

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday 18 March | 03 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 64 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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P3 CITY

LG FOR SPEEDY COMPLETION OF SMART CITY PROJECTS

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress being made on the Jammu and Srinagar Smart City Projects....

P5 THINK

THE SAFETY CONUNDRUM

Earlier this month, Sarah Everard was allegedly abducted and killed while walking home from a friend's house in London. In response to her disappearance, women were reportedly advised to avoid going out alone. Yet at the same time, the Metropolitan....



P7 STATE

J&K BANK BAGS IBA'S BEST TECHNOLOGY BANK OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Wednesday bagged the Best Technology Bank of the Year Award presented by India Banks' Association (IBA) for the year....



The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person

—Andy Rooney

NEWS DIGEST

Cases Surge In J&K, 126 Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir have started showing an upward trend as 126 more people on Wednesday tested positive for Covid-19, while one more person succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours.

The lone victim belonged to Kashmir Valley, taking the overall fatality count to » [More On P6](#)

CRPF Vehicle Injures Teen Critically

SRINAGAR: A teenager on Wednesday was critically injured after being hit by a CRPF vehicle in Saida Kadal area of this capital city. 16-year-old Safran Ahmad of Nadiyal locality was hit by a CRPF vehicle near Saida Kadal area leaving him critically injured, eyewitnesses said. The injured, they said, was immediately taken to the SHMS hospital for treatment. » [More On P6](#)

CASO Launched In Budgam

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Wednesday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Special Operations Group (SOG) of police, army's SORR and CRPF cordoned off Braripora-Gund area of the district on Wednesday evening and conducted house to house searches there, news agency KDC reported. The report said that all the entry and exit points towards the area were » [More On P6](#)

3 Youth Held For 'Posing As Cops'

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested three youths who posed as cops and carried out a robbery in Rambagh area of the city. Burhan Mukhtar Wani, Suhail Ahmad Khan and Sahil Jahingir, all residents of Karfali Mohalla here were arrested by police on the basis of a complaint filed by Nowshad Ali, a resident of West Bengal alleging that three persons impersonating » [More On P6](#)

3 Gamblers Held In Khrew: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in south Kashmir's Awantipora. Irfan Ahmad Lone, Mohammad Aslam Sheikh and Irshad Ahmad Sheikh were arrested by cops after an input driven raid was carried out in village Sheikh Mohalla, Khrew, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of » [More On P6](#)

Centre Unveils Over Rs 1Lakh Crore Budget Of J&K For 2021-22

Each DDC To Get Rs 10 Cr Development Fund, BDC Rs 25L

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday unveiled Rs 1, 08,621 crore budget of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory for 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha.

The budget document reveals that its focus is on good governance, socio-economic development of the people, infrastructure building and generation of employment.

"The budget for 2021-22 for J&K shall again cross Rs.1 lakh crore mark, an indicator or our commitment to make J&K a model of development," reads the budget documents.

Budget figures:

The total budget estimates for the next fiscal is Rs 1,08,621 crore. Of which Rs. 39,817 are earmarked for capital expenditure and Rs 68,804 crore for revenue expenditure.

This means 37 % of the earmarked budget shall be spent on development and

infrastructure projects.

Key announcements:

For the first time, the government has earmarked development funds for district development councils and block development councils.



According to the budget document, Rs 200 crore has been earmarked for DDCs in the budget. This means each DDC will get Rs 10 crore each in 2021-22.

Similarly, Rs 71.25 crore have been proposed as 'development fund' for 285 block development councils. This means each BDC will get Rs 25 lakh as development.

The government has also proposed to spend Rs 30 crore for establishment of DDCs/ BDCs offices in 2021-22. Around Rs 1313 crore have been provisioned for PRIs/ULBs for rural and urban infrastructure, the documents reveal.

In the budget, Rs 400 crore has been provisioned for GST reimbursement to ensure timely reimbursement of the claims. Around Rs 200 crore has been set aside for the "Mission Youth programme".

The government has also kept a budgetary provision of Rs 800 crore for » [More On P6](#)

245 WORKS WOULD BE COMPLETED DURING 2021-22 which include construction of model schools, additional classrooms, lavatory facilities, smart class rooms. In the budget, Rs 200 crore has been provisioned for development of new industrial estates in UT during 2021-22.

Govt Bars Transfers Of Teachers In Kashmir

Agencies

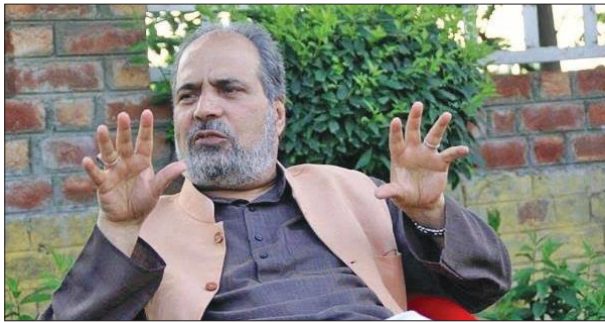
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday directed all Chief Education Officers of Kashmir Division to stop publishing or issuing of any kind of transfers/ posting orders with immediate effect till process of ATD 2021 by School Education Department was completed at its level.

"Director School Education. Kashmir is advised to put on hold all transfer orders issued by the CEOs under ATD 2021 and also issue instructions to all Chief Education Officers of Kashmir Division to stop publishing/ issuing of any kind of transfers/ posting orders with immediate effect till process of ATD 2021 by School Education Department is completed at its level," reads an order issued B. K. Singh, Administrative Secretary School Education.

"If any order has been issued in violation » [More On P6](#)

'Ghar Wapsi' After Four Decades

PDP Co-Founder Muzaffar Beigh Joins Peoples Conference



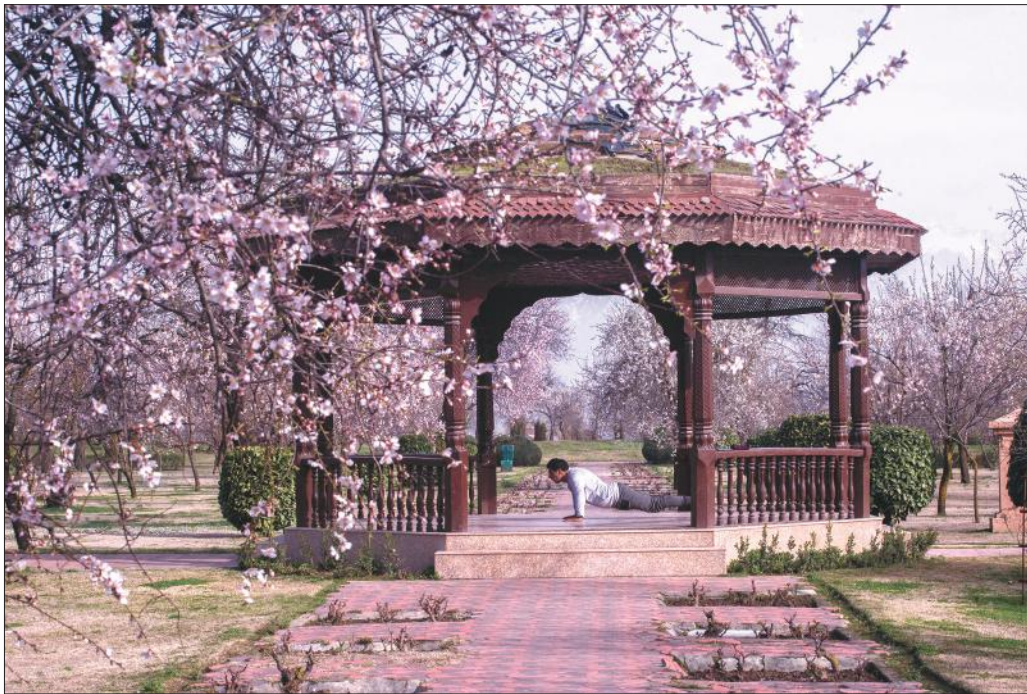
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior pro-India politician and former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister, Muzaffar Hussain Beigh on Wednesday joined Sajad Gani Lone led Peoples Conference.

According to reports, Beigh joined PC today in presence of party chief Sajad Gani Lone, vice- chairman Abdul Gani Vakil, senior leaders

Raja Aijaz Ali, Abid Ansari, Irfan Panditpuri, Bashir Ahmad Dar and others at his residence in Srinagar.

"Lone on this occasion invited Beigh to once again return home and be a part of the party from where he started his political career. He impressed upon Beigh that the need of the hour is that people like him should share their experience, expertise, knowledge » [More On P6](#)



A man carrying out early morning exercise inside the blossomed Badamwari orchard in Srinagar on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Militancy In J&K Declined In Last Three Years: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: There has been a significant decline in militancy incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years but instances of shelling from across the border have gone up abruptly, Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy shared this in a written reply.

'During the past three years, there has been a significant decline in militant incidents and attempts of infiltration



from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the incidents of shelling from across the border have increased during the past three years,' he said. » [More On P6](#)

'Pak Sending Weapons Through Drones'

The government Wednesday said some instances of supply of weapons through drones from Pakistan have come to light and security agencies were taking action on it. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said this in Rajya Sabha, while responding to a question on whether the central government is aware that Pakistan has started supplying weapons to infiltrators via drones. » [More On P6](#)

Lt Gen Pandey Takes Command Of 15 Corps

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lt General Devendra Pratap Pandey on Wednesday assumed charge of the strategic Kashmir-based 15 Corps relieving Lt Gen BS Raju on the end of his one year tenure.

Lt Gen Raju, who has also served in past as Uri Brigade Commander, GOC of Victor Force, and commanded the 15 Corps in critical phase in 2020 where Kashmir was confronted with the twin challenges of militancy and coronavirus pandemic, » [More On P6](#)

3800 KPs Returned To Kashmir For Jobs: GoI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly 3,800 Kashmiri migrants have returned to Jammu and Kashmir in the last few years and 520 of them after the abrogation of Article 370 to take up jobs under the prime minister's special package, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the provision of special jobs

for the Kashmiri migrant youths under the PM package is an important part for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants, who left the valley in 1990s due to militancy.

"A total of nearly 3,800 migrant candidates have returned to Kashmir in the last few years to take up the PM package jobs. Post abrogation of Article 370 (August 2019), as many as 520 migrant candidates have » [More On P6](#)

Peace With Pak Will Give India Direct Access To Central Asia: Imran

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said India will be benefitted economically by having peace with his country as it will be able to directly access resource-rich Central Asia through it.

Delivering the inaugural address at the launch of the two-day Islamabad Security Dialogue, Khan also said that his government after coming to power in 2018 did everything for better ties with India and it was for India to reciprocate.

India will have to take the first step. Unless they do so, we cannot do much, he said.

India last month said that it desires normal » [More On P6](#)

Kashmiri Students, Travellers 'Barred' From Visiting Pak

Badar Bashir

SRINAGAR: Protest broke out Wednesday at the Wagah border in Punjab after dozens of Kashmiris, including travellers and students were allegedly barred from visiting Pakistan despite possessing all travel documents.

According to reports, hundreds of people, including Kashmiris had converged near the Wagah since Tuesday to cross over to the neighbouring country. However, dozens of Kashmiris, including students, travellers and elderly who were scheduled to visit their relatives on the other side were prevented from crossing over, while Pakistani travellers were allowed to return.

"I had to visit my sister who

is currently pursuing MBBS in Pakistan. However, when I reached the border this morning, we were told that Kashmiris can't be allowed to go to Pakistan," Hamnah Parvez, a protester said.

