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P6 THINK

PRESENT BUT PERNICIOUS?

On Saturday soon after police arrested Ashiq Mir, one of the associates of Shahid Imran, running a social media page -Kashmir Crown—in connection with a case of exhortation under section 383 of IPC, social media journalism became...

P7 THINK

THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND HEALTH ANXIETY

Most medical professionals including general physicians, gastroenterologists, cardiologists etc. have encountered patients who have physical problems for which an organic cause cannot...



P11 SPORTS

CRISTIANO RONALDO TO COMPLETE STUNNING MANCHESTER UNITED MOVE

Cristiano Ronaldo is headed back to Manchester United. The English club said Friday it has reached an agreement with Juventus for the transfer of the...



A word fitly spoken can change a person's life.

—Louis Howard

NEWS DIGEST

CAF India CEO Calls On LG

SRINAGAR: Charities Aid Foundation India CEO, Ms. Meenakshi Batra called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday. According to an official spokesperson, the LG appreciated the efforts of CAF India and its outreach effort to distribute ration and hygiene kits. **More On P10**

Ammunition Recovered In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday recovered ammunition during a search operation in Old Town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said. Army's 46 RR and 53 battalion of CRPF during a joint operation recovered 9 rounds and 46 empty cases of 7.62 mm of AK 47 Rifle in an envelope. **More On P10**

Sarpanch Held With Cannabis

SRINAGAR: A village head in Rajouri has been arrested after 750 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession, reports said Friday. Sarpanch Mohammad Liaquat, son of Mohammad Raseed of Challas Dungi in Keri sector was arrested last night by police, reports said. Confirming the arrest, a police officer said that a case. **More On P10**

Electric Shock Kills Woman

SRINAGAR: A woman died after receiving an electric shock in the Qalamabad area of north-Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday. 45-year-old Hajira Begum, wife of Ghulam Hassan Najar was busy with some household chores when she came into contact with a bare wire of electric cooking heater and received electric shock, family said Friday. "We took her to. **More On P10**

Special Status Revocation

Plea Filed In SC For Early Hearing Of Petitions



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami on Friday filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking early hearing of the petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his petition, Tarigami said despite the fact that the challenge to the constitutional validity of orders by the Centre on August 5, 2019 as well as the J-K (Reorganisation) Act, 2019 is pending before the Supreme Court, the central government has taken some "irreversible actions". He said the. **More On P10**

JKBOSE Slashes 30% Syllabus For Annual Exams

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) on Friday announced 30 percent relaxation in the syllabus for 10th to 12th class annual regular-2021 examination.

An official order was issued in this regard reads, in view of prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic, students appearing in the forthcoming Annual (Regular) Examinations of 2020-21 of classes 10th, 11th, and 12th of Kashmir Division/ Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division and. **More On P10**

Light Showers In J&K From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir will receive light to moderate rainfall from Saturday evening bringing much sought relief to the people reeling under intense hot weather conditions.

"The rainfall is expected from tomorrow evening across Jammu and Kashmir. While Kashmir will receive light showers, the Jammu division will witness moderate rainfall in the next. **More On P10**

IN SUCH VIEW OF THE MATTER, the applicant herein is seeking an early hearing of said writ petition."

Disgraced Kashmir Crown Editor Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in north Kashmir's Sopore on Friday arrested Shahid Imran, so called Editor-in-Chief of a Facebook news page Kashmir Crown in a case of alleged extortion.

According to a police spokesperson, Imran was arrested after a case FIR number 145/2021 under sections 384, 385, 506 (1) 420 and 120B IPC was filed at the police station Dangiwaicha following a court order on. **More On P10**

'Oppressed Kashmir' Placard In Ashura Procession Two Youth Slapped With UAPA For 'Anti-National Activities'

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Two youth have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for carrying a banner during a Muharram procession that read 'Oppressed Kashmir' earlier this month.

27-year old Maqsood Ahmed Rather and 23-year-old Irshad Ahmad from Sharifabad,

Budgam were booked under the stringent UAPA for raising the banner during Ashura procession in central Kashmir town of Budgam.

According to locals, three days after the Ashura, the police had come to the area looking for these two young men.

"Police told us that the duo was found raising anti-India slogans. **More On P10**

Coronavirus Threat Not Over Yet: LG



Says Strong Cooperation Needed From Society To Prevent 3rd Wave

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that the coronavirus threat was not over yet and a strong cooperation from the society

is required to prevent the threat of third wave.

The LG made these remarks while chairing weekly meetings with Covid Task Force, DCs & SPs at Raj Bhavan here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting with the DCs & SPs, **More On P10**

J&K Logs 166 New Covid Cases, One Death

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 166 fresh Covid cases on Friday, taking the infection tally to 3,24,813, while the Union Territory registered its first death due to the virus in the past three days, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 44 were from the Jammu division and 122 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 57 cases followed by 19 cases in Budgam district.

There are 1,149 active cases in the Union Territory, while 3,19,259 patients have recovered from the infection so far, the officials said.

The death toll due to the disease was. **More On P10**

J&K To Form Film Development Council To Implement Film Policy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government will establish a film development council to achieve the objectives of film policy unveiled by it earlier this month.

"Jammu & Kashmir Film Development Council shall be a separate vertical and act as a distinct agency to achieve the objectives of

the Film Policy. JKFDCC shall be the single point of contact to achieve the objectives of the Film Policy," read the policy document.

According to the policy, the J&K Film Development Council will be a high-powered committee headed by a senior officer of the rank of principal secretary to the government and shall comprise, besides other senior officers, **More On P10**

100% Schools, Anganwadi Centres In J&K Get Tap Water

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has become the second Union Territory after Andaman and Nicobar Island to provide tap water in 100% of its schools and anganwadi centres ahead of the set target of March 2022, an official spokesperson said Friday.

In keeping with its efforts at providing tap water connection to all rural households by 2022,

Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K has accomplished the challenging task of ensuring functional tap water connections to all schools and anganwadi centres in the UT, the official spokesperson said.

He said that the 100 % coverage of schools and anganwadi centres comes much ahead of the set target of March 2022, and despite the challenges of difficult terrain.

"The functional tap connections have been. **More On P10**



START-UP



Zaid Bin Shabir

Inside the cement-kilned walls of a skyscraper in Srinagar, a young man sporting a light blue-shirt and black-chinos looks reckless. His eyes remain etched to the blueprint of a project, as he speaks to his counterpart in a deafening tone: "What shall we do; our lives have turned hell since the day we applied for registration of our project."

The young man is Mueed Ahmad, a 27-year-old Cardiff University-return MBA-holder, who had planned to invest into a project in Kashmir following the J&K Government's claim of a



better entrepreneurial life for the domicile-holders of the valley. "The administration's

current claims may not create any instant reactions," Mueed, the young entrepreneur, told

Kashmir Observer. "But later on, it might instill a sense of dismay and distress among the youth."

Since the abrogation of Kashmir's special status, the administration has been vowing a global entrepreneurial life in the valley. In fact, while promoting the 'new-age' Kashmir—where ease of doing business was stated to be 'free from hassles'—several aspirants felt exhilarated as the move had brought hopes in the din of looming financial crisis.

The administration even published a flurry of advertisements explaining its strategies for a better pavement for youths struggling towards a

global start-up platform, where companies like Jindal and Tata compete against each other.

To build hype for the proposed Global Investors Summit and promote Kashmir as an investor-friendly destination, the administration even organized roadshows across cities.

The Department of Industries & Commerce (I&C) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization also signed MoUs worth thousands of crores of rupees from interested investors ranging from big corporates to local domicile investors.

The changed guard in Kashmir left. **More On P10**

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Saturday| 28-08-2021

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having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her
objection int he office of **Islamia Model High School** Within
a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be enter-
tained.
Suhaila Tabasum D/O Syed Mehboob Geelani
R/o laribal rajwar sult

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been Wrongly mentioned in school record As
05/02/2005 while as my correct DOB is 05/3/2007 which
needs immediate correction. If anybody have any objection
may contact to Boys High School Jagerpora Handwara with in
seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
Name:- Mehvish Nazir D/O:- Nazir Ahmad Dar
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JAMMU & KASHMIR ENERGY DEV. AGENCY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Tawana iGhar, SDA Colony, Bemina / 16 New Rehari, Jammu

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to the notice of the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Department of Science and Technology, that some unscrupulous persons have resorted to collection of funds as beneficiary share against Solar Agri-culture Pumps under PM-KUSUM Scheme either directly or through fake website access. It is for the information of general public that JAKEDA has not authorised any person/vendor to collect funds, against any scheme. JAKEDA, through the medium of this public notice, is requesting the people to refrain from making any payment, to any person, against any scheme, whatsoever, proposed to be implemented through JAKEDA.

Whenever JAKEDA intends to collect such beneficiary shares, the same shall be notified separately through print media (local dailies) and its official website www.jakeda.jk.gov.in. The only mode of payment, in such case, shall be through bank drafts favouring CEO, JAKEDA or e-transfer to JAKEDA's official account.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
JAKEDA

DIPK-NB-2980/21

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Umair Ishrat S/D/W Of Ishrat Hussain Bab R/o Shahidi Chowk M H.S Marg Jammu (Transferor) of Eon bearing registration No. JK01AB. 0697 chasis No: 394503 Engine No: 355614 Model 2015 in favour of Monis Pirzada S/O Mohammad Altaf R/O Sheikh Hamza Colony Lal Bazar (Trans-feree).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.
Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir
Dated: 25/08/2021
FKO R

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my passport bearing No; J9004297 as Muneem Hussain Misger while my correct name is Mueem Hussain Misger. Now I have applied for the correction of my name as well as renewal of my passport. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mueem Hussain Misger
S/O Mohd Ramzan Misger
R/O Qazi Mohalla Lal Chowk Ang RNA

Public Notice

My mother's name has been wrongly mentioned in my passport as Mehmooda while her correct name according to my Board Certificates is Mahmooda which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Irfan Bhat
Father's Name : Mohammad Ramzan Bhat
Mother's Name : Mahmooda p

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Mrs : Neeru Raj Podwal S/W/ D/O: Deepak Kumar R/o: Sheikh-pora Budgam (Transferor) of LMV alto 800. Vehicle bearing registra-tion number JK04C - 7083. Chasis number 34395 Engine no. 17375 Model 2014. In favour of Miss.. Beenish Nazir D/o. Nazir Ahmad R/o Friends Colony Hy-derpora Srinagar (Tranferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3148
Dated 24/08/2021
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad farhan S/o Mansoor Ahmad hagroo R/o: old nishat near Shahi masjid dar Mohalla want to Change my mother's name on my passport From Mehmooda Akhter to Mehmooda mansoor based as per my matric 10th marks card if anybody has any kind of objection he or she can in contact with the passport office nehru Park Srinagar within 7 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of D Class Contract card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engi-neer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hameedullah Bhat
S/o Ab Gafar Bhat
R/O Sagam Anantang RNA

از نیابت دیو لگام یا اجلاس انجینئرنگ مجسٹریٹ دیوال۔ دیو لگام درخواست منجانب۔ پرویز احمد، بسم جان، فرحت علی پیران بشیر احمد جام ساکن دیو لگام بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاری یا RBA سرٹیفیکٹ۔

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان الصدر میں سالیان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدش پیش کیا ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ بیکاروئی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالیان کا کنینہ بدش افراد ہیں۔
۱۔ زنیہ بیوہ عبداللہ گوجر نیٹھ 60 سال گھر دیو لگام
۲۔ لطیف احمد ولد عبداللہ گوجر نیٹھ 23 سال مزدوری
۳۔ سہیلہ اختر زوجہ لطیف احمد 23 سال گھر دیو لگام
۴۔ عدنان ولد لطیف احمد گوجر نیٹھ 03 سال کم سن
۵۔ اناہیہ دختر لطیف احمد 01 سال کم سن
۶۔ محمد الطاف گوجر نیٹھ 27 سال مزدوری
۷۔ روبینہ زوجہ محمد الطاف گوجر نیٹھ 25 سال گھر دیو لگام
۸۔ عارفہ دختر عبداللہ گوجر نیٹھ 22 سال گھر دیو لگام

اس طرح سائل اسامیل کا کنینہ 08 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور حصول سرٹیفیکٹ کا خواہاں ہے قبل از کارواری ہر خاص و عام کو بدریہ استہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سرٹیفیکٹ ہذا ایوارڈ کرنے کے نسبت کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سالیان دن کے اندر اندر آجپنے دفتر یا اعتراض وادعا ہذا کو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی دفتر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ RNA

از نیابت دیو لگام یا اجلاس انجینئرنگ مجسٹریٹ دیوال۔ دیو لگام درخواست منجانب۔ پرویز احمد، بسم جان، فرحت علی پیران بشیر احمد جام ساکن دیو لگام بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاری یا RBA سرٹیفیکٹ۔

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان الصدر میں سالیان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاری یا سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر بدش پیش کیا ہے جو کہ بیکاروئی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالیان کا کنینہ بدش افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار نام و معودہ لیت پیشہ
۱۔ علی ولد عبدالرزاق مقام پیشہ
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۳۔ بشیر احمد علی مقام مزدوری
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۵۔ پرویز احمد ولد بشیر احمد مقام زنیہ تعلیم
۶۔ سیما دختر بشیر احمد مقام زنیہ تعلیم
۷۔ فرحت علی ولد بشیر احمد مقام زنیہ تعلیم
سالیان کا کنینہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ بعد از سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ RNA

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

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محمد یوسف کوئی ولد غلام حسین کوئی ساکن صلح لکھنؤ انتہا ناگ RNA

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Div Com Stresses On Speedy Completion Of Works For Arrest Of Sewerage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Friday conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar to take stock of the pace and progress of ongoing STP projects.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Assad, GM NBCC, SE UEED Srinagar Circle and other concerned officers.

During the tour, Pole inspected the proposed Inter Mediate Pumping Station (IPS), Zero Bridge Rajbagh, IPS Vicharnag Nowshehra, STP Noorbagh, IPS Saidpora, Alijan Road and Outfall Pumping Station Noorbagh. He also inspected STP related works in Alamgari Bazar and other localities of Old City.

While taking stock of progress of works, Div Com stressed on

speedy completion of all projects and instructed concerned authorities to ensure timely resolution of issues including land transfers, land acquisition for pipe laying, electricity and other facilities impeding the work process.

He emphasized that pace of work is expedited on all STP related projects in Srinagar for arrest of sewerage in all city areas.

The Div Com was apprised that work on STP Noorbagh, IPS and outfall stations was going on in full swing, which is to be made functional by end of the current year.

During the tour, Div Com met locals at Noorbagh, who apprised him of various issues including construction of drainage and roads in the area. He gave them a hearing and assured that all their genuine demands shall be looked into on priority.

Lawaypora Residents Face Drinking Water Shortage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The residents of Green house colony in Lawaypora area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district are facing a severe scarcity of drinking water for the last six months due to an unfinished pipeline.

Locals said that they are facing the worst water crisis for the last six month due to an unfinished waterline connecting the area. "Water pipeline connecting the area was left unfinished in the month of March this year without any reason," they said.

"We are having a lot of trouble in these hot summer days as there is shortage of drinking water," Mohammad Amain a local said.

The residents said Jal-Shakti Department have failed to provide piped water to the area despite directions from the Government.

The locals appealed to the Srinagar administration to intervene and redress their genuine demands.

Renowned Broadcaster Maqsood Ahmad Felicitated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Renowned broadcaster and Editor of Shaherbeen, a well-known current affairs program of All India Radio (AIR) Srinagar Maqsood Ahmed was felicitated on Friday with the National AIR Award 2021 from All India Institute of Self Local Government Mumbai (AILSG), a premier government recognized Institute of Mumbai.

The award was presented to Maqsood by Advisor of J&K LG Fa-

rooq Khan in an award ceremony held at SP College M A Road Srinagar. It is pertinent to mention here that the J & K Government has also awarded Maqsood with a state award in 2010 in the best media personality category.

He is the first journalist from AIR who has been honoured with the state award. Maqsood is a post-graduate (PG) in Mass Communication and Journalism from Kashmir University and hails from a far flung area of Uri.

IIM-J Srinagar Off-Campus Organises Innovators Meet

SRINAGAR: Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM-J), Srinagar Off-campus organised an Innovators Meet at their Nowgam campus.

The program was organized in association with Grassroots Innovations and Agumentation Network (GIAN), Gujarat. The program was attended by more than 20 innovators from different parts of the valley, who shared their experiences and challenges in a session that was also attended by scholars, researchers and faculty members from institutes like Harvard University, Zhejiang University, NIT Srinagar, IIM Jammu, GIAN and Kashmir University. IIM Jammu started its off-campus in the Srinagar recently and the campus is setup with an aim of broad outreach and a focus on corporate training, innovations and Entrepreneurship in the Kashmir region.

