sex partners.

While Japan is relatively tolerant of homosexuality, there are no specific legal protections for gay people.

Japan's LGBTQ population has campaigned for greater recognition from the government in recent years.

Thirteen same-sex couples filed suits last year accusing Tokyo of discrimination for failing to recognise their unions.









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