"Another family stranded with me has a daughter who has to appear in exams. If she can't make it soon, she will have to drop a year," she added. A medical student wishing not to be named alleged that the officials at the Wagah were continuously changing their statements causing distress among the Kashmiris.

"They told us that the procedure has changed and that we have to bring permission from home ministry. We don't what the officials are up to," he said.

He said that » [More On P6](#)

Deadlock Over Mutton Rates Ends In Kashmir

Govt Fixes New Rates At Rs 535, Rs 490

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The four month deadlock over the rates of mutton ended in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday with the administration fixing the retail price of mutton at Rs 535 per kilogram without offal and Rs 490 with it.

The stalemate over revised mutton rates ended during a meeting between Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole and the President Retail Mutton Dealer's Association, Kashmir, Khazir Muhammad Regoo and Co-Chairman Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA) Farooq Ahmed Dar here on Wednesday, reports said.



"We had a threadbare discussion with the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. Government is not ready to fix Rs 550 as rate for per kg mutton and after discussions, new rate has been fixed at Rs 535 per kg," Regoo said.

He said that the mutton dealers have agreed to sell meat at

Rs 535 per kg from tomorrow though the revised rates will give them less profit.

KEA Co-Chairman Farooq Ahmed Dar said that there were some black sheep in the mutton trade who were not allowing the stalemate to end.

"In the interest of Kashmir's ailing lot, general » [More On P6](#)

Temp Rises Above Normal Across Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for moderate rains or snow likely on March 21 and 22, mercury remained above normal in Kashmir Valley, weatherman said on Wednesday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 6.2 degree Celsius against 5.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. The minimum temperature was 4.7 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.2 degree Celsius, same as on the previous night while mercury settled at 3.7 degree Celsius against minus 2.0 degree Celsius on the earlier » [More On P6](#)

Cancer patients less protected after first COVID vaccine jab, UK study finds

Press Trust Of India

Cancer patients may not be protected to the same degree as the rest of the population after they receive their first of two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, a new UK study has found on Thursday.

A team of experts from King's College London and Francis Crick Institute found in the first real-world study of its kind that a shorter than the stipulated 12-week gap between the two vaccine doses for such patients appeared to be the answer.

The study's senior authors, Dr Sheeba Irshad and Professor Adrian Hayday, believe that there should be urgent re-evaluation of UK policy for the dosing interval for all cancer patients, and likewise for many other high-risk groups of immuno-suppressed patients.

Our data provides the first real-world evidence of immune efficacy following one dose of the Pfizer vaccine in immuno-compromised patient populations, said Dr Sheeba Irshad, a senior clinical lecturer from the School of Cancer and Pharmaceutical Sciences at King's College London.

We show that following the first dose, most solid and haematological cancer patients remained immunologically unprotected up until at least five weeks following primary injection; but this poor one dose efficacy can be rescued with an early booster at day 21, she said.

Data from the world's first reported trial to examine the level of immune protection after the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in cancer patients has found that anti-SARS-CoV-2 the virus which causes COVID-19 antibody responses at week three following the first dose of the vaccine were only 39 per cent and 13 per cent in



the solid and haematological cancers, compared to 97 per cent in those without cancer.

The preprint study, which is to be peer-reviewed, also reports that when the second dose of the vaccine was given three weeks after the first dose, the immune response improved significantly for solid cancer patients with 95 per cent of them showing detectable antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus within just two weeks.

By contrast, those who did not get a vaccine boost at three weeks did not see any real improvement, with only 43 per cent of solid cancer patients and 8 per cent of blood cancer patients developing antibodies to the Pfizer vaccine at five weeks compared to 100 per cent of healthy controls.

The evidence of vaccine responses in cancer patients shows that a gap of 12 weeks between doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine could leave many cancer pa-

tients vulnerable to serious COVID-19, the study finds.

Prof. Adrian Hayday from King's College London and the Francis Crick Institute said: Cancer patients should be vaccinated and boosted quickly and their responses, particularly those of blood cancer patients, should be intensively monitored so that those who mix with family, friends and carers can be confident of their environment.

Dr Simon Vincent, Director of Research, Support and Influencing at Breast Cancer Now, called on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which determines the UK's vaccine rollout cohorts, to urgently review the evidence and to consider adapting its strategy to ensure that cancer patients can receive both the first and second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine within a three-week timeframe

to minimise their risk of both contracting and becoming seriously ill with coronavirus.

Worryingly, this study suggests that people affected by cancer, including breast cancer, get little protection against the virus when they only receive a single dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and then do not receive their vaccine boost in the following three weeks, he said.

But Cancer Research UK said the small study had not yet been reviewed by other scientists and people undergoing cancer treatment should continue to follow the advice of their doctors, while the government said that antibody response "was only part of the protection provided by the vaccine".

Meanwhile, the UK study will continue to follow cancer patients after their vaccinations for up to six months.

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ

ہم ڈسٹرکٹ ہڈ گام میں ایک آرگنائزیشن

Establish کرنے جارہے ہیں جس کا نام

Poor Help Organization رکھا گیا

ہے اس لئے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی اعتراض

ہو تو وہ سوات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض DIC

سرینگر اور DC ہڈ گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں

۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

الشتہر الیاس احمد میر ولد غلام محمد میر ساکن

پانچواؤں ہڈ گام فون۔ 7006332377

mcb

از نیابت وگولہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست رئیس احمد - عام احمد، عمر فاروق و نیلوفر فاروق

اولادان فاروق احمد گنائی ساکنہ موضع کیرگام

برادر عطا بی SRO294 تحت

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس

نسبت پڑاوی حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس

سے تمہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل 'سانلہ موضع' کا سکونت دار ہے

سکونت کی سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ 42000 روپے تک ہے۔ کسبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فاروق احمد گنائی ولد شاہد گنائی

فریدہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد

رئیس احمد گنائی پسر

عافر احمد گنائی پسر

عمر فاروق گنائی پسر

نیلوفر فاروق دختر

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کسب نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث

ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا

اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا

اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایب تحصیلدار SUTL

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdesk.jakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of Mop-up Round of Up-gradation/allotment counselling (physical) for admission to GNM and GNM (Lateral Entry) courses-2020 of eligible candidates.

Reference: i) Notice No.020- BOPEE of 2021, dated:- 11-02-2021.
ii) Notification No:- 025-BOPEE of 2021, dated:- 16-02-2021.
iii) F.No.1-6/Lt/2021-INC/12869, dated:- 26-02-2021.

Notice No:032-BOPEE of 2021
Dated:16.03.2021.

Consequent upon receipt of shortfall from the various Government/Private, Colleges/ Institutions in respect of Notification No.025-BOPEE of 2021, dated.16-02-2021 and the seats which remained unfilled during second round of physical counselling, it is hereby notified for information of all eligible concerned candidates that Board shall conduct Mop-up Round of Up-gradation/allotment counselling (physical) for admission to GNM and GNM (Lateral Entry) courses-2020 on 20th of March, 2021. The interested candidates are advised to report at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar for attendance/registration as per the below give schedule:-

Date	Name of the Course	Time for Registration	Rank
20-03-2021	GNM candidates only	09.00 a.m to 10.00 a.m	All eligible Open merit & Reserved Category Candidates
20-03-2021	GNM(Lateral Entry) candidates only	01.00 p.m to 02.00 p.m	All eligible Open merit & Reserved Category Candidates

Note:-

1. All eligible candidates who are interested to participate in this counselling process to be held on 20-03-2021 are advised to bring along the receipt of admission fee deposited by them at respective Colleges/Institutions allotted to them by the Board during first or second round of counselling.
2. The candidates who have been upgraded during second round of counselling shall not be eligible to participate in this round of counselling.
3. The candidate (s) who have been allotted seat (s) during second round of counselling if he/ she wishes to do so, can participate in this up-gradation round of counselling.
4. The candidates who have been allotted seat (s) during first round of counselling, but failed to join due to one or other reason, shall be eligible to participate in Mop-up round.
5. The candidate (s), if any, who have missed first and second rounds of counselling can participate in this round of counselling, however, he/she shall have to deposit the requisite counselling fee through Debit/Credit Card/e-banking through POS machines available at BOPEE office, Jammu/Srinagar.
6. The candidates in whose case choice was not available (CNA) or seat was not available (SNA) during first or second round of counselling are also eligible to participate in this round of counselling.
7. The seat matrix shall be uploaded on official website of the Board separately in due course of time. However, the seats shown in the seat matrix shall and shall be treated as open merit seats only as the Board vide Notice No. 020-BOPEE of 2021, dated, 11-02-2021 have already converted unfilled reserved category seats into the open merit due to non-availability of eligible category candidates.
8. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified vide e-Information Brochure, Notifications and Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

Errors and Omissions Excepted.

DIPK-NB-6463/20

No: BOPEE/Exam-35(v)/2019

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

Dated:16.03.2021.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Water Supply Master Plan Division, Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH E-N.IT NO:- 46/WSMP OF 03/2021 DT:- 15-03-2021

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Head of Account	Class Of Contract
1	Design (Including Geo- Technical Analysis Soil Investigation) construction, successful testing and commissioning including trial run for 06 months Of 5.5MGD (25MLD) rapid sand W.T.P comprising of intake chamber, 02 no clari-floculator with flash mixers, filter house, Raw water main, Delivery main, clear water sumps, backwash tank with all electro Mechanical, instruments installation as a composite unit to be constructed at Alusteng.	Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar	Rs. 761.00 Lacs	10000/- Pledged to Executive Engineer Water Supply Master Plan Div. Sgr	Under State Sector (Capex) Major Head 4215 Water Supply & Sanitation	(As Per Qualification Criteria Mentioned in Tender Document)
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice			15-03-2021		
2.	Date of Publication of E-tender:-			16-03-2021		
3.	Document Download/Sale Start date:-			16-03-2021		
4.	Bid submission Start Date			16-03-2021		
5.	Date for Receipt of Queries			18-03-2021		
6.	Pre Bid Meeting at Office of the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Department Raj Bagh Srinagar			19-03-2021 at 04:00 PM		
7.	Bid Submission Close Date			22-03-2021 at 04:30 PM		
8.	Date and Time for Opening Of Technical Bid			23-03-2021 at 11:00 AM		
9.	Place of opening bids:			Office of the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Department Raj Bagh Srinagar.		
10.	Period of bid validity:-			180 Days		
11.	Officer inviting Bid:-			Executive Engineer Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar.		

Administrative Approval No: CE/PHE/DB/111 of 02/2021 dated 13/02/2021.

Note: - For details, bidders are requested download the Tender Document published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

No: WSMP/CC/ 11649-11670
DT: - 15-03-2021

DIPK-15139/20

Executive Engineer
Water Supply Master Plan Division
Srinagar

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education Branch Office, Magam

NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is given is claiming to have lost his/her marks card/s with the following particulars issued by the J&K State Board Of School Education:-



Name Yasmeena Akhter D/o Mohd Akbar Rather R/o Kawarhama

Details Of Marks Certificate Lost
Secondary School Examination Part-I(10th class)
Roll No 2414410 year and Session Annual/Prvt (2016

The said candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate marks certificate/s in this office. Before the same is processed and issued to the candidate, any body having any objection in this regard may file the same in the Board Branch Office Magam within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, Besides the original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Asstt. Secretary,
Br. Office, Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics & Communication Certificate somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in The University Of Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshad Rashid Shah
S/O Dr. Abdul Rashid Shah
R/o Gulbahar Colony,
Hyderpora Bye Pass, Kashmir.