The objective of this in-house discussion was to facilitate the bottom-up narrative about local innovations. The structural and institutional challenges peripheral innovators face while scaling up their innovations were identified and documented. To nurture local innovations both from the formal and informal settings, it was agreed that a robust actor - sector collaboration will be forged.

Dr Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, who is currently working as an innovation researcher at Zhejiang University China, also spoke on the occasion and stressed on understanding the bottom-up narrative from innovators which is must for crafting any innovation policy. Referring to the innovation policy history, he said that the top-down policy directionality has not helped local innovations. The local narrative about innovations is always wanting. For building a robust innovation system in Kashmir he mentioned that innovators perspectives are very important.

Dr Shabir Hassan, research scientist at Harvard Medical School while congratulating local innovations, IIM Jammu and Gian spoke about the importance of organising discussions and discourses on value-based innovations and entrepreneurship for nurturing innovation culture in Kashmir. He agreed to work with the local innovations for further value addition and scaling up. Appreciating the idea of creating innovation clubs, he suggested that local innovation stops should be set up in local universities and enterprises.

Public Notice

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

Shabir Ahamd Bhat S/O Hameedullah Bhat
R/o Sagam Anantnag RNA

Restoration Work Of Mughal Gardens Begins

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The restoration of two most prominent Mughal Gardens – Nishat Bagh and Shalimar Bagh – has started a month after the government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the JSW Foundation for conserva-

tion of the UT's heritage places.

Conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah, who is working with JSW Foundation, gave a detailed briefing to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday on the work being undertaken by the team for preservation and restoration of Shalimar and Nishat gardens.

"The Lt Governor impressed upon the conservation architect to conduct the work of conservation, restoration, and preservation meticulously for restoring the original beauty and grandeur of the famous heritage gardens," Hindustan Times quoted a spokesperson of

the government as having said. Shalimar Bagh is the largest Mughal garden in Kashmir built by Emperor Jahangir for his wife Noor Jahan in 1619, on the banks of Dal Lake in north-east Srinagar.

Built in 1633 by Asif Khan, the picturesquely terraced Nishat Bagh is also a Mughal

ment spokesperson had said.

After the MoU, the J&K LG had said that was giving much-needed impetus to integrate the promotion of cultural heritage in UT's development plan in order to connect the people from across the world with the glorious history of J&K.

With its technical expertise, the



garden situated close to the Shalimar on the eastern side of the Dal Lake. The Zabarwan Mountains form the background of the garden.

On July 28, the J&K Government inked a MoU with JSW Foundation, which is a social arm of multinational conglomerate JSW Group, for restoration & conservation of the gardens to restore the glory of these heritage places.

The JSW Foundation is supporting the government of J&K, both financially and technically in preserving the two heritage gardens under corporate social responsibility (CSR), the govern-

ment support of the JSW foundation is expected to provide a "determined push" to the conservation work of the heritage gardens.

The project for restoration and conservation of Shalimar and Nishat gardens is being monitored by the project monitoring committee, headed by the Commissioner Secretary to Government, Department of Floriculture Gardens and Parks.

The project is being taken up in two phases. The estimated cost of the conservation and restoration project of Nishat Bagh is Rs 7 crore while a similar project is envisaged for Shalimar Bagh also.

Srinagar AQI To Be Improved To Less Than 50 In 2 Years: DC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday reviewed the Action Plan for Implementation and Monitoring of National Clean Air programme (NCAP) for improving the index of air quality in Srinagar district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Khurshid Ahmad, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Srinagar, Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, Nazir Ahmad, Scientist, Pollution Control Committee, Mohammad Sultan and other concerned.

While reviewing Action Plan for Implementation and Monitoring of NCAP, the DDC directed the Officers to incorporate option for Clean Air Towers, besides adopting modern technology based mechanism in the City Specific Action Plan (CSAP) for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/ industrial emissions, identifying major causes of air pollution and increasing public awareness. He stressed the Officers to put in extra efforts so that the Air Quality Index is brought down to below 50 against the present 73.

The DDC said Central Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across

measures will be taken for this purpose. He called for collective effort to monitor quality of air to ensure desired air quality in Srinagar.

The DDC further called for



the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 percent to 30 percent reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

He said improving the quality of air is paramount for larger public benefit and all possible

increasing Green Cover in Srinagar City, besides other measures to improve air quality. He asked the SMC authorities to take measures for removing all construction material along roadsides, which is one of the reason for air pollution. He further directed for regular sprinkling of water on roads.

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
- BUDHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 475- Roman general Orestes forces western Roman Emperor Julius Nepos to flee his capital city, Ravenna
- 476- German ruler Flavius Odoacer captures Pavia
- 489- Theodor, king of the Ostrogoths defeats Flavius Odoacer at the Battle of Isonzo, forcing his way into Italy.
- 1189- Third Crusade: the Crusaders begin the Siege of Acre under Guy of Lusignan
- 1521- Belgrade captured by troops of Turkish Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent
- 1542- Turkish-Portuguese War (1538-1557) - Battle of Wofla: the Portuguese are scattered, their leader Christovão da Gama is captured and afterwards executed.
- 1833- Britain's Slavery Abolition Act gains royal assent
- 1837- Pharmacists John Lea & William Perrins manufacture Worcestershire Sauce
- 1849- Venice under Daniele Manin surrenders to Austrians under Radetsky, having been under siege since July 20 after proclaiming independence
- 1859- A geomagnetic storm causes the Aurora Borealis to shine so brightly that it is seen clearly over parts of USA, Europe, and even as far afield as Japan.
- 1861- Battle of Fort Hatteras, NC
- 1862- Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, VA
- 1864- The first Geneva Convention, governing rules of warfare, signed by 26 nations.
- 1884-First known photograph of a tornado is made near Howard, SD
- 1910- Nicholas I, who first assumed power in 1860 and had his reign interrupted by Turkish rule, again proclaims himself king
- 1916- Germany declares war on Romania
- 1916- Italy declares war against Germany
- 1924- Georgian opposition stages the August Uprising against the Soviet Union.
- 1964- US weather satellite Nimbus I launched
- 1973-India & Pakistan sign POW accord
- 1974- Soyuz 15 returns to Earth
- 1993- Dam breaks in Qinghai West China, 223 killed
- 1995- Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen al-Medaj announces that his country will increase its oil production capacity to as much as 3.5 million barrels per day by 2005
- 1998- Pakistan's National Assembly passes a constitutional amendment to make the "Qur'an and Sunnah" the "supreme law" but the bill is defeated in the Senate.
- 2013- China and Russia walk out of a UN Security Council meeting after the US pushes for immediate action against Syria's use of chemical weapons
- 2017- North Korea launches missile that flies over Japan, the country's J-Alert warning system warns people to take cover
- 2019- Discovery of 3.8-million-year-old skull of early human ancestor Australopithecus anamensis, found by Yohannes Haile-Selassie, at Miro Dora, Ethiopia, upends previous evolutionary theory published in journal "Nature"

From KO Archives

Ceasefire Offered Without Salah-Ud-Din's Nod: Geelani

'Jamaat chief doesn't consult me on important issues'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : Former chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and senior Jamaat-e-Islami leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, said today the unilateral ceasefire announced by the Hizbul Mujahideen chief commander operations, Abdul Majid Dar, did not have the consent of the Hizb supreme commander, Syed Salah-ud-din. In an interview with CNS, he said Salah-ud-din had endorsed the announcement in the interest of unity in the out-fit's rank and file.

Describing the ceasefire offer merely as a view, Geelani said the centre's hurried acceptance of it was aimed at her desire to utilise the matter in her favour. Admitting that Dar had spoken with him on telephone before making the announcement, he said he had made it dear that the ceasefire would be tantamount to defeat.

ADVISE TO WAIT: Geelani said he had advised Dar to wait till the organisational elections of Jama'at-e-Islami and also to consult other militant groups. He also sought Dar's meeting with him and another Jama'at leader, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, before making the ceasefire announcement.

Referring to Abdul Majid Dar's reported statement that efforts were on to resume the dialogue, Geelani said the talks should be held between all the parties to the dispute and to solve the basic issue of Kashmir. "It is imperative for purposeful talks and their success to remove the existing bottlenecks", he said citing India's refusal to accept Kashmir as a dispute or claiming it as her integral part as the main hurdles in it.

FUTILE TALKS: Asserting that the recent talks between the Hizb and the centre were a futile exercise, Geelani asked what necessity there was to work out the modalities. "At some places, the Hizb cadres were asked to surrender arms and at others they were officially sounded to stay in certain specified areas. In some areas, the identity of Hizb men was asked for", he said, adding that all this was done to make inroads into the outfit with a view to harming it at an available opportunity. Pakistan, Geelani said, was a basic and inalienable party to the Kashmir dispute.

The Hurriyat stand on resolution of the issue has remained flexible and the alliance always welcomed any suggestion for the purpose. He said the Hurriyat should stick to its stand of tripartite talks to solve the issue.

(Kashmir Observer, August 28, 2000)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 84/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&BDATED:- 24.08.2021

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt.CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time &Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Internal electrification of 4 storied proposed transit accommodation at Padpawan Shopain (shifted to Allawpora Block No. 02)	12.17 lacs	600.00	25 days	01.09.2021	"A" Class Electrical
2	Internal electrification of 4 storied proposed transit accommodation at Padpawan Shopain (shifted to Allawpora Block No. 03)	12.17 lacs	600.00	25 days	01.09.2021	"A" Class Electrical

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-08-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/08/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	24/08/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	01/09/2021 up to 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	01/09/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric 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 R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

03. 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) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. 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.

04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = Available

DIPK-7392/21

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division

Iraq Summit Seeks To Mend Middle East Fractures

Agencies

Officials from around the Middle East began arriving in Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday ahead of a summit aiming to promote peace and reconciliation in the region, including improving ties between arch rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Saturday meeting seeks to give Iraq a "unifying role" to tackle the crises shaking the region, according to sources close to Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian left for Iraq to participate in the Baghdad summit, the ministry said.

Iran, an allegation Tehran denied.

The two countries are aligned with rival forces fighting a war in Yemen and severed their relations in 2016 – although they resumed direct talks in Iraq in April this year.

Riyadh, fearing Washington's renewed nuclear talks with Iran could lead to an easing of US sanctions on Tehran, sees engagement as a way to contain tensions without abandoning its security concerns over attacks it blames on Iran and its allies.

"Even if we bring the foreign ministers together at one table this could be considered a breakthrough to end the tensions between Iranians and the



We have always welcomed improving ties with regional countries such as Saudi Arabia, and it is a priority of our President Raisi's foreign policy. Whether this will happen in Iraq ... I seriously doubt it," senior Iranian official.

His ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced the departure to the "meeting to support Iraq" in a short statement. The Islamic republic's new President Ebrahim Raisi was invited to the Baghdad meeting, but it was not clear if he would attend. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II have said they will attend, as has French President Emmanuel Macron, the only official expected from outside the region. Leaders from Saudi Arabia and Turkey were also invited. Iraq is seeking to establish itself as a mediator between Arab countries and Iran. Baghdad has been brokering talks since April between regional heavyweights Riyadh and Tehran on mending ties severed in 2016.

Raisi, who took office last week, has said he sees "no obstacles" to restoring ties with Riyadh. He has made improving relations with regional countries one of his priorities.

Rivals for regional dominance Officials say the meeting, which will also discuss the war in Yemen, Lebanon's economic collapse and a regional water crisis, could take a step towards Saudi-Iranian rapprochement.

Macron and al-Kadhimi want to reduce regional tension by fostering dialogue, including on security, said a French presidential source. "The aim is to initiate something here and to continue [it] after this conference," the source said.

Strains between Sunni-Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shia-Muslim Iran – longtime rivals for regional dominance – worsened after a 2019 assault on Saudi oil plants that briefly knocked out half of Saudi oil production.

Riyadh blamed the attack on

Gulf Arabs," an official close to al-Kadhimi said.

"Tactical bilateral de-escalation" A politician close to the prime minister said Iraq, which hosted the private meetings earlier this year between Saudi and Iranian officials, had received "positive signals" from Tehran and Gulf states that they were ready for more direct discussions.

"The prospect of regional conflict, coupled with their perception of Washington as unreliable, have ... prompted the Saudis and Emiratis to pursue a limited, tactical, bilateral de-escalation with Tehran," the International Crisis Group think-tank said in a recent report.

Saudi-Iranian dialogue launched in April as global powers held negotiations on reviving their 2015 nuclear pact with Iran, which Riyadh and its allies opposed for not tackling Tehran's ballistic missile programme and regional proxies.

Three other regional sources said it was premature for a breakthrough, with an Iranian source saying progress would likely hinge on the nuclear talks in Vienna. Parties involved in those negotiations have yet to say when they will resume.

"We have always welcomed improving ties with regional countries such as Saudi Arabia, and it is a priority of our President Raisi's foreign policy. Whether this will happen in Iraq ... I seriously doubt it," said a senior Iranian official.

Riyadh says it wants "verifiable deeds" from Iran. Earlier this month, the Saudi foreign minister said an "emboldened" Iran was acting in a negative manner around the Middle East, including in Yemen and Lebanon, and in regional waters.

Afghan Evacuation Flights Restart After Deadly ISIS Suicide Bombings

Agence France-Presse

Kabul, Afghanistan: Last-ditch evacuation flights took off from Kabul airport on Friday, a day after twin suicide bombings on crowds trying to flee Taliban-controlled Afghanistan killed at least 72 people, including 13 US servicemen. The bombings, claimed by the ISIS group, injected further

not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay," he said.

However Biden, determined to end two decades of war in Afghanistan and citing fears of more IS attacks, also insisted that he would stick to his August 31 deadline to end the airlift.

On Friday morning, some evacuation flights resumed with queues of people seen lining up

of the their brutal interpretation of Islamic law, as well as violent retribution for working with foreign militaries, Western missions or the previous US-backed government. Western allies have repeatedly warned the United States that it is impossible to get all at-risk Afghans out by Tuesday. The Taliban have allowed US-led forces to conduct the



More than 100,000 people have been flown out of the country since the Taliban swept into power.

panic into the final days of an already frenzied US-led airlift.

The attacks targeted US forces, but hit hardest the mass of people fearing life under the Taliban who converged on the airport in a desperate bid to board a flight out. At least 72 people among the crowd were killed, as well as the 13 American troops, according to various authorities. But with people searching for missing relatives in hospitals on Friday, there were fears the death toll would climb. President Joe Biden, under enormous pressure over his administration's handling of the Afghan crisis, vowed to punish those responsible.

"We will not forgive. We will

on the tarmac but there were no more crowds near the sites of the blasts, according to AFP reporters.

Britain and Spain announced their evacuation operations would end Friday, after Canada and Australia had already stopped their flights.

More than 100,000 people have been flown out of the country since the Taliban swept into power on August 15.

'More extreme'

The Taliban have promised a softer brand of rule compared with their first stint in power, which ended in 2001 when the United States invaded because they gave sanctuary to Al-Qaeda. But many Afghans fear a repeat

airlift, while planning to finalise their own government as soon as the American troops left.

But the IS jihadists, bloody rivals of the Taliban with their own track record of barbaric attacks, were intent on capitalising on the chaos in Kabul. In recent years, the ISIS State's Afghanistan-Pakistan chapter has been responsible for some of the deadliest attacks in those countries. It has massacred civilians at mosques, shrines, public squares and even hospitals.

"These are people that are even more extreme than the Taliban and are basically at war with the Taliban. So it is a horribly complex situation," Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton said.

Global Outrage Over Barbaric Kabul Airport Attack

Agencies

Iran has strongly condemned terrorist explosions that tore through crowds of people outside Kabul airport, where countries race to evacuate as many people as possible before an August 31 deadline to completely withdraw their troops.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh denounced the targeting of defenceless Afghans, and slammed any terrorist move against women, men, youths and children in the Muslim country.

Khatibzadeh expressed hope that an inclusive government would soon be established in Afghanistan, so that relevant organizations and institutions could assume their responsibilities to protect people's lives and properties. On Thursday evening, two bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans that had flocked to Kabul airport following the Taliban's takeover of the country.

At least 90 civilians were killed in the two powerful explosions, Afghan medical sources

said. US officials said at least 13 US soldiers were also killed in Thursday's blasts.

