

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

SURVEILLANCE TEAMS TO MONITOR ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVES AROUND SRINAGAR WATER BODIES

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Alijaz Asad Thursday asked the concerned officers to gear up the...

P6

THE KASHMIR OUTREACH AND THE AFGHAN STORM

Two years after its dramatic decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Government appears to be rethinking some of the objectives it announced then as Prime Minister Narendra Modi engages the...



P5 STATE

KVIB BUDGAM TO HOLD INTERVIEW ON JUNE 28, 29

According to the District Level Task Force Committee, Budgam, the J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board shall conduct interaction/interview of the candidates, who have...



Quote!
"Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it by use."
—Ruth Gordo

NEWS DIGEST

Bomb Scare In Srinagar Outskirts

SRINAGAR: An unclaimed bag triggered a bomb scare in Lasjan area of the city outskirts on Thursday forcing the security personnel to suspend the movement of traffic. According to the reports, a suspicious bag was spotted along the Lasjan bypass in the city outskirts on Thursday morning sending the security personnel in a tizzy. The bag created a **More On P10**

Modi 'Supporter' Booked For Misbehaviour

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday arrested the General Secretary of little known 'Modi Supporters Sang' organisation for behaving with cops at a police station here in this capital city. Mohammed Altaf Bhat, the general secretary of Modi Supporters Sang (MSS) organisation was arrested by police after he allegedly misbehaved with the cops at the police station Kralkhud, a local news agency KNO reported. Quoting official **More On P10**

Police Officer Charged In Bribe Case

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday produced a charge-sheet against a police Sub-Inspector who was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribes. Chargesheet was filed against SI Suresh Sharma, the then in-charge Police Post, Rajouri City, before the court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Rajouri in case FIR No.02/2019 **More On P10**

Modi 'Supporter' Booked For Misbehaviour

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LG Greets People On Kabir Jayanti

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Sant Kabir Das Ji Jayanti. In his message of felicitations, the LG observed that Sant Kabir, mystic poet and a weaver, had brought great social reforms with his writings, popularly known as Kabir's Dohas and made an invaluable impact on the social structure of India.

Want To Remove Dilli Ki Duri & Dil Ki Duri With J&K: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he wanted to end 'Dilli ki duri' as well as 'Dil ki duri' with Jammu and Kashmir, which was stripped of its special status and statehood in 2019 by the BJP led central government.

He said this at a meeting held with 14 political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir to discuss the future course of political action -- two years after the abrogation of the Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Modi said he wanted to remove 'Dilli ki duri' as well as 'Dil ki duri' (distance from Delhi as well as distance of heart), according to official sources.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval, four former chief ministers of the erstwhile state -- Farooq Abdullah and



his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti -- were among those who attended the

three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting. Modi patiently heard out suggestions and inputs from all participants and expressed that all of them shared their frank

and honest views, the sources said. It was an open discussion which revolved around building a better future for Kashmir, they said. The main **More On P10**

Delimitation, Polls Important Milestones In Restoring Statehood: HM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the delimitation exercise and holding of peaceful elections in Jammu and Kashmir are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in Parliament. The home minister's comments came after a three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with 14 political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, including four former chief ministers. "We are committed to ensure all round development of J&K. **More On P10**

ISRAEL EMBASSY BLAST CASE

4 Kargil Students Held In New Delhi

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested four students from Ladakh in connection with the Israel embassy blast case here, sources said on Thursday.

According to sources, the students were brought on transit remand to Delhi from Kargil, and after several

rounds of questioning, they have been put under arrest.

The source, however, refused to share the details of the students who have been arrested.

On January 29, a minor IED blast took place outside the Embassy of Israel in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, less than 2 km from the

Vijay Chowk, where the Beating Retreat ceremony was on. The Beating Retreat ceremony was attended by President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

Some cars were damaged in the explosion that occurred about 150 metres away from the embassy **More On P10**

Soldiers Booked For Thrashing People In Ramban

Press Trust Of India

BANIHAL: A case was registered against eight Army personnel on Wednesday for allegedly roughing up three people in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Banihal police station against a column of eight personnel of a Rashtriya Rifles unit on the complaint of a sarpanch, a police official said.

The sarpanch, Panchayat Mahoo-Khari, came at Police Post Khari along with **More On P10**

Rajouri Youth Lynched By 'Gau Rakshaks', 5 Held

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday arrested five persons in connection with the brutal murder of a youth allegedly at the hands of 'cow vigilantes' in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

20-year-old Ajaz Dar of Rajdhani Thanamandi was attacked by some persons near Muradpur on June 22 due to which he was sustained injuries and later succumbed, a police spokesperson said. Following this, the police spokesperson

said that a case FIR No. 408/2021 under IPC section 302 (murder)/341 (wrongful restraint)/323 (voluntary causing hurt)/336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others)/147 (Punishment for rioting)/148 (Rioting, armed with deadly weapon) was registered at police station Rajouri and investigation was initiated. He said different police parties under the supervision of additional SP headquarters, Vivek Shekhar, DySP Hq - Vinod Sharma and I/C SHO **More On P10**

Raj Bhawans To Come Under CCTV Lens

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Raj Bhawan complexes in Jammu and Srinagar are set to come under CCTV surveillance after the J-K police floated a tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of the security system at the twin capital cities.

The officials said this is being done as an enhanced security measure.

e-tenders are hereby invited from original manufacturers or their authorised dealers to quote against this tender for supply, installation and commissioning of CCTV **More On P10**

J&K Admin Requests 2 Million Vaccine Doses From GoI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday requested the government of India to provide 20 lakh vaccine doses to the Union Territory before July 10 to enhance immunity in the general public. The request on behalf of

the Jammu and Kashmir administration was made by Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta during a high-level meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, Rajiv Gauba to review the public health response to coronavirus by states and Union Territories, an official

spokesperson said. The Chief Secretary, he said, requested the Central Government to provide 20 lakh doses to the Union territory before 10th July 2021 to enhance immunity in the general public. Besides Mehta, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department J&K, Chief Secretaries **More On P10**

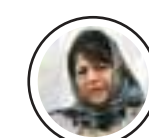
J&K Logs 448 New Cases, 11 Deaths

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 448 fresh cases of coronavirus while 11 more people succumbed to the deadly infection across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. While 265 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley, the remaining 183 were detected in Jammu division, taking the total number of **More On P10**

WHO SAID WHAT AFTER THE MEETING

There is a loss of trust which needs to be restored immediately and for that, to begin with, the Centre should work for restoration of complete statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

■ FAROOQ ABDULLAH

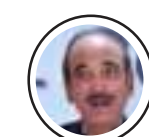


People of J & K have been in pain since 5 August 2019. They are angry and feel humiliated. The people of J&K do not accept the unconstitutional abrogation of Article 370.

■ MEHBOOBA MUFTI

We told the PM that we don't stand with what was done on 5th Aug 2019. We're not ready to accept it. But we won't take law into our hands. We'll fight this in court. We also told the PM that there's been a breach of trust between State & Centre. It's the Centre's duty to restore it. We requested PM that our fight will continue but it's essential to reverse some decisions that aren't at all in the interest of J&K

■ OMAR ABDULLAH



We kept 5 demands in the meeting- grant statehood soon, conduct Assembly elections to restore democracy, rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in J&K, all political detainees should be released and on domicile rules.

■ GHULAM NABI AZAD

The PM heard issues of all leaders. He said that the election process will begin when the delimitation process finishes. The PM asked all to participate in the delimitation process. We have been assured that this is the roadmap towards elections. PM also said that we are committed to the restoration of statehood.

■ ALTAF BUKHARI



In times of Covid-19
Get **ONLINE OPD CONSULTATION**
for General Medicine / Paediatrics /
Gynae & Obstetrics by
SPECIALIST / MBBS DOCTORS
Free From Home
For residents of Jammu & Kashmir

Follow the steps to consult doctors
of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
For Free at
eSanjeevaniOPD
STAY HOME OPD

Download esanjeevani app for android from Google Playstore / Apple App
store for iOS or log on to <https://esanjeevaniopd.in> on any web browser

1 Registration & Token Generation

- Verify mobile no. using OTP
- Fill Patient Registration Form
- Request Token
- Upload health records, if any
- Receive Patient ID & Token through SMS

2 Login

- Wait for SMS notification to login
- Login with Patient ID

3 Waiting Room

- Enter waiting room
- "CALL NOW" button will get activated in sometime
- Initiate VIDEO CALL

4 Consultation

- Doctor will show up
- Consult Doctor
- Get instant ePrescription

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Monday to Saturday
eSanjeevaniOPD.in

System Requirements
Android Phone or Laptop/ Computer with
Webcamera, mic, speakers & Internet

Issued in Public Interest by:
Health and Medical Education Department, J&K

DIPK-NB-1383/21



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

Friday| 25-06-2021

**Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J & K District Anantnag.
AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed
at Village Gadole from Govt.ISM Dispensary
Ahlan Gadole Anantnag UT.**



On 24/06/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nu-zhat Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Gadole Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Ahlan Gadole Anantnag 349 beneficiaries received immunity boost-ing drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of hu-man immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures.

mja

اطلاع عام

راقم کو فرٹ لائبریرائنس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے لیے
ہے۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
عزاض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر راندر
چیف انکریٹچر ایمرائنس ٹاگ کے دفتر
میں پیش کریں بعد ازاں میعاد کو بھی عزاض
قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منجانب: عاصف حسین ٹاگ دلہ غلام محمد
ٹاگ سائنس بیجا ڈھ انت ٹاگ

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard if any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AASIF HUSSAIN TAK

S/O: GHULAM

MOHAMMAD TAK

R/O: BIJBEHARA

ANANTNAG

RNA

NAME CHANGE

I want to change the name of my son from Fizza Rehman to Muhammad Yamin if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office to the Aglow Educational Institute Chadoora Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ab Rehman Sheer Gojree
F/O Muhammad Yamin
(New Name)
R/O: Khampora Sarie

**Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University
Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab-140406**

Approved under section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956
Department of Physical Education & Sports Technology

Admission Notice 2021-22

NCTE/UGC Approved Courses:	Eligibility:
M.P.Ed. 2 Years	B.P.Ed. 2 yrs / B.P.Ed. 4 yrs
B.P.Ed. 2 Years	Graduation in any stream
B.P.E.S. 3 Years	+2

Admission Helpline: 6280407415

CONTACT FOR ADMISSION:

Prof. (Dr.) Bhupinder Singh Ghuman (9814347819)
Mr. Tahir Maqbool (7051529761)
Mr. A. B. Singh Mal (8699005452)

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL
OFFICER BUDGAM**

CORRIGENDUM

In continuation to advertisement notification No. CMOB/NHM/21-22/435-41 dated 06-05-2021. Please read below mentioned selection criteria for the Post of FMPHW/MMPHW under ECRP Budgam.

Selection Criteria for the post of FMPHW/MMPHW	
1.	10th =30 Points on pro rata basis
2.	Diploma in FMPHW/MMPHW =70 points on pro rata basis

NO:- CMOB/NHM/21-22/789-92

Dated: 14-06-2021

Chief Medical Officer
Budgam

DIPK-3461/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

e-mail: sewucma@gmail.com

**Office of the Superintending Engineer
Wular Conservation & Management Authority**

Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190001

e- NIT NO: - 01 OF 2021-22 DATED: 22 -06-2021

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Doc. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/ Opening Committee.
1	Providing & Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks in MWS-Kunan, Comp. 110A/KH at Kunan, Erin Forest Block of Bandipora Forest Division. District Bandipora Year 2021-22	16.30	"B&C"	Rs. 800/=	30 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee
2	Providing & Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks in MWS-Malangam, Comp. 21/a of Bandipora Forest Division. District Bandipora Year 2021-22	60.75	"AAV"	Rs. 1600/=	60 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee
3	Providing & Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks in MWS-Kenusu, Comp. 35/K Gojarpatti (Kamraj) of Bandipora Year 2021-22	37.76	"A&B"	Rs. 1100/=	50 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee
4	Construction of Dry Random Rubble Masonry Nallah Stone Check Dams (DRSM) works) at different spots of Comptt: 12-13/KH of Bandipora Forest Division, Distt. Bandipora Year 2020-21	11.51	"B,C&D"	Rs. 600/=	30 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract (Tender document) and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-06-2021
Download Start Date:	22-06-2021 from 05:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	22-06-2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	12-07-2021 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	13-07-2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Superintending Engineer Wular Conservation & Management Authority Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bids Online:	Will be notified separately

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://jktenders.gov.in
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be as per time schedule mentioned.
- Bids uploaded must be accompanied with Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Project Coordinator CAT WUCMA as per prescribed format with the tender document (Annexure-A) for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest.
- The bids should be accompanied by Bid security declaration (dully notarized) in favour of Project Coordinator CAT Wular Conservation & Management Authority Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The successful bidder has to produce a performance security of 3% of the above advertized cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Coordinator CAT WUCMA before issuance of contract allotment.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year 2021-22, PAN Card, Valid GST Registration, Bid security declaration (dully notarized) & Treasury receipt/ Challan (cost of Tender Document) as per prescribed format as Annexure-A in the tender document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Opening Committee however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- Bidders are advised not make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved in the same name as it contains.
- The unit rate and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rate quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto the completion of work physically/financially. The deduction of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill prevailing at the time of recovery.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed tender document.

NO:- SE/WUCMA/21/161-66
Dated:- 22/06/2021

DIPK-NB-1361/21

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, WUCMA,
Rajbagh Srinagar.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NIT NO. 57/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 06/2021

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Re-modeling of Ground Floor, Bath Rooms including other allied Works of Govt. Quarter No. J-59 at Jawahar Nagar Srinagar.	3.19 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	2216-Non Plan
2.	Up-gradation of Ante-Room of CMO Office Srinagar in 2nd Floor at Old Secretariat Srinagar.	1.39 lacs	300/-	15 Days	DEE	
3.	Urgent Repairs of Govt. Quarter No. J-64 at Jawahar Nagar Srinagar	3.42 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	

Position of AAA:

Position of funds:

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.06.2021 from 3.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	21.06.2021 from 3.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	29.06.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29.06.2021 at 3.05 PM. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

71. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquaint bid submission process.

72. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

74. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

75. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

8. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

9. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

DIPK-3440/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/2125-35/2021-22 T-1

Dated: - 21-06-2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

Email :dtk@jktourism.org Tel/Fax 0914-2502279/2502281

Open Auction for Fruit Crop for the year 2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, it is notified for information of General Public that open auction of fruit crop/ following Tourism Orchards for the year 2021 shall be held at TRC, Srinagar as per schedule indicated against each:-

S.No.	Location/variety of trees	Date/place of auc-tion.	Time	Minimum reserve bid	Earnest Money/ CDR
1.	Manasbal (walnut/other Fruits	08.07.2021 TRC, Sgr.	2.00 pm.	Rs. 64,000/-	Rs.10,000/-
2.	Kokernag Walnut	08.07.2021 TRC, Sgr.	2.00 pm.	Rs.1,24,000/-	Rs.15,000/-

Terms & Conditions.

- The interested parties/bidders shall visit the site for assessment of the fruit/value.
- The earnest money shall be deposited by the interested bidders in the shape of CDR pledged to Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir during office hours by or before 03.07.2021 upto 3.00 p.m.
- Only those bidders would be allowed to participate in the auction process who may be ready to offer the bids from the minimum reserve bid as prescribed above and the CDR of the violators, thereof, if any, shall be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 50% of the bid amount on-the-spot & also ensure the balance payment of 50% bid amount in the Govt. chest within next 07-days from the date of auction.
- The auction proceedings shall be conducted in presence of the Auction Committee of the Department constituted for the purpose.
- The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the highest bid or any bid, without assigning any reason thereof.
- Other conditions, if any, shall be announced/conveyed on the spot, however, before the start of auction proceedings.
- The applicant/bidder should not be working in any Government Department or any Public Sector Undertaking.

Sd/-
Director Tourism,
Kashmir.

NO:-Estate/9-B/DTK/207

Dated: 23.06.2021

DIPK-3413/21

Surveillance Teams To Monitor Anti-encroachment Drives Around Srinagar Water Bodies

Anti-encroachment Drives To Intensify

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday asked the concerned officers to gear up the surveillance teams and intensify the anti encroachment drive along Nigeen Lake, Khushaal sar, Gilsar and Nalah-e-Amir Khan and take strict action as per law against the persons indulging in littering and dumping garbage into these natural resources.

He reviewed the pace of works being carried out for restoration of historical water bodies in Srinagar including Nigeen Lake, Khushaal sar, Gilsar and Nallah-e-Amir Khan. During the meeting, the District Development Commissioner was apprised about the latest status regarding the restoration works. He was also given detailed presentations through Google Map on the water channels in Srinagar showing en-



croachments and restoration work done so far. The DDC directed the concerned to ensure all Ghats along the water channel are restored over next 2-3 days. He also directed for constituting a five member Committee of officers from Revenue, PWD, I&FC, LAWDA and SMC to conduct the survey of all Ghats and approach road within 3 days. The DC also directed SMC to ensure removal of garbage and muck along the embankments and install dust bins all along the

channels within 2 days. The DDC was informed that door to door garbage collection has been started in the concerned SMC wards to curb littering and throwing garbage in water bodies leading to their degradation which poses great threat to human existence. The Superintendent Engineer PWD informed that DPR for redesigning of bridges along the channel will be submitted within 3 days and necessary upgradation work will be started soon.

The DDC asked the UEED to prepare a DPR for the Garland drainage system with 3 days to upgrade the existing drainage system on modern lines.

The LAWDA authorities were asked to submit an updated detailed report regarding restoration of Baba Dam water body on a weekly basis.

The DDC urged all the officers to work in a coordinated manner to conserve and revive pristine glory of these historical water bodies. He further said that one of the purposes of the restoration measures is to restore the original water navigation circuit in Srinagar district. The restoration of these water bodies will not only enhance the scenic beauty and environment of the areas but also generate ample opportunities of employment for local youth.

The DDC also appealed to people to stop littering and throwing garbage in water bodies leading to their degradation which poses great threat to human existence.