Name Change

In Municipal council DOB certificate I want to change the name of my daughter from Alia Tariq to Fatima Tariq, in this regard if anybody have any kind of objection may file the same to Executive officer municipal council Sopore with in the period of Seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Tariq Ahmad Langoo
F/o: Fatima Tariq
R/o: Noor Bagh Sopore

gms

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar

Corrigendum

Subject: 1. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 275 CFM Screw Air Compressor with allied Works and CAMC for one year at Govt. CD Hospital, Srinagar.
2. Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Medical Air Compressor of Capacity 200 CFM and 130 CFM two stage Vacuum Pump (Duplex System) along with allied works and maintenance for Three years at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar.

References: 1. This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/307/e-tendering Dated 01.03.2021.
2. This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/267/e-tendering Dated 02.02.2021

The intending bidders may kindly read Approved Makes of compressor as:

Chicago Pneumatic/Anesta-wata/ Ingersol Rand /Kaesar /Novair/Atlas Copco/Fs Curtis/Kirloskar

INSTEAD OF

Chicago Pneumatic/Anesta-wata/ Ingersol Rand /Kaesar /Novair/Atlas Copco/Fs Curtis

The Kirloskar make had Inadvertently skipped from the list of approved makes of compressor, as such the critical dates of above referred e-NITs are extended as below:

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	22.03.2021 (16.00 hours)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	22.03.2021 (18.00 hours)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
MHCH Division
Srinagar.

DIPK-15101/20
MHCHD/TS/11086-89 Dt:- 15-03-2021

LG For Speedy Completion Of Smart City Projects

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress being made on the Jammu and Srinagar Smart City Projects.

During the review meeting, the Lt Governor asked the concerned functionaries to make a visible impact while working with high professionalism and clear vision.

Laying special emphasis on accelerating the approval of DPRs and tender allotment process, the Lt Governor directed CEOs of Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) for constituting a technical committee for early vetting of DPRs of the projects.

Directions were also issued to reduce the completion time of projects by taking up multiple works simultaneously.

The Lt Governor called for putting dedicated focus on improving infrastructure & services, increasing mobility and enhancing the administrative efficiency, besides maintaining inter-departmental coordination to transform Jammu and Srinagar into modern and sustainable cities.

While reviewing the progress on installation of Advertisement Panels, the Lt Governor observed that communication and feedback is the highest priority of Administration and directed the officers for engaging in continuous communication with the public.

While reviewing the Smart Poles project under Jammu Smart City Limited, the Lt Governor directed CEO JSCL for keeping a feature for expansion in scale of the project in future.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the



It was informed that ICCC in Srinagar would be ready for soft live by 31 March. Photos of Variable Message Displays (VMDs), Digital Libraries, Intelligent Traffic Management System, Junction improvements, beautification of Historic places,

improvement of road network component of the Jammu Smart City Projects and directed for completing the survey at the earliest. He asked the concerned officers to give due care and attention to reducing inconvenience to the public while executing the work.

CEO JSCL Sushma Chauhan and CEO SSCL Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary gave PowerPoint presentations giving details of status of various projects of JSCL and SSCL.

The Lt Governor sought the present status and future course of action

of various projects including Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC); upcoming ICCC integrations; smart urban mobility & Intelligent Traffic Management System; City beautification; efficient green initiatives; solid waste management; undergrounding of overhead utilities.

For proper implementation of Smart City Projects, the Lt Governor directed for creating in-house capacity for increasing efficiency. He set project-wise timelines for completion of various projects

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary gave a detailed overview of the number of completed and ongoing projects along with expected date of completion. It was informed that ICCC in Srinagar would be ready for soft live by 31 March. Photos of Variable Message Displays (VMDs), Digital Libraries, Intelligent Traffic Management System, Junction improvements, beautification of Historic places, and development of footpaths, besides scores of completed and ongoing projects were also shown through PowerPoint presentation.

DIC Srinagar Organises Udhyan Mela's Across Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Industries Centre Srinagar Wednesday concluded Udhyan registration Melas which were organised from 8th of March to 17th of March 2021 in all Industrial estates of District Srinagar.

A government spokesperson said 350 unitholders across the estates of District Srinagar took benefit of these melas and registered their units on spot in udhyam portal. During these Melas, unitholders were appraised about the benefits of registering their units in udhyam which will eventually replace their EM 2 registration.

Udyan Registration is fully online, Paperless, free registration based on self-declaration for micro, small and medium enterprises who will get permanent registration numbers after registration. After completion of the process of registration, a certificate will be issued online. Those units who have EM 2 or UAM registration or any registration issued by any Authority under the ministry of MSME will have to register themselves in udhyam.

Old City's Gani Memorial Stadium In Shambles, Locals Rue Govt Apathy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Gani Memorial Stadium situated right in the heart of the old Srinagar City's Rajouri Kadal mocks at the indifference of the government. The waterlogged stadium where Jammu Kashmir State Sports Council (JKSSC) installed 8 poles of floodlights with an estimated cost of Rs 1.24 crore in July 2019 narrates a woeful tale. Majority of these flood lights have become defunct while no efforts are being made to drain the water from the stadium which is completely in shambles, the locals alleged.

They welcomed the recent visit of Secretary Sports Council Nusrat Gul along with a team of Engineers to the stadium and hoped things will change for better but till date neither the stagnated water has been drained nor garbage removed.

"It is stinky. We don't enter into this stadium now. Heaps of garbage, water logging, and uneven field are some of the 'salient' features of this solitary stadium that exists in old Srinagar city," said a cricketer.

He said it is not the rain water

only that gets accumulated in the stadium but the water flowing from adjacent drains also gets logged here. "The stadium lacks drainage system. It needs technical expertise to frame a strategy to drain the water from the sports ground in order to make it playable for local youth," he suggested.

Players blame Sports Council authorities for the miserable condition of the Stadium.

"Players are suffering immensely. So many promises were made, but not fulfilled. No turf was made available. Flood lights installed in the stadium are mostly non-functional. A team of efficient and dedicated engineers can change the face of the stadium," Manager Mehboob-ul-Alam Cricket Club and Captain Ghani Memorial Reds (cricket) said.

Meanwhile, scores of youth mostly cricket lovers staged a protest outside SP College here in Srinagar urging upon authorities to complete the undergoing construction work at SP College Ground as early as possible. They said the college ground has been bulldozed to the extent that no sports activity is possible there. (KNT)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th certificate somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GOVT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL WAGOORA within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Rafi Malla.
S/O: Ab Jabbar Malla.
R-O:wagoora. Year:(2011) aij

THE UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Hazratbal, Srinagar Kashmir-190006

ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidate whose Photograph is Published

in this notice is claiming to have LOST his / her Original Marks Certificate (s) of Class B.Ed issued by UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Under Roll No.16498-AW-2007 with following particulars: **Name:- Wahida Akhter Parentage:-Ab Rehman Rather Residence:-Hiller Arhama Roll No. (s) Class B.Ed 1271155 Year & Session Oct. 2013** Now the Candidate has applied for their duplicate. Anybody (if) having any objections in this regard may please file the same before the undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the above referred Marks Certificate treated as cancelled.



Sd/

Assistant Secretary

mja

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER SHOPAIN

Date:-17/03/2021



NOTICE
Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Shakeel Ahmad Shah S/O Gh Hassan Shah R/O Karan Negir Srinagar (Party No.1st) as Transferee, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Truck HGV Bearing Regd. No.JK22-



0375 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Sameer Farooq S/O Farooq Ahmad Mandoor R/O Lalmandi Wazir bagh Srinagar (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 of hire purchase agreement with AK Investment Jammu. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Any 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 Shopain

mja

از نیابت چندوسناب تحصیلدارا یکریکٹوبجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون: دس جہان قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279

مقام: مندرجہ ذیل انصاف میں درخواستیں مائل قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279 کے تحت کی گئی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس کا نام لاٹھری چندوسناب کے نام سے ہے اور اس کی پہلی بولے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔

نام کی ہنگر	ریکارڈ نمبر	سال
سیدتیتم	کھیل کلام	65
مختار احمد ہنگر	کھیل کلام	36
یاسین تیتم	کھیل کلام	35
الطاف حسین ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	29
دس جہان	زیر تعلیم	23
مقبولہ	نواز	06
عزیز	نواز	03

انکے داد کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرکٹیت زیر بحث ادارے میں اس کی شخصیات یا خاص کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہاں پانڈر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ جانڈر کے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نامی تحصیلدار چندوسناب

ajj

از نیابت چندوسناب تحصیلدارا یکریکٹوبجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون: دس جہان قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279

مقام: مندرجہ ذیل انصاف میں درخواستیں مائل قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279 کے تحت کی گئی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس کا نام لاٹھری چندوسناب کے نام سے ہے اور اس کی پہلی بولے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔

نام کی ہنگر	ریکارڈ نمبر	سال
سیدتیتم	کھیل کلام	58
مختار احمد ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	23
یاسین تیتم	زیر تعلیم	20

انکے داد کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرکٹیت زیر بحث ادارے میں اس کی شخصیات یا خاص کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہاں پانڈر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ جانڈر کے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نامی تحصیلدار چندوسناب

از نیابت چندوسناب تحصیلدارا یکریکٹوبجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون: دس جہان قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279

مقام: مندرجہ ذیل انصاف میں درخواستیں مائل قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279 کے تحت کی گئی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس کا نام لاٹھری چندوسناب کے نام سے ہے اور اس کی پہلی بولے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔

نام کی ہنگر	ریکارڈ نمبر	سال
سیدتیتم	کھیل کلام	43
مختار احمد ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	24
یاسین تیتم	زیر تعلیم	19
الطاف حسین ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	16
دس جہان	زیر تعلیم	22
مقبولہ	نواز	06
عزیز	نواز	24

انکے داد کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرکٹیت زیر بحث ادارے میں اس کی شخصیات یا خاص کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہاں پانڈر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ جانڈر کے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نامی تحصیلدار چندوسناب

ajj

از نیابت چندوسناب تحصیلدارا یکریکٹوبجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون: دس جہان قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279

مقام: مندرجہ ذیل انصاف میں درخواستیں مائل قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279 کے تحت کی گئی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس کا نام لاٹھری چندوسناب کے نام سے ہے اور اس کی پہلی بولے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔

نام کی ہنگر	ریکارڈ نمبر	سال
سیدتیتم	کھیل کلام	40
مختار احمد ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	22
یاسین تیتم	زیر تعلیم	18
الطاف حسین ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	16
دس جہان	زیر تعلیم	16
مقبولہ	نواز	10

انکے داد کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرکٹیت زیر بحث ادارے میں اس کی شخصیات یا خاص کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہاں پانڈر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ جانڈر کے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نامی تحصیلدار چندوسناب

از نیابت چندوسناب تحصیلدارا یکریکٹوبجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون: دس جہان قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279

مقام: مندرجہ ذیل انصاف میں درخواستیں مائل قزاق نامی ہنگر ساکن دولت پورہ برادری اسک پریکٹیت تحت SRO 279 کے تحت کی گئی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس کا نام لاٹھری چندوسناب کے نام سے ہے اور اس کی پہلی بولے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔

نام کی ہنگر	ریکارڈ نمبر	سال
سیدتیتم	کھیل کلام	33
مختار احمد ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	07
یاسین تیتم	زیر تعلیم	10
الطاف حسین ہنگر	زیر تعلیم	03