General Frank McKenzie, head of US Central Command, said Friday US commanders were watch-



An unnamed Taliban official told Reuters news agency on Friday that at least 28 members of the group perished in the bombings, vowing to beef up security at the Kabul airport to prevent future terrorist attacks.

The blasts outside Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul were claimed by an offshoot of Daesh terrorist group in Afghanistan, which said its bombers singled out "translators and collaborators with the American army."

ing for more attacks by Deash, including possibly rockets or car-bombs targeting the airport.

"We're doing everything we can to be prepared," he said, adding that some intelligence was being shared with the Taliban and that he believed "some attacks have been thwarted by them."

The United States will press on with evacuations despite the threat of further attacks, McKenzie said, noting that there were still about 1,000 US citizens in Afghanistan.

Study: Covid Symptoms Last A Year For Many Patients

AFP

The study found affected women were 43% more likely than affected men to suffer from fatigue or persistent muscle weakness

Fatigue and shortness of breath still afflict many patients a year after their hospitalization for Covid-19, according to a new Chinese study calling for a better understanding of the pandemic's long-term health effects.

Around half of patients discharged from hospital for Covid still suffer from at least one persistent symptom -- most often fatigue or muscle weakness -- after 12 months, said the study published in British medical journal The Lancet Friday. The research, the largest yet on the condition known as "long Covid", added that one in three patients

vid-19 will take more than 1 year."

The study followed nearly 1,300 people hospitalized for Covid between January and May 2020 in the central Chinese city of Wuhan -- the first place affected by a pandemic that has since infected 214 million people worldwide, killing more than 4 million.

The share of observed patients with at least one symptom decreased from 68% after six months to 49% after 12 months.

Respiratory discomfort increased from 26% of patients after six months to 30% after 12 months, it said.

It found affected women were 43% more likely than affected men to suffer from fatigue or persistent muscle weakness, and twice as likely to be diagnosed with anxiety or depression.

But it said 88% of patients who worked before their diagnosis had



still have shortness of breath a year after their diagnosis.

That number is even higher in patients hit more severely by the illness.

"With no proven treatments or even rehabilitation guidance, long Covid affects people's ability to resume normal life and their capacity to work," The Lancet said in an editorial published with the study.

"The study shows that for many patients, full recovery from Co-

returned to their jobs a year later.

The study adds to previous research that warned authorities in different countries they must be prepared to provide long-term support to health workers and patients affected by Covid.

"Long Covid is a modern medical challenge of the first order," the editorial said, calling for more research to understand the condition and better care for patients who suffer from it.

Microsoft Warns Thousands Of Cloud Customers Of Exposed Databases

Reuters

Microsoft agreed to at security company Wiz \$40,000 for finding the flaw and reporting it

Microsoft on Thursday warned thousands of its cloud computing customers, including some of the world's largest companies, that intruders could have the ability to read, change or even delete their main databases, according to a copy of the email and a cyber security researcher.

The vulnerability is in Microsoft Azure's flagship Cosmos DB database. A research team at security company Wiz discovered it was able to access keys that control access to databases held by thousands of companies. Wiz Chief Technology Officer Ami Luttwak is a former chief technology officer at Microsoft's Cloud Security Group.

Because Microsoft cannot change those keys by itself, it emailed the customers Thursday telling them to create new ones. Microsoft agreed to pay Wiz \$40,000 for finding the flaw and reporting it, according to an email it sent to Wiz.

"We fixed this issue immediately to keep our customers safe and protected. We thank the secu-

ity researchers for working under coordinated vulnerability disclosure," Microsoft told Reuters. Microsoft's email to customers said there was no evidence the flaw had been exploited. "We have no indication that external entities outside the researcher (Wiz) had access to the primary read-write key," the email said.

"This is the worst cloud vulnerability you can imagine. It is a long-lasting secret," Luttwak told Reuters. "This is the central database of Azure, and we were able to get access to any customer database that we wanted."

Luttwak's team found the problem, dubbed ChaosDB, on August 9 and notified Microsoft August 12, Luttwak said.

The flaw was in a visualization tool called Jupyter Notebook, which has been available for years but was enabled by default in Cosmos beginning in February. After Reuters reported on the flaw, Wiz detailed the issue in a blog post.

Luttwak said even customers who have not been notified by Microsoft could have had their keys swiped by attackers, giving them access until those keys are changed. Microsoft only told customers whose keys were visible this month, when Wiz was working on the issue.

US officials naively gave Taliban 'kill list' of Afghans who aided Americans: Report

Washington, August 27: The US officials in Afghanistan naively handed the Taliban a "kill list" to target Afghans who aided American forces in the country, according to a media report.

Following the Taliban takeover of Kabul earlier this month, US officials there gave the militant group a list of names of American citizens, green card holders and Afghan allies, so they could be allowed to enter the Taliban-controlled perimeter around the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, according to Politico.

The decision was made despite the Taliban's notorious reputation for brutally executing Afghans who helped the US military and other Western forces during the war and occupation that followed the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. The move, detailed by three US and congressional officials, was designed to expedite the evacuation of tens of thousands of people

from Afghanistan as chaos erupted in Afghanistan's capital city after the Taliban seized control of the country, the report said.

It also came as the Biden administration has been relying on the Taliban for security outside the airport. Since the fall of Kabul in mid-August, nearly 100,000 people have been evacuated, most of whom had to pass through the Taliban's many checkpoints.

But the decision to provide specific names to the Taliban has angered lawmakers and military officials.

"Basically, they just put all those Afghans on a kill list," said one defence official, who like others spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive topic. "It's just appalling and shocking and makes you feel unclean." Asked about the report, President Joe Biden said he was not sure there were such lists, but also didn't deny that sometimes the US hands



over names to the Taliban.

"There have been occasions when our military has contacted their military counterparts in the

Taliban and said this, for example, this bus is coming through with X number of people on it, made up of the following group of people.

We want you to let that bus or that group through," he said.

"So, yes there have been occasions like that. To the best of my

knowledge, in those cases, the bulk of that has occurred and they have been let through.

"I can't tell you with any certainty that there's actually been a list of names," he added.

The revelation came just days after it was reported that Taliban death squads have been going "door-to-door" to hunt down suspected Afghan "collaborators," with tens of thousands of American allies potentially at risk.

A spokesperson for US Central Command declined to comment.

The list issue came up during a classified briefing on Capitol Hill this week, which turned contentious after top Biden administration officials defended their close coordination with the Taliban.

Biden officials contended that it was the best way to keep Americans and Afghans safe and prevent a shooting war between Taliban fighters and the thousands of US troops stationed at the airport.

Critics argue it's putting Afghan allies in harm's way, the report said. Following the fall of Kabul on August 15, the joint US military and the diplomatic team at the airport began giving the Taliban lists of people the US was seeking to evacuate, Politico said.

"They had to do that because of the security situation the White House created by allowing the Taliban to control everything outside the airport," one US official said.

But after thousands of visa applicants started arriving at the airport, the State Department reportedly told those people to stay away until they were cleared for entry and the lists given to the Taliban no longer included the names of any Afghans.

As of Wednesday, only people with US passports and green cards were being admitted to the airport and processed for evacuation, the defence official told Politico. — PTI

CUK Students Demand Implementation Of UGC Guidelines

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: Students of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Ganderbal Friday staged a protest outside the varsity demanding implementation of UGC guidelines and conducting of examination through online mode.

Pertinently, CUK has scheduled offline exams of the students of various departments.

The protesting students said that when classes were conducted in online mode, how exams will be conducted in offline mode.

They said scores of students have been informed that they are not eligible for the examination as they didn't attend online classes. "As per UGC guidelines, online classes should be conducted on voluntary basis and students can't be compelled to

attend the classes. This should not have been made a yardstick for eligibility," they said.

"Either gave us marks on internal assessment basis or conduct exams in online mode, besides make all the students eligible for the examination who have gone into depression over University 'diktat', they said.

The protesting students were carrying placards seeking implementation of University Grants Commission guidelines.

Earlier, students from CUK had staged a protest at Press Enclave in Srinagar to oppose the university's decision. The students had alleged that they are being deprived of basic facilities by the university but at the same time are forced to appear in offline exams without hostel accommodation and transport facility.

CUK Holds Webinar On 'Criminal Justice System'

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: The two-day national webinar on, "Criminal Justice System in 21st Century: Emerging Challenges and A Way Forward," organised by the Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), in collaboration with, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) began at Tulumulla Campus of the varsity here on Friday.

The webinar chief guest, Justice (Retd) Navin Sinha, former Judge of Supreme Court of India, while addressing the participants said that crime affects every member of the society, cutting across all divides and for civilized behavior of the people, there is a dire need to have an effective criminal justice system. He said that criminals have become smart and it is very imperative for the police to become smarter than the culprits, and the judges have to be the smartest of them all. He called for active participation of Judges, Lawyers and senior police functionaries in such seminars and said the outcome benefits should reach to the personnel working in the field.

Speaking on the occasion, guest of honor, Justice (Retd) Badar Durez Ahmed, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, said the criminal justice system needs an overhaul where action should be taken by both the State Executive and Judiciary. He also spoke

on the need of actively using the scientific method of investigation like DNA Profiling, Fingerprinting and Forensic Techniques for effectively dealing with the cases. Badar Durez Ahmed said there is a need for training lawyers and judicial officers with the scientific techniques which have been earlier overlooked to a great extent.

In his address, Vice Chancellor, Prof Mehraj ud Din Mir reiterated that since decades various challenges and issues have been posed in juristic matters. "Although the people have full faith in the judiciary, but questions have been raised about its working." He stressed upon the need to prepare the lawyers who stand with truth and said the onus lies on the legal fraternity to come up with various recommendations necessary to make changes in the criminal justice system.

In his welcome address, Dean SLS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir talked about the importance of criminal justice system and its complete overhaul, making it free from imperfection in investigation, including the inordinate delay in dealing with the cases and the need of addressing the lack of coordination of police and prosecution which serve as a two important pillars of criminal justice system. He also impressed on the need of having the law not only just on paper, but effectively enforced.

J&K Tribal Areas To Get Mobile Medical Units, Veterinary Dispensaries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Tribal Affairs Department Friday finalized the modalities of inter-departmental convergence to provide Mobile hospitals and dispensaries for healthcare of nomadic population, mobile veterinary dispensaries, medical equipment and infrastructure in tribal areas. A budget of Rs 20 crore has

and finance officers. Director State Motor Garages briefed about the modalities of procurement and establishment.

The Department has approved an outlay of Rs 20 crore for providing these facilities which includes provision of Mobile Medical Units and Health Clinics on routes adopted for migration by nomadic tribal population, Ambulances

Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Bandipora, Anantnag, Pulwama and Kupwara. The department was also informed about additional outlay of Rs 5 crore for which plan for rest of the districts was sought. Machinery and equipment for various health-care institutions to the tune of Rs 3.50 crore was also approved. Mobile Veterinary Clinics were



been earmarked for the project.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary discussed the modalities in a meeting with Health and Family Welfare Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu/Kashmir and Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu/ Kashmir besides Tribal Affairs directorate, planning

for health institutions in tribal areas, mobile Veterinary Clinics and facilities for Sheep Husbandry Departments professional at highland pastures for making veterinary healthcare services available during migration seasons.

Directorates of Health Services have been provided an outlay of Rs 5 crore for Mobile Health Clinics in

approved for Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu/ Kashmir, and providing residential Prefabricated accommodation at tribal highland habitations. Construction of Veterinary Centres were also approved. The outlay of Rs 5 crore has been earmarked for veterinary and livestock health-care services.

Navjot Sidhu's Adviser Quits After Controversial Kashmir Remarks

Agencies

Chandigarh: Under fire over his comments on Kashmir, Malvinder Singh Mali on Friday quit as adviser to Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

However, Mali did not term it as a "resignation".

In a statement posted on his Facebook page, Mali said, "I humbly submit that I withdraw my consent given for tendering suggestions to Navjot Singh Sidhu. In another Facebook post, he claimed that the question of his resignation does not arise as he never accepted the post.

"Neither accepted any post, nor resigned from any post," Mali said in a post in Punjabi.

Amid a power tussle in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had asked Sidhu on Sunday to "rein in" his advisers after two of them made "atrocious" comments recently on sensitive issues like Kashmir and Pakistan.

AICC general secretary Harish Rawat, who is in charge of Punjab

affairs, had also said that the two advisers need to go.

Sidhu on August 11 had appointed Mali, a former government teacher and political analyst, and Pyare Lal Garg, a former registrar of Baba Farid University of Health and Sciences, as his advisers to seek their "wise counsel".

In his post, Mali said, "Anti-Punjab and anti-Sikh forces, which cannot tolerate the Punjab model and politics of transparency and accountability that has emerged in the backdrop of a peaceful and long-drawn farmers' agitation, have a nefarious designs to derail the dialogue process that has started taking shape... to fight with tied hands (against such forces) is unacceptable to me and rejecting the same I humbly submit that I withdraw my consent for giving suggestions to Navjot Singh Sidhu."

He said he had long been part of a struggle in favour of Punjab, for the downtrodden, human rights, religious minorities, federalism and democratic values, and he

would continue to fight for them.

Mali further said that in the backdrop of the alleged hateful propaganda launched against his views by some political leaders, if he faces any physical harm then these people shall be responsible for it.

In a recent social media post, Mali had waded into the issue of revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He had reportedly said if Kashmir was a part of India, then what was the need to have Articles 370 and 35A. He had also said, "Kashmir is a country of Kashmiri people."

Garg, another adviser of Sidhu, had reportedly questioned the chief minister's criticism of Pakistan. The chief minister had warned against such "atrocious and ill-conceived comments that were potentially dangerous to the peace and stability of the state and the country".

Work In Liaison With PRI Representatives For Implementation Of Programs: LG's Adv

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan Friady complimented the field officers of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for surpassing the target of 55000 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) for the year 2020-21 by more than 4000 cases. The Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Advisor enquired from the officers of the department about their performance in implementing dif-

ferent components of the scheme. He remarked that all the good work would be duly recognized and rewarded by the government. He asked them that it should be their endeavor to provide all the services as per the set specifications to the target beneficiaries without any delay. He urged upon the officers to set new benchmarks once they reach the targets set by them. He enjoined upon them that there is no limit for good work and each of them should aspire for reaching from one milestone to next with a missionary zeal.

The Advisor also advised the officers to engage PRI representa-

tives to implement the scheme efficiently in the villages. He asked them to take their assistance in aadhar seeding of beneficiaries and completion of other departmental formalities. He asked them to establish Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the houses of deserving families who have no connection with any departmental officers.

The Advisor also asked them to see whether each of the AWC working in private houses have washrooms as per the required specifications. He stressed to ensure that each of such private house makes it available to children forthwith.

Works on Zojila, Z-morh Tunnel Projects Reviewed

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), K.K Pathak visited Z-Morh and Zojila project sites to inspect the works progress on Zojila and Z-

Morh project, Shri Pathak appreciated ASATPL for the breakthrough of one tube of Z-Morh Tunnel and for their efforts to keep Sonamarg open for controlled traffic movement through of Z-Morh Tunnel during forthcoming winter season with the co-ordination of DC, Ganderbal and SSP Ganderbal.



morh tunnel projects.

The MD was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna, SSP Ganderbal, Suhail Munawar Mir, Executive Director (Projects), NHIDCL, Gurjeet Kambo, GM, NHIDCL Alok Saxena and other officers and officials from District Administration and executing agencies.

During the visit, Pathak was apprised about the progress of Zojila and Z-Morh tunnel projects by Executive Director(Projects). For Z-

For, Zojila Project, Pathak appreciated MEIL for notable progress and stressed upon the planning of works to be executed during winter season also.

Officials of MEIL assured Pathak that work is being planned meticulously and MEIL will deliver the project well before the schedule time. Pathak directed MEIL to open the Zojila Tunnel and Nilgaur Tunnels in the approach of Zojila for controlled traffic at the earliest.

NHA Reviews Performance Of ABPM-JAY Scheme

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Executive Officer (ACEO), National Health Authority (NHA), Government of India, Dr. Praveen Geedam Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress and performance of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY) Scheme and National Digital Health Mis-

ally well in the implementation of scheme on the ground and a large number of populace has taken benefits from this scheme.

The ACEO highlighted that there is a scope of improvement in every field and the database of the scheme will be updated in coming months which will make the process much smooth



sion (NDHM) in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal GMC, Srinagar, Dr. Samia Rashid; CEO, AB PM-JAY, J&K, Doifode Sagar Dattatray; MD, NHM, Choudhary Yasin; Director Health Services, Kashmir, Mushtaq Ahmad Rather and other senior officers of the department attended the meeting while as Principal GMC, Jammu, Director Health Services, Jammu, Medical Superintendents of Tertiary care Hospitals, Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals, CMOs of all the districts and other concerned officials participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Speaking during the meeting, Dr. Praveen said that Jammu and Kashmir has done exception-

and will help in effective implementation of the scheme.