Govt Proposes Parking Facilities To Decongest City Traffic Jams

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Commissioner Kashmir Qazi Sarwar Thursday stressed on making better parking facilities available at all designated spots to decongest traffic jams in the city. He chaired a meeting of officers to review the transport management system meet. The meeting among others was attended by SMC Commissioner, CE KPDCI, VC LAWDA, VC SDA, RD Pollution, ADC Srinagar, Custodian Kashmir,SSPs Traffic Rural and City, ARTO Srinagar, AC Nazool, SE Hydraulic and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Additional Commissioner took stock of the progress of all transport system related works. He emphasised on proper regulation of public transport and adequate public transport is made available in all urban and rural areas of the valley. He further stressed his concern to remove all encroachments on footpaths and roads in all areas and offenders be booked under the law. At the outset, the Ad. Com also reviews the functioning of traffic lights, removal of bottlenecks, public utilities and other related issues.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of D Class Contractor Card. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the R&B Division Khanabal Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sajad Ahmad Bhat
S/o Gh Mohiuddn Bhat
R/o Kullar Tehsil Sallar Dist: Anantnag

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of General Public that I have lost my Migration Certificate of Class 12th under Roll No: N14440130048 SOMEWHERE IN IARKIPORA (KHAG) Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection may contact ZEO Office magam within 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Yaswar Nazir
S/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat
R/o Bungund , CELL: 700653624

BMG

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas an joint application has been received by this office from Mr/Mr Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Rashid Dar R/o Kanjgund Anantnag (Party no 1st) as transferee (seller) owner of the vehicle Maxi cab Tavera bearing registration No 9587 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No 3576 LMM ANG and Mr/Muhammad Ahmad Shah S/o Mohd Abdullah Shah R/o Latroo AshmuqamAng (party no 1st) as transferee [purchaser] requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party no 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Sudarshan hire purchase jammu.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may 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.

No. 101/6980/Ang
Dated : 23-06-2021

Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas an joint application has been received by this office from Mr/Mr Aminul Rasool S/o Ghilrasool Mir R/o Munirabad Ashajpora Anantnag (Party no 1st) as transferee (seller) owner of the vehicle Figo iMv bearing registration No JK03C 2361 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No 3976 LMM ANG and Mr/Muhammad Ahmad Dar S/o Gh Qadir Dar R/o FatehporeBaramulla (party no 2nd) as transferee [purchaser] requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party no 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with NSE.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may 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.

No. 101/7017/MV/D/ANG
Dated : 24-06-2021

Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of D Class Contractor Card. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the R&B Division Khanabal Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ab Aziz Reshi
S/o Mohd Abdullah Reshi
R/o Kullar Tehsil Sallar Dist: Anantnag

RNA

انٲیات گوم احمد پورہ

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست: زیرہ بنیم بیو غلام رسول صوفی ساکنہ یوچین تحصیل چین برادر عطا علی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں درخواست ساکن ا ساکنہ طرفہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے درپست نمودار کا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان سائل اسانہ کا شور بر غلام صوفی مورہ 08-01-2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے اور حوئی پیشہ سے درو حوہ رافر کہہ ذیل ہے

گھر بلکام	40 سال
مزدوری	26 سال
حزوری	25 سال
در تعلیم	22 سال
زیر تعلیم	18 سال

سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر حذا میں اندر سات یم پیش کریں بعد میں دیکھو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیل bmg_r

انٲیات گوم احمد پورہ

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست: زونیم بیو غلام رسول صوفی ساکنہ یوچین تحصیل چین برادر عطا علی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں درخواست ساکن ا ساکنہ طرفہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے درپست نمودار کا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان سائل اسانہ کا شور بر غلام صوفی مورہ 08-01-2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے اور حوئی پیشہ سے درو حوہ رافر کہہ ذیل ہے

گھر بلکام	40 سال
در تعلیم	20 سال
زیر تعلیم	18 سال
زیر تعلیم	16 سال

سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر حذا میں اندر سات یم پیش کریں بعد میں دیکھو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیل bmg-r

انٲیات ونہ بلکام باعاش منور احمد خان نائب تحصیلدار

درخواست منجاب: سائل احمد شیر گوبری ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری ساکنہ موضع راجکام طلع اہتہ ڈگ

بفرض حصول RBA سرٹفکیٹ۔

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں ساکن ایک درخواست بفرض حصول RBA سرٹفکیٹ بفرض میں میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے، پورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیان ہے کہ سال کا تہذہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

احمد بیو غلام حسن شیر گوبری	36 سال
م شیر علیہ ذہب محمد بیو شیر گوبری	30 سال
سائل احمد ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری	16 سال
سیرت جان ذہب محمد بیو شیر گوبری	14 سال
اقبال ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری	08 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں موجود ہیں۔ کہیں کسی آدمی ایک لاکھ سے اوپر ہے۔ لہذا سرٹفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

AAC Organises Fateha Khawani For Deceased Leader

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee organised a congregational Fateha Khawani of late Khawaja Muhammad Syed Dedmaree, zonal president of the organisation, at his Naid Kadal residence in Srinagar.

The Fateha Khawani was attended by key officials of the AAC, senior workers and local party leaders and constituency presidents of Srinagar city as well as people from across the region. In the condolence meeting, rich

tributes were paid to late Syed Dedmaree for his selfless services to the organisation, the movement and all the institutions associated with the Mirwaiz Family.

The speakers present on the occasion reiterated that the late leader was an active, sincere and dedicated soldier of the organisation saying Syed Dedmaree's services cannot be forgotten and that the boldness with which he has played a role in carrying forward the organisational and motivational programmes in the city cannot be ignored.

انٲیات نائب تحصیلدار کچھو اقامت

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست منجاب محمد بیو شیخ ولد عبدالرشید ساکنہ وراسن برادر عطا علی بنیکوار ڈا ابرار سرٹفکیٹ تحت SRO 942

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں درخواست ساکن ایک طرفہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے درپست نمودار کا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل اسانہ کا شور بر غلام صوفی مورہ 08-01-2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے اور حوئی پیشہ سے درو حوہ رافر کہہ ذیل ہے

گھر بلکام	68 سال
مزدوری	25 سال
زیر تعلیم	24 سال

سرٹفکیٹ اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انٲیات پندرہ

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست منجاب فرحات طالب وسائل طالب وروحنت طالب اولادان طالب حسین شیخ ساکنہ پندرہ و برادر عطا علی PSC تحت SRO 942

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں درخواست ساکن ایک طرفہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے درپست نمودار کا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل اسانہ کا شور بر غلام صوفی مورہ 08-01-2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے اور حوئی پیشہ سے درو حوہ رافر کہہ ذیل ہے

گھر بلکام	38 سال
مزدوری	33 سال
زیر تعلیم	18 سال
در تعلیم	15 سال
زیر تعلیم	12 سال

سرٹفکیٹ اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انٲیات کلترہ

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست منجاب شکیل احمد خٹار ولد فیض احمد خٹار ساکنہ کچھو اقامت برادر عطا علی SC سرٹفکیٹ تحت SRO 942

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں درخواست ساکن ایک طرفہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے درپست نمودار کا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل اسانہ کا شور بر غلام صوفی مورہ 08-01-2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے اور حوئی پیشہ سے درو حوہ رافر کہہ ذیل ہے

گھر بلکام	40 سال
مزدوری	26 سال
حزوری	25 سال
در تعلیم	22 سال
زیر تعلیم	18 سال

سرٹفکیٹ اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انٲیات احمد علی با اعاش ملواری احمد علیکام نائب تحصیلدار اراجھل

مضمون درخواست منجاب: موئی محمد ایوب کوئی ولد غلام حسن کوئی ساکنہ موضع منجی دارہ تحصیل اہتہ و طلع اہتہ ڈگ۔

بفرض حصول ایک ہر غلطیک۔

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد کی نسبت ساکن کے کا نقذات بفرض حصول ایک ہر غلطیک دفتر میں زیر کاروائی ہے۔ جو کہ موئی با طالع سائل کے شور بر حوئی مورہ 8/06/2021 کوکے ہو چکا ہے۔ حوئی کے کہیں کسی تفصیل ذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	رشتہ برادر موئی	پیشہ	عمر
01	مسما علیہ با نور محمد محمد ایوب کوئی	ذہب موئی	گھر بلکام	50 سال
02	است ایوب اختر محمد ایوب کوئی	ذہب موئی	زیر تعلیم	26 سال
03	عنان ایوب ولد محمد محمد ایوب کوئی	اپر موئی	تعلیم	23 سال

موئی کا تہذہ 03 افراد ہیں تفصیل سے سائل کو دفتر میں پیش تفصیل دکھانے کی نسبت غلطیکت اگر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

انٲیات ونہ بلکام با اعاش منور احمد خان نائب تحصیلدار

درخواست منجاب: سائل احمد شیر گوبری ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری ساکنہ موضع راجکام طلع اہتہ ڈگ۔

بفرض حصول OBC سرٹفکیٹ۔

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان احمد میں ساکن ایک درخواست بفرض حصول OBC سرٹفکیٹ دفتر میں میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے، پورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیان ہے کہ سال کا تہذہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

احمد بیو غلام حسن شیر گوبری	36 سال
م شیر علیہ ذہب محمد بیو شیر گوبری	30 سال
سائل احمد ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری	16 سال
سیرت جان ذہب محمد بیو شیر گوبری	14 سال
اقبال ولد محمد بیو شیر گوبری	08 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں موجود ہیں۔ کہیں کسی آدمی ایک لاکھ سے اوپر ہے۔ لہذا سرٹفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو گا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر کی ادوات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معطل کر کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

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 - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

This Day in History

- 253 - St Lucius I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 524 - Battle of Vézeronce, the Franks defeat the Burgundians
- 841 - Battle at Fontenay: Louis & Charles beat their brother Lotharius I
- 1080 - Wibbert of Ravenna chosen as anti-pope Clemens III
- 1096 - 1st Crusade slaughter Jews of Werelinghofen Germany
- 1139 Battle of Ourique: Afonso I defeats Moors
- 1139- Battle of Ourique: Afonso I defeats Moors
- 1183- Peace of Konstanz signed between Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and Italian Lombard League
- 1638- Lunar eclipse is 1st astronomical event recorded in the American Colonies
- 1667-1st blood transfusion performed by French Doctor Jean-Baptiste Denys
- 1672- 1st recorded monthly Quaker meeting in US held, Sandwich, Mass
- 1678-Elena Cornaro Piscopia, a Venetian, is awarded a doctorate of philosophy - first woman to receive a university doctoral decree
- 1900- Russia mobilizes its army in eastern Siberia preparatory to acting against the Chinese, but also in an attempt to diminish the influence of Japan on the Asian mainland
- 1905-Warsaw & Lodz revolt against Russian occupation
- 1919- 1st advanced monoplane airliner flight (Junkers F13)
- 1940- Adolf Hitler views Eiffel tower & grave of Napoleon in Paris, France
- 1941- Finland declares war on Soviet Union
- 1945-Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo announce fall of Okinawa
- 1948- Harry Truman signs Displaced Persons Bill (205,000 Europeans to US)
- 1949- Presidential election in Syria (some women allowed to vote)
- 1950- Korean conflict begins; North Korea invades South Korea
- 1950 -UN member states begin using integrated forces against North Korea
- 1953-1st passenger to fly commercially around the world < 100 hours
- 1960- Madagascar gains independence from France
- 1960- Somaliland is granted independence by British government
- 1961- Iraq announces that Kuwait is a part of Iraq (Kuwait disagrees)
- 1966- Kosmos 122, 1st Soviet weather satellite, launched
- 1967- First global satellite television programme - Our World
- 1975-After a prolonged liberation struggle against Portuguese colonial rulers, Mozambique becomes independent as People Republic of Mozambique.
- 1981- Microsoft is restructured to become an incorporated business in its home state of Washington.
- 1991- Slovenia & Croatia declare independence from Yugoslavia
- 2012-33 Syrian army officers defect to Turkey
- 2013 - 37 people are killed after a gold mine collapses in the Central African Republic
- 2017 - Tanker carrying fuel bursts into flames near Ahmedpur East, Pakistan, killing more than 200 people
- 2018 - UK House of Commons votes for a controversial third Heathrow runway
- 2018 - Californian Governor Jerry Brown declares State of Emergency for wildfire spread over 8,200 acres in Lake County

From KO Archives

Pak Minister's Request To Visit J&K Rejected

NEW DELHI - Government today rejected Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid's request to travel to Jammu and Kashmir by Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30.

The government has declined to accord permission lo Sheikh Rashid lo visit Jammu and Kashmir taking into account "all relevant aspects involved." External Affairs Minister spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here.

Sarna said the government processed Sheikh Rashid's application and "has declined to accord permission taking into "account all relevant aspects involved" the spokesman did not give any further details but it is understood that Rashid has been declined the permission because the government has taken serious note of reports that his farm house was used for training Kashmiri militants.

According to sources, Rashid had not even furnished in his application any address of relatives whom he wanted to meet,a mandatory requirement. Following revelation by JKLF leader Yasin Malik in Pakistan that Rashid had organised a training camp in 1988-99 for 3500 militants at his farm house near Rawalpindi. Government had reacted sharply saying it was a matter of great concern.

New Delhi had held that it was particularly serious that "people directly invoked in such activities continue to occupy high positions in Pakistan.

Rashid shocked Islamabad: Unhappy over Indian government's decision not to permit him to travel to Jammu and Kashmir by Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus on June 30,Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid today vowed to continue his support to the "peaceful freedom struggle" of Kashmiris.

"The Indian government decision to impose ban on my travel to Srinagar has shocked and saddened me. It also frustrated those in Indian administered Kashmir who were anxiously awaiting my visit. The decision also had upset my relatives in Indian administered Kashmir." Rashid told reporters here.

"I will continue support to the peaceful freedom struggle of Kashmiris. A day will come when I will visit Kashmir." he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 25 June, 2005)

SL pardons suspected Tamil Tigers convicted of terrorism

Agencies

Colombo: Sri Lanka's president has pardoned 16 men linked to the Tamil Tiger rebels, as the island nation faces renewed pressure from the United Nations over detentions without charge under an anti-terrorism law.

Thursday's pardon is a first for people linked to the Tigers since Gotabaya Rajapaksa came to power in 2019 on a nationalist agenda, which included a promise that troops who crushed the rebels would not be prosecuted.

The men were convicted under the Prevention of Terrorism



Act (PTA) that gives security forces sweeping powers to arrest and detain suspects. The UN Human Rights Council and other international rights groups have called for it to be repealed.

"The 16 Tamil detainees are among 94 prisoners who received a presidential pardon," prison superintendent Chandana Ekanayake said about the release that came on the Buddhist festival of Poson.

The men had been behind bars for at least a decade, he added.

Government officials said the release was the first phase of a plan to free all those held or charged under the PTA.

Another 78 people arrested under the law on suspicion of supporting the separatist Tamil Tigers have been in custody for decades, political sources from the Tamil community told AFP news agency.

Legislator Namal Rajapaksa, the president's nephew and son of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, told parliament this week that some of those imprisoned had been in jail since before he was born in 1986.

He added that his government is working to free them. The law allows suspects to be held without charge for long periods.

The UN Human Rights Council last week urged the government to either charge or release those detained under the PTA, including human rights activists who were recently arrested.

Critics warn the law is being used as a weapon targeting dissidents and minorities in the fractured country.

The Tigers were crushed in a no-holds-barred military campaign that ended in May 2009.

International rights groups have called on Sri Lanka to ensure accountability for atrocities allegedly committed when thousands of civilians were killed in the final stages of the 37-year separatist war.

The military has denied the allegations and the Rajapaksa government has slammed the criticism as politically motivated.



'Delta Variant Now Reported In 85 Countries Globally, Expected To Become Dominant Lineage'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : The Delta variant, the significantly more transmissible strain of Covid, is expected to become a "dominant lineage" if current trends continue, the WHO has warned after it was reported in 85 countries and continues to be detected in more places around the world.

The Covid Weekly Epidemiological Update released on June 22 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that globally, the variant Alpha has been reported in 170 countries, territories or areas, Beta in 119 countries, Gamma in 71 countries and Delta in 85 countries.

"Delta, now reported in 85

countries globally, continues to be reported in new countries across all WHO Regions, 11 of which were newly reported in the past two weeks,"

is expected to become a dominant lineage if current trends continue."

The update said that India reported the highest

Delta, now reported in 85 countries globally, continues to be reported in new countries across all WHO Regions, 11 of which were newly reported in the past two weeks

the update said.

WHO said the four current 'Variants of Concern' being monitored closely - Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta - are widespread and have been detected in all WHO regions.

"The Delta variant is significantly more transmissible than Alpha variant, and

numbers of new Covid cases, 441,976 over the past week (June 14-20, 2021), a 30 per cent decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (16,329 new deaths; 1.2 new deaths per 100,000; a 31 per cent decrease).

Delta Variant Significantly More Transmissible, Dangerous: Indian-American Doctor

Agencies

Washington: The Delta variant of the COVID-19, which now makes up 90 per cent of all new cases, is significantly more transmissible and more dangerous in terms of severity of illness that it causes, America's Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy said on Wednesday.

"We have seen how quickly it has taken over in the United Kingdom, where it's become - getting close to 100 per cent of new COVID cases, Delta. And we have seen a surge here too. So I am worried," Dr Murthy told MSNBC.

"I'm quite worried about the Delta variant. It is more transmissible, significantly more transmissible. It also may be more dangerous in terms of severity of illness that it causes," he said.

Dr Murthy said that he is worried about those people who have not been vaccinated so far.

"I'm worried about those who are not vaccinated, because what we have found is, based on the studies coming out of the UK, that if you are vaccinated, you are actually quite well-protected particularly against hospitalizations and deaths," he said.

"The worry is if you're not vaccinated, that you're at even

greater risk than you were before. So, what I don't want to see is a growing divide in our country between the unvaccinated and vaccinated. We've got to close that gap. That's why we're working so hard to get people vaccinated everywhere," he said in response to a question.

kid's level of risk really depends on where you live and how high the community vaccination rates are. And this is why we always say - and I say this as a dad who's got two young kids, three and four, whose ... we don't have a vaccine available for kids that young. So, I'm worried about my



Dr Murthy said that he is worried about those people who have not been vaccinated so far. (File)

So far, 65.4 per cent of Americans have received at least one dose, 55.9 per cent are fully vaccinated. The vaccination rate for age 12 and older is at 62.5 per cent, and over 18 years is at 65.4 per cent.

"Your level of risk, your

kids, just like any other parents are," Dr Murthy said.

"This is why we say the vaccination effort is more about what you're doing for yourself. It's about the step you're taking to help protect those around you from getting infected, because

HRW accuses UAE of detaining, deporting Pakistanis

Agencies

DUBAI: Human Rights Watch (HRW) has accused the United Arab Emirates of "forcibly disappearing" four Pakistani men since October and of deporting six others based on their Shia background.

The 10 men had mostly lived and worked in the UAE for many years as managers, sales staff, CEOs of small businesses, labourers and drivers, the New York-based campaign group said in a report published on Tuesday.