انکے داد کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرکٹیت زیر بحث ادارے میں اس کی شخصیات یا خاص کوئی مدد یا اعتراض ہو تو وہاں پانڈر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ جانڈر کے بعد کوئی مدد یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نامی تحصیلدار چندوسناب

ajj

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
03 SHABAN
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 18
ZUHR	12: 40
ASR	4: 56
Magrib	6: 42
ISHA	8: 02

This Day In History

- 1922 - British magistrates in India sentence Mahatma Gandhi to 6 years imprisonment for disobedience
- 1937 - The human-powered aircraft, Pedalante, flies 1 kilometre (0.62 miles) outside Milan.
- 1940 - Benito Mussolini joins Hitler in Germany's war against France & Britain
- 1943 - Red Army evacuates Belgorod
- 1944 - Nazi Germany occupies Hungary
- 1944 - 2,500 women trample guards & floorwalkers to purchase 1,500 alarm clocks announced for sale in a Chicago Illinois dept store
- 1945 - 1,250 US bombers attacks Berlin
- 1948 - France & Great Britain & Benelux sign Treaty of Brussels
- 1948 - Soviet consultants have left Yugoslavia in first sign of Tito-Stalin split.
- 1949 - NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Org) ratified
- 1952 - 1st plastic lens for cataract patients fitted (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - I Hatojama recognized as premier of Japan
- 1959 - US President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs Hawaii statehood bill
- 1962 - Algerian War ends after 7½ yrs (250,000 die), Ben Bella flees
- 1963 - France performs underground nuclear test at Ecker, Algeria
- 1965 - USSR launches Voshkod 2; Alexei Leonov makes 1st spacewalk (20 mins)
- 1967 - Oil tanker Torrey Canyon hits a rock off Cornwall & spills oil
- 1968 - Congress repeals requirement for a gold reserve
- 1970 - Two-week US postal strike begins; it is against the government and is the largest wildcat strike in US history
- 1971 - 200 die in landslide into Lake Yanahuani, Chungar Peru
- 1972 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1972 - Ulster Vanguard hold a rally of 60,000 people in Belfast; William Craig tells the crowd: "If and when the politicians fail us, it may be our job to liquidate the enemy"
- 1974 - Most Arab oil producing nations end embargo against US
- 1975 - Kurds end fight against Iraqi army
- 1977 - US restricts citizens from visiting Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea & Cambodia
- 1977 - Vietnam hands over MIA to US
- 1978 - 250,000 attend rock concert California Jam II in Ontario, Calif
- 1978 - Former Pakistani premier Ali Bhutto sentenced to death
- 1979 - Battles between Kurds & Iranians break in Sananday, Iran
- 1986 - US Treasury Dept announces plans to alter paper money
- 1989 - 27th space shuttle mission, STS-29 (Discovery 8), returns to Earth
- 1989 - In Egypt, a 4,400-year-old mummy is found in the Pyramid of Cheops.
- 1990 - Largest art robbery in US history: 13 works of art worth over \$500 million are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston
- 1990 - 1st free elections in East Germany, Conservatives beat Communists
- 1990 - 32-day lockout by baseball owners ends
- 1990 - A Tampa little leaguer dies after being struck by a pitch
- 1991 - Reggie Miller (Indiana) ends NBA free throw streak of 52 games
- 1992 - Zimbabwe beat England by 9 runs in World Cup at Albany
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-62 (Columbia 16), lands
- 1995 - STS 67 (Endeavour 8) lands after 16½ days
- 1996 - 50,000 swimmers raise 15 million for charity during BT's Swimathon '96
- 1996 - A nightclub fire in Quezon City, Philippines kills 162.
- 1997 - Russian AN-24 plane crashes in Turkey, 50 die

From KO Archives

Yasin to showcase Kashmir 'voices'

Observer News Service

New Delhi - To highlight the exclusion of Kashmiris in the peace talks between India and Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik plans an exhibition in the capital on Saturday.

The separatist leader is organising a two-day showcase - "Voices of Peace, Voices of Democracy" - of 1.5 million signatures, 100 hours of unedited video footage of public meetings and 5,000 related photographs.

Malik told IANS: "The objective behind this exhibition is to drive home the point that the aspirations of ordinary people in Kashmir have been ignored. Their participation in the peace process is imperative."

He said it took him and an eight-member JKLF team over two years to prepare for the show.

Malik traversed 5,000 Villages to obtain signatures from the elderly, the unemployed, women, farmers and even children (Kashmir Observer, 18 March, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
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HUSSAIN'S TIMELESS LEGACY INSPIRES MILLIONS EVEN TODAY

Today is 3rd of Shaban and it was this day (10 January AD 626 (3 Sha'ban AH 4) Hussain ibn Ali, the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) was born to Imam Ali and Lady Fatima in Madina. Hussain ibn Ali rose to become a hero who made the ultimate stand for moral justice. His legacy inspires millions to strive for a just society. Hussain gave everything he had for the dignity of Ummah in the face of corruption – forever changing the course of history. Today, his selfless stand gives hope to people of all backgrounds. Through this tragic end but heroic act of sacrifice, Hussain ibn Ali was ultimately victorious. His martyrdom became the catalyst for revolutionary change and led to the collapse of Yazid's tyrannical rule. Imam Hussain stood by his principles till the very end, and his legacy continues to inspire millions around the world. The story of Hussain ibn Ali stands as an inspiration to all, no matter what colour or creed.

ALL IN A DAYS WORK

Our culture teaches that we can only be loved when we achieve smth. We have kids who grow up trying to please their parents only to see the goalpost move further. This is why adults lack self-esteem. We feel we don't deserve it because we haven't achieved smth to deserve love!

Omar Bazza
@bazzapower

'it's her body, she can wear what she wants' okay but keep the same energy when it comes to muslim women wanting to wear the hijab, abaya, burqa or niqab.

asima
@asimaxpatel

K O V I E W

Shopian encounter

Two militants including Jaish commander Sajad Afghani were killed and five houses were gutted in the three day encounter at Rawalpura in Shopian. The firefight which also witnessed protests and stone pelting by the people trying to help militants escape left behind a trail of destruction. The videos and the pictures of the smoky rubble of the buildings went viral on social media reminding people across India of the grim nature of the situation in Kashmir. Afghani had been active in the area for close to three years and his killing is seen by the security agencies as a big jolt to the militancy in the Valley. At the same time, the encounter and the devastation wrought by it reveals that the normalcy in the Valley is still a long way off, more so in South Kashmir where the militancy stays strong even five years after the killing of Burhan Wani, who had revived it in 2014-15.

Last year's recruitment gives no cause for confidence. According to the data, over 170 local youth picked up arms last year. They have more or less replenished the killings of 225 militants in 2020, which is the largest number of such killings in the preceding decade. What's more, most of these killings were of the local youth. And if we go by the estimate of the security agencies, the number of militants this year remains more or less the same as last year or as their average number over the last five years.

The existing troubled situation is likely to continue unchanged. And Burhan still looms large in the Valley as some kind of an inspiration for the new militants who continue to join the ranks of Hizbul Mujahideen and the other outfits. But centre still feels the runaway situation can be reigned in by an iron fist approach which has now been extended to separatist political leaders.

As the situation of the past three decades testifies, the killings of the militants have neither deterred more youth from joining the militancy, nor ushered Kashmir back to peace. And nor, if this long duration is any guide, will it in future. A slain militant commander continues to be succeeded by another. The militancy and the state's response to it goes on. True, the state tackles the unfolding violence institutionally, so will not tire of it, but this unrelenting state of affairs is taking a massive toll on the people of the state, our new and the future generation. The most rational and effective response to the lingering turmoil is to address the factors which keep it going. But this is something that is and has been last on the minds of the ruling leadership of the country. One can only hope that the things change for the better in future on this score.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Social media's exaggerated "revolutionary" role

In discussing Facebook's positive contribution to the wider world, its role during the uprisings which began in 2011 in West Asia is frequently mentioned.

While Facebook was utilized, it was one of many tools used by the oppressed people in West Asia.

When analyzing the tools and tactics of the Islamic Awakening of 2011, Muslim analysts and media outlets tend to quickly adopt the default narratives of Western institutions.

This is primarily because their narrative gets the widest media coverage.

Attributing exaggerated importance to Facebook when it comes to grassroots events in the Muslim world is one of those instances.

Regarding the events of 2011, it should be noted that the vast majority demonstrating against NATO installed dictators in Tunisia, Egypt and to a lesser degree in Bahrain, were rural masses with poor internet connectivity and low-level IT skills.

Facebook played minimal or no role in the rural lifestyle.

People in Tunisia and Egypt bracing Western supplied live ammunition, tear gas and other police brutality tools were most likely influenced to come out on the streets by their local mosques, than Facebook or any other Western tool.

Don't expect the corporate media to highlight this because it disrupts the West's narrative.

They push the notion that Muslims of West Asia desire to adopt secularism as their political ideology.

People in the developing world often cannot afford the required gadgets and internet costs for Facebook to become their central means of voicing discontent.

Also, Facebook and other mainstream Western technology organizations have a long track record in assisting Western backed autocratic regimes.

For example, Facebook has a long history of shutting down popular Palestinian pages upon requests of the US and Israeli regimes.

In November 2020, Middle East Eye reported that Facebook took down "alleged Muslim Brotherhood accounts sharing 'inauthentic' information."

While grass roots organizations and movements do use social media to confront Western backed despots in West Asia, indigenous institutions like tribal councils, mosques, churches, religious study groups, religious scholars, Friday prayer sermons and many other native means of social mobilization played and continue to play a far more important role than Facebook or Twitter.

Also, the overall pattern suggests that when Twitter and Facebook are utilized as primary tools to ferment dissent, they are done to advance Western political and economic interests.

Crescent International

AMJED ASHRAF

For a vast section of the Muslim community—be it the Islamic Scholars or commoners—it was not an uphill task to envisage what kind of nebulous scheme was interwoven around this move. They very well knew what is on the cards. They foresaw it as an attack aimed at the edifice of harmony. So, they stood together and condemned this irreverent move in full swing



Quran, the holy book of Muslims, is an unsailable Islamic scripture that sets out the principles, codes, doctrines and rules for its believers and governs their conduct, behavior and contours, in all facets of life. The Quran is an axiomatic catalogue of laws that serves as the primary source of Shari'ah (Islamic Legal System), henceforth, holds the stature of the highest degree, and accordingly is held in the highest esteem by its devotees.

In short, it serves as a comprehensive code of life for all the people who subscribe to Monotheism and submit to the belief that "There is no God but Allah and Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) is His last messenger". Nonetheless, there are many schools of thought in Islam, which differ on various grounds, but what unifies them concomitantly, is the belief that the Quran is the divine text and it was revealed by Allah upon His final messenger in Mecca and Madina, through Angel Gabriel. This well-established conception brings all these Islamic Schools of thought unanimously on the same page.

However, this quintessential and intrinsic bond of amicability—in this part of the world like the rest part—has incessantly been under severe attacks of all sorts, from myriad quarters, for decades. One such example that mirrors this fact has recently unfolded itself before us in the form of a petition filed by a person masquerading as a disciple of one of the Islamic schools of thought, before the Supreme Court of India, seeking thereby removal of 26 verses from the Holy Quran. According to the said person, these verses promote terrorism and violence and were inserted by the first three caliphs after the demise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In the light of facts, this statement is highly outrageous and uncalled for. It does not stand a moment's

investigation. Thus demands condemnation on several counts. Consequently, these blasphemous remarks triggered widespread protests promptly across the country and reverberated every nook and corner with a conglomeration of slogans against the said individual. The same has been in place hitherto.