Dr. Praveen delved upon the officers for the micro management from the ground level in order to achieve the desired objectives of the scheme. He asked them to make the process of claims smooth with a mechanism of avoiding duplication and effective checking of documents uploaded for claiming benefits under the scheme.

The ACEO further asked the officers to expand the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities across the length and breadth of J&K involving all the stakeholders like PRIs and other institutions so that more people get aware about this scheme.

Two Day State Level Urdu Seminar Ends



Jameel Ansari

Srinagar: Sheikh-ul-Alam Calligraphy and Cultural Organization, Chadoora in collaboration with National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi organised two days State Level Program on the topic "Urdu Zubaan-o-Adab Ki Taraki Wa Tarveej Mein Fan-e-Khattati Ka Role" at Seminar Hall Govt Degree College Chadoora.

The first day of the seminar was presided over by renowned writer-intellectual Prof. Bashir Bashir while Principal of Government Degree College Chadoora Prof. Rifat Misgar, Principal of Higher Secondary School Chadoora Huma Mir, Prof. Zahoor Zargar and Calligraphy Officer of Cultural Academy Abdul Salam Kousari, were also present. Six scholars presented their articles. Among others present on the occasion were Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Aajez, Shabir Hussain Shabir, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Shaheen,

Bashir Ahmed Ghamgeen, Muhammad Hussain Butt (Chairman SACCO), Anhaar Imtiyaz and staff of the college.

On the second day, the function was presided over by Prof. Shad Ramzan with Prince Noorul Hameed SDM Chadoora as the chief guest. Also present were Prof. Rifat Misgar, Principal, Government Degree College, Chadoora and Huma Mir, Principal, Higher Secondary School, Chadoora.

More than half a dozen essayists presented their articles. A question and answer session was also held at the end.

The principal of Degree College Chadoora appreciated the organisers of the seminar and said that such programs need to be held in future also.

At the end, Muhammad Hussain Bhat, Chairman Sheikh-ul-Alam Calligraphy and Cultural Organization Chadoora thanked the guests and said, "We will take every step to hold such programs in the future as well."

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Friday reviewed the sector-wise implementation of projects under Prime Minister's Development Package in terms of the physical and financial progress achieved till date.

Chief Secretary, J&K, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta along with Secretaries of various departments participated in the meeting.

Extensive deliberations were held to review the progress of 53 key developmental projects worth Rs. 58,477 crore being executed by the central ministries and the UT Government across various sectors including road, power, healthcare, education, tourism, sports, Jal Shakti, irrigation & flood control, housing & urban development, and disaster management, relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction.

The Union Home Secretary appreciated the efforts of the J&K Government in achieving

path-breaking progress in completion of various projects over the last two years and asked to keep the momentum going.

Regarding National Highway-44, Dr. Mehta informed that the opening of Navyug Tunnel for public use has provided relief to travelers, and urged for time-bound completion of its technical works including installation of functional exhaust and emergency exit.

The Chief Secretary mentioned that the Ramban-Banihal segment is the most critical section on the National Highway and therefore, focused attention is required for early execution of works related to tunnels and re-alignment of damage-prone stretches, to ensure its completion by the stipulated date. He also requested development of vehicle holding

areas and toilet facilities to further improve the travel experience on the Highway.

The Chief Secretary informed that the Batote-Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road is of immense importance to provide

alternate connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. He mentioned that a tunnel at Singpora-Vailoo will ensure round-the-year alternate connectivity.

On review of Chenani-Sudhama Gohra road, it was

that geo-technical studies are being conducted for the tunnel and will be concluded within next two months, before the onset of winters.

Regarding Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri road, and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road, it was informed that the projects will be completed in December 2021 and July 2022,

respectively. Similarly, works on Jammu semi-ring road and Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch road are underway and will be completed in March 2022, and March 2024, respectively.

While reviewing the status of construction of AIIMS Jammu, it was informed that works will be completed by September, 2023. As regards AIIMS Kashmir, it was informed that the revised layout plan has been agreed upon and the construction activity will commence shortly. Further, the process of acquisition of additional 34 hectare of land has also commenced and it is expected to be completed by the end of September, 2021.

The Chief Secretary informed that the J&K Government is keen on commencing MBBS courses at AIIMS Kashmir which can be started by next academic session through temporary accommodation. It was decided that a team of Health Ministry, Government of India will visit Kashmir to work out feasibility in this regard.

Further, the Chief Secretary informed that a project for holistic restoration and rehabilitation of Wular-Dal-Nageen lakes and river Jehlum as a part of an integrated drainage system will be submitted shortly.

Regarding construction of transit accommodations, it was mentioned that construction of 2,744 1BHK accommodations in the Kashmir valley have been approved, whereas 1400 additional accommodations will be taken up in next month.

In power sector, the progress of various multipurpose hydroelectric projects were reviewed including Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, Shahpur Kandi, and Ujh; which was found satisfactory. Acknowledging the potential of small hydroelectric projects in meeting the local electricity and irrigation demands in a decentralized manner, Dr. Mehta insisted on their dedicated development through suitable intervention from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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The only lesson from yesterday's bombings at Kabul airport is that no war brings lasting peace, only lasting death. American wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan or Iraq have brought nothing but just death, suffering and more war.

Khawar Khan Achakzai

How does an elitist woman driving the car at her marriage change anything? How does it improve women's lives and is this what liberal #Feminism sees as emancipatory and liberating?

Z @Eszeday

Two guys from Shareefabad held a flag reading "Oppressed Kashmir" in 10th Moharram procession in Budgam. Police responds by booking them under oppressive UAPA to prove that they are not oppressed. This model of policing should be adopted by every democracy in the world.

Ruhullah Mehdi

I Took My Hijab Off Today But as I walked back, I said to Allah: I do this for You

Asmaa Hussein

On my last early morning in Prince Edward Island, I visited a beach that was completely empty. I looked in every direction and there was not a person in sight. No people around meant I could take my hijab off. So I did. The Atlantic Ocean breeze blew through my hair.

I didn't know I would, but I cried big, hot tears. Because it felt wonderful. I was spending time with the ocean and some birds, none of whom looked at me or cared that I was there. And I wondered, "Is this how it feels to not wear hijab?"

I walked, and walked, with my orange hijab balled up in my fist. I looked into the vast body of water, and at the sky, and at my feet, and everything in between. I thanked God for bringing me here, to a place I have wanted to visit since I was a child.

And then it was time to go. I looked at my hijab and then in the direction of the parking lot. From far away I could see tiny figures and I knew a few people were starting to arrive.

I could've walked to my car without my hijab. No one here knows me. I could've pretended I was someone else for a moment. I could've felt the breeze for a bit longer.

But I didn't. I said goodbye to the sticky salt wind, and I put my hijab on. My hijab blew in the wind, but it didn't feel the same. Then I walked back to my car, re-entering the world as a Muslim woman.

A woman who is looked at, judged, and always held to a higher level of scrutiny. A woman who just wants to live her life, but is seen as a flag bearer for this faith. A woman who is imperfect, but has to hold up an image of perfection so as to honour others like her. And it's so, so tiring. No man can understand this heaviness.

But as I walked back, I said to Allah: I do this for You and no one else. And though it's hard, I will hold onto it. Tightly. Fiercely. With vigour and patience.

There is no other path I would choose, because He chose this for me. And I love and obey Him.

In Jannah, I'll feel this breeze in my hair again. Cool and gentle and kind, carrying a scent that is better than that of a thousand oceans.

I will wait for that day. I think I can be patient for a while longer.

The piece was originally a viral post shared by the author on her instagram profile ruqayas.bookshelf



Present but Pernicious?

Social Media Journalism is the truth of our times and has a great potential for good. We must streamline this potential rather than demonise it

Ummar Jamal

On Saturday soon after police arrested Ashiq Mir, one of the associates of Shahid Imran, running a social media page -Kashmir Crown—in connection with a case of exhortation under section 383 of IPC, social media journalism became recent talk of the street. Social media journalism was targeted for inauthenticity and unreliability. Journalists associated with print and television media voiced that social media journalism had degraded the prestige of journalism. They exclaimed that now-a-days every Tom, Dick and Harry buys a mic and puts on an identity card and masquerades as a journalist. In fact, the mushroom growth of unlicensed news portals has earned journalism in Kashmir, a bad name.

A PIL was filed in J&K High court against the mushroom growth of news portals especially on Facebook. The PIL affirmed that there was a rapid increase in the news portals on social media platforms, responsible for circulation of fake news and other unethical and unprofessional acts.

The J&K High Court accepted the PIL and the division bench comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Dhar directed the government to file a response specifically pointing out provisions of law under which such news portals, if at all, are required to be registered or licensed.

There is indeed an urgent need for regulating news portals on social media platforms. License and registration should be made compulsory. The owner and reporters associated with such news portals should be required to have some basic qualifications as well as competence in the field of journalism. Journalists involved in unprofessional and unethical practices should be dealt with strictly through provisions under law.

One more climacteric measure as the one YouTube took can be considered in this regard. Earlier, YouTube required channels to have



Journalism has undergone a drastic change in the past two decades. Traditionally, it was print, TV and radio broadcasts that ruled the roost. But with the advent of the internet and social media, journalism has evolved. This democratisation of media isn't essentially wrong but needs to be streamlined

10,000 lifetime views to be eligible for monetization. In 2018, YouTube tightened the rules and made it mandatory for a creator to meet some basic requirements in order to monetize videos. The requirements included that the creators must have tallied 4,000 hours of overall watch time on their channel within the past 12 months and have at least 1,000 subscribers. This requirement was put in place to improve the quality of content on YouTube. Similar measures need to be taken in order

to regulate news portals. News portals should be given provisional licenses for six months and permanent licenses should be issued subject to the fulfilment of the essential criteria of crossing required number of followers and watch time for the specified time of six months.

But at the same time we must understand change is inexorable. John F. Kennedy has said, "change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future". Same is true

of journalism.

Journalism has undergone a drastic change in the past two decades. Traditionally, it was print, TV and radio broadcasts that ruled the roost. But with the advent of the internet and social media, journalism has evolved. This democratisation of media isn't essentially wrong but needs to be streamlined. Citizen journalism has also garnered some level of credibility and many do rely on social media posts as reliable sources for news.

Everything has its pros and cons. The same goes for mobile journalism as well. It is fast and responsive. It has the potential to grow the audience faster and is more accessible. This opening up of news to the world in an interactive way can be used productively.

For instance, some local issues which people would find hard to amplify through conventional media are easily being brought into the public's attention through new ways of new media. With the advent of social media journalism, aforementioned issues are now highlighted and put forward to concerned authorities in an apt manner. Thus, social media journalism has helped in making people's grievances more redressable and the authorities more accountable.

We cannot paint all news portals with the same brush. Few among them are carrying out work up to scratch. Their existence is both beneficial as well as inevitable. We must have a balanced attitude about social media journalism. We can't close our eyes to the advantages of it. Rather than complaining about the drawbacks of social media journalism, we should try to focus on eradicating the shortcomings associated with it. We have to get rid of the ailment and not the one who is ailing.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is law student at University of Kashmir and tweets at @ummarijamal



Why America Keeps Building Corrupt Client States

ONCE AMERICA announced that it would not save its client state, things unravelled quickly. As the enemy seized province after province, government soldiers shed their uniforms and ran. On paper the army had hundreds of thousands of well-equipped fighters. In reality its few loyal commanders had to buy ammunition from crooked supply officers and pay in cash for artillery support. The special forces fought well, but regular troops were often commanded by politicians' incompetent relatives. Soldiers went unpaid as officials pilfered military budgets. Citizens stayed loyal to their families and clans, not to a corrupt government that was as likely to shake them down as to help them. The state

was a Potemkin village constructed to please its American sponsors. When they left, it fell.

So it went in South Vietnam in 1975, and again last week in Afghanistan. The similarities between the two collapses are striking. They go beyond intelligence failures, mendacious speeches and abandoned allies. Ultimately, both states fell because they had been hollowed out by corruption, an ancient disease of governance to which America's nation-building projects are prone. (Think also of Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and Haiti.) Political scholars once considered corruption a minor issue, but many now see it as crucial to understanding not just why America's proxies fail, but how states work in general.

A woman who is looked at, judged, and always held to a higher level of scrutiny. A woman who just wants to live her life, but is seen as a flag bearer for this faith. A woman who is imperfect, but has to hold up an image of perfection so as to honour others like her. And it's so, so tiring. No man can understand this heaviness

Corruption is usually defined as the abuse of public office for private gain. Its simplest form is bribery, which is ubiquitous in Afghanistan. As the Taliban advanced in recent weeks, the pay-off needed to get a passport rose to thousands of dollars.

But petty bribery is the least threatening type of corruption. More troublingly, getting government approval for big investments requires giving ministers or warlords a piece of the action. Worse yet, a government job with access to bribes is itself a valuable commodity.

Such corruption creates patronage networks that threaten the state's integrity. Officials' main goal is not carrying out their agency's mission, but extorting revenue to distribute to their

families and cronies. Even before America invaded, Afghanistan was partly run by patronage networks headed by regional warlords.

Yet instead of dismantling these networks, America strengthened them by paying warlords to keep the peace, according to reports by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), an American oversight authority. Afghans soon grew furious at government corruption and more welcoming towards the Taliban.

Why did America refuse to treat it as a grave issue when it invaded Afghanistan decades later?

One answer is that this would require a shift in perspective. Over the past two decades many scholars have come to see corruption as a form of governance in itself. It resembles the pre-modern states that Francis Fukuyama, a political scientist, calls "personalistic" governments, where power is based on ties of family or friendship rather than impersonal institutions. Such states are mainly concerned with placating armed commanders by giving them a share of the economic spoils.

Another problem is that American interventions were led by the armed forces, which are biased towards optimistic reporting and short-term thinking. Military officers "are hugely focused on actively doing things within the duration of their nine-month rotation, which is not well suited to solving corruption", says Mark Pyman of CurbingCorruption, a watchdog. Mr Pyman, who led the Transparency International study, says officers early in the occupation boasted of having pacified their districts by paying off warlords. Aid agencies, meanwhile, have a dubious habit of judging success based on how much money they raise and whether they have spent it all.

The Psychology Behind Health Anxiety

Wasim Kakroo

Most medical professionals including general physicians, gastroenterologists, cardiologists etc. have encountered patients who have physical problems for which an organic cause cannot be established, or for whom no amount of reassurance is enough to alleviate their extreme concern about the possibility of having catastrophic illnesses like cancer. Such people may call or see the doctor frequently, seeking reassurance over seemingly small (even undetectable) signs and symptoms, or to request further medical testing. In the short term, such questioning may cause interpersonal and practical management issues; however, in the long run, these symptoms lead to the wastage of medical resources, increase costs, and, paradoxically, expose otherwise medically healthy individuals to risks associated with medical or surgical procedures. As a result, extreme health anxiety (HA; also known as hypochondriasis) is a public health and financial concern in many areas of medical practice.

The focus of this article is on a recurrent contradiction found among patients with this disorder: why do patients' strong fears of disease continue for a longtime if they do not have any major illness? Why, do such people fail to respond correctly to reassurances from their physicians or other reliable sources?

I will try to answer these questions by explaining the physiologic, cognitive, and behavioral mechanisms that contribute to the development and persistence of HA as it is also necessary to be aware of these processes in order to provide appropriate therapy.

People with severe HA have persistent health concerns despite what appears to be compelling confirmation that their anxieties are baseless

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, health anxiety or hypochondriasis is defined as a preoccupation with the (inaccurate) belief that one has a serious illness or is in danger of acquiring a serious illness. The belief of being ill is usually functionally debilitating and continues even after proper assessment and confirmation of absence of any sort of illness. The obsession with some sort of illness might be symptom-driven, with a focus on physiological processes (e.g., heartbeat, peristalsis), small physical anomalies (e.g., a sore), or vague and ambiguous physical feelings (e.g., "weary heart," "aching veins"). The signs and symptoms are attributed to the suspected disease, and the individual is worried about their meaning, validity, and origin. Alternatively, there might be an obsession with a specific organ or illness (e.g., fear of having cancer).