Human Rights Watch has previously said hundreds of activists, academics and lawyers are serving lengthy sentences in UAE jails. The UAE has dismissed those accusations as false and unsubstantiated.

"UAE authorities released and immediately deported the six in October and November after also subjecting them to enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention for between three weeks and five months," the HRW report said.

One of the four men who remain in detention was able to call his family after six months. The family still does neither know where authorities are holding him nor why he was detained, the report said.

The rights group said it had spoken with family members who said they knew of other Pakistani Shias who had been picked up by UAE authorities since mid-September.

"Reports of UAE authorities arbitrarily targeting Shia residents, whether Lebanese, Iraqi, Afghan, Pakistani or otherwise, often emerge at times of increased regional tensions," HRW said.



McAfee antivirus software creator dead in Spanish prison

Agencies

Madrid: John McAfee, the creator of the McAfee antivirus software, has been found dead in his cell in a jail near Barcelona, a government official has said.

Hours earlier, a Spanish court issued a preliminary ruling in favor of the 75-year-old tycoon's extradition to the United States to face tax-related criminal charges.

Security personnel at the Brians 2 penitentiary near the northeastern Spanish city tried to revive him, but the jail's medical team finally certified his death, a statement from the regional Catalan government said.

The statement didn't identify McAfee by name, but said he was a 75-year-old U.S. citizen awaiting extradition to his country. A Catalan government source familiar with the event who was not authorised to be named in media reports confirmed to the AP on Wednesday that the dead man was McAfee.

Spain's National Court on Monday ruled in favour of extraditing McAfee, who had argued in a hearing earlier this month that the charges against him were politically motivated and that he would spend the rest of his life in prison if he was returned to the U.S.

The court's ruling was made public on Wednesday and could be appealed. Any final extradition order would also need to get approval from the Spanish Cabinet.

Tennessee prosecutors charged McAfee with evading taxes after failing to report income made from promoting cryptocurrencies while he did con-



The court's ruling was made public on Wednesday and could be appealed. Any final extradition order would also need to get approval from the Spanish Cabinet.

sultancy work, as well as income from speaking engagements and selling the rights to his life story for a documentary. The criminal charges carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years.

The entrepreneur was arrested last October at Barcelona's international airport. A judge ordered at that time that McAfee should be held in jail while awaiting the outcome of a hearing on extradition. (AP)

NEWS MAKERS

Jeff Bezos Plans To Fly Into Space Soon. No One Willing To Insure Him



lion market to insure satellites, rockets and unmanned space flight, but no legal requirement for an operator such as Blue Origin, which Bezos founded, to insure passengers for injury

or death or for space tourists to have life cover, brokers and insurers said.

"We're not aware of a case where anybody is insured against passenger liability," Neil

Stevens, senior vice president, aviation and space at Marsh, the world's biggest insurance broker, told Reuters.

Assuming they lift-off as planned next month, Bezos and the other wannabe astronauts on Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft will not only spend several minutes 62 miles (100 km) above the earth in a truck-sized capsule, they also have to get back.

The only group that has regularly flown humans sub-orbitally since the 1960s is Branson's Virgin Galactic. All have been tests, with one failure in 2014 resulting in a death. Blue Origin has flown 15 unmanned sub-orbital flights with no failures, Seradata SpaceTrak data showed on June 10.

Bezos, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic did not respond to requests for comment from Reuters on their insurance plans and flight records.

Hong Kong's Apple Daily Signs Off In "Painful Farewell"

Hong Kong, China: Hong Kong's most vocal pro-democracy newspaper, Apple Daily, printed its last edition on Thursday after a stormy year in which its tycoon owner and other staff were arrested under a new national security law, and its assets were frozen. The closure of the popular tabloid, which mixes pro-democracy views with celebrity gossip and investigations of those in power, marks the end of an era for media freedom in the Chinese-ruled city, critics say. "Thank you to all readers, subscribers, ad clients and Hong Kongers for 26 years of immense love and support. Here we say goodbye, take care of yourselves," the paper said in an online article. Hundreds of supporters

gathered outside Apple Daily's building on Wednesday night to show support, sometimes in heavy rain, and waved smartphone lights. Journalists came out onto the balcony and responded with their own phones.

The last front page carried a photograph of a member of staff waving at supporters, with the headline "Hong Kongers bid a painful farewell in the rain".

A Reuters reporter present in the Apple Daily newsroom saw dozens of journalists break into applause once the final edition was sent to press, and some in tears.

Reporter Alvin Chan went outside to distribute free copies to the supporters, saying: "I hope everyone can ... continue to believe in our values." The paper, whose online version will also stop updat-

ing, said it was printing a million copies of its last edition - more than 10 times its normal print run.

Shortly after midnight, some news stands waiting for delivery already had hundreds of people queuing.

Apple Daily's support for democratic rights and freedoms has made it a thorn in Beijing's side since owner Jimmy Lai, a self-made tycoon who was smuggled from mainland China into Hong Kong on a fishing boat at the age of 12, started it in 1995.

It shook up the region's Chinese-language media landscape and became a champion of democracy on the margins of Communist China. Its demise leaves only a handful of small online outlets on that side of politics, including Stand News and Citizen News.

Launching one of the richest individuals on earth into orbit has proved a leap too far for insurers, who are not ready to price the risk of losing Jeff Bezos or his fellow space travelers.

Amazon CEO Bezos, a lifelong space enthusiast, has been vying with Elon Musk and Richard Branson to become the first billionaire to fly beyond the earth's atmosphere.

And while insurers are well known for offering cover for even the most outlandish of risks, at a price, potential accidents in space are not yet among them.

"Space tourism involves significant risk, but is not an issue life insurers specifically ask about as yet because it is so rare for anyone to travel into space," Insurance Information Institute (III) spokesperson Michael Barry said.

There is a nearly \$500 mil-

DC Shopian Urges People To Follow Covid SOPs



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Thursday appealed people to follow Covid Appropriate Behavior and other guidelines including wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, washing hands properly besides avoiding social gatherings to contain the spread of virus.

The Deputy Commissioner said that recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases and decreasing trend in positive cases continues, adding that the recovery rate is better than rate

of new active cases so far.

Sachin appreciated people for their better cooperation and appealed to Civil Society Members, Lumberdars, Auqaf Committees and Chowkidars to come forward and motivate 18+age group to get themselves vaccinated at the nearest places of their areas to save their precious lives.

He said that weekend restrictions have been lifted and the shops are open but stressed for adopting SOPs and other guidelines issued by the Administration, time to time.

He said acting upon the SOPs/guidelines issued by the Administration are for the benefits and protection of people and asked them to flow these strictly.

The Deputy Commissioner said that work on various developmental projects in RDD and PDD have been started smoothly across the district where all necessary guidelines are being followed to protect manpower from any ill effect of Covid-19. He said that coordinated strategy is being adopted to curb the spread of disease.

Seven Arrested For Illegal Excavation Of Minerals

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Police Thursday arrested seven persons and seized seven vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Ganderbal.

A police spokesperson said that officers from Police Station Ganderbal arrested seven persons and seized seven vehicles (Tippers) involved in extraction and transportation of raw materials "illegally extracted" from Sindh nallah.



They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

"Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Ganderbal and investigation has been initiated."

Toddler Among Two Dead In Karnah Road Accident

Observer News Service

KARNAH: Eight month old toddler was among two killed in a road accident in Jabri locality of Karnah in North Kashmir's Kupwara district Thursday.

Reports said a tata sumo bearing registration no JK05B 8799 skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jabri.

They said that the vehicle was on its way to Tangdhar from Jabri when the driver lost control over the vehicle.

"Police and local volunteers

swung into action soon after the vehicle rolled down over 200 feet."

Reports said that the toddler and a 90-year-old man, were found dead on the spot and eight others were rescued in a critical condition.

The deceased have been identified as Safdar Ali (90) and 8-months-old Afan.

They said that the injured were immediately rushed to sub-district hospital Tangdhar, where from three injured were referred to Srinagar in a critical condition.

SPO Killed In Doda Road Accident



Observer News Service

BHALESSA: A Special Police Officer (SPO) was killed while forest guard was injured in a road

accident near High School Manoe in Tehsil Chilli Pingal (Bhalesa) of Doda district.

A police official said that a Swift car bearing registration number JK02CM-0885 met with an accident at Manoe in which one SPO Ashok Kumar (1053/SPO) posted at SPP Malikpora died on spot and another forest guard Muahmmad Ashraf, son of Muhammad Shafi Zargar of Baderwah was injured.

The injured was shifted to SDH Gandoh for treatment.

NEP-2020 Will Refurbish Education Sector Across J&K: Bhatnagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Thursday maintained that the NEP-2020 aims at the reconfiguration of Primary and Secondary school education in all aspects from foundational stage to secondary stage with focus on Equitable and inclusive education for all. He added that this policy will refurbish the education sector across J&K and maximum needs of this sector will be met through this policy.

Remarking about the action plan for achieving the objectives of policy, Advisor Bhatnagar asked the members of Task Force to draft an action plan for next five year with remodelling of present set up so that the outcomes as per the NEP can be achieved. He stressed upon them to work closely and in tandem with each other in order to achieve the desired goals of NEP in a time bound manner.

The Advisor maintained that an outcome based framework should be drafted at the earliest for proper implementation of the policy with analysis on regular basis.

Highlighting about the need for training of teachers, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the members that regular Capacity Building Training programmes for teachers should be held as per the recommen-

THE ADVISOR FURTHER SAID THAT the teachers should be evaluated on daily basis and their performance should be monitored regularly for achieving desired outcomes after these capacity building training programmes.

dations of NEP as teachers are the backbone for effective implementation of this policy on ground. He emphasized that regular skill up-gradation, commitment, motivation and accountability of teachers should be done so that proper education is provided to the students.

The Advisor further said that the teachers should be evaluated on daily basis and their performance should be monitored regularly for achieving desired outcomes after these capacity building training programmes.

Underlining the importance of creating linkages between different departments during implementation of this policy, the Advisor asked the Task Force to create proper linkages between Anganwadi centres and primary schools in order to implement the several objectives of policy in cohesion with social welfare department. He impressed upon them that constant communication, coordination and synergy within the departments and among the Sub-Groups is paramount for effective implementation of the policy on ground.

Regarding the accreditation

of schools, the Advisor asked the members that a methodology with set of parameters should be drafted so that the schools can be accredited on performance basis. He asked them for regular evaluation of schools for effective outcomes.

The Advisor delved upon all the participants that regular review meetings shall be held to assess the progress in the implementation of NEP which is crucial for successful implementation of this policy. He asked the participants to utilise the existing resources and be practical in implementation of the policy on the ground.

While reviewing the existing infrastructure and facilities in schools, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers of SED to improve the facilities in all primary schools and make them at par with private institutions both in terms of imparting quality education and basic amenities so that more children are attracted towards these schools. He asked them to Geo Tag all schools and prepare digital inventory for same so that renovation and maintenance of these schools can be done on real time basis.

Dr Samoon For Providing 'Job Sufficient' Training To Youth

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon Thursday reviewed working of all skill imparting institutions. Out-station officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Samoon urged upon them to aspire for making this infrastructure correlate to their performance in terms of success stories and relevant skills imparted by them. He asked them to have inter-institutional coordination so that augmentation of both infrastructure and manpower is accomplished.

Dr Samoon asked the heads of these institutions to look for avenues locally where students could be exposed to industrial environment for certain period of time so that they get acclimatised with the actual field work and requirements for the job.



The Principal Secretary directed these heads to have survey of their areas and look for the necessary skills the local industrial units are in need of. He asked them to rope in big business houses so that the skilled manpower they are in need of could be provided from these institutions. He exhorted upon them to provide training to the students that is relevant and sufficient for seeking jobs in the market.

Dr Samoon also instructed the officers to invite professionals to demonstrate their skills in the institutions so that the students imbibe the real temperament for carrying out the job they are being trained for. He advised them to make it their mission to help every student enrolled in these institutions to secure a job at the end of their training. He asked them to make it regular feature to organise job fairs and talent hunt events.

NGDRS Portal To Remain Shut For Three Days

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) portal shall not be accessible with effect from 25th of June, 2021 (6 PM) to 27th of June, 2021 (6 PM) in view of

maintenance of the Portal to be carried out by SDU, NIC Pune.

According to a notice issued here today by the office Inspector General of Registrations, J&K, Srinagar, the inconvenience to be caused on this account is highly regretted.

Shepherd Missing After Slipping Into Stream In Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A 55-year-old shepherd has gone missing after he slipped into a Nallah near Vevan hamlet in North Kashmir's Bandipora District Thursday morning.

An official said that the shepherd was identified as Noor-uddin Chopan, a resident of Ajas Bandipora.

He said that the shepherd was with his livestock in Trisangam forest meadow which falls in Vevan hamlet, when he slipped off and fell into a nearby Nallah.

"Rescue operation teams including Police and SDRF have been deputed to the incident spot, however, they have to travel through hilly terrain and non-motorable road which may take a little longer time in rescuing him."

KVIB Budgam To Hold Interview On June 28, 29

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: According to the District Level Task Force Committee, Budgam, the J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board shall conduct interaction/interview of the candidates, who have ap-

plied for financial assistance under JKREGP on 28-06-2021 and 29-06-2021 at 11:00 AM in District Office KVIB Budgam.

All the candidates are informed to report along with original documents for interview/interaction on scheduled date and time.

Covid Positivity Rate Drops Below Two Percent In Baramulla, Budgam

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar Thursday said that positivity rate in the district has drastically reduced to mere 1.8% whereas recovery rate jumped to 97%. He said that this is a remarkable performance recorded by the district which could be-



come possible through active public cooperation and the hardwork with which our frontline workers launched a battle against the pandemic.

The DC said that following COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is the only Potent Tool which can break the chain of virus. He appealed the public to avoid large gathering and maintain social distancing for averting exigencies. The DC said that by adopting such preventive measures, we will be able to completely relax the weekend restrictions which are in place as a precautionary measure.

Kumar further informed that over 87% of the eligible beneficiaries, falling in the age group of 45+ have been vaccinated and hoped that the people will further cooperate with the administrative functionaries while carrying out the mass vaccination campaign that has been launched to get rid from the virus.

Briefing about several welfare measures that were taken to provide financial assistance especially to those children who were affected by the pandemic, the DC said that under SAKSHAM scheme, eligible beneficiaries are being identified

for which district task force was constituted. He said that work on the said scheme has almost been completed and the eligible students shall be provided with scholarship amount of Rs 20,000 per annum upto 12th class and Rs 40,000 per annum for Graduate, PG and other professional courses.

Meanwhile, the DDC Budgam said situation has improved enormously all across district as since April, 1st District Budgam recorded 14170 positive cases of COVID-19 among these till date 13585 patients since have recovered. The DDC further said that at present there are only 503 positive cases across the district, Bed occupancy is very very low positivity rate has also come down drastically and, it is now below 2% he said the recovery rate has reached to 97.0%

Regarding vaccination status the DDC said it is going smoothly and steadily as about 80% of the population of the age group of 45 and above have been vaccinated. Simultaneously with regard to the age group of 18-44, vaccination drives are going on in full swing. Joint teams of Civil and Police administration are on toes to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the DC added.

Indian Red Cross Holds Blood Donation Camp In Bandipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir Thursday organised a Blood Donation camp in collaboration with 45 BN, of CRPF in Sumbal, Bandipora. The Camp was inaugurated by Mr. Iqbal Ahmad, Commanding Officer, CRPF 45 Bn, in presence of officials of Indian Red Cross Society and Govt. Laila Deed Hospital, Srinagar.

The blood donation camps are being organised by Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu and Kashmir on the directions of Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, (Retd.) throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

Rizvi conveyed his appreciation to the blood donors for their noble sentiment

and selfless human services and assured that Red Cross shall continue its efforts in organising more such camps keeping in view the blood requirements of the hospitals during the ongoing pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad, Commanding Officer, CRPF 45 Bn, thanked the selfless services of officers and jawans who volunteered for the blood donation. Mr. Iqbal said that the blood camp was organised so that the needy patients may receive blood well in time and to save their precious lives. Mr. Iqbal lauded the efforts of Red Cross for organizing the camps with CRPF and informed that CRPF shall hold more such camps with Red Cross in future.

Bandipora Admin Distributes Relief Among Fire Victims

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad, a team of Officers of District Administration Bandipora lead by Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad paid a visit to Bankoot village to meet the fire victims whose residential houses were completely damaged in a massive fire incident on Thursday morning.

The Joint Director was accompanied by Assistant Director Fire and Emergency Services Bandipora, Naib Tehsildar Abdul Rashid and other senior officers of the district. Three residential houses were completely damaged during the fire incident while a cow was also charred to death.

On the occasion, the Joint Director interacted with the fire victims and expressed sympathies with them on behalf of the District Administration. He took first hand



appraisal of the situation and assured that every kind of possible support shall be provided for their immediate rehabilitation.

He on the occasion distributed blankets, ration and immediate cash assistance of 50,000/- to the affected families from District Red Cross Fund. He said the Revenue Department and the Fire and Emergency Services Department have assessed the

quantum of damages and forwarded the case to district administration for comprehensive relief as under SDRF norms.

Joint director assured the families that every possible assistance shall be provided to the affected families. He also directed to provide essential items as an immediate relief and take appropriate measures for their time being in shelter.

Amarnath Shrine Board Organises Pooja At Holy Cave

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, performed Pratham Pooja on 24th June, 2021 on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima at Holy Cave, amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras to invoke the blessings of Amarnathji. Hawan was also performed seeking blessings of Baba Amarnathji.

Amarnath Shrine Board has been organising Pratham Pooja on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima every year to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva for the peaceful conduct of the Annual Yatra.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, Amarnath Yatra 2021 has been cancelled, but the Shrine Board is committed to carry out all religious rituals a per past practice, the CEO, SASB said.



The CEO prayed for the good health and well-being of the people.

"With the blessings of Lord Shiva, who is a source of strength for people during this difficult time, we shall overcome this health crisis and work towards welfare of the mankind," the CEO said.

The CEO further said in order to respect the religious sentiments of millions of devotees worldwide, SASB has made all the arrangements for carrying out traditional religious rituals at the Holy Cave.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Easing second wave

The number of Covid-19 infections in India is going down with every passing day. On Thursday, India recorded 54, 336 new coronavirus cases and 1,321 deaths. With this the active caseload has dropped to 6.27 lakh, a far cry from the above four lakh cases witnessed at the peak of the second Covid-19 wave.

Though a significant number of cases are still being witnessed in states like

Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and West Bengal, the overall trend is downwards.

This has normalised the situation in the country. The strict lockdown that was in force in large parts of the country during March and April has been eased. Government is mulling further reopening of the economy, albeit, it will still take some time before return to normalcy.