Meanwhile, while gazing into the past of the said individual it can be handily figured out that he had immensely been a catalyst for controversies. The conflict is the foremost factor that centralises his role throughout. His conduct in the past speaks volumes about his stance and answers all the questions that are presently emerging in our minds, in the superlative degree. Oftentimes in the past, his role has been a catastrophic one, for his community at significant junctures. For that matter, he was defenestrated long ago. Now, the current act certainly draws a large circle of incredulity around him, which is clearer than crystal and is almost, almost perpetual. The below-enumerated couplet of the Poet of East, Dr Al-lama Iqbal r.a in this context appears appropriate:

Agar ho Ishq tou hai kuffar bhi
musalmaani
Na ho tou mard-e-musalmaan bhi
kaafir-o-zindeeq

Interestingly, for a vast section of the Muslim community—be it the Islamic Scholars or commoners—it was not an uphill task to envisage what kind of nebulous scheme was interwoven around this move. They very well knew what is on the cards. They foresaw it as an attack aimed at the edifice of harmony. So, they stood together and condemned this irreverent move in full swing and demanded the arrest of this person, as per the law of the land for outrageous and insulting remarks against their religion and religious beliefs. But there have

been a few others who fell prey to this trickery and jumped on the bandwagon to make acrimonious and primitive statements and started chastising a particular community. These people have entirely been ignorant of the fact that they are indeed fortifying the fictitious and malafide viewpoints of such fringe elements against Islam, and in a way helping them to appear relevant. For the time being, they must realize that such fringe elements have no religious identity. They are just the pawns in the hands of their masters and are meant to create conflict in the society and therefore cause disequilibrium within the social structures. The need of the hour is to come out of the identity dilemma and fathom out the skullduggery and then let the best sense prevail for the welfare and interest of the community at large. That would certainly work as an antidote.

In addition to that, the government has the highest responsibility in times like these. Given the nature and gravity of the issue, it must invoke the relevant provisions of law against such individuals, who under the garb of the right to freedom of speech and expression target a particular community or class by insulting and offending their deities and religious beliefs which then fans the flames of that community and leads to the disruption in the public order. The law should take its due course and not let the situation exacerbate at any cost. Because that is what precisely lies behind such wicked plays

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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The Opposition Limbo

This is in response to an editorial published in daily KO on March 10, "Congress in limbo". The said editorial aptly described the sad state of affairs of the grand old party of India. Gone are the days when Congress was a pan India party. Now it has been reduced to a microscopic

minority due its own mistakes. The Ship of congress party started sinking after they lost power to BJP and its alliance in 2014 parliamentary polls, from that day BJP hasn't looked back and they have taken full advantage of the crisis brewing inside congress and currently they have become an invincible party for

congress to defeat. Fissures brewing inside congress party are coming to fore with many senior Congress leaders sidelining themselves from congress working committee and they have come under a banner called the G23 group to restore the past glory of congress party. G23 rebel group comprising of 23 party members advocat-

ing for change in congress's working and they want congress to be headed by person other than the scion of Gandhi family to take on the might of the BJP.

Malik Javid
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The Forever Struggle



RAFIA ZAKARIA

Thousands of women from around the world have been sharing information about just how unsafe they feel in public spaces, how they are followed, harassed, stalked and subjected to catcalls just because they dare to exist. The streets are not safe for them when there is a pandemic and the streets are not safe for them when there is none

ANYWHERE one casts a glance, women are in turmoil. Even in the year 2021, where DNA is revealing the secrets of human illness, where internet connections can allow people to communicate over thousands of miles, where we can see live images from Mars, women's lives are as endangered, as misunderstood and as constrained as ever.

Indeed, where the lives of women, their choices, their welfare, their health are concerned, a kind of worldwide primitivism prevails. The world may be virtual but women's physical bodies suffer in ways that men's never do. The experience of the world, of walking down a street, of going to a shop, of enjoying the weather, of meeting a friend, all of it, each and every moment of existence is rendered somehow dangerous by the very fact of being a woman.

This year too many in Pakistan pounced on the women who dared participate in the Aurat March 2021. In a country where women are kidnapped and raped and killed without anyone batting an eyelid, this one act by women wanting to celebrate themselves was, yet again, labelled as vulgar. The organisers of the march, sadly used to getting threats every year, faced their detractors yet again. This year, the critics increased in number and became even more vicious and venomous. Photos from the march were photoshopped and circulated, and videos were dubbed to underscore the thinking that women have no right to occupy public space or to make their own choices and tell their own stories.

For its part, the government has chosen to speak out of both sides of the mouth. On the one hand it has launched an investigation into the march, suggesting some illicit involvement, while on the other, it says it is looking at the origin of the doctored video clips and photoshopped pictures (that tried to link the march with blasphemy) whose creators may also face punishment. The TTP too threatened the marchers and women. In sum, they all came together to tell those Pakistani women who want a different future that their goal was simply impossible. If Pakistani women are angry these days, they have good reason to be.

Global primitivism prevails where the lives, welfare and choices of women are concerned.

It is not just Pakistani women though. In the United Kingdom, thousands of women across the country defied the lockdown to protest against the killing of a young woman named Sarah Everard. Last week, Everard had been walking home from her friend's house after the two had dinner together, when she disappeared. Her remains were found in another part of the country and were in such a condition that she could not be immediately identified.

A police officer from the Metropolitan Police, a

Text me when you get home xx

22:05 //

man who guarded diplomatic properties in London, has been arrested as a suspect. So it is that the very police that is supposed to ensure that the streets of London are safe for women, had one of its own arrested as a suspect in the murder of a young and innocent woman who was simply walking home.

In the aftermath, thousands of women from around the world have been sharing information about just how unsafe they feel in public spaces, how they are followed, harassed, stalked and subjected to catcalls just because they dare to exist. The streets are not safe for them when there is a pandemic and the streets are not safe for them when there is none.

Over in the United States, the governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, is alleged to have sexually harassed young women in his employ. The allegations range from forcible kisses to inappropriate comments, many made in a professional venue. Even as the number of allegations increases and more and more women emerge as having suffered harassment allegedly at the hands of the most powerful man in New York, the governor has refused to resign. He could be removed by impeachment but current counts of the votes do not show enough support to remove him from office. The lesson is simple: women suffer and men survive.

These are just some cases. The pandemic has affected men and women unequally, and the latter's poor access to health, their inordinate burden of childcare and all sorts of other factors combine to make them even more vulnerable than they were before. At one point in time, transnational bodies like the United Nations could have been counted on as a platform

where a united agenda for the safety of women could have been urged. The UN that exists sold itself long ago to the misogynistic whims of countries that have thrown money at the organisation in exchange for international leverage. The radical potential of female solidarity is no longer something that the UN seems to be interested in.

So women everywhere are on their own, fighting alone but together. In their favour is the promise of emerging generations who bring with them new ideas about connectivity and collaboration. Technology can help, even though it cannot be counted on as the magic solution to the victimisation of women. In addition to public marches, which are unavailable to some women owing to their family situation or their work situation, consumer boycotts can be added to the activist arsenal.

When male money is threatened, male behaviour is likely to change. Finally, some attention can also be paid to change among women. It is women who are the bosses of millions of domestic workers in the country. Perhaps they can sign charters that protect the dignity of those women. These sorts of actions will not solve the problems that face Pakistani women, who are made to bear the brunt of all the insecurities and inferiorities that are faced by Pakistani men, but they will make a difference. In the meantime, whether it is in Pakistan or the UK or some other place, the struggle goes on, at least for one half of the world.

Dawn

The Safety Conundrum



HANNAH BOWS

Earlier this month, Sarah Everard was allegedly abducted and killed while walking home from a friend's house in London. In response to her disappearance, women were reportedly advised to avoid going out alone. Yet at the same time, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, Cressida Dick, sought to reassure women that incidences of abduction and murder are rare.

Heavy police presence and use of force during a recent gathering to remember Everard also raised issues about the way women are treated by authorities when demonstrating against sexual harassment and violence. It's an issue which, in some circles, has led to demands for police reform and Dick's resignation as commissioner. As one popular argument goes, penalising and physically handling women at a vigil didn't just ignore some women's fears of authorities, it suggested that women shouldn't be speaking out at all.

These contradictory messages underscore the problems surrounding discussions about violence against women. On one hand, sexual harassment and violence by men is viewed as inevitable and we're conditioned to believe the fear we live with is normal. On the other, women are often told they're overreacting and that violence is rare. But how helpful are these approaches in terms of eradicating systemic violence against women? And do they keep us safer?

Police advice

Just two years ago the police issued similar safety advice to women in response to a number of sexual assaults in London. They were told to avoid wearing headphones or using mobile phones in order to be "alert" in their surroundings. But this advice ignores that reality that many women already do this, and more, to avoid harassment and violence from men.

Recent research has documented the different types of "safety work" women routinely undertake to avoid the everyday



intrusions from men in public. As a result of these precautions, women pay a price, a form of gender-specific tax – they must trade-off their freedom in exchange for safety.

In reality, there is very little evidence that individual strategies reduce sexual violence. Nevertheless, failure to follow the safety advice almost inevitably means a woman is held at least partially responsible – the idea being that if she'd listened to advice, changed her behaviour or stayed home, she would have been safe.

The social media response

As news spread of Everard's case, thousands of women took to social media to share the extensive precautions they make on a daily basis to avoid risks – including avoiding dark streets, not wearing headphones when out alone, crossing the road to get away from individual or groups of men, and holding keys in their hands should they need to defend themselves or open their front door quickly.

This practice of taking responsibility to protect oneself is nothing new. Women are

Many men have acknowledged the privileges they enjoy in public spaces – such as freely being able to walk the streets at night without fear of sexual harassment or assault – things women cannot take for granted

told of the dangers in public places from a young age and that they should manage the risks that men pose by adapting their behaviour and restricting their movements accordingly. It's advice that women internalise, becoming hypervigilant of themselves, and others, in public spaces.

When women do speak out, they often experience aggressive backlashes, primarily from men who often argue that #NotAllMen engage in such behaviour. This common response to women's experiences of harassment and violence serves to undermine their accounts, dismiss them, or suggest that it is they who are sexist by suggesting all men behave in harassing or violent ways. Yet the evidence indicates that harassment and violence by men in public spaces is disturbingly prevalent, some of which has come to light in recent years through the #MeToo and #EverydaySexism movements.

Although the more extreme physical manifestations of violence such as abduction or murder are relatively rare, almost all women experience sexual ha-

arrassment in public spaces, and a significant proportion report being sexually assaulted. And when women are subjected to serious physical violence or murder, it is overwhelmingly men who perpetrate it. This is often despite extensive safety work from women.

These conflicting messages leave women in a paradoxical situation whereby they have to change their behaviour to avoid the risk of harassment or violence, while also trying not to overreact to dangers they're often told do not exist or aren't common. They must have, what my colleague Fiona Vera-Gray has termed "the right amount of panic". Because of this, the focus is always on what women do and do not do – and the problem of male violence remains obscured.

Women need men to change their behaviour

While it's true that not all men engage in these behaviours, if they do nothing about them, they are complicit in a society that normalises them. Safety advice rarely tells men not to harass or rape women. And if they do, they're protected by the focus on what the woman failed to do to protect herself.

Following the outpouring of women's stories on social media in response to Everard's death, many men have acknowledged the privileges they enjoy in public spaces – such as freely being able to walk the streets at night without fear of sexual harassment or assault – things women cannot take for granted.