Psychodynamic understanding of health anxiety:

People over a period of many centuries have tried to make sense of this condition. A number of psychodynamic explanations for hypochondriasis have been offered, including the idea that patients need doctors' reassurance to satisfy unfulfilled attention demands. Such hypotheses, on the other hand, are not based on scientific study and are not backed up by actual evidence. In the medical and psychiatric fields, the concept that hypochondriacal behavior is driven by "secondary gain" is frequently discussed. While intuitively attractive and clear, this viewpoint indicates that the patient's behaviour is intentional or due to a "personality problem." Furthermore, it ignores the importance of a more thorough examination of specific symptoms, which is an essential element of properly treating hypochondriasis.

Hypochondriasis as a form of anxiety:

Anxiety and fear have an adaptive function in the presence of threat; they protect animals from damage by activating the sympathetic nervous system—often referred to as the "fight or flight" response. It's crucial to realize that the anxiety response is triggered in the face of a perceived threat, irrespective of whether or not the threat is real. Furthermore, the frequency, severity, and length of anxiety is related to importance and imminence of the perceived threat. As a result, issues that are thought to be critical to one's well-being elicit significant levels of anxiety. It should come as no surprise that health-related anxiety is a common phenomenon among the population, given the fact that perceived risks to one's physical well-being are likely to be considered very important by any individual. Thus, hypochondriasis can be thought of as an extreme form of excessive and persistent anxiety focused on a perceived threat to one's health. In other words, the major symptom of hypochondriasis is the misinterpretation of apparently harmless physiological feelings and symptoms as indicative of a major health concern.

Why do some people view health-related information as dangerous when there is no need to be concerned?

Basic (though incorrect) beliefs about health and sickness, as well as memorable health-re-



lated experiences, are likely to be the source of such misinterpretations. For example, associating "pain" with "damage" or seeing a loved one's some incident with heart disease might lead to indigestion being misinterpreted as an indication of heart failure. Faulty general health beliefs can stem from a range of sources, including media reports or negative personal experiences with illness. If such assumptions about illnesses are extremely rigid or severe, HA is likely to result. Individuals with HA, for example, may have extremely limited conceptions of good health, believing that good health entails no physical sensations at all. For example, whereas most individuals would seek medical advice if they experienced unexplained neck discomfort for several days, someone who is predisposed to HA may mistakenly believe that any neck pain is an indication of serious illness. Whereas the former belief leads to proper use of medical resources, the latter leads to illogical and irrational behavior, such as obsessing over and constantly analysing one's own symptoms, and strong impulses to seek medical consultation.

Other such faulty assumptions that may contribute to incorrect interpretations (and hence to HA) include attitudes about health-care behaviours, such as "When you experience something unusual in your body, you should not waste time going to the doctor since it can otherwise be too late." Beliefs about one's perceived personal weaknesses or vulnerability to a certain sickness may work in a similar way. Examples include, "Cancer runs in my family," "my father died when I was young," or "I have a weak heart". Critical occurrences, such as a loved one's diagnosis or a well publicised health concern, might activate such beliefs in vulnerable people.

With relation to underlying erroneous health-related attitudes and assumptions, severe HA develops when insignificant physical signs and symptoms are misunderstood as suggesting serious illness. The presence of a perceived health concern may thus prompt an individual to visit a medical professional and get themselves checked.

What leads to persistence of health anxiety despite reassurances?

It's normal to be concerned about bodily symptoms now and again, and most of the time, this is alleviated once you realize there's nothing severely wrong with the functioning of your body. People with severe HA, on the other hand, have persistent health concerns despite what appears to be compelling confirmation that their anxieties are baseless. It's as though something is interfering with the reassuring effects for

major muscle groups (to prepare for action) and decreased blood flow to the skin, fingers, and toes (to guard against blood loss). As a result, when you're anxious, your skin may seem pale or feel chilly, and your fingers and toes may go numb or tingly.

Hyperventilation is another sign induced by autonomic arousal, which increases the supply of oxygen to the muscles. Breathlessness, suffocation or choking feelings, and even discomfort or tightness in the chest are the consequences of increased breathing speed and depth. With sustained hyperventilation, the ratio of oxygen to carbon dioxide in the brain is somewhat offset if no real activity happens. While entirely safe, this may cause temporary lightheadedness, blurred vision, disorientation, sense of unreality, or hot flashes for a short time. Profuse sweating, dry mouth, pupillary dilatation (resulting in blurred vision), and a reduction in digestive function (frequently causing nausea or constipation) are some of the other side effects. Finally, muscle strain, a part of being anxious, can cause bodily pains, tremors, and shaking, as well as an overall feeling of exhaustion.

What is the relation between these physiological effects of autonomic arousal and Health Anxiety (HA)?

Although insignificant, the emergence of such symptoms may be misinterpreted by the HA patient as suggesting a serious condition that results in emergence of more threatening symptoms as one becomes anxious or stressed about one's health. This causes further increase in anxiety, which exacerbates the "inexplicable" symptoms of autonomic arousal, resulting in severe HA and a desire to seek medical help for a suspected medical condition.

Cognitive factors:

The way people think about health-related information they receive also contributes to the development of HA. Unexplained physical sensations, for example, naturally prompt a search for proof to corroborate or disprove one's worst concerns. Because the cost of making a false negative decision (assuming good health when an illness exists) is higher than the cost of making a false positive decision (assuming sickness when one is well), people with HA prefer to be cautious than to ignore something that might be dangerous. This, however, leads to a biased focus on evidence that might prove (rather than disprove) the presence of illness (thus, headache Equals brain tumour, heart palpitations equal heart attack). Furthermore, data that suggests good health (e.g., symptoms that are similar to previous headaches and respond to usual medicines taken for headache)

Beliefs about one's perceived personal weaknesses or vulnerability to a certain sickness may work in a similar way. Examples include, "Cancer runs in my family," "my father died when I was young," or "I have a weak heart". Critical occurrences, such as a loved one's diagnosis or a well publicised health concern, might activate such beliefs in vulnerable people

these people. I will try to explain why it happens by describing the physiologic, cognitive, and behavioural variables that prevent patients with HA from recognizing that they don't have to be so concerned about the physical indications and symptoms they're afraid of.

Physiological (biological) Factors:

As previously stated, anxious arousal (increased heart rate, sweating, hyperventilation, vasoconstriction, and other symptoms) aids in the organism's defense against danger and readiness to respond quickly (i.e., fight back or flee). Although most individuals understand that elevated heart rate is a sign of autonomic arousal, other cardiovascular effects are less well understood. Less understood consequences of being in such situations include increased blood flow to

is frequently overlooked. This type of selective attention can also affect the impact of doctor's reassurance; evidence that supports a diagnosis enhances the dread of being sick, while disconfirmatory information is dismissed as insufficient or irrelevant. This selective attentional bias explains why, even after medical tests reveal that there is no sickness present, people still continue to seek second opinions.

Body vigilance—the inclination to pay great attention to and monitor even minor physiological sensations based on concerns about such feelings—is another cognitive element implicated in the maintenance of HA. Indeed, expecting one's body to produce dangerous indications and symptoms would inevitably increase sensitivity to notice any such phenomenon quickly. However, excessive body vigilance may result in the

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Hypochondriasis can be thought of as an extreme form of excessive and persistent anxiety focused on a perceived threat to one's health. In other words, the major symptom of hypochondriasis is the misinterpretation of apparently harmless physiological feelings and symptoms as indicative of a major health concern

misinterpretation of typical bodily changes and perturbations as "new" signs of being seriously ill.

Along with body vigilance, people with severe HA have an intolerance for uncertainty—indeed, anything short than total certainty when it comes to personal health is exceedingly anxiety inducing for such people. While most individuals accept a certain level of uncertainty in everyday life (including issues relating to their health), those with HA interpret any doubts about their health as highly unpleasant. Health-conscious people seek reassurance by asking doctors for more evaluation, describing symptoms to others, going through medical references, or evaluating one's own physiological signs or symptoms (e.g., taking one's own blood pressure, checking for lumps in any part of their body, such as breasts etc.) in order to eliminate any possible source of threat to their health and thus trying to be certain about their health; however the more they try to eliminate every source of uncertainty, the more uncertain they become about their health.

Behavioral factors:

Taking action to reduce the risk of harm is a natural (and adaptive) response for someone who feels threatened. This type of "safety-seeking" behaviour also leads to a reduction in fear. If the threat is misperceived, however, the individual's safety-seeking response prevents them from noticing that their fear is unfounded. The most overt safety behaviour in HA is reassurance-seeking, which is considered a core feature of hypochondriasis. Because of the rapid reduction in doubt/distress, reassurance, whether derived from a doctor or another source, becomes habitual. As a result, the person will learn to rely on such confirmation to alleviate HA; for example, "hearing Dr. X tell me that I don't have a brain tumour is the only way I can stop worrying."

Some safety behaviours can cause an increase in the very symptoms that one considers dangerous. Body-checking, for example, is a common symptom of HA: patients who are concerned about specific symptoms (e.g., a raised patch of skin) may do repeated examinations of affected areas requiring manipulation of a specific body part. Such behaviour, on the other hand, may result in a rise in bodily symptoms, which are then mistaken as a sign of sickness.

Another type of safety seeking behaviour is avoiding fear cues. E.g., a guy stopped exercising because he believed it would overstrain his lungs and may lead to lung cancer. Covert avoidance is also seen, like in the example of a teacher who wore cotton in her ear all the time because she was afraid that "the crying youngsters might lead to increasing deafness." When feared bad outcomes do not occur, avoidance limits self-correction of erroneous beliefs, which would otherwise occur naturally.

In the scenario above, the teacher incorrectly ascribed her ability to never lose her hearing to her habit of wearing cotton whenever she was around loud children. As a result, even slight avoidance of this insignificant noise kept the teacher from realizing that typical exposure to loud youngsters would not result in hearing loss. This reinforced her erroneous belief and unreasonable dread of hearing loss from screaming youngsters.

In conclusion, HA has a scientific physiological, cognitive as well as behavioral underpinnings which if understood by a patient may lead to change of approach towards this type of anxiety. Otherwise health anxiety can be paralyzing on one's everyday functioning in life.

In the next article I will discuss the treatment part of this type of anxiety from a psychological point of view. Stay tuned!

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (Pass out from Government Medical College Srinagar) and works as a child and adolescent mental health therapist at Child Guidance and Wellbeing Centre-IMHANS Kashmir and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com

Study reveals how genes influence leaf architecture

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have shed light on how 'simple' leaves one of the two basic forms of leaves develop in a plant.

The team included researchers from the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB) and their collaborators from Shodhaka Life Sciences, Bengaluru.

Their recent study was published in "Nature Plants". Plants have either simple or compound leaves, it was noted. A mango tree, for instance, is said to possess simple leaves because they have a single, intact leaf blade.

On the other hand, a gulmohar tree has compound leaves where the leaf blade is dissected into multiple leaflets.

However, both simple and com-

pound leaves start out as rod-like structures budding out from the meristem, the tip of the stem where stem cells are present. How these rod-like structures, referred to as primordia, give rise to simple or compound leaves has been a subject of much investigation in the past years.

In this study, the authors identified two gene families that regulate the development of simple leaves through the proteins they code for, in a plant called Arabidopsis thaliana a popular model organism in plant biology, Bengaluru-based IISc said in a statement on Monday.

These gene families CIN-TCP and KNOX-II encode proteins called transcription factors that suppress the formation of new leaflets at the margin, thereby giving rise to simple leaves.

The researchers simultaneously suppressed multiple members of the

two gene families; this caused the simple leaves to become super-compound leaves that gave rise to leaflets indefinitely.

However, when the authors independently suppressed either of the two gene families, the leaves did not turn into compound leaves, suggesting that the genes work in concert.

In addition, these mutant leaves continued to stay young and grow for as long as they had the necessary growing conditions, according to the statement.

While Arabidopsis leaves typically mature in around 30 days and wither by 60 days, the leaves of these mutant plants with suppressed CIN-TCP and KNOX-II gene families grew for as long as the researchers followed them (175 days) and could potentially go on for months or years given the necessary conditions.

While scientists have been able

to convert compound leaves to simple leaves by manipulating the expression of certain genes, our report is the first one to go the other way around, Utpal Nath, Associate Professor at MCB and senior author of the paper, said.

The researchers also found that the leaves of the plants in which the two gene families were suppressed, in contrast to normal Arabidopsis leaves, displayed RNA signatures of young immature leaves and actively dividing cells even beyond their typical maturation period. RNA is a chemical messenger which carries instructions from the genes required to synthesise proteins.

Besides providing insights into plant development, in the long run, the findings could initiate and nurture innovations in the food industry, the statement said.

J&K TOURISM

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate Of Tourism, Kashmir

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: -Retirement and Inclusion of one partner in the Registration Certificate of “M/s Kashmir Dream Designer Tour & Travels” situated at Naqashpora, Barabarshah, Srinagar.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Kawa & Mr. Ashiq Hussain Badyari partners of the Travel unit namely “M/s Kashmir Dream Designer Tour & Travels” situated at Naqashpora,

Barabarshah, Srinagar has approached this office for retirement of one partner namely Mr. Ashiq Hussain Badyari and inclusion of one partner namely Mr. Mehraj E Din in the Registration certificate of the said Travel unit under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the applicants along with their application has submitted all requisite documents of new partner and Deed of Reconstituted of Partnership (Sub-registrar) by virtue of which Mr. Ashiq Hussain Badyari is retiring from the said agency & Mr. Mehraj E Din is included as 2nd partner in the Registration certificate of above mentioned Travel Agency.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicants is considered for retirement & inclusion of partner in the Registration certificate, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

No: Reg/ 1748/307/DTK
Dated: 26-08-2021

Deputy Director Tourism
(Registration Kashmir

DIPK-7397/21

The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject :- NEET MDS - 2021, registration for preparation of Provisional UT Merit List of J&K and Ladakh candidates: Instructions thereof.
Ref :- Notification No. 076-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-08-2021

NOTICE No. 64-BOPEE of 2021
DATED:25-08-2021

After conduct of the NEET PG MDS 2021 by the National Board of Examinations, the result of candidates was declared on 31-12-2020. The cut off score for NEET MDS-2021 as notified by the NBE is as under:-

S. No.	Minimum Qualification /Eligibility Criteria	Cut off merit	Category
01.	50 th percentile	259	OM(Including JKPM/CDP/Sports/EWS)
02.	40 th Percentile	227	SC/ST/OBC (RBA/ALC/IB/OSC)Including PWD for these categories
03	45 th Percentile	243	UR-PWD(Including JKPM/CDP/Sports/EWS

Note- (1):

The cut off merit shall further be subject to modifications if any, notified by the NBE/DCI.

The Board shall be taking following steps:-

- Registration of candidates who have appeared in the NEET 2021 examination and declared successful by the National Board of Examinations, and figure in the list notified by the Board vide Notification NO. 076-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-08-2021 for preparation of the Provisional Merit List (PML);
- The Provisional Merit List shall be notified by the Board after conclusion of the cut-off date of registration;
- The candidates shall have to submit Online / Offline preferences for allotment of seats as may be decided by the Board;
- Allotment of the seats shall be made as per S.O. 127 of 2020. dated 20-04-2020 & S.O. 249 of 20212 dated 23-06-2021.

Note- (2):-

The candidates in their own interest are here by advised to keep the following documents ready for upload at the time of registration:-

- Matriculation certificate for purpose of date of birth;
- Marks Card of 10+2 examination;
- BDS degree certificate;
- Marks cards of all the years of BDS;
- Registration with the State / UT Dental council/DCI;
- Internship completion certificate;
- Domicile Certificate of J&K and STK /STL certificate for Ladakh, as the case may be;
- Valid Reserved Category Certificate, wherever applicable, in terms of SRO 294 of 2005 dated 21-10-2005 read with SRO 518 dated 02-09-2019;
- Difficult Area Certificate in pursuance of SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018;
- NEET Score Card.
- DCI clearance certificate for candidates possessing BDS degree from outside the country.
- NOC from Government/Competent Authority for in-service candidates seeking admission to pursue MDS Courses.
- Affidavit, if any.