It is expected that schools and colleges in the country may reopen soon. Educational institutions have been closed since March 2020 after a nationwide lockdown was imposed to contain the spread of the infection. Though offline classes were resumed for students of 10 and 12 for a short period early this year, the second wave forced a quick closure again.

Ditto for businesses. They could only reopen for a brief duration before being closed again. As a result, the economy has grievously suffered. In Kashmir, the impact has been most severe. The Valley suffered in two successive lockdowns - one imposed in the wake of revocation of Article 370 and another as a result of the outbreak of the Covid-19. According to the Valley's business bodies, the lockdowns led to loss of over 50,000 crore rupees last year.

The reason for the nationwide drop in cases can be attributed to a blend of lockdown and vaccination. The centre has now set for itself the ambitious goal of vaccinating the entire country by the end of this year. So, the effort is to pace up the vaccination drive. However, it won't be easy to accomplish the massive task. More so, with vaccines still in short supply.

Going forward, the government has to make a sparing use of lockdown, enforce Covid-appropriate behaviour and speed up the vaccination to ensure that the third Covid-19 wave doesn't rear its head. Vaccination, however, will hold the key. The decreasing trend of the infections is a good news. The government should now build upon it by scaling up the production of vaccines.

Much is at stake in India. The economy that was battered last year can't afford one more year of disruption. Already lakhs of people are jobless or have had their incomes truncated. There's no other option but to vaccinate a critical mass of people to get a handle on the pandemic.

OTHER OPINION

Shed Imaginary Fears on Population

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) State Law Commission is working on a draft law, which will seek to limit the benefits of state government schemes only to those with two children or less. Last week, Assam's chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, said that his government would implement a similar policy. Mr Sarma made a reference to minor-ities (read Muslims) while making this statement. And in 2016, 2019 and 2020, three separate bills by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament were introduced in Parliament, demanding the linking of welfare benefits to a two-child policy. To be sure, a 2020 affidavit by the central government has opposed the idea of forcing people to have only a certain number of children. Whether the recent posturing by BJP state governments materialises into a law remains to be seen. Any such law will also have to pass judicial scrutiny.

But the idea itself, of enforcing a two-child norm, is deeply flawed and based on erroneous assumptions. As a data-based analysis published in this newspaper on Wednesday showed, India's population growth peaked a long time ago and it has been on a declining trajectory. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has also been coming down significantly; from 3.4 in 1992-93 to 2.2 in 2015-16, as per data from the National Family and Health Survey. The declining trend in TFR holds for both Hindus and Muslims. While it is true that TFR is higher among Muslims, and this trend holds even after factoring in important drivers such as household wealth and education, the Hindu-Muslim differential in TFR has also been falling over time. In short, any paranoia over an overall or Muslim-specific population explosion, which appears to be the political subtext driving recent moves, is not based on facts.

Hindustan Times

The Kashmir outreach and the Afghan Storm

The Government's J&K moves may be part of a more complex regional game involving India's security interests

Suhasini Haider

Two years after its dramatic decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Government appears to be rethinking some of the objectives it announced then as Prime Minister Narendra Modi engages the erstwhile State's former leadership to discuss the future of the political process there. Mr. Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken of three specific objectives in the move to amend Article 370 on August 5, 2019, apart from ending terrorism and violence in J&K: flooding the region with development initiatives and investment from other parts of the country; reclaiming those parts of the territory now occupied by Pakistan and China (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, or PoK, and Aksai Chin), and ending the rule of political "dynasties" in J&K — that they claimed had held the progress of the State hostage — in favour of a "Naya Kashmir" polity. Above all, the Government underlined, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar undertook a series of visits abroad to explain its nuances, the decision was purely an "internal" one, and did not affect India's ties with any other country.

Objectives and Reality

While two years may not be long enough to truly judge the success of its intentions, particularly given the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, it is certainly fair to say the Government has failed to make headway with most of those objectives. Incidents of terrorism and violence have no doubt decreased since 2019, but that has come at the cost of massive privations to the people in the name of security. More than 5,000 people were arrested, the longest Internet shutdown in any democracy was instituted for 213 days, and the deployment of troops still remains at peacetime highs. The plight of the ordinary Kashmiri, battling daily intimidations from security forces, the closure of schools and online education for their children, and diminishing sources of income, can only be imagined. Attempts to convince investors that this is a lasting peace have floundered thus far, and while the Government claims it has more than 400 memoranda of understanding from businesses nationwide promising to invest in the Union Territory, this can only be tested once the money actually comes in, given the state of the national economy, even prior to the pandemic.

Border Situation

Mr. Shah's claim in Parliament that his government was willing to "sacrifice lives" to ensure the return of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin, appears a much more difficult proposition in the face of the Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since April 2020. Chinese actions, and the failure of military and diplomatic talks to ensure the restoration of status quo ante have been coupled with the growing threat perception, articulated by the Indian Army Chief, that any future conflict at the LAC would need to account for a two-front "situation" with Pakistan at the Line of Control as well, and vice versa. Even the United States is unlikely to countenance any military manoeuvre involving PoK now, given its proximity to the Afghanistan theatre, and the U.S.'s pullout and the increasing strength of the Taliban will add to the risk calculus in Delhi against such actions.

Finally, the outreach to 14 leaders from J&K, many of whom were arrested for months, indicates that the Government's plan for a "Naya Kashmir" polity is not drastically different from the previous polity — that the Home Minister referred to derisively as the "Gupkar Gang" — despite intervening attempts at building a new party (Apni Party), sidelining the main parties during consultations and even promoting "Dis-



trict Development Councillors" as the new Kashmiri leadership during meetings with foreign diplomats.

Hardly an 'Internal' issue

The Government's repeated assertion that its August 5 decision on J&K was an "internal one" has also been put to a rigorous test. Despite considerable exertions by the Ministry of External Affairs and its missions worldwide, J&K has now been discussed in more capitals, including the U.S. Congress, Parliaments in the United Kingdom, the European Union (EU) and the Nordic countries, than ever before, while several delegations of EU parliamentarians, Ambassadors and United Nations diplomats have been escorted to the valley to elicit their approval for the situation there. It is ironic that countries which were openly supportive of the Modi government's military action in PoK in 2016 after the Uri attack, and of the Balakot strikes by the Indian Air Force in

jected the Article's validity. Both the downturn in Pakistan-backed violence in Jammu-Kashmir as well the softening of rhetoric suggest a flexibility borne out of international pressure as well as the sustained threat of a (Pakistan) blacklisting by the Financial Action Task Force.

Such compromises by hawkish establishments in Delhi and Islamabad (and Rawalpindi) do not come from an internal rethink by themselves, and it would seem obvious that external prompting from the U.S., keen to complete its Afghanistan pullout and its negotiations with the Taliban, as well as nudges from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, of the kind publicly referred to by the UAE envoy as "mediation", have been at work as well. The recent disclosure by the Qatari special envoy that Indian officials have engaged the Taliban leadership in Doha is also part of that matrix. The Government's decision to shut down operations at two of its Afghanistan consulates, in Jalalabad and Her-

Government's attempts to sever the Gordian knot in Jammu and Kashmir with its moves two years ago, are being drawn into a more complex game of regional dominoes, where India's security interests are increasingly in play

Pakistan after the Pulwama attack in 2019, have even so, chosen to be so critical of a political and internal move. In addition, the J&K dispute has been discussed at least three times at the UN Security Council, which had not touched the issue since 1971.

Dialogue with Pakistan

What is more galling is the notion that the decision to engage the previous leadership, to discuss the restart of a political process and the reversal of the August 5 decision to downgrade the State to a Union Territory, comes not from domestic considerations alone. In the past few months, it has been made clear that a backchannel dialogue between India and Pakistan is discussing assurances on J&K that would enable a broader bilateral dialogue. Pakistan too has climbed down considerably from its previous demands of plebiscite and UN resolutions, to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's more recent statements that he would be willing to talk if there was a reversal in some of the August 5 steps, or if the Modi government proffers a "roadmap" on J&K. Even Pakistan's insistence on the restoration of Article 370 was a turnaround from the days when it re-

at, which was earlier described as a temporary move due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, is clearly linked to safety concerns in the phase after the U.S. pullout.

The U.S. Factor

In the broader geopolitical context, as the drumbeats to a U.S.-China confrontation grow louder, India's global strategies will be further put to test. The U.S.'s expectations of cooperation from India to its East, on China and the Indo-Pacific, have clearly not been commensurate with New Delhi's expectations that America would reduce India's threats to its west, from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Instead, it would seem, the Government's attempts to sever the Gordian knot in Jammu and Kashmir with its moves two years ago, are being drawn into a more complex game of regional dominoes, where India's security interests are increasingly in play.

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

The Hindu



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Facilitate Drug De-Addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, massunemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society. The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga, cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis,

alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity, by deteriorating adolescentsmentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs. Businesses can help provide

legitimate livelihoods. The media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and If we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

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MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Emotional Regulation and Self-care During the Covid-19 Challenge

Wasim Kakroo

Every emotional reaction we have as humans is a one-of-a-kind event. What makes you feel bad today might not make you feel bad tomorrow. Maybe you're sitting at home with your family for what feels like an eternity and you're about to lose it. Tomorrow, you wake up in the same house, but you are peaceful, and you gladly eat your breakfast and plan your day.

Depending on the situation and the emotions involved, the tactics we can employ to manage emotions are virtually endless. However, just as your emotional responses change over time, the tactics that work now may not work tomorrow. And what works for you may or may not work for your partner or child.

Early in our lives, many of us were exposed to damaging behaviors (not healthy ways) to "manage" stress and anxiety. We heard our parents and peers yell, scream, and blame others, among other things. These emotions are frequently used to alleviate bad feelings and provide brief enjoyment. However, we fail to recognize that they are mostly detrimental behaviors that destroy our relationships, reduce our well-being, and prevent us from attaining our life goals.

It's much more difficult to control our emotions with effective tactics when we're unduly anxious and worried, as many of us have been recently with threats like COVID-19. We ruminate, worry, and frequently get ourselves up into a tizzy.

So, what exactly is healthy emotion regulation?

Simply put, healthy emotion regulation is effectively monitoring, moderating, and altering emotional reactions in order to achieve personal and professional objectives.

What do we do when we're disappointed, delighted, or anxious, to feel more or less of that sensation, to hold on to that feeling, or to change to an other feeling?

This does not, however, imply that difficult feelings should be ignored. It's more about learning to accept and deal with emotions, both your own and others'. We become less attached, reactive, and overwhelmed by emotions when we give ourselves and others permission to feel all of them.

Goals and Strategies:

It's helpful to think about emotion control in two components.

The first component is our goal. Goals we have for our emotions are like goals in many sports: we look at the net or goal posts, and we pick where we want the ball to go. When we create a goal for managing our emotions, we are selecting where we want our emotions to go. Do we want them to go up—like feeling even more joyful about a party we're planning? Or do we want our emotions to decrease, such as less anxious about our ability to regulate what the coronavirus is doing? We have a goal in



“We have a goal in sports that incorporates where the ball is now and where we want it to be in the future. We do the same thing with our emotions, setting a goal by asking ourselves, "What am I feeling now, and how do I want to feel?"

sports that incorporates where the ball is now and where we want it to be in the future. We do the same thing with our emotions, setting a goal by asking ourselves, "What am I feeling now, and how do I want to feel?"

The second part of managing emotions is the strategy we decide to use. We know where the ball should go, but how are we going to get it there? Will we go for it right away? Or will it be passed to a different player first? That is our plan of action. We shall reach our objectives through strategies. If we're frightened or apprehensive about what's going on around us, and we genuinely want to feel less nervous...or calmer, what would our strategy be? Could we take a few deep breaths? The ultimate preventative technique may be mindful breathing. Our ability to be present, accept feelings as they come and go, and not be unduly reactive or overwhelmed by them improves with daily practice.

Given our hectic lifestyles and current lack of control over the future, allowing our minds to be idle is a huge problem for many of us. It's even more difficult when we're dealing with powerful emotions like anxiety or fear.

Our brain activates the sympathetic nervous system in response to strong emotions: our heart rate increases,

stress hormones and/or endorphins are released depending on the emotion, and we prepare to leave or freeze (when under duress). By lowering our heart rate, mindful breathing allows us to put a brake on the activation of our stress response system. Breathing through the nose is helpful because mouth breathing tends to be faster and shallower (think of a panting dog), which can reactivate the stress response system. When we count our breaths or repeat a relaxing phrase while we are breathing, we regain control because by doing so, the control centre of the brain shifts from the brainstem to the motor cortex. Breathing also aids in autonomic nervous system reset by activating the parasympathetic nervous system while inhibiting the sympathetic (excitatory) nervous system.

Mindful breathing can be done anywhere: at home, at school, at work, or even while trying to fall sleep. It's ideal to start small and gradually develop a mindful breathing practice. Begin by sitting and breathing deliberately for a few minutes a couple of times a week. You can gradually increase your daily practice time to five, ten, fifteen, or even thirty minutes per day.

Do your best to:

Remove any potential sources of dis-

traction, such as your cell phone.

Get comfortable.

Lower your eyelids or close your eyes.

Be aware of your body and posture.

Take a deep breath and relax. Count to ten by inhaling one/exhaling one, inhaling two/exhaling two, and so on until you reach ten. Then do it again. You can also take a breath while repeating a phrase. You can also say "in" on the in-hale and "out" on the exhale. Bring your attention back to your breath if you notice your mind wandering.

If you're anything like me, and you get easily sidetracked during practice, you might think to yourself, "I can't do this." It's a bleak situation. Try to think of yourself as an emotion scientist rather than a judge. Even a little self-compassion will help you try again. You're working out a new muscle.

Self-care:

Because emotion regulation necessitates the use of mental resources, it is influenced by seemingly unrelated factors such as food, exercise, and sleep. Our minds do not work correctly when we eat poorly. Too much sugar causes our blood glucose levels to rise and then fall sharply, affecting cognitive function and self-control, particularly when it

comes to healthy eating. So have some nutritious snacks in your office or set a reminder on your phone to remind you to eat every three hours or so. Reduce the use of junk food as they can really sabotage your emotional health.

Our mental capacity and moods are also harmed by insufficient physical activity. In one study, subjects were exposed to a stressor, and then half of the participants did aerobic exercise while the others did not. The exercisers claimed to be much less depressed than the control group. Exercise can even help with anxiety and depression.

Poor quality of sleep or insufficient sleep also affects our emotional health badly. When we're tired, our defenses are down, and our ability to function mentally is low. Sleep is a restorative activity. We show increased symptoms of anxiety and depression, as well as exhaustion and aggression, when we don't get enough sleep. Sleep deprivation is linked to weakened connections between brain regions involved in cognitive control and behavior, and the use of effective emotion regulation mechanisms.

There are a few more things we can do to protect our overall well-being. The first is by engaging in activities that we enjoy. Spend time with family and friends, explore hobbies and interests, connect with your spiritual side, spend time in nature, read a good book, or watch a comedy movie. This allows us to build up self efficacy and self esteem reserves, which can be beneficial during emotionally trying periods.

Being social animals, we are hard-wired to seek out social contact and support, thus people who lack social contact and support are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, and cardiovascular disease. We know that social distance (I prefer the phrase physical distance) helps to inhibit the spread of the coronavirus, but that doesn't mean we have to remain socially disconnected. The mere presence of a caring individual (whether in person or online) allows us to calm down and regulate our nervous system.

Finally, there are a few other things you can do in these tough circumstances.

Limit the amount of information you consume. Take some time away from the news and social media.

Saying no isn't a bad thing. It's fine to avoid hugging, kissing, or shaking hands right now. If you don't know what to say, bow elegantly or use gestures if that makes sense to you.

Compassion for yourself and others, especially those who are ill or whose lives have been disturbed by the virus or society's response to it, is essential.

Try to be encouraging to friends, family members, and coworkers who are concerned or frightened. You are not required to mention anything. Simply be there for them. When we serve others, we not only make them feel better, but we also make ourselves feel better.

The author is a practicing clinical psychologist

We know that culture affects a wide range of dimensions in our lives such as our value systems, traditions, rituals, habits, music, art and so much more. In fact there is little that is not influenced or at least touched by culture.

All aspects of mental health, including diagnosis, expression of symptoms, treatment and recovery can be added to the many facets affected by culture. Therefore how a person experiences depression in Mexico might be quite different than the affected person in Manila, suggesting a powerful link between societal/cultural factors and the outcome of mental illness. There are even sets of classified psychological disorders, only found in certain cultures, known as culture-bound syndromes.

Furthermore, what is completely healthy and normal in one culture may be categorised as deviant or abnormal in another.

To begin with, in many traditional collectivist cultures, psychology is still viewed with a certain degree of suspicion. Talking with a stranger about one's problems would go against the core values of keeping personal issues only within the safe walls of the familial setting. Questions and concerns are usually discussed with elders and those who are more wise and experienced. These people tend to mistrust the therapist who is perceived as an outsider and see their role as intrusive and forceful.

If the mental health concern should

Culture and Mental Health

Samineh I Shaheem

“In terms of treatment, people from individualistic societies, such as Canada and the US, may not think twice to call and make an appointment with a psychologist. However, those from the more traditional or collectivist background would tend to seek treatment late in the development of the syndrome, first turning to the extended family, and other relationships, as well as their religious ministers or healershealers

physical cause and the other 84 per cent had a psychosomatic cause; rather, it means that 84 per cent of the symptoms had no known physical cause.' Hence a significant number of these individuals may have had psychological distress but

only expressed them in terms of physical symptoms.

What is more is that there is dialectic relationship between language and culture. The way we express ourselves and the words used very much reflect cultural value structures. One patient agreed with this point and said, 'language and culture play an important role in the discussion about mental health. For example, if I go to a doctor who doesn't understand my language and is not familiar with my culture, first of all I will not be able to explain my problem to him/her as I want to, secondly, even if he/she gets me, they might not be able to provide me with culturally appropriate treatment which is very important.'

Especially in a culturally diverse society, a capable psychological health care provider should have a certain degree of cultural competence when dealing with people from a wide range of backgrounds. These skills include; an awareness of their own cultural heritage, ability to value and respect cultural differences, have some knowledge of the cultural background and history of the people they are working with and to appreciate the influence these variables might have on the psychological

concern.

In terms of treatment, people from individualistic societies, such as Canada and the US, may not think twice to call and make an appointment with a psychologist. However, those from the more traditional or collectivist background would tend to seek treatment late in the development of the syndrome, first turning to the extended family, and other relationships, as well as their religious ministers or healers.

Research proves that at times it is necessary to seek the advice of a clinical psychologist in order to treat a particular psychological ailment; simply talking to members of the family or taking to alternative or traditional home remedies may not be sufficient.