Some asked what they could do to help. Popular responses include giving women space, dropping back while walking behind a woman on her own or, ideally, crossing the road and walking ahead of her to reduce her sense of unease. Others involve men calling out sexual harassment when they see it or asking a woman if she's OK if it appears that she's being subjected to unwanted attention. Much of this advice comes from women, who yet again carry the burden of educating men.

If anything is going to change, a dramatic culture shift is needed. The widespread prevalence of violence and harassment also needs to be acknowledged – and challenged – without putting the responsibility on women. We don't need more safety advice, nor do we need telling the risk to us is low. What we need is for men to change their behaviour and for society to hold them accountable.

By Arrangements With
The Conversation

Centre Says COVID Vaccine Wastage In India At 6.5 Pc, Calls For Optimal Utilisation Of Doses

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The average COVID-19 vaccine wastage in India is at 6.5 per cent, with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh being on the top with 17.6 and 11.6 per cent wastage respectively, the Centre said on Wednesday as it called for optimal utilisation of the doses.

A total of 3,64,67,744 vaccine doses have been administered till now in the country, which includes 1,48,60,930 beneficiaries aged 45-60 years with specific comorbidities and senior citizens who have been given the first dose.

At a press conference, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that Monday, 8.34 million COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered worldwide, of which India alone administered 36 per cent of the doses.

Bhushan said COVID-19 vaccine wastage in five states -- Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir -- is higher than the national average of 6.5 per cent.

"The message we have shared with states is that vaccines are invaluable commodities. They are public health goods and

therefore vaccines have to be optimally utilised.

"Vaccine wastage has to be drastically reduced. Any reduction in wastage means that you end up inoculating more people and therefore the chances of disrupting the chain of infection grow that much more," he said.

On an average 13,12,215 vaccine doses are being administered daily with Rajasthan providing the most jabs on an average, Bhushan said.

About the increase in daily COVID-19 cases, Bhushan said from March 1-15, about 70 districts in 16 states have registered more than 150 per cent increase in active cases while 55 districts in 17 states have registered a 100-150 per cent rise in cases.

Most of these districts are in west and north India.

Elaborating on the rise in cases in states, he said, "If we look at Maharashtra, 60 per cent of all active cases and 45 per cent of new deaths are concentrated there."

"On March 1, 7,741 new cases were being reported on an average. By March 15, it stood at 13,527. The positivity rate, which was 11 per cent on March 1 rose to 16 per cent by March

15," he said.

Noting that the high positivity rate is a matter of concern, Bhushan said the number of tests is not increasing in tandem with the COVID-19 positivity rate. "So, our advice to the states, especially Maharashtra, is that there is a need to increase the testing rate, especially the RT-PCR ones," he said.

In Punjab, on March 1 an average of 531 new cases were being reported. By March 15, the number increased to an average of 1,338. The positivity rate has doubled and the share of RT-PCR total tests conducted was 89 per cent, he said.

"We would want a distinct increasing trend of tests in which RT-PCR share is substantially higher," Bhushan said.

In Chattisgarh, on March 1 an average of 239 new cases were being reported. By March 15, the number increased to average 430. The positivity rate increased from 1.4 per cent to 2.4 per cent and RT-PCR share in tests conducted is 34 per cent.

In Gujarat on March 1, an average of 398 new cases were being reported. By March 15, the number increased to 689. The

positivity rate increased from 2.4 per cent to 4 per cent and RT-PCR's share in COVID-19 tests was 50 per cent.

Karnataka had 443 cases on average on March 1. In a fortnight, the number increased to an average of 751. The positivity rate increased from 0.8 per cent to 1.3 per cent and RT-PCR's share in COVID-19 tests is 93 per cent.

In Madhya Pradesh, an average of 334 new cases were being reported on March 1. By March 15, the number increased to 564. The positivity rate has increased from 3.1 per cent to 7.4 per cent and RT-PCR share in tests was 65 per cent.

As for Haryana, an average of 151 new cases were being reported on March 1. By the middle of the months, the number increased to 374. The positivity rate has increased from 1.2 per cent to 3.3 per cent and RT-PCR's share in tests was 93 per cent.

In Delhi, on March 1 an average of 198 new cases were being reported. By March 15, the number increased to 371. The positivity rate has increased from 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent and RT-PCR's share in tests is 64 per cent.

CBI Books Cadbury India Pvt Ltd For 'Fraudulently' Availing Area-Based Tax Benefits in Himachal

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked Cadbury India Private Limited (now known as Mondelez Foods Private Limited) for alleged corruption and misrepresentation of facts to fraudulently avail area-based tax benefits in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, officials said on Wednesday.

After registering the FIR, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out searches at 10 locations in Solan, Baddi, Mohali, Pinjore and Mumbai, they said.

The FIR is an outcome of a preliminary enquiry registered by the agency, which showed that the company allegedly "paid bribes, misrepresented facts and manipulated records to fraudulently avail area-based exemption benefits (central excise and income tax) in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, knowing fully well that it was not entitled to avail area-based tax exemption benefits", the officials said.

"For availing the same, some members of the executive board of the company, along with key managers, collectively decided to manipulate records, engage intermediaries to route bribes and cover up all

the evidence that had surfaced during the internal investigation," the CBI has alleged.

Besides the company, the agency has booked a total of 12 individuals, including two the then Central Excise officials, the then Cadbury India Limited (CIL) vice-president (finance and compliance) Vikram Arora and its directors Rajesh Garg and Jailboy Phillips.

CIL had set up a manufacturing unit at Sandholi village for manufacturing malt-based food (Bournvita). The unit started commercial production from May 19, 2005, the CBI has alleged in its FIR.

Two years later, CIL proposed to expand production by setting up another unit for its products "5 Star" and "Gems" as the second unit on the land acquired from Barmalt in 2007 in Baddi to avail an exemption from excise duty and income tax for 10 additional years, it has alleged.

The company decided to expand its capacity and avail tax benefits from May 19, 2005, for which it applied for an amalgamation of the two units, stating that it has decided to have its second unit as a composite in the existing facility, the CBI FIR says.

The approval was granted on

March 7, 2008 by the Directorate of Industries, it added.

About 15 months later, the company said its second unit has started production, for which it should be given tax benefits, which was not possible as the company had already stated that it would be a composite unit of an already existing factory, which was getting tax benefits from 2005, the agency has said.

The company again applied for dealamalgamation and sought to set up the second unit as a different company -- Cadbury India Limited Unit II -- on March 29, 2010, two days before the cut-off date to avail the exemption, the CBI has alleged.

The agency has alleged that senior executives of the company conspired with private individuals and made payments to get necessary approvals for setting up the second unit as a separate company to avail tax benefits for which it was not eligible.

The CBI has found details of various payments made to camouflage alleged bribes and commissions to get the work done, the FIR alleges.

The agency has alleged that the DCGEI had also probed the matter and slapped a fine of Rs 241 crore on the company.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre Unveils

capitalization of the J&K Bank Limited.

The budget also proposes to earmark Rs 300 crore for CRIF roads, Rs 1500 crore for PMGSY roads and Rs 500 crore for NABARD scheme and Rs 28 crore for maintenance of Mughal Road.

According to the document, Rs 227.73 crore have been allocated for establishment of 37 oxygen generation plants in all medical colleges, associated hospitals and district Hospitals of UT of J&K to cope up with additional requirement of medical oxygen due to COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the budget, Rs 40 crore has been earmarked as ex-gratia relief for COVID warriors. The budget document also states that two new medical colleges at Udhampur and Handwara (District Kupwara) have been approved at a cost of Rs 325 crore each.

The other key announcement vis-à-vis health sector is establishment of cancer institute at Srinagar & Jammu at a cost of Rs 120 crore each.

The budget document also states that 723 ICT labs will be established in equal number of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs 46.27 crore.

According to the document, 245 works would be completed during 2021-22 which include construction of model schools, additional classrooms, lavatory facilities, smart class rooms.

In the budget, Rs 200 crore has been provisioned for development of new industrial estates in UT during 2021-22--(KNO)

Militancy In J&K

Reddy said the terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir have come down from 614 in 2018 to 444 in 2020.

He said killings of civilians have come down from 39 in 2018 to 37 in 2020 and deaths of security personnel from 91 in 2018 to 62 in 2020.

However, the minister said, instances of shelling from Pakistan increased from 2,140 in 2018 to 5,133 in 2020.

'Pak Sending Weapons

"Certain instances of supply of weapons via drones from across the Pakistan border have come to the notice of security and law enforcement agencies," he said in his written reply.

Reddy said the government has been taking various steps to meet such challenges, which include round the clock effective surveillance, streamlining the intelligence set up, capacity building of forces, patrolling on the borders along with sensitization of local population in border areas, establishment of observation posts, border fencing, flood lighting, deployment and use of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipments, etc. (PTI)

India's Engagement

the region and India's armed forces responded to them appropriately.

"It has been made clear to the Chinese side that such unilateral attempts are unacceptable. These actions have seriously disturbed the peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the western sector," he said.

The government often refers to eastern Ladakh as western sector.

"India's engagement with China is complex. The two sides agree that the future direction of India China relations should be built upon respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations," he said on the overall ties.

"The two sides have also agreed to manage their differences and not allow differences on any issue to become disputes," Muralaeddharan added.

On the border row, the minister said the two sides have maintained communication through both diplomatic and military channels to ensure complete disengagement from all friction points and full restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

"The two sides were able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake, which has been completed. There are however still some

outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh," he said.

The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in line with the agreement on disengagement last month.

"Government will continue discussions with the Chinese side to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and achieve the objective of disengagement from all friction points and restoration of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas at an early date," the minister said.

Govt Bars

of various instructions issued so far, they may be kept in abeyance till further orders. It may be dealt at highest priority," the order

adds.

PDP Co-Founder

and political wisdom for the betterment of J-K," a PC spokesperson said.

He said Beigh keenly participated in the confabulations and after detailed discussion expressed his pleasure in being able to be a part of the party from where he started his political career.

Beigh said that it gave him immense pleasure to be a part of the party, which he joined as a youth and was groomed by party founder Abdul Gani Lone.

He said that in his entire public life he had causes for being happy and many causes where he was disappointed. Beigh expressed his desire to contribute by grooming youngsters and building their capacity.

"He has a very long association with our family. He also started his political career with Peoples Conference. So, as a nephew, I along with my colleagues came to meet Beigh Sahab and asked him for my right. He has given me the rights which I duly deserve," Lone told reporters outside Beigh's Srinagar residence.

An advocate turned politician, Beigh started his political career in late 1970s with Abdul Gani Lone's Peoples Conference (PC). However, his political stint came to a halt when he was appointed advocate general of J&K by the then Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammad Shah in 1983, who had floated Awami National Conference, after breaking ties with National Conference (NC), a party led by his brother-in-law Farooq Abdullah.

The 73-year-old season politician was conferred the third-highest civilian award -- the Padma Bhushan by Modi-led BJP government in January last year, when most of the mainstream leaders, including his own party President and two other former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar were under detention.

In November last year, Beigh, who co-founded PDP with Mufti Mohammad Sayed in 1999, resigned from the party over the seat sharing agreement with the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the district development council (DDC) polls.

The former J&K Dy CM had claimed that he was not consulted regarding seat sharing agreement with PAGD affiliated parties. (With PTI inputs)

Lt Gen Pandey

handed over the charge to Lt Gen Pandey here on Wednesday, an army spokesperson said.

The outgoing GoC, he said, was moving to assume higher responsibilities as Director General of Military Operations of the Indian Army.