Conditions of eligibility :-

- The candidates should fulfill all the conditions of eligibility as laid down in the NEET MDS Information Bulletin issued by the National Board of Examinations, 2021 and those contained in the Information Brochure/other Notices/Notifications of BOPEE as shall be uploaded by the BOPEE in this regard in due course of time;
- Since the Union Territory reservation policy is applicable for admission to the said courses but many candidates who had applied from J&K must not have been able to indicate their category status like RBA/ALC/IB/PSP/OSC/Sports/CDP/JKPM, as such columns are not available in the NEET application form, therefore, at the time of registration, the candidates will be provided an opportunity to update their category status;
- The candidates belonging to reserved categories should, however, be in possession of valid category certificates on the last date of registration. The certificates issued after the cut-off date as may be fixed by the Board shall not be entertained. Such candidates, who do not possess a valid category certificate shall be considered as OM candidates;
- The candidates whose category certificates are likely to expire after the last date of registration are in their own interest, advised to have the same renewed in accordance with the rules as the same shall be required at the time of counselling/admissions;

- Candidates belonging to Sports /JKPM/CDP/EWS categories shall have minimum qualifying marks as prescribed for the OM candidates;
- No “Under Process Certificate” shall be entertained under any circumstances;
- The candidates completing internship after 31st July 2021 shall not be eligible for consideration for allotment of the seats;
- The candidates claiming benefit of service having served in difficult areas shall have to obtain a certificate from the Director Health Services Jammu/Srinagar on the prescribed proforma and in accordance with SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018. Only such candidates shall be considered who have served in the areas notified under SRO 201 of 2006 dated 15-06-2006 or amendment, if any, as per the condition contained in SRO 48 of 2018. No other certificate issued for some other purposes shall be entertained by the Board in this regard. Copy of the SRO 201 of 2006 dated 15-06-

2006 as is available on the official websites of the BOPEE viz www.jkbopee.gov.in/jakbopee.org;

- The candidates claiming benefit under Sports category shall be considered only in case their names are forwarded by the J&K Sports Council in accordance with the rules. The list provided by the Sports Council shall only be for purposes of the shortlisting and the allotment of seat shall be on the basis of the NEET merit. The candidates belonging to sports category should, however, upload a copy of the certificate in support of their claim to facilitate scrutiny of the documents/the report received from the Sports Council. They should also tick the Sports Category but they shall be considered only if they figure in the list provided by the Sports Council. The candidates claiming benefit of Sports Category are advised to be in touch with the J&K Sports Council;
- After making necessary entries in the records of the candidates who register themselves/update their records, BOPEE shall draw the PML out of the merit list provided by the NBE;
- As the allotment of seats is to be made on the basis of merit cum preference, the candidates shall be required to fill in online/offline preference forms for the said seats and colleges for which the time frame, with detailed procedures shall be notified separately by the BOPEE;
- The candidates who are pursuing the MDS course as on date or have already left the MDS course midway/resigned after the last date fixed by the DCI in this regard shall not be eligible for consideration in pursuance of SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018, notwithstanding their merit/having qualified the examination. Such candidates are, therefore, advised not to apply for registration as it shall be treated as concealment of facts and shall make them liable to be disqualified further beyond the period prescribed under SRO 48;

Note- (3):-

- Mere, registration of the candidates, with the BOPEE shall not make them eligible for consideration to be included in the PML, which shall be based on the eligibility determined in accordance with the rules;
- Notwithstanding the registration, Board may, if it feels expedient to do so, ask any candidate to produce any and/or all documents before the Board for scrutiny;
- The candidates, during the registration process, should carefully go through emails / sms being sent by the BOPEE, if any, and received by them and take immediate necessary action as may be required / advised. The decision of the Board in determination of the eligibility shall be final. Any information furnished by the candidate if proved to be false at any stage of admission, shall make such candidate(s) liable to be disqualified and ineligible for further participation in the admission process;
- Board does not encourage the visit of the candidates to its office. Any clarification, therefore, required, should be sought by them through the e-mail address of the Controller of Examinations viz coejakbopee@gmail.com/ helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com. However, only such requests shall be entertained and responded which have not been clarified in the Information Brochure, which is being uploaded in due course of time;
- The candidates are advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website. The Board shall not be responsible for any delay in the publication of any Notification/Notice in the papers as the Board uploads the Notifications/Notices on its website and sends the same for publication simultaneously.

DIPK-NB-2971/21

No: BOPEE/Exam-18/2021.

E&OE

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

Dated: 25-08-2021.

(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY ROADS (SMC) DIVISION SRINAGAR.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS.

NIT No: - E-NIT/21/CRD/SMC/SGR/2021-22 DATED: 25-08-2021.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (in Single cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advt. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Time & Date of Opening of Bid
1	Part A Improvement Upgradation of road surface at Exchange road to Old Fire Station Lal Chowk by way of providing and laying of WBM Grade 3rd in stretches 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat	27.91	1100/-	6 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
2	Part B Improvement Upgradation of road surface at Tribunal Court at Exchange road by way of Providing and laying of 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat Machine mix laid mechanically.	37.48	1100/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
3	Part A Improvement Upgradation of link road at Bilal Colony Qammerwari opposite PC Depo including other links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick compacted wet mix 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat	20.66	800/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
4	Part B Improvement Upgradation of Dalgate Bazar from Sultana Bakers upto junction by way of providing and laying 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat Machine mix laid mechanically.	28.44	1100/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
5	Part A Improvement Upgradation of road surface at Seki-dafar Chowk to Masjid Madeena by way of providing and laying of WBM Grade 3rd in patches and stretches 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat	38.12	1100/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
6	Part B Improvement Upgradation of road surface at Darasgah Inner and outer lanes Shungipora by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick compacted wet mix 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat	33.55	1100/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
7	Part C Improvement Upgradation of road surface at Sofi Kawardara to Masjid E Ahli Hadees Bulbul Lanker by way of providing and laying of WBM Grade 3rd 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat Machine mix laid mechanically.	24.23	800/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021
8	Improvement Upgradation of road from Dangarpura to Green Valley School and Shadaab Higher Secondary School Al Huda Colony link road by way of providing and laying of 75mm thick compacted wet mix 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam 25mm thick compacted semidense with premixed seal coat Machine mix laid mechanically.	16.46	800/-	10 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 (Construction of Roads)	02-09-2021

Position of AAA: Accreded.

Authorization Issued By : Director Finance PWD (R&B) Dept. Civil Secretariat Srinagar. vide No: PWD/Plg/79/2021-05 Dept. PWD (R&B) Dt: 29-07-2021.

Position of TS: Accreded.

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, 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 the schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-08-2021.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM 26-08-2021 10:00 A.M TO 01-09-2021
3.	Bid submission Start Date	26-08-2021 FROM 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	01-09-2021 UPTO 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02-09-2021 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority), by simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan Receipt and bid security Declaration as per format attached.
- 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 Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar., (Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per the circular issued by the Govt. of Union Territory of J&K Finance Department vide No.A/ Misc(2018)-III-895/J dated 22.12.2020.
- (a) All the bidders have to submit bid security declaration instead of bid security deposit (Earnest money) on court stamp paper (100 rupees) which shall be duly signed by the bidder with full residential address, Card registration details & active Phone / Cell Nos. Form of bid security declaration attached as Annexure-A.
- (b) The lowest bidder (L1) also called the successful Bidder has to produce a performance security amount equal to 3% (Three percent) of the contract value in the shape of CDR / FDR immediately after the opening of financial bids, but prior to fixation of contract. The same shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP).
- (c) In case of abnormally low bids, the tender inviting Authority reserves the right to ask from the bidder for additional performance security with the approval of the next higher Authority which shall be binding upon the bidder in such case.
- If any bidder / tenderer withdraws/ modified his bid during the period of validity etc, the Department is at liberty to suspend the bidder for one year or as shall be deemed suitable by the tender inviting Authority. Same shall hold good if the bidder fails to produce performance security within the specified time.
- The successful bidder (L1) shall have to furnish hard copy of the uploaded documents viz Registration card duly renewed, Valid GST Registration, PAN Card, GSTR-3B etc. along with Treasury Challan Receipt & Bid security declaration form (Annexure-A) on court stamp paper (Rupees 100) in original.
- (i) The longitudinal profile of the finished surface shall be tested with a straight edge and the Transverse profile with a camber template. Any irregularity greater than 6mm shall be rectified.
- (j) The defects noticed in the work during execution or maintenance period shall be corrected by the Contractor within the length of time specified by the Engineer. If the contractor does not correct the defects pertaining to maintenance period to the satisfaction of the Engineer within the time specified, the same shall be got rectified at his risk and cost.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT and SBD.

NIT/ 21/CRD /SMC/SGR/2021-22/e-tendering/
DATED:- 25-08-2021.

Executive Engineer,
City Roads (SMC) Division,
Srinagar.

DIPK-7366/21

Fuel Prices Up Due To Higher Import Cost Of Crude Oil: Rane

Agencies

Mumbai (PTI): Union minister Narayan Rane on Friday claimed that higher import cost of crude oil was the main reason behind the spiralling retail prices of petrol and diesel.

Replying to questions on rising fuel prices which have touched record levels this year, he told reporters in Ratnagiri district that certain things are not in the government's hands.

The import cost of crude oil has gone up. Hence, we (the central government) have to increase the retail prices of petrol, diesel, LPG. Certain things are not in our hands, because we import it," the Union MSME minister said.

According to estimates, India imports over 80 per cent of

its oil needs and more than 50 per cent of its gas requirement. I will take up the issue with



right persons, Rane said when asked whether the common man will get any relief from rising fuel prices.

The minister was in Ratnagiri district of coastal Maharashtra as part of his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra', the BJP's mass contact programme.

This Video Game Is Turning Pandemic Jobless Into Crypto Traders

When Vincent Gallarte was laid off in July, the Manila IT analyst found an unusual financial lifeline: an online game that rewards players in cryptocurrency. In his first two weeks of Pokémon-like questing and battling, Gallarte earned more than 37,000 pesos (\$732), three times what he would have made at his "real job."

Like a lot of newcomers to so-called play-to-earn games, the 25-year-old Gallarte hadn't had any particular interest in the world of Bitcoin, Ether and other cryptocurrencies. Now he imagines a lucrative side-hustle. "I started playing Axie the same day

ful for players-and governments-in poorer countries. On Monday, the Philippines' Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue reminded players that their Axie Infinity profits are subject to income tax, local reports said. Sky Mavis Chief Operating Officer and co-founder Aleksander Leonard Larsen says they take their responsibility seriously, monitoring the in-game currencies and tweaking the market as needed. "Some people say we're like the Fed," he said in an interview. "We are ultimately the creators of this universe and are responsible for making sure that it lasts. We are always tracking the economy to make sure it stays at a



my employer terminated my contract," he said. "I'm so grateful."

Axie Infinity is among the biggest - and most polarizing - of these new games, which allow players to accumulate tradeable crypto coins. To investors like billionaire Mark Cuban and Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, who were part of a \$7.5 million funding round for Vietnamese game-maker Sky Mavis in May, it's a gateway to crypto for people around the world. Others look at the buy-in cost, now more than \$600, and the influx of newbies "working" for low-value tokens and see evidence the Axie Infinity model is unsustainable. Axie Infinity's daily active users swelled from 30,000 in April this year to more than 1 million in August, with most logging on from developing countries hit hard by Covid, including the Philippines, Brazil and Venezuela. Originally built on the Ethereum blockchain, Axie recorded around \$30 million worth of Ether transfers a day over the past month, according to Etherscan. That's not much in the \$2.2 trillion universe of cryptocurrencies, but meaning-

healthy level."

In Axie Infinity's virtual world of Lunacia, players steer colorful, blob-like creatures called Axies to acquire two kinds of coins. Smooth Love Potions (SLP) are awarded for successful battles and can be cashed out or used in the game to breed new Axies. Axie Infinity Shards (AXS) can be earned in seasonal tournaments or for selling Axies in the game's marketplace. AXS can be cashed out too, but like other governance tokens, they're designed to function like shares: Sky Mavis says holders will eventually be able to vote on new game features or corporate spending proposals.

Gallarte heard about the game from a cousin. But players need three Axies to get started, at a minimum of around \$200 apiece. That was far too much for the newly unemployed Gallarte. He sought out a sponsor, someone who lends his Axies to new players in exchange for a percentage of their in-game takings, sometimes as much as 90%. Anything a player earns with a borrowed Axie accrues to its owner, who is then supposed to wire the player his cut.

Come Sept 1, Non-filers of 2 Monthly GST Returns to be Barred from Filing GSTR-1

While businesses file GSTR-1 of a particular month by the 11th day of the subsequent month, GSTR-3B, through which businesses pay taxes, is filed in a staggered manner between 20th-24th day of the succeeding month

Agencies

New Delhi: Businesses that have not filed GSTR-3B returns in the preceding two months will not be able to file details of outward supplies in GSTR-1 from September 1, GSTN has said.

technology backbone for Goods and Services Tax, said that Rule-59(6) of Central GST Rules which provides for restriction in filing of GSTR-1, will come into effect from September 1, 2021.

According to the rule, a registered person shall not be allowed



While businesses file GSTR-1 of a particular month by the 11th day of the subsequent month, GSTR-3B, through which businesses pay taxes, is filed in a staggered manner between 20th-24th day of the succeeding month. In an advisory to taxpayers, GSTN, which manages the

to furnish the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both in Form GSTR-1, if he has not furnished the return in Form GSTR-3B for preceding two months.

For taxpayers filing quarterly return, GSTR-1 filing would be restricted if he has not furnished the return in Form GSTR-3B for

preceding tax period.

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said this is a well thought restriction and a necessary control check to eliminate the cases where taxpayers although report their supply invoices in GSTR-1 (due to constant follow ups from recipients' side) but they do not submit their corresponding GSTR-3B return through which tax is actually paid to government.

"Compliant taxpayers would appreciate this move as till now their input tax credit was also at risk in case vendors do not file their GSTR-3B even though such invoice is appearing in GSTR-2A," Jain added.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said from September 1 GSTN is implementing GST rules that bars a taxpayer to file GSTR 1 wherein taxpayer has not paid taxes for previous two consecutive tax periods.

"This system will cumulatively result in barring the flow of tax credit to the customers of a non-compliant vendor," Mohan said. Implementation of this Rule on the GST Portal would be completely automated and digital, thereby no separate approval would be necessary from the tax-officer to restore the facility for filing of GSTR-1, Mohan added. PTI

Electoral Bonds Worth Rs 3,429.56 Crore Redeemed In 2019-20: ADR

Agencies

New Delhi (PTI): Electoral bonds worth Rs 3,429.56 crore were redeemed by parties in 2019-20, and 87.29 per cent of this was received by four national parties the BJP, Congress, TMC and the NCP, poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

In a new report, the ADR said the BJP declared a total income of Rs 3,623.28 crore during the financial year 2019-20, but spent only 45.57 per cent (Rs 1,651.022 crore) of it. The Congress' total income in 2019-20 was Rs 682.21 crore. The party spent Rs 998.158 crore, which exceeds its income for that year by 46.31 per cent, it said. The TMC declared a total income of Rs 143.676 crore during FY 2019-20, and spent Rs 107.277 crore (74.67 per cent), the ADR report added.

"As per the data shared by SBI in response to ADR's RTI application, electoral bonds worth Rs 3,429.5586 crore were redeemed by parties in FY 2019-20. Of this, 87.29 per cent was received by four national parties BJP, INC, AITC & NCP," it said.

"The total amount of electoral bonds declared by national and regional parties for FY 2019-20 so far is Rs 3,441.324 crore. The difference in the amount declared by political parties and the data on EBs redeemed received from

SBI could be due to the manner in which parties report in their audit report," the ADR said.

"Seven national parties (BJP, Congress, CPM, NCP, BSP, AITC and CPI) have declared a total income of Rs 4,758.206 crore, collected from all over India," it said.

The poll rights body said national parties that received the

NCP received Rs 20.50 crore," the report said.

The report added that the most common and popular items of expenditure for national parties in FY 2019-20 were election expenses or general propaganda and administrative or general expenses.

It also said that between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the BJP's income



maximum income from donations or contributions include the BJP (Rs 3,427.775 crore), the Congress (Rs 469.386 crore), AITC (Rs 108.548 crore), CPM (Rs 93.017 crore) and CPI (Rs 3.024 crore).

"Four national parties namely BJP, INC, AITC and NCP collected 62.92 per cent (Rs 2,993.826 cr) of their total income from donations through electoral bonds for FY 2019-20. BJP received donations through electoral bonds worth Rs 2,555.0001 crore, Congress received Rs 317.861 crore, AITC received Rs 100.4646 crore and

increased by 50.34 per cent (Rs 1,213.20 crore) from Rs 2,410.08 crore to Rs 3,623.28 crore.

The Congress's income decreased by 25.69 per cent (Rs 235.82 crore) from Rs 918.03 crore during 2018-19 to Rs 682.21 crore during 2019-20.

"Between FY 2018-19 and 2019-20, the highest percentage increase in income was declared by the NCP of 68.77 per cent (Rs 34.873 crore) from Rs 50.71 crore during FY 2018-19 to Rs 85.583 crore during FY 2019-20," it said.