However, at the same time, it is important to point out that even if one is receiving the best psychological care, the presence and support of the family and peers is essential to recovery from mental illness.

While there is much that we can learn from mainstream Western psychological explanations, we must not discount the validity and worth of the way Eastern cultural values may contribute to the recovery of an individual suffering from a mental health concern. Remember, differences are not deficiencies and what may work in one culture may completely fail in another.

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Khaleej Times

Here's how flickering screens help children with reading, writing difficulties

Agencies

A new study has found a link between visual white noise and cognitive abilities such as memory, reading and non-word decoding in children with reading and writing difficulties. The study "Sensory white noise improves reading skills and memory recall in children with reading disability" was published in the scientific journal 'Brain and Behavior'. Previous studies have shown that children with attention difficulties and/or ADHD solve cognitive tasks better when they are exposed to auditory white noise. However, this is the first time that such a link has been demonstrated between visual white noise and cognitive abilities such as memory, reading and non-word decoding in children with reading and writing difficulties. "The white noise to which we exposed the children, also called visual pixel noise, can be compared with giving children glasses. The effect on reading and memory was immediate," explained Goran Soder-

lund, Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Gothenburg and Professor of Special Education at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. The study was conducted on around 80 students in the Smaland region of southern Sweden. The children who took part were selected following a word recognition test and were split into three groups: good readers, children with some reading difficulties and children with major reading difficulties (i.e. having phonological impairments). In the study, the children were asked to read 12 words while being exposed to four different levels of visual white noise, from zero to high. The test involved assessing how many of the words the children could read correctly and how many words they were able to recall afterwards. The results showed that the group with major reading difficulties, particularly phonological difficulties, performed significantly better when exposed to visual pixel noise. They read more words correctly and also recalled more words in the moderate noise



conditions. The white noise had no effect or negative effects on the good readers and those with only minor reading problems.

"This is the first evidence of visual white noise having effects on higher-level cognition, in this case both reading and

memory," said Goran Soderlund. The children were exposed to different levels of white noise, with the results showing that the amount of noise is critical for reading and memory. "You can compare it with being short-sighted and needing glasses. We saw that when we exposed the children to a medium level of white noise, their reading improved. However, their reading skills were less good when there was no noise or a high level of noise," added Goran. "These results show that children with reading and writing difficulties can be helped with an incredibly simple intervention. By adjusting screens in school or at home, we hope to be able to resolve their problems at a stroke. This is the first study of its kind, and replications are needed," Goran further said. Goran Soderlund now wants to further investigate the effects of white noise. He hopes that new studies can answer the question of whether practising with white noise for a prolonged period can lead to lasting improvements.

Open learning spaces do not increase children's physical activity: Study

Agencies

According to a recent study, open learning spaces are not directly associated with the physical activity of students in grades three and five, even though more breaks from the sedentary time were observed in open learning spaces compared to conventional classrooms. The findings are based on the CHIPASE study, carried out at the Faculty of Sport and Health Science of the University of Jyväskylä. The results were published in the journal Frontiers of Sports and Active Life. After the reform of the national core curriculum for basic education in Finland, issued in 2016, most of the new or renovated comprehensive schools in Finland began to incorporate open and flexible classroom designs and principles. Combined with student-cen-

tered pedagogies, these open learning spaces may increase children's physical activity during lessons. Classroom-based physical activity may also have a positive impact on academic-related outcomes. "Surprisingly, students were



physically less active in open learning spaces than in conventional classrooms," said Doctoral Researcher Jani Hartikainen from the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä.

"In turn, open learning spaces seem to enable more breaks from sedentary time, which may decrease the potential adverse effects of prolonged sitting on the health of children," added Hartikainen. The main result of the study was that, on their own, open learning spaces do not increase children's physical activity during lessons. Future studies should seek to investigate and develop teaching practices to capitalise on the potential of open learning spaces to promote classroom-based physical activity. "In this study, we did not observe teachers' instructions about students' movement, but prior studies have reported difficulties in how teachers adapt to open learning spaces," said Hartikainen. "Especially large student groups may cause teachers to need to restrict students' movement during lessons," concluded Hartikainen.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT ELECTION OFFICER (Deputy Commissioner), SHOPIAN

205 - Mini-Secretariat Arhama, Shopian
"Greater participation for a Stronger Democracy"

Phone: 01933-260125
fax: 01933-261910
email: entashopian@nic.in

Sub:- Engagement of ERONET/BLONET Operators in the offices of EROs for AC-35 Wachi and AC-36-Shopian.

ORDER

Dated: 23-06-2021

In pursuance to the Chief Electoral Officer UT of JK No: 2093/CEO/Accts/2020-21/6153-76 Dated 25/3/2021, the following candidates are hereby engaged purely on temporary basis as ERONET/BLONET operators in the offices of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) Assembly Constituency-35-Wachi and Assembly Constituency-36-Shopian.

S.No	Name of the candidate	Residential Address	ERO
1.	Rayees Ahmed Malik S/O Ali Mohd Malik	R/O Largam Shopian	AC-36-Shopian
2.	Towseef Ahmed Malik S/O Showkat Ahmed Malik	R/O Largam Shopian	AC-35-Wachi

Sachin Kumar Vaishya (IAS)
District Election Officer Shopian

NO:- DEO/S/21/232-37 Dated:-23-06-2021

DIPK-NB-1350/21

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001
website:http://jkpsc.nic.in Jammu: G191-2566528 <f>2566530
email:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com Srinagar:0194-2312629/(f) 2312631
subject:- Interview Notice for the posts of Assistant professor, English in Higher Education Department , Notified vide Notification 10-PSC (DR-P) of 2017 Dated 27.10.2017.

Notice
Dated: 22.06.2021

The following candidates are hereby shortlisted for interview to the post of Assistant Professor, English in Higher Education Department, which shall be held at J&K Public Service Commission Office Complex, Solina, Srinagar as per the date and time indicated against each:-				
S.NO.	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	DATE OF INTERVIEW	Time
1	UDAY SINGH PATHANIA	RAJESHWAR SINGH	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
2	VANI AWASTHI	RAMAN AWASTHI	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
3	ARUNA BHAT	JAWALA PARASAD BHAT	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
4	SHOWKAT HUSSAIN DAR	GHULAM MOHD. DAR	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
5	MANZOOR AHMAD NAJAR	HANEDULLAH NAJAR	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
6	FURUKH FAIZAN MIR	FAHAD HUSSAIN MIR	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
7	SHIVANGANI SHARMA	KULDEEP KUMAR SHARMA	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
8	UMAIR HYDER	GH HYDER MIR	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
9	BASHARAT SHAMSERM	SHAMEEM AHMAD BHAT	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
10	SHOWKAT HUSSAIN ITOD	ABDUL RASHID	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
11	RUPALEE JASOTIA	KISHOR SINGH	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
12	UJJALA DEVI	SAJIN DASS	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
13	JAVAD AHMAD TANTRY	MOHD MANZOOR TANTRY	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
14	HADHU SHARMA	SOHAN LAL SHARMA	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
15	RUDRIKA KHAJURIA	ROBINDER KHAJURIA	06.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
16	INDU KOUL	AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
17	ISMA HAMID	ABDUL HAMID BHAT	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
18	HEENA PAYAZ	PAYAZ AHMED PURZA	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
19	INSHIA MATTOO	ABDUL HAMID MATTOO	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
20	ANU SHARMA	RAM KUMAR SHARMA	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
21	ISHA SHARMA	NAVEEN SHARMA	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
22	MASOODA SUHAILA	ABDUL RASHID DAR	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
23	RASMA MAJID	ABDUL MAJID JAMI	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
24	SUMAAJRA AKHTAR	ALI MOHAMMAD LALA	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
25	GAURAVDEEP KAUR	ATYAZ MAQBOOL KAR	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
26	SUMSEERA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD SHUKROO	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
27	ZAHOR AHMAD SHEKH	MOHD JAMBAR SHEKH	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
28	MOHAMMAD HUZAYFA PANDIT	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF PANDIT	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
29	MAHVISH ALTAF	ALTAF AHMAD MIR	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
30	HIMANSHU CHANDER	RAJINDER CHAND	06.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
31	CHANDRANSHU SHARMA	MOHD SAYEED	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
32	SAKSHI THAKUR	GOVIND SINGH	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
33	ASHAQ HUSSAIN PARRAY	MOHD ABDULLAH PARRAY	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
34	HASHMEET KOUR	ONKAR SINGH	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
35	TOOBA RASHIED	SHEIKH ABDUL RASHIED	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
36	ESHAAT FATIMA	GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAI	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
37	JUNAID KHALID KHAN	JALAL UD DIN KHAN	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
38	NAJMA	NAZIR AHMED BHAT	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
39	ILAM SHAH ALIAJE	MOHD SAHFI ALIAJE	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
40	SABA ZAHOR	ZAHOR AHMAD KHAN	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
41	AQIB JAVAD PARRY	ABDUL MAJEED PARRY	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
42	DREPANJALI SHARMA	JAGDISH RAJ SHARMA	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
43	RIYAZ AHMAD KUMAR	GHULAM HASSAN KUMAR	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
44	IRINA TALASHI	RATTAN LAL TALASHI	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.

45	MEENAKSHI SHARMA	MOHAN LAL	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
46	BILAL AHMED KUTHOO	MOHAMMAD AYUB KUTHOO	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
47	HANU SHARMA	YASIRPAL SHARMA	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
48	SYED SUMIRA GILANI	NASER AHMAD GILANI	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
49	EVA SHARMA	YOGENDER KUMAR SHARMA	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
50	GOVSITA GUL	GHULAM NABI BALA	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
51	PARVAIZ AHMAD BHAT	MOHD YOUSUF BHAT	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
52	VIKRAM SINGH	SANTOSH KUMAR	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
53	IMRAN MAJEED BHAT	AB MAJEED BHAT	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
54	YASIR AHMAD KHANJAY	ABDUL SALAM KHANJAY	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
55	BUMY DAR	MIR TABIQ MEHMOOD DAR	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
56	ARIF NISAR	NISAR AHMAD KHANJAY	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
57	SHIVANI PARINAR	BALMEER PARINAR	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
58	RENUKA GORIA	ANGRAZ SINGH GORIA	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
59	GAZI TABIQ MUZAMIL	SHEKH GHULAM AHMAD	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
60	MANZOOR AHMAD MIR	MOHD KHALIL MIR	07.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
61	MUZZAFAR YOUSUF	MOHD YOUSUF RATHER	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
62	ADNAN ALI SHAH	IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN SHAH	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
63	MOHD YAQOUB DAR	MOHAMMAD ABEDULLA DAR	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
64	JEET SINGH	DIES RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
65	AHSAN UL HAQ MACRAY	MOHD YAQOUB MACRAY	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
66	IRFAN AHMAD DAR	MOHD RAMZAN DAR	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
67	ASAZ AHMAD PADROO	MOHD SHABAN PADROO	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
68	TABASSUM SALEEM	MOHD SALEEM SHEIKH	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
69	ISHFAQ HUSSAIN BHAT	GH MOHD BHAT	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
70	SYED AHMAD MOOSVI	SYED HUSSAIN MOOSVI	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
71	TAHIR MAHMOOD	MOHD SHAFI QURASHI	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
72	SAMEER AHMAD	AB MAJEED WANI	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
73	JAVEED AHMAD RAJNA	ALI MOHD RAJNA	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
74	MOHD ISHAQ SHAH	AB REEMAN SHAH	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
75	SABEEN AHMAD CHOPAN	GH MOHD CHOPAN	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
76	NIYASA BALORIA	SRIS LAL BALORIA	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
77	U S LIZA	SANSAR SINGH	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
78	DEEPAK RAJ	SUBASH KUMAR	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
79	URMIT BAJAJ	HABBANS LAL BAJAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
80	RUCHIKA KUMARI	BALWANT RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
81	PALVINDER KUMARI	JANAK RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
82	SUNITA DEVI	KRISHAN CHAND	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
83	SANJOGITA BHAGAT	BEJAND LAL	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
84	ASHWANI KUMAR	MOOL RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
85	MADHU BALA	GOPAL DASS	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
86	SURINDER KUMAR	AJIT RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
87	VIRAJ KUMAR	CHUNI RAM	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
88	RAKHI MALHOTRA	KULDEEP RAJ	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
89	MONISHA BANDHU	KESH BANOHI	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
90	VISHAL PLATHIA	SUBASH CHANDER	07.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
91	NEENA KUMARI	BALDEV RAJ	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
92	VARUN ARYA	KHEN RAJ	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
93	SANSHI NAGOTRA	SH PURAN CHAND	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
94	SUMITA	MOHAN LAL	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
95	RAH KISHORE	RATH RAM	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
96	RAJESH KUMAR	ROMESH KUMAR	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
97	NISHU DEVI	PARDEEP KUMAR	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
98	SHEETAL NAGOTRA	SH PURAN CHAND	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
99	RAKESH KUMAR	AMER CHAND	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
100	DEVINDER KUMAR	CHANDU RAM	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
101	ANITA KUMARI	GHULAM KUMAR	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
102	ASHMIT NARI	GHULAM NABI GURJEE	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
103	REEMANI VERMA	SOM DUTT VERMA	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
104	SEJAL TALGOTRA	H.L.TALGOTRA	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
105	NASEEM CHOWDHARY	KALAM DIN CHOWDHARY	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
106	LITAKUT ALI	BARKET HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
107	ARCHI FATIMA NISSA	SYED MOHD ABASS	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.

108	SAFINA CHOWDHARY	LAYAQT ALI	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
109	JAMPHIL SHERAN	TSERING PALGE	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
110	RUPIKA	RAKESH KUMAR	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
111	SHAIPA JAMAL KHAN	MOHD JAMAL KHAN	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
112	STANZIN STAMJIN	RIGZEN WANGDUS	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
113	NORIN AKHTAR	LAL DIN KALIS	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
114	ADIA KHATOON	KHADIM HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
115	SANDEEP KUMAR	RAJINDER SINGH	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
116	MOHD YOUSUF SALEEM	MOHD SHAFI	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
117	SAJAD ALI	MIR MOHD HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
118	PARAH NAZ	MUSHTAQ HUSSAIN CHAUDHARY	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
119	RINCHEN DOLMA	MOTUP TSERING	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
120	STANZIN DELDEN	SONAM RINCHEN	08.07.2021	9.00 A.M.
121	SAJAD AHMAD DENDI GUGRI	ABDUL KARIM DENDI	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
122	PARYEEN AKHTER	KHADIM HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
123	NASIR UD DIN	SHEIKH MOHD HASSAN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
124	ANICE AHMED	NAZIR AHMED	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
125	SHAISTA YASRIN	MOHD SHARIF NOOMANI	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
126	MUJTABA	MOHD HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
127	CHANCHILA KUMARI	MOOL RAJ	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
128	MOHD ALI SHABIR	HAFI PIDA HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
129	GULZAR HUSSAIN	MOHD NASIR	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
130	NAWAZ HUSSAIN	PIDA HUSSAIN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
131	GIZALAL SHABNAM	NIYAZ ALI	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
132	ASIFA FAROOQ KHAN	MOHAMMAD FAROOQ KHAN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
133	MUHAMMAD TAHER AMIN	MOHAMMAD AMIN KHAN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
134	HIMANSHU KUMAR	SHAM LAL	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
135	RAKESH KUMAR	SITA RAM	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
136	SAMEENA KHAN	MOHAMMAD ASLAM KHAN	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
137	BANGANA RAJPUT	SHAKSHIER SINGH	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
138	MOHAMMAD SHAKIEL	MOHAMMAD SHAFIEF	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.
139	DR. RISHIKA SHARMA	PAWAN SHARMA	08.07.2021	1.00 P.M.

*Note:-
1. The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional. The documents of the Candidates will be again verified at the time of interview. In case any discrepancy with the respect to age and other eligibility conditions is noticed, the candidates shall not be allowed to appear in the interview and his candidature shall be deemed to have been canceled ab-initio.
2. The candidates shall produce their original certificates/testimonials alongwith hardcopy of application form on the date of interview.
3. All the candidates are directed to produce the copy of M.Phil/Ph.D dissertations/thesis at the time of interview before the interview Board.
4. Experience if any or as applicable shall be submitted by the candidates as per the prescribed format either before the Commencement of interview or at the time of interview.
5. The candidates shall ensure that the Publications/Presentations/Books/Book Chapter which they intend to place before the interview Board for evaluation be shall be properly bound and indexed with cover page in the following format:-

S. No.	Title Publication/ Presentation/ Book	of	Journal/Conference /workshop	request factor, if applicable	Date of acceptance of publication	Accepted Yes/No
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Declaration:-
It is certified that all the above Publications/Presentations etc. are my original Research and are not derived from any thesis/dissertation for which I have claimed separate points.

Signature of Candidate

No.: PSC/DR/AP/English/Hr.Edu / 2017
dated 22-06-2021

DIPK-3394/21

(R.K. Katoch) KAS
Secretary

J&K Public service commission

Panic Grips Indian Cricket Team After WTC Loss, Virat Kohli Loses Faith In Players



Press Trust of India

SOUTHAMPTON: India skipper Virat Kohli has indicated an overhaul of his Test team after a stunning loss to New Zealand in the World Test Championship final here, saying that "right people who have the right mindset to perform" will be brought in following a reassessment.

After his side lost the WTC Final by eight wickets here on Wednesday with batting being a major let down, the Indian captain didn't take any names but expressed his displeasure at some players for not showing enough "intent" to score runs.

Senior batsman Cheteshwar Pujara managed 8 off 54 balls in the first innings and consumed 35 balls for his first run. He then scored just 15 runs off 80 balls in the second essay. In the end, New Zealand chased down a 139-run target without much trouble.

"We will continue to reassess and continue to have conversations around what are the things required to strengthen our side and not follow or fall prey to certain patterns," Kohli said at the post-match virtual press conference.

"We will not wait for a year or so and have to plan ahead. If you see our white ball team now, we have great depth and guys are ready and confident. Same thing needs to be done with Test cricket. "You have to reassess and re-

plan and understand what dynamics work for the team and how we can be fearless. Bring in right people who have right mindset to perform," the skipper added.

He also spoke about finding ways to score runs against quality attacks like that of New Zealand. India scored only 217 in the first innings and were all out for 170 in the second effort.

"We definitely need to work out better plans on understanding how to score runs. We have to stay in sync with the momentum of the game and not let the game drift away too much. I don't think there are any technical difficulties as such," he asserted.