He said that during Raju's tenure over the last one year, improved security environment prevailed both on the Line of Control and in

Kashmir. He further said that militancy was on decline with assessed residual militant numbers being the lowest in a decade as civil administration and the state forces were making efforts to bring normalcy back to Kashmir.

"On the Line of Control, his approach combined a forward heavy deployment enabled by a dense electronic and surveillance grid. Pakistani cease fire violations were dealt punitive responses resulting in operational ascendancy by the Indian Army," the army spokesperson said.

He said that the outgoing GoC strongly propagated for a second chance to the "misguided youth", as he believes this to be critical to achieving lasting peace in J&K.

According to the army spokesperson, Lt Gen Pandey, an alumni of the National Defence Academy, Pune, was commissioned in December 1985 and has had an illustrious military career spanning 35 years during which he has held varied prestigious command, staff and instructional appointments.

"The General Officer has an incisive understanding of Jammu & Kashmir, having served here for multiple tenures since 1985, notably as General Officer Commanding, Counter Insurgency Force (Kilo) and as Commander 8 Sector Rashtriya Rifles. A postgraduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Tamilnadu) & National War College, Washington DC (USA), the General was also posted as Military Observer in United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Prior to this appointment, Lieutenant General PD Pandey held two important appointments at Army Headquarters as Additional Director General of Public Information and the Director General Territorial Army," he said.

3800 KPs Returned

returned to Kashmir for taking up the jobs that have been provided to them under the rehabilitation package," he said in a written reply.

Reddy said another nearly 2,000 migrant candidates are also likely to return to the Union Territory under the same policy in 2021 on successful completion of the selection process.

The minister said as per a report of the Relief Office setup in 1990 by the then government of Jammu and Kashmir, 44,167 Kashmiri migrant families are registered who had to move out from the valley due to security concerns.

Out of these, the count of registered Hindu migrant families is 39,782, he said.

Peace With Pak

neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create such an environment.

The prime minister discussed Pakistan's vision of comprehensive national security, built on the pillars of traditional and non-traditional security, including his vision for economic prosperity and human welfare.

Khan dwelt at length on the issue of peace in the region, including peace between Pakistan and India, saying "the unresolved Kashmir issue was the biggest hurdle between the two countries."

If India gives the Kashmiris their right under the UN (resolutions), it will be greatly beneficial for Pakistan as well as for India, he said and added, India can access Central Asia after peace. Khan said that having a direct route to the Central Asian region will economically benefit India.

Central Asia, in the modern context, generally includes five resource-rich countries -- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

India and Pakistan had announced on February 25 that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

Talking about non-traditional threats to Pakistan, Khan said that climate change, food security and a weak economy were among the biggest challenges in the quest to realise the full concept of security.

Khan said his initiative of Ten billion tree

tsunami was being hailed by the world, while his government was also working to achieve food security.

He acknowledged that improving the national economy was the biggest challenge but his government was trying to reduce trade deficit and control inflation so that the financial condition of common people could improve.

We cannot become a secure nation when a small rich minority is surrounded by the sea of poor people National security is achieved when a nation stands up to secure itself, he said at the dialogue organised by the National Security Division and think-tanks comprising the Advisory Board of National Security Committee.

Khan also praised all-weather ally China for its "successful" handling of poverty and lifting more than 700 million people out of poverty in the last three decades.

It is their big achievement whether you like China or not, he said.

Khan said that Pakistan's 25 per cent population was suffering from extreme poverty and another 25 per cent was just slightly better.

He said the government already launched Ehsaas programme to give cash to the poor people and another programme of giving targeted subsidies to the poor was being launched.

Khan also talked about peace in Afghanistan and reiterated support for the ongoing peace process by saying that Pakistan would be the greatest beneficiary of a stable Afghanistan.

The Islamabad Security Dialogue is envisioned as an annual flagship security forum based on the model of major dialogues on security and international policy.

The National Security Division, in collaboration with leading think-tanks that are part of its advisory board, has taken this initiative to provide a platform for critical thinking and robust intellectual discourse on some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities being faced by Pakistan and the wider region, according to an official statement.

The two-day event is being attended virtually by international thinkers and scholars, members from the Federal Cabinet, diplomatic corps, former government officials, academia, think-tanks and civil society members.

Kashmiri Students

the Pakistani embassy had confirmed to the travellers to allow them access on March 17 through Wagah border.

"We have proper visa and all the documents yet they are holding us back. They have allowed all the non Kashmiris, but evidently they want to trouble us," he said.

Deadlock Over

public and the 3 5000 families who are associated directly and indirectly with the mutton trade, we agreed with the rate suggested by the government. In the past four months, there have been Rs 800 crore losses to the mutton industry of Kashmir," Dar said.

Pertinently, mutton has been off the markets in Kashmir in the past four months and people were facing severe shortage of meat.

"Black marketing of mutton will end now and people will have a sigh of relief," said Dar, who himself went to mandi's of Rajasthan, New Delhi and other parts of India.

"We had suggested a Rs 550 rate per kg. But the Government wasn't satisfied with this rate and after thorough discussion Rs 535 was agreed upon," he said.

Asked how much loss mutton industry has suffered in the past four months, he said: "Mutton industry is a big in Kashmir and this industry has suffered Rs 800 crore losses."

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole said that the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and new rates of mutton were decided.

"The official order will be issued by the Director Food department," he said

Ever since the administration fixed the retail price of mutton at Rs 480 per kilogram in November last year, there was a deadlock with dealers demanding a review even as the price is Rs 40 higher than the previously fixed rate in 2016.

However it's about Rs 120 less than what the dealers were selling the highly sought after commodity in Kashmir with a consumption of around 1,000 lakh kg/year. (Agencies)

Temp Rises

night at Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.0 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.2 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at 5.2 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature of minus0.5 degree Celsius against minus 1.4 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. The temperature at the world famous skiing resort which received nearly 3ft fresh snowfall last week was almost normal for this time of the year, the official added.

"Scattered light rain/thundershowers is expected in Kashmir division and isolated very light rain/thundershowers in Jammu division in next 24 hours," the official. There is no forecast of major rainfall activity till March 20, he said.

"As of today, it looks like 70% chance of light to moderate rain /snow is likely during 21-22nd March in J&K and at Sonmarg -Drass axis." (GNS)

Cases Surge In

1977--731 in Jammu and 1246 in Kashmir, officials said Wednesday.

Among the new cases, they said, 106 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining twenty from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 127957.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said, Srinagar reported 62, Baramulla 23, Budgam 4, Kupwara 1, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 1, Kulgam 2, Shopian 4, Jammu 15, Doda 4 and Udhampur one new case of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 90 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals--10 from Jammu Division and 80 from Kashmir Valley.

CRPF Vehicle

"He is being operated upon at the hospital while his condition is said to be critical," a close relative told news agency KNO.

According to the reports, Police have registered a case and started investigation into the incident.

CASO Launched

sealed off by the security forces.

Quoting sources, the report said that the search operation was launched following inputs about the presence of militants in the area.

Searches were going on in the area when last reports came in.

3 Youth Held

as police officials in civvies intercepted him at Rambagh and threatened him for not wearing the mask in view of Covid-19 protocol before snatching his purse and other valuable items and fleeing from the spot, a police spokesperson said Wednesday.

On the basis of complaint, he said, a case FIR No. 39/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Saddar and investigation was set into motion.

"Acting swiftly on the complaint, a special police team headed by SHO Saddar under the supervision of SDPO Saddar swung into action and arrested the accused persons. All the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Saddar where they remain in custody," he said.

3 Gamblers Held

Rs 3240 was also recovered from the accused.

"They have been shifted to Police Station Khrew where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 14/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khrew and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

Illegal Structures Demolished In Sumbal

Observer News Service

SUMBAL: The authorities on Wednesday demolished illegal structures on the roads and removed several illegal stairs and tin roofs along the roadsides in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Shopkeepers in Sumbal town had set up illegal encroachments on the roads outside their shops, blocking the flow of vehicles.

In a joint anti-encroachment drive by Municipal Committee along with the Sumbal police and the Revenue Department, they removed the illegally erected encroachments, sheds and several tin roofs from Tehsil Headquarters to the Sumbal Bridge and made the road passable for the general public.

Jahangir Ahmed, chairperson of the Municipal Committee Sumbal said the demolition operations were carried out after an investigation.

He said that despite repeated

warnings, the roadside encroachments were not removed, and action

was taken without any discrimination. He also warned that action would be taken every week against the encroachments. "In the next operation, if any encroachments were found, it would be dealt with severely," he cautioned.

He urged the ward officers to keep an eye on their respective areas and wherever construction work is going on, ask their permission and see how the construction is going on.

He further said that traffic would be severely affected due to improper parking of small and big vehicles, motorbikes, vegetable vendors and inexperienced load carrier drivers.

He said that the business community should not allow any wrong parking in front of their shops and should not allow any vegetable vendors to keep stalls.

"If it is found in the next operation, these shopkeepers should also be fined," he said. (KNS)

JKTDC Retired Employees Demand Release Of Pending Arrears

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The retired employees of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation on Wednesday held a protest at Press Colony Srinagar to demand release of arrears, which according to them are pending since 2006.

Mustafa Beigh, a JKTDC retired employee said that they had gathered here to demand the release of arrears, which have been pending since 2006.

He said that when they got retired the concerned department has released the pending arrears since then even as the High Court has ordered the release of pending arrears in their favour.

"We have even won the contempt of court case, still our management is not ready to pay us our pending arrears, which is our right. We have used our blood and sweat to build this department, yet they are not paying heed to our genuine demands," he said.

He said that every retired employee of JKTDC has a family to feed and since they are retired now, they do not have any other source to feed their families.

"We appeal to the Lt. Governor and the concerned official to interfere in this matter and help them get their money released. This is our money, and we have every right to demand for release of the same," he said—(KNO)

J&K Bank Bags IBA's Best Technology Bank Of The Year Award



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Wednesday bagged the Best Technology Bank of the Year Award presented by India Banks' Association (IBA) for the year 2019-20. The bank also was runner up in the category of Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives Award.

The Bank's Chairman and Managing Director R K Chhibber received the award from IBA- an association of 249 banks operating in India-in a virtual award ceremony held today.

J&K Bank was chosen for the top award by jury comprising of experts, stalwarts and senior functionaries from the banking industry.

Expressing his happiness over the awards what he termed was a recognition for J&K Bank's relentless efforts to upgrade its technology and information security, the CMD said,

"We see the awards as an acknowledgement from the stalwarts of banking industry and feel humbled by the recognition. It is a major award and will boost our focused efforts to increase our digital footprint across our operational geography," He stated that in today's age technology was playing critical role in expanding the scope and scale of banking and financial services in the country.

"Technology has democratized the financial landscape to a great extent and we see technology as one of the great enablers of financial inclusion besides enhancing the operational efficiency of the banks in general. As a futuristic financial institution we too will continue to invest our best resources to develop robust technological frameworks focused on cyber security besides keep on fine tuning the digital offerings," he said.



Scholars Demand Introduction Of Persian Language In Educational Institutions Of J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Persian Scholars on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration at Press enclave Srinagar, and demanded its revival and introduction of Persian language in all Schools, Colleges and Universities of J&K.

Dozens of scholars expressed strong resentment and anger that the authorities are deliberately ignoring the language and its introduction at Schools, Colleges & University level.

The Scholars said that the said language has remained not only the court language and the language of communication in Kashmir for 600 years but the medium of promotion of scholarship in different disciplines of knowledge.