Sensex Sails Past 56,000 Closing Level, Rupee Gains 53 Paise

Mumbai (PTI): With equity benchmark indices scaling new closing highs and the rupee logging its biggest single-session gain in more than four months, the last Friday of this month turned out to be fabulous for Indian markets.

The domestic equities surged even as global markets traded mixed as investors awaited cues from the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium of central bankers, where more clarity is likely to emerge on whether loose money approach would continue for a longer period.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 175.62 points or 0.31 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 56,124.72. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty gained 68.30 points or 0.41 per cent to finish at a record 16,705.20.

The Indian rupee, which was range-bound for the whole week, logged its biggest single-session rise in over four months and ended the day higher by 53 paise at 73.69 against the US dollar.

The trend was mainly fu-

elled by dollar sales by foreign banks amid anticipated inflows. Sentiments were also boosted after RBI Governor's statement that it will not surprise the market with a sudden rate hike and all monetary policy actions would be carefully calibrated. The current inflation trajectory looked transitory, Solanki added.

For the week, benchmark Nifty climbed over 1.5 per cent while investors' wealth increased significantly at over Rs 5.5 lakh crore during the week, Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities, said.

The lack of strong selling enthusiasm at new highs has resulted in range-bound action for the equity market, traders said and pinned hopes on further upside in the short term. "This is a positive indication and there is a possibility of further upside in the short term. The next upside levels to be watched are around 16,900 by next week. Immediate support is placed at 16,550 levels," Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

SC Asks SEBI Not Take Coercive Steps Against NDTV Promoters

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court Friday asked markets regulator Sebi not to take any coercive steps against NDTV promoters Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy till it hears their pleas on September 3 against the penalty proceedings related to alleged violation of securities norms by concealing information from shareholders on certain loan agreements.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was requested by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) that the hearing on the pleas of the NDTV promoters be adjourned till next Friday. We will adjourn, but do not take any coercive step, the bench, which also comprised Justices Surya Kant and Anirudha Bose, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was appearing for the Sebi.

The bench inquired from senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Roys, about the status of hearing on the NDTV promoters' appeal before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). The third member of theT is not there and the hearing on the appeals is stuck, Rohatgi said, adding that now the proceedings to levy the penalty have been initiated. The apex court on February 15 disposed of the pleas of the Roys asking theT not to insist on deposit of half the amount of fines as a pre-condition for hearing their appeals against the Sebi orders. The NDTV promoters challenged theT order directing

them to deposit 50 per cent of the alleged unlawful gains which Sebi found to have been made by them. Having heard the matter for some time, we pass the following order by consent: The appellants' Appeal nos...shall be heard by theT at Mumbai without insisting on any deposit of amount... It is directed that no amount shall be recovered coercively from the appellants in the absence of any deposit. This order shall not be treated as a precedent in any other case. The appeals are, accordingly, disposed of, the top court had ordered.

The Solicitor General had said the deposit of money is a condition precedent for grant of stay on the direction of Sebi.

TheT had directed the NDTV promoters to deposit 50 per cent of the disgorged amount before Sebi which had imposed a penalty on them for alleged violation of various securities norms by concealing information from shareholders regarding certain loan agreements. While hearing their appeal against Sebi,T had further said that if NDTV were to deposit the amount, the balance would not be recovered during the pendency of the appeal before it. In two separate orders passed on January 4, the tribunal had noted that the appeals filed by the Roy couple needed consideration and directed the appeals to be listed before the tribunal for final disposal on February 10, 2021.

Govt Taking Several Initiatives To Promote Local Craft: Advisor Confers awards to artisans in handicrafts sector

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Friday presided over the backlog award ceremony for the year 2018 at Conference Hall, Kashmir Haat

Srinagar during which several artisans were conferred awards for their services to the craft sector. On the occasion the Advisor said that several initiatives are being taken up for the welfare and economic upliftment of artisan community of Jammu and Kashmir.

With today's award distribution ceremony titled "Tribute to Golden Hands", for the year 2018, a total of Rs. 1720000/- stands disbursed among 50 artisans (including 8 female artisans) along with mementos and certificates of appreciation who have done exceptionally well in their respective crafts for the year 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The awards were given in the categories that included Sozni, Carpet, Papier Machie, Crewel, Chain Stitch.

Congratulating the artists, the Advisor said that it is the recognition of their skills and talent. He said that conferring awards to the artisans is not only a token of encouragement but also recognition of their efforts to keep the skills and indigenous crafts of Kashmir alive. The Advisor said that the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is committed to promote all the crafts and handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Lieutenant Governor is keen to promote

the handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir across the globe and several initiatives in this regard are being taken.

The Advisor assured artists of strong hand holding and marketing support through Exhibitions within and outside the Union Territory. He said that the government is committed to provide every kind of help to the artisan community to make them self-sufficient. He, simultaneously, highlighted the responsibility of artisans to preserve and promote the crafts which are unique in their own way and have created a niche in the rest of the world.

Stressing upon preserving the unique skill that lead to production of World famous Shawls, Papier Machie, Carpets and Wood, Advisor called upon the artists to pass on these skills to the next generation for the preservation and promotion of this rich legacy.

He said that the government is providing a platform to the artisan community for displaying goods at vital locations and is providing a helping hand in transportation of their products to the outside states. The Advisor said that these steps have improved the economic condition of the artisans and at the same time is providing employment opportunities to the locals.

He also praised the Director Handloom and Handicrafts for taking steps in recognition of the service of the artisans.

Flower Exhibition To Give A Flip To Commercial Floriculture

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Friday visited the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden to review the arrangements which are being put in place for the upcoming Flower Exhibition.

Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Director Floriculture Kashmir Feroz Ahmad Rather and other officers accompanied the Advisor during his visit to the garden. The two-day exhibition will be conducted in the month of September 2021.

While directing the officers to prepare a blue print for the exhibition, the Advisor asked the officers to have meticulous planning done for the event and everything should be in place as per the directions given in the regard.

He asked the department to rope in national and international media for the promotion of the event that would benefit the farmers.

The purpose of the show is to give fillip to the commercial floriculture of Kashmir and this will facilitate the progressive growers to showcase their products to the participants from other parts of the country too. The Advisor emphasized upon the need to give marketing exposure and oppor-



dovetail the exhibition with some light musical Sufiana background that would add to the beautiful ambience of the garden. He also said that endeavor should be made to give an opportunity to maximum number of farmers for participation as this event is particularly a platform for their exposure.

The Advisor further said that efforts should be made to encourage the small residential garden holders too for adoption of commercial floriculture. He said that

of valuable floriculture products like bulbs, decoration items, ornamental flowers etc.

Advisor also asked the officers to focus on sanitation of the garden and directed the officers to educate the visitors to follow the Covid protocols in letter and spirit. He further said that the climate of Kashmir is the most ideal for growing various kinds of flowers and department is taking active steps to plant new and hybrid varieties.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that some miscreants are in possession of previous/old letterheads of Idara Auqaf Islamia Baghbanpora Lal Bazar Srinagar which are being used by them for their personal ends. Those old letterheads have already been cancelled on 02-Oct-2016. Any previous/old letterhead used or to be used shall not be attributed to the Mutwali of Idara Auqaf Islamia. Henceforth if any communication is conveyed through the old letterheads of the institution, that must be considered null and void, and shall further be applicable for legal scrutiny.

Thanks
Hakim Shoaib Sajad
Mutwali Idara Auqaf Islamia
Baghbanpora, Lal Bazar Srinagar

Maintain Preparedness In Ladakh: MoS Defence To Army

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Minister of State for defence, Ajay Bhatt on Friday asked soldiers in eastern Ladakh to remain vigilant and maintain a high order of operational readiness.

Bhatt, who arrived in Leh on a two day visit, also visited Chushul in Eastern Ladakh, Srinagar based spokesman, Col Emron Musavi said, in a statement issued here.

The MoS Defence, he said, was received by, Lieutenant General PGK Menon, General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps

"The Raksha Rajya Mantri (Minister of State for Defence) visited Chushul in Eastern Ladakh and was briefed by General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps on the security situation in Eastern Ladakh," he said.

The minister, he said, was also briefed on the role played by the Indian Army as a "partner in the



development of Ladakh region through infrastructure, welfare and human resource development activities."

"While interacting with commanders and troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh, Ajay Bhatt complimented them for guarding the borders along the most inhospitable and difficult terrain while maintaining a high standard of morale and professionalism," he said.

"Assuring the soldiers of the Nation's support, the Raksha Rajya Mantri exhorted all ranks to remain vigilant and maintain a high order of operational readiness," he added.

200 MPs Visited Ladakh In Last 2 Months, Shows Importance Govt, People Attach To Region: Birla

Leh: As many as 200 MPs from both ruling and opposition parties have visited Ladakh in the last two months which shows the importance that the government and the people of the country attach to the region, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday.

Inaugurating the Parliamentary Outreach Programme for the Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Birla commended the spirit of Ladakhi people, saying the way Ladakh is emerging as a self-reliant (aatmanirbhar) entity in the face of adverse geographical and other challenges is an example for the rest of the nation.

The speaker appreciated the valour of the people of Ladakh and their contribution in India's defence, asserting that they have "set an important example for others."

Highlighting that democracy is reflected in the traditions of Ladakh, Birla said,

The region traditionally has had a system of self-government in the villages. Gob and churp traditionally have been chief officers, who managed the distribution of water and other resources and looked after matters of agriculture and other works on the basis of mutual cooperation.

Later, addressing a press conference, Birla said a large number of MPs have visited Leh and its surrounding areas in the last few months.

"Recently, 13 parliamentary standing committees of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with more than 200 members have visited the UT of Ladakh which speaks about the commitment of the Parliament of India to further the development of Ladakh without compromising its identity and culture," Birla said.

The speaker said this also shows the affection and the importance the government and Indians give to this region

and fellow countrymen.

Responding to questions on recent disruptions in Parliament, Birla emphasised on its role as a forum of discussion.

"Parliament as the supreme democratic institution, should be the centre of discussion and not disruption," Birla said.

Birla also said that efforts should be made to develop the region as a centre for winter sports and tourist destination with global standards.

Meanwhile, chairpersons of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils, Kargil and Leh, welcomed Birla and appreciated him for organising the outreach programme while expressing optimism that it will strengthen grassroots democracy in the region.

Speaking at the event, BJP MP from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said Birla is the first-ever Lok Sabha speaker to visit Ladakh since independence.

Focusing On Evacuation Of Indians; Lack Of Clarity On Govt Formation: India On Afghan Situation

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A day after devastating bombings outside the Kabul airport killed over 100 people, India on Friday said its primary focus is to bring back the remaining Indians from the Afghan capital even as it indicated adopting a cautious approach in recognising any new regime in Afghanistan in view of "lack of clarity" on government formation.

Around 20 Indians and over 100 Afghan nationals could not reach the Kabul airport on Wednesday to board an evacuation flight to India reportedly because of the precarious security scenario and multiple checkpoints put up by the Taliban.

Bagchi said India is in touch with "various parties" to mount more evacuation flights to bring back Indians.

When specifically asked whether India will recognise a Taliban regime, Bagchi replied: "I think we are jumping the gun." "The situation on the ground is uncertain. The prime concern at present is the security and safety

of the people. Currently, there is a lack of clarity or no clarity about any entity forming a government in Kabul. So, I think we are jumping the gun here regarding the recognition," Bagchi said.

"We, of course, continue to monitor the situation very carefully. This is an evolving situation. For the moment, that's all I have to say about this element," he added.

The deadly attack outside the Kabul airport came as the US and a number of other countries were scrambling to evacuate their citizens and Afghan partners ahead of the August 31 deadline for withdrawal of American troops.

Asked whether India was having any back-channel negotiations with the Taliban, Bagchi said India had contacts with all the stakeholders and it remained in touch with its partner countries on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

"Our overall assessment is that the vast majority of Indians who wished to return have been evacuated. Some more Indians are likely to be in Afghanistan.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Plea Filed In SC

Centre has constituted a Delimitation Commission to mark boundaries in the territory for all the constituencies before an assembly election can be held.

"Amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act allowing persons who are not permanent residents to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir if it is not an agricultural land. Closing down of institutions such as the J-K State Women's Commission, J-K State Accountability Commission, J-K State Consumer Protection Commission and J-K State Human Rights Commission," the petition said, listing out some decisions by the Centre.

The petitioner said in view of the aforesaid actions being taken by the central government, it is submitted that the challenge to the constitutional validity ought to be heard on an expedited basis otherwise the petition itself would be rendered infructuous in view of the irreversible actions of the respondents and the applicant would be rendered remediless.

The CPI(M) leader said if the matters were not heard urgently, "grave injustice will be caused to the applicant".

"In such view of the matter, the applicant herein is seeking an early hearing of said writ petition," he said.

"In view of the above facts and circumstances this Hon'ble Court may have kind indulgence to direct the respondents accordingly, in the interest of justice, otherwise the Applicant will be put to irreparable loss, injury and hardships," the petition said.

Tarigami submitted that the court may be pleased to list his writ petition (Civil) no. 1210 of 2019 on an early date, in the interest of justice and pass such other order or further orders as the Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

JKBOSE Slashes

UT of Ladakh and Annual (Regular) Examination 2021-22 in Summer Zone areas of Jammu Division, are hereby informed that they shall have to attempt 70% marks from the question paper which shall be treated as 100% for result computation thereby a resultant concession of 30% question papers will be set from the entire syllabus prescribed for the session.

"However, the students shall have to attempt questions having a weightage of 70% marks instead of attempting all the questions- Marks obtained by students who attempt less than 70% from the question paper shall be raised proportionately," it said.

The order said that for subjects having no practical course, the question paper shall be of 100 marks and the student has to attempt questions with a total of 70 marks. However, for such subjects which have both theory and practical components, the concession will apply to theory part only.

It further reads that the time allotted for attempting the question papers during examination has been reduced proportionately. Accordingly, the papers having 3 hours duration shall be having only 2.30 hrs time period for attempting the questions. Likewise, subjects having 2.30 hrs and 2.00 hrs duration shall be having only 2.10 hrs and 1.40 hrs time period for attempting the questions during the examination," it reads.

"In case of subjects having practical portion in respect of Class 11th & 12th the external assessment shall be conducted before the start of theory Examination and in this regard notification shall be issued separately," reads the order.

Further, the candidate can attempt any number of questions carrying 70 percent marks from the entire question paper. The students can attempt questions from any section of their choice and there shall be no binding to attempt the same from a particular section only, it reads.

"Questions having an internal choice will not be considered two separate questions. The students shall have to attempt only one of the questions, Subjects like Physics, Chemistry etc that have a practical component of 30 marks and theory question paper of 70 marks, the students shall attempt 49 marks of theory (70% of 70 marks only), which will be raised to 100% i.e. 70 marks," it further added.

The order further said that in the case of Multiple Choice Type Questions (MCQs), each MCQ attempted by the candidate shall be marked individually. The same shall be applied

to the Grammar portion, in case of language subjects. For example, a candidate attempting 3 MCQs out of 10 shall be awarded 3 out of 3 instead of out of 10.

Light Showers

two days," Deputy Director Meteorological department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer on Friday.

He said that the mercury might see a drop of a few notches as the weather will remain cloudy till August 31st.

Meanwhile, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded a low of 18.5 degrees Celsius against 16.4 normal for this time of the year, a Meteorological department official said Friday. Jammu, the winter capital, recorded a minimum of 27.4 degrees Celsius against normal of 24.1 degrees Celsius, he said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 15.7 (against normal of 14.5) degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 12.7 degrees Celsius while Kokernag recorded 15.9 degrees Celsius, the official said.

The border town Kupwara recorded a low of 15.9 degrees Celsius against normal of 15.0 degree Celsius, he said.

World famous skiing and tourist resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a minimum of 11.5 degrees Celsius against the normal of 11.0 degree Celsius for this time of the season for the place, the official added.

No Friday Prayers

Friday prayers in Dargah but unfortunately the government has closed only religious places while other places have been thrown open," he said.

Another devotee said, even if the administration had to close down the shrine, they should inform the people a day before so that they won't come.

He said devotees from Anantnag, Sopore, Budgam and Baramulla reached the shrine today but the gates were locked leaving them fuming.

"The closure of the shrine has also hit the dozens of street vendors, who would earn their livelihood," he said.

Meanwhile, Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid in a statement issued here said that senior administration officials on Friday morning informed the Khateeb and Imam of the Central Jama Masjid Maulana Ahmad Sayeed Naqshbandi that congregational prayers would not be allowed in the grand mosque.

In this regard, a formal notice has also been pasted on the gate of the Jama Masjid by the administration, they said.