"It's more down to game awareness and being more brave in putting bowlers under pressure and not allowing them to bowl in similar areas for longer periods of time unless it is absolutely overcast and ball swinging all over the place like it happened on day 1." Kohli urged his batsmen to take calculated risks and strike a balance between well-timed stroke-play and holding an end.

"The endeavour would be to try and score runs and not worry about getting out in testing conditions. That's the way you can put opposition under pressure otherwise you are standing there hoping that you don't get out and you are not being optimistic enough."

"You have to take calculated risks against a quality bowling attack like NZ."

They're The Best In Our History: Hadlee Lauds Williamson's World-Beaters



Press Trust of India

SOUTHAMPTON: Sir Richard Hadlee has hailed Kane Williamson's world Test champion side as the best in New Zealand's cricketing history, describing its performances in the past two years as simply "outstanding".

New Zealand defeated India by eight wickets to be crowned the first-ever world Test champions in Southampton on Wednesday night, their first ever ICC title.

"This is a special day in the history of NZ cricket, a day to celebrate the magnificent achievement of winning the inaugural

World Test Championship," Hadlee said in a statement.

"It was a thrilling Test match, with twists and turns throughout...it was a dominant BLACKCAPS performance over a very good Indian team. Over the years NZC have built a significant depth of players, which makes us one of the most competitive teams in world cricket."

"It's fair to say that this current group of players is the best in our history," he added.

The iconic pacer, who was the first bowler in international cricket to take 400 Test wickets, said the victory is a reward for

two years of excellence.

"Over the past two years, the BLACKCAPS performances in the Test arena have been outstanding with Test match and series wins at home and abroad, and they thoroughly deserve to be crowned world champions."

"The whole team has shown a high degree of professionalism. Their skill sets have complemented each other to make them a complete playing unit."

"The management and support staff have also played important roles in preparing players to perform at the highest level," he added.

Secretary Sports Council Inaugurates Cricket Academy, Sports Nursery In Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Emphasising on the up-gradation of existing and new sports infrastructure, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull accompanied by a team of Engineers and officials visited several stadiums and Indoor Sports Complexes to monitor the progress of various ongoing works where she gave on spot directions for early completion of pending projects with an eye on the scope for future development.

Earlier in the morning, Gull visited Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall, Nilan Drussu, Bhijbehara Anantnag to inspect the progress of various works for the early inauguration of the sports facility. Gull gave on-spot directions to the Divisional Sports Officer (K) for early supply and installation of sports equipment, fixture, and furniture at the earliest.

The attraction of the day was the inauguration of the first of its kind Cricket Academy in South Kashmir. The academy is the outcome of the vision of Nuzhat Gull who ensured that all necessary equipment and gears are sanctioned to this new unit, which has the potential to cater to the fleet of budding cricketers in and around South Kashmir.

Divulging the details, Gull said that the academy will be run in a makeshift arrangement put in place at Boys Government Higher Secondary School Bhijbehara on professional lines by the ace cricketer Parveez Rasool. However, Gull said the academy shall be soon shifted to the newly laid Sports Complex in Nilan Drussu within three months and the concerned Engineer has been directed to respect the deadline and hand over the facility complete in all respects.

While interacting with the acad-



emy trainees, Nuzhat Gull said that she intends to make this unit hub of cricket activities and assured of all her support. Speaking on the occasion Nuzhat Gull said that she will advocate for the inclusion of this cricket academy in PMDP and thus pave the way for setting up of the first Khelo India Centre for Cricket in J&K. The Secretary Sports Council also handed over coaching and training equipment besides other cricket gears to trainees.

Trainees who were overwhelmed during their interaction with the Secretary Sports Council vowed to reciprocate by proving their mettle in the academy and future cricketing endeavours. Youngest trainee, 9-year-old cricketer Misbah Hilal promised to work hard as he aspires to play for the national team like his coach and mentor Parveez Rasool.

The inauguration of the cricket academy was followed by the throwing open of Sports Nursery in Play Filed Pahalgam. Gull said this was a long pending demand of sportsperson of the area which led to setting up of first such initiative to

reach out to the talent in peripheries and nurture them under the tutelage of professional coaches. Secretary, Sports Council had directed the in-charge of Pahalgam playfield to register the trainees for different sports disciplines enabling them to be part of different coaching camps. Nuzhat Gull interacted with registered players and also distributed sports gears and equipment.

The Secretary Sports Council gave on-spot directions to the engineering team for levelling of the playfield and laying of volleyball court on modern lines.

The day-long tour concluded with a visit to Cricket Stadium Seer Hamdan where she interacted with various sports activists and players. Players requested for laying of turf wicket to which the Secretary Sports Council responded in affirmative. She also directed the concerned Engineering team for proper levelling of the playfield.

Secretary was accompanied by Executive Engineer Hilar Ahmad, Junior Engineer Ishfaq Ahmad besides other officials of the Sports Council.

Outplayed In WTC Final, Virat Kohli Bats For Three-Games To Decide Winner

Press Trust of India

SOUTHAMPTON: Echoing the views of head coach Ravi Shastri, India skipper Virat Kohli has said that the best Test team in the world should be decided by a best-of-three final and not a one-off game like it was in the inaugural edition.

India were able to bounce back to win the series against Australia and England but couldn't do so with the World Test Championship final, a one off game against New Zealand which ended with Kohli's men losing by eight wickets on Wednesday.



"Well, look, firstly, I'm not in absolute agreement of deciding the best Test side in the world over the course of one game, to be very honest," Kohli said in the post-match press conference.

"If it is a Test series, it has to be a test of character over three Tests, which team has the ability to come back into the series or totally blow away the other team."

"It can't just be a pressure applied over two days of good cricket and then you suddenly are not a good Test side anymore. I don't believe in that."

Shastri had advocated a three-match finale before the team departed for England earlier this month.

Kohli feels a multi-game final would also capture the essence of Test cricket much better than a one off showdown.

"I think it has to be a hard grind and something that definitely needs to be worked on in the future to really -- at the end of three matches, there's effort, there's

ups and downs, there's situations changing throughout the course of the series..."

"...A chance to rectify the things that you've done wrong in the first game and then really see who's the better side over the course of a three-match series or something will be a good measure of how things really are."

Kohli maintained the loss to New Zealand is not a true reflection of their achievements in the two-year WTC cycle.

"...So we are not too bothered by this result because we understand, as I said, as a Test side what we've

done over the last three, four years, not just over the last 18 months but over the last three, four years."

"So this is not a measure of who we are as a team and the ability and the potential we have had for so many years now."

Scheduling a best of three final amid a packed international calendar will be a big challenge for the ICC going forward. Kohli said one tends to remember a hard fought series a lot more than a single contest.

"I think this definitely has to be brought in. I'm not saying this because we're not on the winning side, but just for Test cricket and for this saga to be absolutely memorable."

"I think it has to happen over a period of three games minimum so that you have a series to remember because there are going to be ups and downs through and through with two quality sides going at each other knowing that there's so much on the line," he added.

Peshawar Zalmi's Haider Ali & Umaid Asif Suspended Before PSL 2021 Final

Agencies

ABU DHABI: Peshawar Zalmi batsman Haider Ali and fast bowler Umaid Asif will miss the Pakistan Super League final against the Multan Sultans on Thursday after they were suspended for breaching the bio-secure bubble in Abu Dhabi.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said the incident occurred Wednesday and the decision to suspend both players was made by the tournament's COVID-19 management panel hours before the final.

Ali's suspension also forced the PCB to withdraw the middle-order batsman from the tours of England and the West Indies.

They admitted to charges of violating the health and safety protocols by meeting people from outside their designated bio-secure bubble and also failing to maintain the prescribed social distancing, the PCB said in a statement.

Both cricketers didn't interact with any other squad member at



any time after the incident and have been placed in isolation.

Multan's middle-order batsman Sohaib Maqsood has replaced Ali in the squad for the tours of England and the West Indies after chief selector Mohammad Wasim consulted both head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and captain Babar Azam.

Maqsood has been in prolific form in the PSL, scoring 363 runs in 11 matches at an average of 40.33 and a healthy strike rate of 153.

Maqsood has played 26 ODIs and 20 Twenty20s for Pakistan but hasn't played an international game since his last Twenty20 against New Zealand at Hamilton in 2016.

Copa America 2021: Brazil Beat Colombia 2-1 After Referee's Accidental Pass

Agencies

SAO PAULO: Brazil beat Colombia 2-1 in a tense Copa America match on Wednesday that featured three extraordinary goals.

Colombia opened the scoring in the 10th minute after Juan Cuadrado crossed from the right and found Luis Diaz all alone in the middle of Brazil's penalty box. The striker shot a powerful volley to the right side of goalkeeper Werverton and scored possibly the best goal of the tournament.

Colombia then started defending against a Brazil team that barely stopped surrounding its penalty box. It appeared as if Colombia would be able to hold out, until Argentine referee Nestor Pitana's knee came into play.

Pitana accidentally blocked a pass by Neymar about 10 meters in front of the Colombian area in the 78th minute. Colombian defenders momentarily stopped, but Brazil substitute Lucas Paqueta just moved the ball to left-back Renan Lodi and



his cross found Roberto Firmino, whose angled header beat Colombian goalkeeper David Ospina.

The Colombians initially refused to restart the match but Pitana, the referee of the 2018 World Cup final, confirmed Brazil's goal.

Brazil kept pressuring in the final minutes and found its reward in added time. Neymar took a corner and Casemiro netted the winner.

"They came at us once and then stopped," Casemiro said after the match.

"It was our attack against their defense. Colombia is a strong team

but, as the coach requires, we are very strong mentally."

Earlier Tuesday, Ecuador and Peru drew 2-2 at the Olimpico stadium in Goiania. The Ecuadorians opened the scoring with an own goal by Renato Tapia in the 23rd and got their second via Ayrton Preciado in the first-half stoppage time.

Peru pulled level in the second half with goals by Gianluca Lapadula in the 49th and André Carrillo in the 54th. Both teams retained their chances of advancing to the knockout stage.

Strikers Search For Goals, Wing Backs Shine At Euro 2020

Agencies

LONDON: Kylian Mbappé scored the most goals in France last season, and Harry Kane did likewise in the Premier League.

It's not just the fact that neither Paris Saint-Germain nor Tottenham won their leagues that links them. Nor the fact that both strikers are being talked about for transfers to new clubs after the European Championships.

Although prolific for their clubs — Mbappé with 27 league goals and Kane with 23 — neither has managed to replicate their domestic scoring output at the European Championship.

Kane managed only one shot on target in the three games for England. Mbappé had three for France. But neither striker found the back of the net.

"I think it's the world of a big player," England coach Gareth Southgate said, discussing Kane. "Inevitably he's come through those periods and scored important goals for us and played exceptionally well. So it's a bit of a repeti-

tion cycle."

Perhaps it's a reflection of the toll of more gruelling pandemic-congested seasons on players' bodies.

France is at least reaping the benefit of recalling Karim Benzema after six years in international exile. It was the Real Madrid forward scoring for France for the first time in 2,085 days — twice in fact — that secured a 2-2 draw against Portugal on Wednesday and passage into the round of 16.

"I knew as soon as I would be in the national team, the critics would come out — that is part of the football game but I never give up," Benzema said. "Everyone was waiting for this goal and that was some kind of extra motivation for me. Of course there is another pressure than when you play for your club because it is your whole country but for me it is a great pleasure."

At least it was Mbappé who earned a penalty for Benzema, which is a greater contribution than Kane has made as England also advanced as group winners.

Euro 2020, however, will be missing Europe's leading striker

in the knockout phase. Three goals from Robert Lewandowski weren't enough to carry Poland through to the next round.

The top individual scorer is, unsurprisingly, Cristiano Ronaldo, with five for Portugal.

But it's own-goals that made a big splash. After only nine own-goals from 1960 to 2016 at European Championships, there have been eight in less than two weeks this year.

WING BACKS

While some leading strikers are struggling to make an impact, this tournament has been a stage for wing backs to shine.

Denzel Dumfries has been the unexpected star for the Netherlands, capitalizing on a 3-5-2 formation that gives him space to surge down the right when in attacking mode. Goals against the Ukraine and Austria — the PSV Eindhoven's player first for the national team — helped them into the last 16.

While Dumfries was familiar to the Dutch, playing for the second-place

team in the domestic league, Robin Gosens has never played in the Bundesliga nor Germany's youth teams.

But after flourishing in Italy with Atalanta — which has become a regular in the Champions League — Gosens has more than justified Joachim Löw's decision to call him up for international duty. His signature performance in the group stage came when he forced an own-goal, set up a goal and then scored himself in a 4-2 win over Portugal.

VERSATILITY

What benefits any modern side is the versatility of players.

There's Joshua Kimmich, who can excel as a right back or in midfield with Germany and Bayern Munich. And for so long a fullback at Bayern alongside him, David Alaba has flourished more recently as a center back. With Austria, he's been more of a central defensive playmaker.

"You have the ball a lot in this position," Alaba said. "You can set the pace and influence the buildup of the game more."

First Survey Of Migratory Nomadic Population Initiated In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated first enumeration and survey of migratory tribal population in higher reaches with an aim to formulate plan for extending benefits to migratory population for their socio-economic upliftment.

The survey will serve as baseline for allocation of funds for different schemes planned to cover the migratory population.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary held a detailed interaction with District Nodal Officers (ADCs), Chief Planning Officers, District Statistics & Planning Officer and other officers from all the districts. Director, Tribal Affairs Musheer Ahmed Mirza, Secretary G&B Advisory Board Mukhtar Ahmed, Jt Director

Shama un Ahmed and Dr Anita Sharma were also present.

The Tribal Affairs Department in collaboration with District Administration and District Planning & Statistics organisation has initiated the survey with set deadlines for completion of various stages. A common format developed for the survey includes details related to migration route, family particulars, educational status, health and animal husbandry facilities, Livelihood and skill requirement among other parameters. On completion of family the process of digitisation and smart card with complete family details will be initiated. The smart cards will serve multiple purposes for a range to facilities to be extended to the tribal migratory population.

It was informed that based on the survey a range of different facilities will be provided by the department which include transit facilities, livestock services, healthcare, education, Livelihood initiatives, essential services and infrastructure. The Tribal Affairs Department will provide assistance to migratory nomadic families under various schemes. The plan also includes capacity building of the nomadic population.

Dr Shahid informed that survey will cover intra-district, inter-district, inter-province and inter-UT/ State. A list of 14 major migratory routes was discussed in the meeting and district teams were asked to minutely work on the migratory routes and suggest facilities required for the population. He

also asked for active association of PRLs, stakeholders and community representatives for ensuring fool-proof planning and development as an outcome of the survey.

The department has also instituted three awards for best performing districts which will include cash award and medal — Gold, Bronze and Silver. Meanwhile Chief Planning Officers and District Statistics & Evaluation Officers registering best performance will be honoured with cash award of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 with Citation and Gold, Silver and Bronze medal. The CPOs and DSEOs will also conduct a host of studies on tribal culture, art, languages, traditional practices, livelihood measures, education and

socio-economic conditions. Department will provide funds for all such innovative studies and documentarians.

The survey is likely to be completed by 31st July 2021. Tribal Affairs Department has earmarked a budget of Rs 3 Cr for the first enumeration/survey of nomadic migratory population for providing targeted benefits and assistance to community in a phased manner. These initiatives include healthcare facilities, livestock health, Rights awareness, education, skill development, tribal products marketing and a number of other support initiatives.

Department is also coordinating with districts in Ladakh UT, Punjab and Himachal for information on inter-state/UT migration.

Secretary ARI Visits Govt Press Srinagar; Takes Stock Of Renovation Work

SRINAGAR: Secretary ARI and Trainings, Abdul Majid, today visited Government Press Sempora and took stock of ongoing renovation work on office-cum-store block coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore.

General Manager Government Press, Ajaz Ahmad Akhoun and other concerned officers accompanied the Secretary during his visit.

While inspecting progress on office-cum-store block, Secretary directed upon the executive agencies to gear up the pace of work so that it can be handed over to the department at an earliest.

Secretary said that the government press, Srinagar, has been playing a vital role in the UT administration by catering to the day to day demands of

intending departments. He said that the department has recently enhanced inline numbering with printing and multicolor digital printing capacity for speedy dispatch of high quality and high volume jobs.

Majeed asked the concerned officers to finish all the pending mechanical and electrical works expeditiously to make the block fully functional.

Later, Secretary had an interaction with the employees regarding their issues and concerns. He assured them of redressal of all their genuine grievances including timely conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting. He also instructed the employees to religiously follow Covid appropriate behaviour in order to keep this dreaded disease at bay.

IASOWA J&K Participates in 7th International Day of Yoga

SRINAGAR: 7th International Day of Yoga was celebrated across UT of J&K on 21st of June 2021 around the theme "Be with Yoga, Be at Home". In the run up to the International Day of Yoga, the Directorate of ISM (AYUSH) J&K organized a series of activities from 14th to 20th June 2021- Yoga Week. These activities included slogan competition, jingle competition, asana-pranayama competition, quiz competition and an essay writing competition at Divisional level. Yoga videos in Dogri and Kashmiri languages based on Common Yoga Protocol were prepared by Directorate of ISM (AYUSH), J&K and circulated.

Scores of people from all walks of life enthusiastically participated. Among others, the officers and families also participated enthusiastically. The President IASOWA J&K, Dr Amita Mehta wife of Chief Secretary J&K Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta IAS led the families in disseminating



the message of adopting Yoga as integral part of daily lifestyle. She said that various asanas, pranayams and meditation as per common yoga protocol and especially as per the guidance issued by Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, shall help achieve holistic health including physical, mental, spiritual & emotional

wellbeing particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She further advised the families of IASOWA J&K to fix a specific time for practicing Yoga on daily basis preferably during morning hours, so that benefits of Yoga like disease prevention, health promotion, holistic healthcare and self-healthcare

could be availed by them. She also requested the Directorate of ISM (AYUSH) J&K to lead the way and organize educative sessions with regard to benefits of Asans and Pranayams as well as schedule training and practice sessions.

The IASOWA has been organizing a number of social and environmental activities. Earlier this month, the association had celebrated World Environment Day on 5th of June 2021 wherein Dr Amita Mehta President IASOWA J&K initiated a plantation drive by planting Texas Baccata (TalisPatra)-a medicinal plant used in Gastro-intestinal diseases and having chemotherapeutic properties too in the premises of her official residence at Srinagar. She had also emphasized on the members of the association to promote the cultivation and usage of home remedies of locally grown medicinal plants/herbs in their residences/kitchen gardens.