They mentioned that the Persian has been instrumental in promoting the communal harmony, brotherhood, tolerance and accommodation among different faiths. They added that scholars have excelled in the Persian Language and literature to the extent that they have been able to create the masterpieces in poetry, medicine, astrology, geography etc.

"The translations of Mahabharata, Ramayana and other holy books and works into Persian; including the important works of Sufism and Mysticism from Persian in Indian languages has metamorphosed the human relations all across Indian Sub-continent to Central Asia and Iran resulting in the better understanding of each other's beliefs and promoted peace and harmony for what Jammu and Kashmir is known for centuries" they explained.

"With the strenuous efforts of some vested interests, gradually during a few last decades replaced Persian at higher Secondary and Degree level with other subjects that was fundamental to disruption of peace and communal harmony in Jammu & Kashmir" they claimed.

They blamed that yet another mischief done by the Higher Education Department is the exclusion of Persian in the list of Assistant Professors referred to the Public Service Commission for filling up the vacancies. These people are hiding in the Civil Secretariat and some Higher Education Institutions, pushing their

agenda of hate and disruption through administrative channels.

They alleged that it may not be out of context to mention here that in the policy document of "New Education Policy-2020", Govt. of India has shown serious concern for the promotion of Persian as it being of the richest classical languages of India.

The Scholars demanded that the LG lead Govt must should take serious initiatives to refer the positions of Assistant Professors in Persian to Public Service Commission (PSC) and take all necessary measures to start Persian Departments in Central University, Kashmir (CUK), Central University, Jammu (CUJ); IUST, Awantipora, BGSB University Rajouri and Jammu University (JU).

They also demanded its inclusion in Iqbal Institute of Philosophy & Culture, University of Kashmir and Shah Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir, they added.

The Protest was led by Dr Mudassir, Kouser Jaffri, Rahat Rafiq, Yaseen Kambay, Syed Abass, Zahid Parwaz Choudhary & Mumtaza. (CNS)

LG Launches 'Awaam Ki Baat' Website 'Programme Aimed At Providing Voice To People's Ambitions'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday initiated the project "Awaam Ki Baat" — a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan.

The half-an-hour long Radio program to be aired every third Sunday of the month (to start from April), is one of the many sequential steps of broader program aimed at disseminating the progressive steps taken by the government and providing the public with a platform to speak, write and interact with the administration, thereby voicing their suggestions, ideas and creative proposals.

The Lt Governor observed that Awaam Ki Baat is a leap towards strengthening the concept of Jan Bhagidari by inviting people's participation. It will give voice to the people and a vision to the administration that is symbolic of the collective aspirations of the masses, he added.

Awaam Ki Baat is a novel initiative aimed at seeking the feedback from the public to make the process of governance interactive, participative and people-centric, he added.

Further, by placing the citizenry at the center of the cycle of policy making and seeking grass-root level



feedback is set to emerge as a true tribute to the Gandhian principles of administration, said the Lt Governor.

The platform appreciates the heterogeneity of our Union Territory in the truest sense by providing voice to people's ambitions and crafting a strategy to draft policies that are reflective of people's aspirations and making the governance paradigm interactive.

"You Speak, We listen" is the underlying theme of the project 'Awaam Ki Baat'. The public can access the website at "awaamkibaat.jk.gov.in", and also voice their suggestions through the interactive toll free numbers - 18005722327 for the Jammu Division, and 18005722328 for the Kashmir Division.

The website is also accessible through ".org/.com/.in/.co/.in/.net" domains.

Also, there is a dedicated window called "Write to LG" on the website, which gives a portal format for submitting one's suggestions. The public is also provided with a dedicated email address "welisten-akb@jk.gov.in", which too will collect the useful feedback and channelize it to the respective departments.

Pertinently, LG's Mulaqaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing has brought reforms in public grievance redressal mechanism, making it more robust and responsive with Lt Governor taking first hand appraisal of people's grievances every month.

Now, with the "Awaam Ki Baat" program, the UT Government is giving a determined push to strengthening the Government-Public relationship, by inviting suggestions from the public and seeking their active participation in Policy formation.

PDF Demands Restoration Of Statehood To J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that early restoration of statehood was imperative for reinvigorating the stalled political process in Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman People's Democratic Front (PDF) Hakeem Yaseen Wednesday urged the Union Government to initiate meaningful CBMs to instil trust and faith on justice and democratic values among the people. He said the government should earnestly rise to the occasion to respect socio-political urges and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for bringing peace and tranquility in the region.

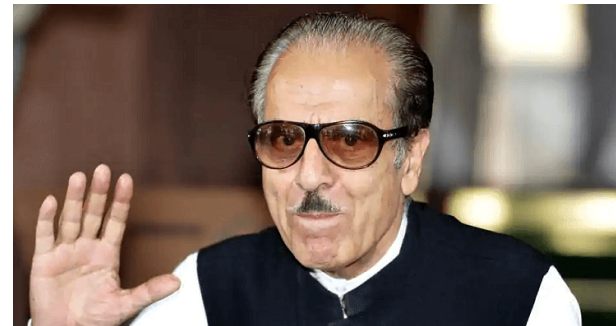
Speaking at a one day party convention at Khanshab in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, Yaseen urged the need for restoration of stalled political and democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir adding that sooner the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir was restored, the better it would be in the

larger interests of the country.

He said that restoration of democracy was imperative to remove anger and alienation among people resulting out of post August 5,2019 situation. "Moreover, unlike other states of the country, Jammu and Kashmir was a super sensitive border state both strategically as well as socio-politically, Yaseen observed while urging the government to win trust and goodwill of the people in the interests of peace and tranquility. He exhorted that restoration of democracy and political process by initiating meaningful CBMs was key to bring normalcy, peace and tranquility in the "trouble torn state".

PDF Chairman also advocated for developing better neighbourhood and friendly relations between India and Pakistan adding that mutual peace and trust between the two neighbouring countries was in the better interests of their people and lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

Apathy, Encroachments Killing Kashmir Water Bodies: Prof Soz



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Minister and senior Congress leader Professor Saifuddin Soz Wednesday said the water bodies of Kashmir are under stress due to encroachments and neglect.

"During my visit to Gilsar, Khushal Sar, Anchar and Brari Nambal, today, I got awakened to raise an alarm that we shall lose this great natural treasure, completely and irrevocably, if my alarm does not produce a responsible public concern," he said.

"All Water Bodies in Kashmir including Wular and Dal are under great stress. The greatest trouble has been created by Land Grabbers and Encroachers, who are far beyond their clutches of law and many times en-

joying patronage of narrow-minded public figures," he added.

He added that it is highly depressing for see Anchar Lake is just not visible as illegal constructions have come all around.

"I could imagine that nothing seemed to be retrievable unless people themselves come forward and take strong measures to safeguard whatever can be retrieved.

I have been left with a feeling that everything will be lost unless people themselves rise to the occasion," he said.

"I, however, felt encouraged when groups of people around these lakes assured me that they would join a movement for retrieving and conserving these water bodies which are taking their last breath," he added. (KNS)

Six-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme Concludes At SKUAST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Division of Veterinary Biochemistry, Faculty of Veterinary Science of SKUAST-Kashmir organised a 6 day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme highlighting entrepreneurship approach, skill and challenges in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (Ahmadabad) and NAHEP-SKUAST-Kashmir.

Organising secretary Dr Shahzada Mudaris Rashid emphasised the need for holistic and sustainable entrepreneur-

ship development in J&K.

Head Division of Vety. Biochemistry Prof. Manzoor Rehman identified utmost need of entrepreneurship cell at university level for technical assistance of professional graduates to undertake independent ventures.

The chief guest of the occasion Dean FVSc, SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. MA Paul highlighted the importance of programme with special reference to theme. He assured this program will create enterprise awareness and readiness among veterinary graduates and postgraduates.

SKUAST's NTEAK Elects Office Bearers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a well-attended oath-taking ceremony of NTEAK SKUAST, the newly elected President Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Vice President Ghulam Qadir Bhat and General Secretary Fayaz Ahmad Mir stressed the need for strengthening of University by the efforts of all the employees of the varsity.

In a statement, the elected representative laid emphasis was on a corruption free environment.

President and General Secretary appealed the employees to work hard as due to unavoidable circumstances prevalent since more than one year a lot has been lost which can be regained by contributing selflessly.

VC SKUAST-K was of the view that the university is a family and everyone has to contribute by working honestly so that varsity can become the number one Agriculture University in the country.

Representatives from employees associations and directors and deans were also present in the ceremony which concluded with a vote of thanks by Moulana Ab Rashid.

Administrative Council Approves Ratle Hydro-Electric Power Corporation

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC), which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday approved the incorporation of the Joint Venture Company (JVC) under the name Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation to implement the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab at Drabshala in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. The proposed JVC will have authorised capital of Rs. 1600 Crore with initial paid up capital of Rs. 100 Crore, out of which the JKSPDCL will contribute Rs. 49 Crore as an initial equity.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to execute the project, was signed between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, JKSPDCL and NHPC on 03.01.2021 in the august presence of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K and Minister of State, Incharge Power, Government of India.

On the basis of the MoU already signed, the Administrative Council ap-

proved the Promoters' Agreement for the JVC between Government of J&K, NHPC, and J&K State Power Development Corporation Ltd. The Administrative Council further authorized the Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department and the Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited to sign the Promoters' Agreement and other related documents for operationalization of the Joint Venture Company.

The JVC will develop the 850 MW Ratle HEP at an estimated cost of Rs. 5281.94 crore. Ratle HEP is a run-of-the-river project on river Chenab in Kishtwar district and lies in between the Dulhastia HEP on its upstream and the Baglihar HEP on its downstream. Once completed, it will substantially add to the power generation capacity of Jammu and Kashmir, provide financial and developmental benefits, and enable effective use of western rivers under the Indus Water Treaty.

Development Of Tourist Destinations Priority Of Admin: Adv Khan

UDHAMPUR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Wednesday visited famous tourist hill station Patnitop and convened a meeting of officers of Patnitop Development Authority (PDA), district officers, Hotels & Restaurant Owners at JKTDC Conference Hall here.

Addressing the meeting, the Advisor said that the area is under main focus of UT government and tourism circuit is under consideration for promotion of tourism here. He further said that every possible effort will be made to boost tourism in the area for its overall development.

The Advisor said that tourism is the backbone of economic development of the UT and plays an important role in raising the economic standards of people.

Advisor Khan said that Patnitop is one of the famous hill resort of J&K and there is a need to attract more and more tourists to this place during all seasons.

During the visit, a delegation of Hotel and Restaurant Owners met with Advisor and put forth their demands like seeking adequate provision for drinking water, proper collection of garbage, repair and



black topping of Patnitop circular road, upgradation of road networks, functioning of public utilities, traffic congestion, adequate infrastructure to tap the full tourism potential of the area, proper disposal of waste material, fire tender and ATM facilities, medical facility, functioning of sewerage treatment plant, development of parks, Tulip garden at Patnitop, installation of sign boards for the convenience of tourists and development of Gouri Kund circuit etc.

Advisor gave a patient hearing to the issues and demands put forth by the delegation and assured them that the Government will take adequate measures for

redressal of their genuine issues.

While responding to the demands of Patnitop circular road, Advisor Khan directed CEO PDA to gear up the process of repair and black topping of Patnitop circular road and complete it within given timeline.

Xen UEED was directed to expedite the work of sewerage treatment plant and complete it within one month for proper disposal of solid waste. He called upon the stakeholders to help the Administration to keep famous tourist destination neat, clean and polythene free. For this purpose, he directed to organise joint cleanliness and awareness drives with involvement of other stakeholders.

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