Code of conduct for South China Sea shouldn't prejudice legitimate interests of 3rd parties: India

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Underlining its interest in maintaining peace and stability, freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, India on Thursday asserted at an East Asia Summit meeting that the code of conduct being negotiated for the region should not prejudice the legitimate interests of third parties and be fully consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The assertion made by Secretary (East) Riva Ganguly Das at the East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM) via video conference comes amid tensions in the region due to growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

The meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the leaders-led EAS platform and to make it more effective and responsive in

the face of emerging challenges, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

During the meeting, the Secretary (East) also underlined India's interest in maintaining peace and stability, freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in keeping with international law.

She also conveyed that the code of conduct for the South China Sea being negotiated should not prejudice the legitimate interests of third parties and should be fully consistent with the UNCLOS, the statement said.

For several years, diplomats from Southeast Asian countries and China have met to discuss the implementation of a code of conduct for the South China Sea.

The senior officials at the meeting exchanged views on the current regional and international developments,

including the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery, South China Sea, Korean peninsula, developments in Myanmar and terrorism, the MEA said.

The meeting also reviewed the status of commitments made by participating countries under the EAS framework and the progress in the implementation of the Manila Plan of Action (2018-2022), it said.

In her remarks, Das expressed India's appreciation for the leadership role played by Brunei Darussalam as the current Chair of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and ASEAN-led mechanisms.

She underlined the key role played by EAS as a leading mechanism for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and reiterated India's support to make it stronger and more responsive.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE



Want To Remove

focus of the meeting was to strengthen the democratic process and the prime minister assured that the central government was fully committed to the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

The prime minister stressed that the holding of assembly elections just like the successful conduct of the DDC polls is a priority, the sources said.

It was discussed that elections can happen soon after delimitation and by and large most participants expressed willingness for it, they said.

Modi emphasised the need to strengthen democracy at the grassroots and work together with the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure their uplift.

He expressed happiness on the commitment to the Constitution and democracy espoused by all participants.

Modi said that even one death in Jammu and Kashmir is painful and it is the collective duty to protect the younger generation.

He stressed that there is a need to give opportunities to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir and they will give back lots to the country.

The development achieved by Jammu and Kashmir was discussed in detail with implementation of many pro-people initiatives.

Modi expressed satisfaction with the acceleration of development in Jammu and Kashmir and said that it is creating new hope and aspirations among the people.

He said when people experience corruption-free governance, it inspires trust among them and they also extend their cooperation to the administration and this is visible in Jammu and Kashmir now-a-days, according to the sources.

Modi said there would be political differences but everyone should work in national interest so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are benefitted.

He stressed that an atmosphere of safety and security needs to be ensured for all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

This is the first interaction between the central leadership and mainstream parties since August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and

Kashmir and Ladakh. Delimitation, Polls

The future of Jammu and Kashmir was discussed and the delimitation exercise and peaceful elections are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in Parliament," Shah said in a tweet. He said Thursday's meeting on Jammu and Kashmir was held in a very cordial environment. "Everyone expressed their commitment to democracy and the Constitution. It was stressed to strengthen the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir," Shah said in another tweet.

The four former deputy chief ministers of the erstwhile state who participated in the discussions were Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, Congress' Ghulam Nabi Azad and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Four former deputy chief ministers were in attendance too - Congress' Tara Chand, People's Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig and BJP's Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta.

CPI-M leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) chief Altaf Bukhari, Sajjad Lone of the People's Conference, J-K Congress head G A Mir, BJP's Ravinder Raina and Panthers Party leader Bhim Singh also formed part of the delegation.

4 Kargil Soldiers

on the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road in the very high-security Lutyens' bungalow zone.

The Special Cell had registered a case following the blast. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had taken over the case on February 2 this year.

On June 15, the NIA had announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh each for any information on the two suspects involved in the bomb blast. It had also issued the photographs and videos of the alleged suspects seen in the CCTV video footage captured outside the embassy.

Delhi Police Additional PRO Anil Mittal had said that it could be a mischievous attempt to create a sensation.

Soldiers Booked

the injured Mohammad Rafiq, Bilal Ahmad and Abdul Rasheed and alleged that they were beaten

up by the troops without any provocation when they were going to Upper Trana forest area for buying sheep and goats.

The complainant also alleged that the troops also snatched their mobile phones and some cash from them at Gadha Nala, the official said, adding police have taken cognizance of the matter and accordingly registered a case against the army personnel.

He said the injured have been admitted to Public Health Centre Khari and are undergoing treatment.

Rajouri Youth

Rajouri - SI Javed Manhas were deputed to search and apprehend the accused.

On June 23, the police spokesperson said four of the accused persons were arrested, while one more accused was held by cops of police station Rajouri.

A Special Investigation Team under the supervision of Addl SP Hq. Rajouri has been constituted for the investigation of this case, the police spokesperson said, adding "Further legal proceedings in relation to this case are going on."

The killing had evoked sharp condemnation from various social and political parties.

"Shocked to know that a 20 yr old man was lynched to death by cow vigilantes in Rajouri. He leaves behind a paralysed father & 3 sisters. Such things were previously unheard of in J&K," she tweeted, adding, "Request @manojinsinha_ji to ensure that culprits are punished & his family is taken care of," former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti had posted on her Twitter handle.

The youth, according to the reports was beaten to death allegedly by 'cow vigilantes' while he was transporting a buffalo to his home in Rajouri district on Monday night. (With GNS inputs)

J&K Admin

/Administrators of other States and Union Territories participated in the meeting.

Earlier, the official spokesperson said that the Cabinet Secretary asked all the States and Union Territories to closely monitor the trajectory of COVID infections to prevent subsequent surges and expedite vaccination of people above 18 years of age, the official spokesperson said.

"While reviewing the situation, the Cabinet Secretary informed that India is witnessing a

consistent decline in COVID cases from the peak 4.14 lakh cases in May 2021 to 54,000 cases reported yesterday," he said.

The official spokesperson further said that Gauba urged the States/UTs to ensure a multi-sectoral response based on test-track-treat and vaccinate to prevent subsequent waves of infection especially in the wake of Delta and Delta Plus mutant strains of the virus.

He said that the Cabinet Secretary advised the States/UTs to ardently promote COVID appropriate behaviour, and lift restrictions in a regulated manner so as to prevent any future surges," he said

"The States and Union territories must strictly enforce COVID appropriate behaviour and standard operating procedures besides proper crowd management in public places," Gauba said, as per the official spokesperson.

Later, the Chief Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to undertake an extensive IEC campaign to promote COVID appropriate behavior and healthy habits to contain the pandemic.

"He asked the Department to install certified laboratories in J&K for genome sequencing of COVID samples for early detection of mutant virus strains. The Department was further asked to maintain adequate stocks for COVID specific medicines," the official spokesperson said.

Currently, J&K has 6782 active COVID cases with 96.5% recovery rate, 1.4% mortality rate and 0.9% positivity rate (in last 24 hours).

Meanwhile, J&K has also vaccinated 85% of health care workers, 84% of frontline workers, 80% people in above 45 age category and 10% of the population in 18-45 age category.

"The Chief Secretary asked the Health Department to ensure 100% vaccination of health care workers and frontline workers within a week," the official spokesperson added.

J&K Logs 448

people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 313476, officials said Thursday.

Giving district-wide details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 95, Baramulla 32, Budgam 18, Pulwama 30, Kupwara 17, Anantnag 36, Bandipora 15, Ganderbal 14, Kulgam 6, Shopian 2, Jammu 22, Udhampur 13, Rajouri 19, Doda 23, Kathua 8, Samba 5, Kishtwar 23, Poonch 11, Ramban 12 and Reasi 47 new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, officials said, 682 more patients have recovered in the last 24 hours—170 from Jammu Division and 512 from Kashmir. 302655 patients have recovered so far, leaving active cases at 6537—2510 in Jammu and 4027 in Kashmir.

Regarding deaths, the officials said that two each were reported from Jammu Division and Kashmir respectively, taking the fatality count to 4284.

One new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) has been reported today, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 27 in J&K. (With GNS inputs)

Raj Bhawans

surveillance system at Raj Bhawan Jammu and Srinagar (capital cities), the notice inviting tender (NTI) floated by J&K police headquarters said.

The Raj Bhawan operates from Srinagar during summer season and shifts its operation in the winter season to Jammu as per century-old biannual 'darbar move' practice.

Bomb Scare In

bomb scare following which a team of Bomb Disposal Squad was rushed to the spot.

The state forces sealed the area and temporarily suspended the movement of traffic.

After searches, the government forces found the bag containing some clothes, reports added.

Modi 'Supporter'

sources, the report said that a case FIR No. 27 under section 353 IPC has been registered against the accused

Police Officer

under section 5(1) (d) r/w section 5(2), 4-A of J&K PC Act Samvat, 2006 registered in Police Station, ACB Rajouri, an official of the anti-graft body said Thursday. The court, he said, listed the case for next hearing on August 10.

Divulging details of the case, the bureau spokesperson said that a written complaint was received by the office of SSP (PR) ACB on September 6, 2019 from Ajay Pal Singh alleging that the police officer was demanding a bribe for helping in investigation of a false case registered in police station Rajouri against his uncle Sharanjit Singh who was arrested by Sharma.

A day earlier, the ACB spokesperson said that the complainant Ajay Pal Singh visited police post Rajouri City on September 5, and enquired the matter from SI Suresh Sharma, who demanded Rs 3 lakh from him for helping his uncle during investigation of the case. The officer also threatened to harass the complainant's uncle who was in the police custody.

"After negotiation the SI agreed to accept Rs 1 Lakh as advance and rest of the amount would be paid to him after bail out of Sharanjit Singh," the ACB spokesperson said.

On the receipt of the complaint, he said, a case FIR No. 02/2019 was registered and a trap team was constituted, which laid a successful trap.

"The accused was caught red-handed while demanding & accepting illegal gratification of Rs.1 lakh in presence of independent witnesses and trap team members. The accused person was arrested on spot," the ACB spokesperson said, adding that the accused police officer was released on the bail granted by Court.

"Investigation conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau proved the allegations of corruption charges against the accused. After completing the investigation of the case, sanction for launching of prosecution of the accused was also obtained from the competent authority and Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K produced a charge sheet against the above-mentioned accused person before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court, Rajouri on June 23. sources, the report said that a case FIR No. 27 under section 353 IPC has been registered against the accused

LG Grooms People

"Through his teachings and philosophy, Sant Kabir, an exponent of Bhakti Movement, had spread the message of oneness, peace, and social justice, which would continue to inspire the generations to come," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, urged the people to follow Sant Kabir's ideals of universal brotherhood and social harmony, which are more relevant in the modern era, for building a better society to live in.

"On this auspicious occasion, I pray for sustained peace, progress, and prosperity in the UT and well-being of its people," Sinha added.

DG Horticulture Assesses Impact Of Covid-19 Lockdown On Agriculture, Allied Sectors



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Kashmir based members of Jammu and Kashmir Advisory Board for Development of Kissan (J&KABDK) held a meeting to assess the impact of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy, Fish farming, Floriculture and other farmer related activities.

Director General, Horticulture Department Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, chaired the meeting which was also attended by Director Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Kashmir, Director, Animal Husbandry, Kashmir, Director Fisheries Department, Srinagar, MD JKHPMC and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

Secretary J&K ABDK, Abdul Hamid Wani, presented a brief account of functioning of the Board during the meeting.

While interacting with the Board members, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat said that the J&K government aspires to see the farmers marching towards prosperity and self-reliance. He said that the government is working under a well knit plan towards addressing the Covid-19 lockdown implications on Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy, Fish farming, Floriculture and other related activities so that target of doubling the income of farmers is not affected. In this regard, he made a mention of several steps like streamlining of department of Agriculture Kashmir, JKHPMC and Horticulture department, launch of marketing campaign

for vegetables and fruits, providing refrigeration vans for carrying fresh vegetables and fruits directly to the end users besides other similar initiatives.

The meeting also deliberated on other issues like import of dry fodder, silage and cattle feed from Punjab and Haryana which has direct impact on the rates of milk.

The Board members suggested that in house production and promotion of fodder and feed is the only solution which will not only boost the economy of J&K but enhance the farmer's income manifold. Hence there is a need to motivate and encourage the local unemployed youth for starting feed and fodder manufacturing units.

It was informed that the department of Animal Husbandry is in process to promote and encourage good quality HF and also Jersey cattle breed locally for which the Bulls have been already imported from Germany.

Regarding onset of paddy cultivation in the Valley, the Board reviewed preparedness of Irrigation and Flood Control department. It was informed that de-silting of main canals, distributaries and minors is being undertaken as per the pre-planned arrangements by the department.

Director, Agriculture Department Kashmir, emphasized on organizing awareness programmes in rural areas at the vulnerable locations in coordination with Irrigation department to educate farmers for judicious use of water and proper maintenance of canals by refraining from polluting them.

Choudhary Calls For Mass Awareness For Promoting Agri-Horti Products

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to discuss the draft of Agri-Horti Export and Organic Policies for Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

While reviewing the progress on the draft of Organic Farming and Agri-Horti Export Policy (2021-25), the Principal Secretary called for the mass awareness regarding proper branding, marketing and export of special Agri-Horti products at grass root level by involving PRI members so that the farmers could make their crops organic.

He said that for a beginning small clusters can be formed with 4-5 Panchayats and could be taken to next level to attract more farmers towards organic farming.

He directed the officers to invite eminent scientists and practicing



farmers from all over the country who have expertise and experience in organic farming for sharing the same.

Navin Choudhary asked the officers for Panchayats to be developed as Organic-cum-Export clusters.

Besides, he impressed upon participants of the meeting to develop all agriculture and horticulture departmental farms on organic lines. He instructed the concerned officials to organize a seminar in collaboration with SKUAST-K/J, to formulate project report regarding Agri Exports/ Organic cluster for submission to

NABARD for further approval.

Regarding Organic Certification Agency, it was informed that formation of J&K Organic Certification Agencies has already been approved at both divisional levels.

On the occasion, experts from APEDA presented online presentation on Proposed Export Policy for J&K and discussed the need of the policy and constraints in promotion of Agri- Exports from the Union Territory. The Principal Secretary informed the meeting that a nodal officer for Agri- exports will be appointed soon.

Floriculture Department Takes Over 12 Gardens, Parks From J&K Bank Ltd

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department, has taken over 12 gardens and parks comprising 1029 Kanal of land for maintenance and development which were earlier being looked after by Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited under CSR mode.

These parks included prime spots of tourist attractions including Iqbal park and Badamwari garden in Srinagar district.

While talking about the development, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmed, said that it is the prime Department for developing,



maintaining and beautifying gardens and parks in the entire Union Territory of J&K. "The department has got the best skilled manpower to maintain and beautify the gardens and parks under their jurisdiction in the best possible manner", he added.

Out of 12 parks being taken

over from J&K Bank Limited, 7 parks are located at different places of Anantnag district including Amusement Park Pahalgam, Hikers Park Pahalgam, Liddar View Park Pahalgam, Gulistan Wazirbagh Park, Rani Bagh Park, Darashikoh Park Bijbehara and Padshahibagh Park Bijbehara.

Simultaneously, 2 such prestigious parks including Iqbal Park and Badam-wari garden in Srinagar and 1 park each in Pulwama, Baramulla and Jammu districts are also being taken over by Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department for better maintenance. These parks included Shaheed Park Pulwama, Gulnar Park in Baramulla and Rajinder Children's Park in Jammu district.

Secretary Tourism Reviews Functioning Of Departments In Kupwara

KO NEWS DESK

KUPWARA: Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, on Thursday exhorted upon officers and field functionaries to be proactive in resolving public issues maintaining that LG administration is determined towards providing more responsive, accountable and transparent governance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary, who is also Mentor Secretary for Kupwara district, was addressing a review meeting here in the district.

Secretary asked the officers to bridge gap between the public and the departments by disseminating information regarding citizens' charter and services being available for them. He asked for establishment of a complaint box and proper Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) with dedicated help line numbers in every office to facilitate people register their issues and concerns for redressal.



He had a detailed review of developmental activities being carried out in the district during the current financial year besides assessing the progress achieved in the last fiscal on this account.

While reviewing health sector, Secretary said that despite decline in positive cases we cannot allow to lower the guard for Covid containment and need to continue strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and other SOPs. He was informed that a fine of Rs.17 lakh has been realized from the violators of Covid guidelines in the district.

Regarding functioning of

CAPD, Secretary was informed that sufficient stock of ration and other essential commodities is available in the district including border areas of Karanah, Keran and Machil.

Secretary, while taking stock of education sector, was informed that online classes are being conducted besides community classes have also been started especially in the areas where there is unavailability of internet facility.

Secretary also reviewed the working of departments of Rural Development and PHE and had feedback from SDMs of Karanah and Sogam in this regard.

DDC Chairman highlighted

the developmental issues of the district and stressed for augmentation of water supply schemes especially in Langate.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner informed that the current financial year's CAPEX budget ceiling is about Rs.779.60 crore, which included Rs.11020 lakh under Rural Development, Rs. 1021 lakh under Jal Shakti, Rs.3565 lakh under Transport, Rs.6762 lakh under Social Welfare and Rs.45269 lakh under General Services besides Rs.10321 lakh under Area Development Fund. HE also informed that 9656 development works have been taken up for execution during 2020-21, of which, 4849 have been completed up to March end this year.

Regarding financial achievements of the last fiscal, it was informed that about Rs.16959 lakh were expended constituting 94 percent of the available budget of Rs.18022 lakh.

Agri Deptt Launches Inspection Drive



SRINAGAR: Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department and Law Enforcement Agency launched a valley wide inspection drive to monitor the quality and distribution of Agricultural inputs among the farming community.

During the inspection of the dealers in the valley, 226 samples of Pesticides / Fertilizers / Seeds were drawn randomly by the enforcement inspectors and were sent to different notified Quality control laboratories. The concerned enforcement agency of the Kashmir Division were instructed to initiate the action against the erring dealers if found, as per the provisions of law and continue the same drives in coming days in order to ensure that quality products are made available to the farming community.

Samoon Reviews Working Of Skill Development Institutions

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Thursday reviewed working of all the skill imparting institutions here.

The meeting was attended by Director SDD, Secretary Technical Board, Joint Directors, Principals of Polytechnic colleges and Superintendents of ITIs.

Out-station officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset of the meeting the Principal Secretary took stock of all the works of infrastructure building being carried out by different executing agencies. He asked the officers to closely monitor the progress of all the projects and ensure their timely completion. He enjoined upon them to dedicate these projects to public as infrastructure availability is linked to academic commencement.

Dr Samoon urged upon them to aspire for making this infrastructure correlate to their performance in terms of success stories and relevant skills imparted by them. He asked them to have inter-institutional coordination so that augmentation of both infrastructure and manpower is accomplished.

Dr Samoon asked the heads of these in-

stitutions to look for avenues locally where students could be exposed to industrial environment for certain period of time so that they get acclimatized with the actual field work and requirements for the job.

The Principal Secretary directed these heads to have survey of their areas and look for the necessary skills the local industrial units are in need of. He asked them to rope in big business houses so that the skilled manpower they are in need of could be provided from these institutions. He exhorted upon them to provide training to the students that is relevant and sufficient for seeking jobs in the market. Dr Samoon also instructed the officers to invite professionals to demonstrate their skills in the institutions so that the students imbibe the real temperament for carrying out the job they are being trained for. He advised them to make it their mission to help every student enrolled in these institutions to secure a job at the end of their training. He asked them to make it regular feature to organise job fairs and talent hunt events.

Later while reviewing other administrative matters the Principal Secretary directed the officers to reply satisfactorily all the audit queries still pending. He asked them to take help of the professionals for doing the same.

PMDP Projects In J&K To Be Completed During 2021-22: CS



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a meeting to review the sector-wise implementation of PMDP projects in terms of the physical and financial progress achieved till date. The departments were directed to complete all projects during this fiscal as there would be no spill-overs to the next financial year.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Housing & Urban Development, Power Development, Jal Shakti, Planning, Development & Monitoring, Youth Services & Sports, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, besides Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City participated in the meeting.

At the outset, the Administrative Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department gave a detailed presentation on the status of PMDP projects underway in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Administrative Secretaries to monitor the progress of PMDP projects and focus on project completion within stipulated timelines. Extensive deliberations were held to review the progress of key developmental projects to augment infrastructure in power, sports, irrigation & flood control, and housing & urban development.

Dr. Mehta emphasized that restoration of Dal and Nigeen lakes is a priority for the Government and their rehabilitation be undertaken in an intensive manner to ensure large scale de-weeding of the water bodies within three months. He directed the Housing & Urban Development Department to undertake regular monitoring of wa-

ter quality parameters including pH, turbidity, dissolved solvents, e-coli, and BOD levels of these lakes.

Under Smart City Mission, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to complete the first phase of Jhelum River Front by 30th September 2021. Additionally, the Department was asked to complete the Surface Car Parking at Kothibagh, Integrated Traffic Management System, and Integrated Control and Command Centre by 30th June, 15th July, and 31st August 2021, respectively.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department to develop a project for suitable up-gradation of Batmaloo Bus Stand to provide better services to commuters and travelers.

In sports sector, the Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of sports infrastructure at Bakshi Stadium. It was informed that 94% of works worth Rs. 164 crore have been completed. It was decided that the stadium will be thrown open for public use before 15th August, 2021.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress of various iconic projects of Jammu and Kashmir including Kwar and Ujh Hydro-Electric Projects (HEP), and Metrolite Rail for Srinagar and Jammu cities.

Further, while reviewing the mega projects of Biotechnology Park at Handwara and Industrial Biotechnology Park at Ghatti, Kathua which are being built in collaboration with ICMR and IIMM as knowledge partners, Dr. Mehta directed the concerned Department to consult the stakeholders from various educational and research institutions of Kashmir; with the objective of ensuring outcomes that may benefit the population at large.

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Langate Forest Division Langate.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT NO: - 02 OF 2021-22 DATED: 22-06-2021

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir / Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. in lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACT	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Providing and Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Wooden Fencing in Comp. 56/Rajwar at Golipora, Rajwar Range.	1.44	"D"	Rs. 200/-	15 calendar days.
2	Construction of 1 No. Spherical / Terraced Floral bed in Comp. 22/Rfd (Kilerdagi) at Rafiabad Range.	0.68	"D"	Rs. 200/-	15 calendar days.
3	Fixing of Wooden Fencing (Swan form) in Cement Concrete Blocks in Comp. 22/ Rafiabad.	1.02	"D"	Rs. 200/-	15 calendar days.
4	Construction of Dry Random Rubble Masonry Nallah Stone Check Dams at Spots in Comp. 22/ Rafiabad.	0.50	"D"	Rs. 200/-	15 calendar days.
5	Providing and Fixing of Chain Link Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks in Comp. 32c/Mawar, around Log Hut at Bungs.	3.80	"D"	Rs. 200/-	20 calendar days.
6	Providing and Fixing of Chain Link Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks (Remaining Portion) with landscaping and Beautification in Comp. 36f/ Mawar at Base Station Nowgam.	5.22	"C & D"	Rs. 300/-	20 calendar days.
7	Construction of Two No. Rain Shelter Shed in Comp. 32d/Mawarat Resthwar, Range Mawar.	3.58	"D"	Rs. 200/-	25 calendar days.

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA:- Accorded

Position of T/S:- Accorded

Position of Funds:- Budgeted

Receiving/ Opening Committee:- Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date:-	22-06-2021
Download Start Date:	23-06-2021 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	23-06-2021 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	07-07-2021 UPTO 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online:	08-07-2021 at 10:30 A.M in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore/Mazabugh.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Chalan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:- DFO/Lgt/ACcts/2021-22/135-42
Dated:- 22-06-2021

DIPK-3401/21

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Langate Forest Division,
Langate.

US Allows Some H-1B Visa Seekers To Re-Submit Applications

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: Some foreign guest workers in the US will be able to re-submit their applications for the H-1B visa, the most sought-after non-immigrant visa among Indian IT professionals, if their petition was solely rejected because it was based on the initial registration period, according to a federal agency.

According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), such re-submission of applications is for those whose applications have been rejected or administratively closed solely because the requested start date was after October 1, 2020.

The H-1B visa allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

"If your FY 2021 petition was

exchange and provided overall cost savings to employers seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions," it said.

According to USCIS, for fiscal 2021, the number of petitions filed during the initial filing period was below the number projected as needed to reach the numerical allocations.

This discrepancy was likely related to multiple factors, including the economic, political, and public health uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the fact that FY 2021 was the first year that we implemented the electronic registration process.

"Therefore, in August 2020, we selected additional registrations that were held in reserve. The filing period for registrations selected in August ended on November 16, 2020," it said.

"Some petitioners indicated a start date after October 1, 2020. We rejected or administratively closed those petitions because they were based on registrations submitted



rejected or administratively closed solely because your petition was based on a registration submitted during the initial registration period, but you requested a start date after Oct. 1, 2020, you may re-submit that previously filed petition, with all applicable fees," USCIS said on Wednesday.

"Such petitions must be re-submitted before October 1, 2021. If properly resubmitted, we will consider the petition to have been filed on the original receipt date," the USCIS said.

In 2020, USCIS implemented an electronic registration process for the H-1B cap. Prospective petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including for beneficiaries eligible for the advanced degree exemption, must first electronically register and pay the USD 10 H-1B registration fee for each beneficiary.

"The electronic registration process has streamlined processing by reducing paperwork and data

during the initial registration period but indicated a start date after October 1, 2020. Upon reconsideration, we no longer believe that the regulations required us to reject or administratively close those petitions," the USCIS said.

The move comes days after the powerful US Chambers of Commerce launched a massive campaign to address the acute shortage of skilled and professional workforce in America.

The demand to increase the H-1B quota, which currently is at 65,000 and another 20,000 for those who have higher studies from the US, is part of the America Works campaign launched by the US Chambers of Commerce early this month.

"As we stand on the cusp of what could be a great American resurgence, a worker shortage is holding back job creators across the country," US Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Suzanne Clark said.

China To Start First Electric Train In Tibet Close To Arunachal Pradesh: Report

Agenceis

BEIJING: China is all set to operationalise the first electric train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi - a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is expected to be inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1, according to official media reports. The electricity transmission process has been completed and tested, Liu Yuxiang, Chief Engineer of the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway, was quoted as saying by the state-run CCTV earlier.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.

In November, Chinese President Xi Jinping had instructed officials

to expedite construction of the new railway project, connecting Sichuan Province and Nyingchi in Tibet, saying the new rail line would play a key role in safeguarding the border stability.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours. Nyingchi is a city in Medog region, which is adjacent to the Arunachal Pradesh border.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the official daily Global Times earlier that "If a scenario of a crisis happens at the China-India border, the railway will provide a great convenience for China's delivery of strategic materials."

Petrol Price On A Roll, Consumers Spared Big Hike In Diesel



Agenceis

NEWS DELHI: Fuel prices increased again across the country on Thursday, adding more misery for the common man already grappling with rising food prices amid shrinking income.

But in the latest round of fuel price hike, oil marketing companies have spared diesel users from a big spike while maintaining regular increase in the retail price of petrol.

On Thursday, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) raised the price of petrol by 26 paise per litre to Rs 97.76 a litre in Delhi but kept diesel price hike relatively lower at just 7 paise per litre that has raised its retail level at Rs 88.30 a litre in the national capital.

With the rise, petrol price has

reached very close to hitting the century mark all across the country extending the scope of historic high prices that had already made the fuel rate cross the Rs 100 per litre mark in certain cities and towns of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol crossed Rs 100 a litre mark for the first time on May 29, the fuel price reached new high of Rs 103.88 per litre on Thursday. Diesel price also increased marginally in the city to reach Rs 95.80 a litre, the highest among metros.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased on Thursday but its retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.

Petrol prices in three other metros apart from Mumbai have

also reached closer to Rs 100 per litre mark and OMC officials said that if international oil prices continue to firm up, this mark could also be breached in other places by month end.

With Thursday's price hike, fuel prices have now increased on 29 days and remained unchanged on 26 days since May 1. The 29 increases have raised petrol prices by Rs 7.37 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel price has increased by Rs 7.57 per litre in the national capital.

With global crude prices also rising on a pick up demand and depleting inventories of world's largest fuel guzzler - the US, retail prices of fuel in India are expected to firm up further in coming days. The benchmark Brent crude reached multi year high level of over \$75 on ICE or Intercontinental Exchange.

Climate Change To Reshape Life Sooner Than Feared: UN

Agenceis

PARIS: Climate change will fundamentally reshape life on the planet in the coming decades, even if humans can tame planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, according to a landmark draft report from the UN's climate science advisers.

Species extinction, more widespread disease, extreme heat, ecosystem collapse, cities menaced by rising seas — these and other devastating climate impacts are accelerating and bound to become painfully obvious before a child born today turns 30.

The choices societies make now will determine whether our species thrives or simply survives as the 21st century unfolds, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says in a draft report seen exclusively by AFP.

But dangerous thresholds are closer than once thought, and dire consequences stemming from decades of unbridled carbon pollution are unavoidable in the short term.

"The worst is yet to come, affecting our children's and grandchildren's lives much more than our own," the report says. By far the most comprehensive catalogue ever assembled of how climate change is upending our world, the report reads like a 4,000-page indictment of humanity's stewardship of the planet.

But the document, designed to influence critical policy decisions, is not scheduled for release until February 2022 — too late for



crunch UN summits this year on climate, biodiversity and food systems, some scientists say.

In response to AFP's reporting, the IPCC released a statement saying it "does not comment on the contents of draft reports while work is still ongoing".

The draft report comes at a time of global "eco-awakening" and serves as a reality check against a slew of ill-defined net-zero promises by governments and corporations worldwide. The challenges it highlights are systemic, woven into the very fabric of daily life. They are also deeply unfair: those least responsible for global warming will suffer disproportionately, the report makes clear.

And it shows that even as we spew record amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, we are undermining the capacity of forests and oceans to absorb them, turning our greatest natural allies in the fight against warming into enemies.

It warns that previous major climate shocks dramatically altered the environment and wiped

out most species, raising the question of whether humanity is sowing the seeds of its own demise.

"Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems," it says. "Humans cannot."

There are at least four main takeaways in the draft report, which may be subject to minor changes in the coming months as the IPCC shifts its focus to a key executive summary for policymakers.

The first is that with 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming clocked so far, the climate is already changing.

A decade ago, scientists believed that limiting global warming to two degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels would be enough to safeguard our future. That goal is enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, adopted by nearly 200 nations who vowed to collectively cap warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius — and 1.5 degrees if possible.

On current trends, we're heading for three degrees Celsius at best.

State Boards Should Declare Internal Assessment Results By July 31: SC

Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the state boards to declare internal assessment results of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that there can't be a "fit-all" scheme, and each board was autonomous and free to formulate its own evaluation method for students.

Stating that it will not pass any direction for having a uniform scheme for assessment across the country, the apex court directed the state boards to ensure that the scheme be formulated at the earliest and not later than 10 days from Thursday.

A bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari observed that each board will have to evolve their own scheme.

"We direct the boards to ensure that the scheme be formulated at the earliest and not later than 10 days from today and also declare the internal assessment results by July 31, 2021, like the time line specified for CBSE and CISCE," the bench said in its order.

The top court was hearing a plea, which has sought directions to states to not hold board examinations in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We make it clear that each board may formulate their own scheme. However, we further make it clear that we are not endorsing the correctness and validity of scheme that will be formulated by the concerned board..." the bench said.

During the hearing conducted through videoconferencing, the bench was told by an advocate appearing in the matter that state boards that have cancelled the class 12 examinations amid the pandemic may be asked to have a uniform scheme for assessing students.

"That may not be acceptable because every state board has

their own scheme. It cannot be uniform. We are not going to direct for uniform scheme. Each board will have to evolve their own scheme," the bench said, adding that each board is different and autonomous.

It said each state boards have experts to advise them and there cannot be a uniform all-India scheme for this.

"There cannot be a fit-all scheme," the bench observed, adding, "We have made it clear that each board is autonomous and they will have their own scheme."

The counsel appearing for Haryana school education board told the bench that the petitioner is seeking a uniform formula for assessment.

"That we have already made it clear that each board can have their own scheme," the bench said.

The apex court noted in its order that state of Assam has filed an affidavit stating that examinations for class 10 and 12 have been cancelled and scheme is being formulated by the board for internal assessment of marks.

"That be done expeditiously. In addition, the scheme must provide for a mechanism for redressal of grievance of students after declaration of results as done by the CBSE and CISCE," the bench said.

The top court also noted that National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has cancelled the board examinations and is in the process of formulating the scheme for assessment. The apex court was earlier informed by the Assam and Tripura governments that they have cancelled their state boards of Class 12 exam due to the pandemic.

On June 17, the top court was informed that out of 28 states, six states have already conducted the board exams, 18 states have cancelled them, but four states (Assam, Punjab, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh) have not cancelled them as of now.

Scientists Write To President, Say Proposed Law Is "Against Lakshadweep's Culture"

Agenceis

KOCHI: The proposed Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation of 2021 (LDAR) is highly problematic and will work against existing legal provisions that safeguard the resilience of Lakshadweep's ecology,

livelihood and culture, say a group of scientists from different institutions who have worked on the islands for years.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Lakshadweep Research Collective said it along with 60 other signatories from the scientific community have written to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking his intervention to withdraw the "incautious draft" Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation of 2021.

A collective of scientists and citizens, the Lakshadweep Research Collective, said they have done a thorough review of the implications of the LDAR.

"In enabling take-over of local land, we find this draft regulation is not in consonance with existing laws, such as the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Biological Diversity Act 2002, The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986," the statement said.

It is also against the suggestions of the Justice Raveendran Committee recommendations set up by the Supreme Court (as approved and notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, in its Notification

No.19011/16/91-IA. III dated 23 October 2015, and the Lakshadweep Panchayats Regulation 1994), the collective said.

"The LDAR does not address India's commitments towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, marine protection goals under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Ecotourism Guidelines 2019," it said.

Noting that Lakshadweep is a coral atoll, which means the islands are part of a living coral system, the scientists said this island system is facing the impacts of climate change.

"Lakshadweep has experienced catastrophic climate change-related coral mass mortality events, straining the accretion and buffer capacity of the reefs. As just one example, the reefs of the capital, Kavaratti, are already eroding more than they are growing.

Lakshadweep is not just ecologically fragile but also socially progressive, and it needs a sustainable development framework," it said.

They said anyone who has lived or worked in Lakshadweep for any length of time will be aware of its special vulnerability.

"Surrounded by the ocean, barely a few metres above sea level, and with only the reef to protect it, it is clear that all development on these islands needs to be very carefully managed. Over the last two decades we have personally witnessed the reefs being battered by repeated bleaching events and intense storms.

Got Your Jab? Discount Awaits On Air Travel

Agenceis

In an industry first initiative, low cost carrier Indigo has started offering a discount of up to 10 per cent on its base air fare booking to customers in a bid to encourage vaccination among the masses — either one or both the COVID-19 vaccine doses are welcome.

The discount has been offered to support the government-led mass vaccination programme and incentivise air travel for such responsible citizens. The airline in statement said that the discount offer will only be available to vaccinated passengers aged 18 years and above, who are located in India at the time of booking and have already received a COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

Passengers who have availed the offer at the time of booking shall be required to furnish a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate, issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,



Government of India.

Alternately, they can display their vaccination status on the Aarogya Setu mobile application at the airport check-in counter/boarding gate, the statement added.

"Being the largest airline in the country, we feel it is our responsibility to contribute to the national vaccination drive, by encouraging more people towards this common goal. This offer will not only strengthen their resolve towards vaccination, but

also ensure that they can travel safely at affordable fares with IndiGo. We are committed to offer an on-time, hassle-free travel experience to our customers, on-board our lean, clean flying machine," said Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy & Revenue Officer, IndiGo.

The airline opened only limited inventory under the offer. It said that the offer cannot be clubbed with any other offer, scheme, or promotion and will be available only on IndiGo website.

Expelled By Herd, Jharkhand Elephant Kills 16 Villagers In 2 Months

Agenceis

New Delhi: A rogue elephant has killed at least 16 villagers in the past two months in Jharkhand after likely being expelled from his herd "for bad behaviour", a wildlife official said on Thursday.

The mature male, believed to be 15 or 16 years old, has been on the rampage in the state's tribal Santhal Pargana region ever since he was separated from the herd of 22 elephants.

"It's likely he was in heat and was expelled because of his bad behaviour or sexual rivalry with other males," Satish Chandra Rai, regional divisional forest officer, told AFP.

"We are studying his behaviour and a team of 20 officials is constantly trying to track him because our first priority is to protect the animal." The elephant, which is now on its way back seeking to reunite with the herd, has managed to outwit officials with his sheer speed and



unpredictability. On Tuesday, the tusker lifted an elderly couple with his trunk and killed them when they had ventured out before dawn.

Mr Rai said the elephant was only killing people who accidentally got in its way, got too close, or who tried to

provoke it and take pictures.

"He has not been breaking into houses or deliberately attacking people," Mr Rai said.

"We want to see if he is accepted back in the herd. If he is not it will be proved he is a bad boy."

India has an estimated 30,000 wild Asian elephants — nearly 60 per cent of the total wild population.

In recent years there have been rising incidents of elephants killed by locals — and vice-versa — as humans encroach further into forest areas.