The Anjuman lamented that despite the worshippers fully adhering to COVID-19 SOPs, the prayers at the largest place of worship in Kashmir were not being allowed for the last three Fridays.

"This is extremely sad and painful for the people especially those coming for prayers at the Jama Masjid Srinagar," the statement reads.

According to reports, major shrines which remained shut on Friday, included the Khanqah-e-Maula, Astane Aliya Dastgeer Sahab, Astane Aliya Makhdoom Sahib, Aastane Aliya Naqshband Sahab and others by the authorities in view of coronavirus threat.

Coronavirus Threat

he said, the LG directed the officials to take strict action against Covid-19 protocol violators as per provisions of Disaster Management Act.

"The best line of defence against the pandemic is Covid Appropriate Behaviour, intense surveillance and vaccination. Strict monitoring of the spread and keeping track of all variants is crucial at this stage," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"Targeted testing must be increased in the areas where infection is on the rise. The cases are preventable if people adhere to Covid protocol," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG passed specific directions for holding special camps to vaccinate college and university students.

"With an improved Covid scenario and 100% vaccination among students and teachers, we can plan gradual reopening of higher education institutions," the LG said.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also asked the officials for dedicated focus on 100% first inoculation of the 18-44 age group, besides timely 2nd dose of the targeted population.

He further said that the DCs, SPs were directed to ensure that restrictions on the public

gatherings shall continue, besides taking strict measures to avoid crowding at public places.

"The Lt Governor directed the officials to take note of observations made by the National Institute for Disaster Management report and prepare to augment clinical management and paediatric facilities in all the hospitals," the official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the LG launched J&K's Chikitsa Setu app, an initiative of Prashant Sharma, an IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh Cadre, and Ms. Poulomi Pavini Shukla, in collaboration with National Institute for Smart Government Hyderabad, to help Corona Warriors, he said.

"The mobile application is developed with an objective to assist doctors, paramedical staff and other Corona Warriors in the fight against Covid-19," he added.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed district-wise analysis of Covid-19 pandemic including the status of vaccine availability and coverage; daily trend of COVID 19 cases; trend of daily testing done and daily positivity rate etc.

J&K Logs 166 New

4,405 as one new fatality was reported in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 44 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

Two Youth Slapped

during the Ashura procession on 10th Muharram. They informed us that a formal case has been registered against the youth under the UAPA" Shabir Hussain, a local said.

He further said that the youth have not been detained though a case has been registered at the Police Station Budgam.

Taking to his twitter handle, National Conference leader Ruhullah Mehdi expressed his anguish against the police for booking two Shia mourners under UAPA.

"Two guys from Sharifabad held a flag reading 'Oppressed Kashmir' in 10th Muharram procession in Budgam. Police respond by booking them under oppressive UAPA to prove that they are not oppressed," he tweeted.

While castigating the police, he further added, "This model of policing should be adopted by every democracy in the world.

When contacted, SHO Budgam, Mehboob Bandy told Kashmir Observer that the youth have been booked under UAPA for their involvement in "anti-national activities"

According to police sources, the duo has been booked under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 which prescribes upto seven years imprisonment for advocating, abetting, advising or inciting the commission of any unlawful activity.

Disgraced Kashmir

August 9 directing a case to be lodged against Imran and his correspondent Ashiq Mir.

"During the course of investigation one person namely Ashiq Salam Mir, son of Abdul Salam Mir of Bagh Islam Baramulla was arrested yesterday and today Kashmir Crown's Chief Editor Shahid Imran Ganie, son of Ghulam Mohammad Ganie of Ruhama Rafiabad was formally arrested," he said.

The police spokesperson further said that the investigation in the case is going on.

J&K To Form

eminent personalities of film industry and others related to the industry.

The JKFDPC has been authorised to make and issue detailed guidelines, rules, checklist and all required formats and agreements etc.

It has also authorized implement guidelines for the disbursement of the subsidy /financial incentives under the film policy.

Under the policy, there shall be a simple process for grant of permissions through a single-window mechanism to the production houses for film making in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the policy document, there shall be two separate appraisal committees for permission of locations and script screening. While location permission committee will be headed by respective divisional commissioner, the script screening committee will be headed by an eminent person as chairman and three members from the field of film making/ script writing/ art/ culture or any relevant field

related to film making and nominated by chairman Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council for scrutinizing scripts of the prospective film makers.

The policy offers subsidy for shooting of films in J&K. It also offers additional subsidy to J&K-specific films.

100% Schools

made available in all 22,422 schools and 23,926 anganwadi centers of the Union Territory. After Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir has become the second Union Territory to achieve this feat," he added.

The official spokesperson quoted Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for making clean drinking water accessible in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In one of his tweets, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has become synonymous with peace and prosperity," he said.

He further said that Jal Shakti Minister also lauded the achievement in a Tweet

"Jammu and Kashmir is progressing on the path of development. Children are finally getting clean drinking water. Modi ji has made the dream of Kashmiri brothers and sisters come true," Shekhawat said.

According to the official spokesperson, a 100-day campaign to provide tap water to all schools and anganwadi centres was launched by the Union Jal Shakti Minister on Oct 2, 2020. The Minister also wrote to the Chief Ministers and Governors of various States and Union Territories, urging them to provide tap water in schools.

He further said that under Jal Jeevan Mission, Jammu and Kashmir has set a target of providing tap water to every rural household in the Union Territory by 2022. There are 18,35,190 rural households in the state, out of which more than 10,27,000, i.e. about 56 % of homes have been provided tap water connections. Moreover, Ganderbal and Srinagar have achieved the target of becoming 'Har Ghar Nal' District. Further, there are 1056 villages where every household gets clean drinking water from tap.

"The target of providing tap drinking water connection to every school in the state was difficult, but we completed it ahead of time. We will ensure that the supply remains stable in the future by continuous monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure and resources," said Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Mission Director, JJM-Jammu and Kashmir, as per the official spokesperson.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, the official spokesperson said, was launched by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2019. It is being implemented in partnership with the states to provide tap water connections to every rural household by 2024.

Where's 'Ease

no stone unturned in showcasing the investment pipeline and the employment to be generated.

In some cases, the orders were also passed by the authority of advisor to Lieutenant Governor for grounding of projects after a thorough due-diligence by the appointed task-force.

But almost a year later, the same orders—which were once used as the standing pillar against Kashmir's special status—have not been implemented in the region leaving the local entrepreneurs in a state of distress.

"It took a lot of time, resources and efforts for investors like me post 5th August, 2019 to reach to a point where we were able to secure orders for our project from the competent authority," continues Mueed.

"A nodal officer was also appointed by the Directorate of I&C to identify and allocate land for the project and yet no action was taken afterwards despite regular follow-ups."

A year after the previous orders were introduced, the administration came up with a new policy for Industrial Land Allotment.

"And now they want us to start from scratch, meaning we've to apply for land on the portal and be in a month-long queue," Mueed says.

"Depending on the number of applications received ahead of me and the quantum of investment, the Appraisal Committee may or may not review our projects and then

decide whether or not it should go to the Allotment Committee for further process. In other words, all the hard-work done for years in making our dreams come true, would go down the drain."

Young Kashmiri entrepreneurs say the administration needs to take immediate steps to reimpose a hassle-free procedure where the local entrepreneurs are given preferences over the non-domiciles that would stay within the broad spectrum of compliance. "This would have been a better example of Ease of Doing Business," Mueed says.

Entrepreneurs contest that a simple analysis of the bleak presence of the first generation industrial level projects and businesses that have come up post abrogation in Kashmir is enough to contradict the official claims.

But while the administration claims to have gotten rid of a lot of obsolete processes, in reality the picture remains the same, says Mushtaq Amin, another entrepreneur.

"It takes months and in some cases years for an entrepreneur to get NOCs like Power Availability Certificate, Power Sanction, Consent To Establish, Consent To Operate from departments like PDD and PCB/PCC. Departments keep passing the buck with nobody having any accountability and then in the same process, one loses whatever little time the administration had provided in the name of Provisional Registration," he says.

Jammu & Kashmir generates thousands of megawatts of renewable energy annually and has a potential for several thousand more.

"Yet," Mushtaq says, "when an entrepreneur applied for a project that requires high-energy despite innumerable merits of the project considering the eco-sensitive topography of Kashmir, it was turned down. If the same administration can provide land to Jindal Corporation in Lassipora for setting up their industry, then why can't they provide the same land to locals?"

CAF India CEO

to 300 families from vulnerable section of society in Srinagar and its outskirts.

"Given the nature of this unprecedented health crisis, we all need to work together. Civil Society Organisations such as CAF are playing a vital role in overcoming the crisis. Together we can prevent a catastrophic toll on the health and wellbeing of people and beat Covid-19 pandemic," Sinha said.

He also expressed his good wishes for the future endeavours of CAF India.

The official spokesperson further said that Ms Batra expressed her support to the government of J&K in its fight against Covid pandemic and assured CAF India's contribution to further complement the efforts of the healthcare sector.

"The non-profit sector has played a crucial role in supporting hospitals and their frontline workers, but more needs to be done. We hope that this contribution can make a difference and help the brave frontline workers and people of Jammu and Kashmir fight the pandemic," she said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the organisation is providing medical consumables to government hospitals, PHCs and Municipal Corporation, which includes hand sanitizers, masks, face shields, gloves, PPE, infrared thermometers, thermoguns, oxymeters, oxygen Concentrators etc.

Ammunition Recovered

on the roadside at Tawheed Gunj area of Old Town, local news agency KDC reported.

The report said that troops were searching for an IED on the basis of specific information when they recovered the ammunition.

The news agency also quoted DIG North Kashmir Police Range Sujit Kumar Singh confirming recovery of ammunition

Sarpanch Held

(FIR No. 79/2021) under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered and further investigation has been taken up in this regard.

Electric Shock

District Hospital Handwara, however the doctors on duty declared her dead on arrival", the family said.

Meanwhile, a police official confirming the incident said that cognizance into the death of the woman is being taken.



HE IS THE GREATEST PLAYER OF ALL TIME, if you ask me, Such a tremendous human being as well. Let's see what happens with Cristiano. Everyone who's played with him, I think, has a soft spot for him."

Inter-School Tournament Begins At Zone Imam Sahib, Vehil, Keegam Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Inter School Zonal Level Tournament (District Level) in the discipline of Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho Kho under 14/17 (Boys & Girls) match competition commences from today at Imam Sahab, Vehil, Keegam Shopian.

The Tournament was conducted by Youth Services & Sports Department Shopian under the supervision of District

Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta, who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dutta said that it is a matter of great pleasure that the players were happy and enthusiastic to participate in the tournament and appreciated the Incharge Zonal Officers and the field staff for making enough preparations for the successful conduct of the tournament.

PCB Chairman Election Set For Sept 13 After PM Khan's Nominations

Agencies

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Election Commissioner has called for a special meeting of its Board of Governors on Monday, September 13 to elect the 36th PCB Chairman.

The announcement came on Friday after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan nominated Ramiz Raja and Asad Ali Khan to the BoG on a three-year term.

The development follows days of speculation over the appointment of the PCB chief, with Raja being one of the hopefuls and reports of the likelihood of outgoing PCB chairperson Ehsan Mani being asked to serve another term as his current one ended on Wednesday. Raja's nomination lends some validity to the latter.

Raja had revealed to Pakistani media that he was PM Khan's choice for the coveted position,

making the cricketer-turned-commentator the front runner.

"I am thankful to PCB Patron, Prime Minister Imran Khan and grateful to my colleagues on the PCB Board of Governors for their support during the past three year[s]. We made significant progress in becoming a credible, transparent and professional organisation," Mani said in the parting note.

"I want to thank the PCB team, all the PSL franchise owners and other stakeholders for their support during my three years in the office. It has been an honour to lead this great organisation and I hope I have made positive contribution in taking Pakistan cricket forward.

"I would like to wish my successor the very best in taking the PCB and Pakistan cricket to the next level with the support of the excellent executive team at the PCB led by Wasim Khan," he added.

Tokyo Paralympics: Powerlifter Sakina Khatun Finishes Fifth



Press Trust of India

TOKYO: Indian powerlifter Sakina Khatun finished a creditable fifth in the women's 50kg category while her compatriot Jaideep failed to log a single legal lift in the men's 65kg event of the Paralympics here on Friday.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Khatun had the best effort of 93kg.

China's Dandan Hu took home the gold with a best effort of 120kg, while Rehab Ahmed of Egypt, who also lifted 120kg, and Great Britain's Olivia Broome (107kg) took the silver and bronze respectively.

The 32-year-old Khatun lifted 90kg in her first attempt. She went for 93kg in her second attempt but failed. She managed to lift 93kg in her third try.

Khatun became the only Indian woman Paralympian to ever win a Commonwealth Games medal

when she claimed bronze in 2014 in Glasgow. She is also a 2018 Para Asian Games silver medalist.

The other Indian powerlifter in action, Jaideep had a bad day in the office, failing all his three attempts in the men's 65kg category.

The 31-year-old unsuccessfully tried to lift 160kg in his first two attempts. He added seven more kilograms to the barbell to make it 167kg in his third and final attempt but was unable to lift it. China's Liu Lei (198kg) and Iran's Jafari Arangeh Amir (195kg) won the gold and silver medals while Bettir Hocine (192kg) of Algeria took home the bronze.

Powerlifting is open to athletes with an eligible physical impairment in their legs or hips, which would prohibit them from competing in able-bodied (standing) weightlifting. There is only one sport class in powerlifting, but the athletes compete in different weight categories.

Two Matches Played In DFA Srinagar Super Division League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two matches were played on Friday in the ongoing DFA Srinagar Super Division Football League Tournament 2021 at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The first match was played between Kashmir United FC and Galaxy FC. Both the clubs started with an aggressive note, creating gaps to find the net. In the 24th minute Galaxy FC was awarded a penalty kick and Syed Fakhar made no mistake in converting the penalty into a goal.

Kashmir United FC did their best to equalize although they made certain good moves at the opponents goal but could not succeed. The first half was

evenly balanced and the score at half time was 1-0 in favour of Galaxy FC.

The second half saw tactical football with Kashmir United FC leaving no stone unturned to go for an equalizer. Their efforts bore fruits when Firdous Ahmad succeeded in scoring a goal in 48th minute. Both the teams tried hard to take the lead but of no avail, and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The second match was played between Syed Tajuddin FC and Hamdaniya FC. Both the teams played quality game and missed some good chances early on. Their efforts were applauded by the spectators. Perfect ball control, man to man marking, superb defense were the main features

of the game. In the 15th minute of the first half, Firdous of Hamdaniya FC scored a magnificent goal which took every one by surprise. At half time Hamdaniya FC was leading by one goal to nil.

The 2nd half started with an aggressive note and Syed Tajuddin FC trying to find an equalizer. In 46th minute Syed Tajuddin FC succeeded in scoring a goal through Harish.

Both the teams geared up and tried hard to take the lead but it was Syed Tajuddin FC who scored back to back two goals in 60th & 61st minute through Lucky. Syed Tajuddin FC maintained 3-1 goal lead till the final whistle.

The Tournament is organized by J&K Football Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Cricket Tournament For Persons With Special Orthopedic Abilities Inaugurated At Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Zaiba Aapa Cricket tournament for persons with special orthopedic abilities was inaugurated at Government Degree College Khanabal here, today.

The tournament with the slogan "See My Ability Not Disability" is being organised by Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline (HWOH) Bijbehara in collaboration with District Administration and Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Chairman HWOH, Patron Zaiba Aapa Trust, Javid Ahmad Taib inaugurated the tournament in presence of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori besides other officials. A good number of specially abled persons also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Eight teams from South Kashmir are participating in the tournament and the inaugural match was played between Zaiba Aapa Cricket Club Anantnag and Apple Town Shopian teams at the college ground. Three more knockout matches were also



played during the day.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman HWOH said such tournaments encourage the specially abled persons to participate in sports and other activities besides inculcating a positive attitude in them. They feel confident and the desire to

accomplish things and excel in every walk of life is ignited in them, he remarked.

The DYSSO said that the district is honoured to host the cricket tourney for specially abled persons and expressed commitment to host such events in future as well.

Real Madrid Increase Bid For PSG's Mbappe To 180 Million Euros: Reports

Agencies

PARIS: Real Madrid have increased their offer to sign Paris St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe to 180 million euros (\$211.48 million) after having an initial 160 million euro bid rejected, French newspaper L'Equipe reported on Thursday.

L'Equipe said the amount would include 10 million euros in bonuses. Sky Sports had earlier reported an improved second bid of 170 million euros.

Spanish and French media reported on Tuesday that Real Madrid had made a bid for the 22-year-old World Cup winner, who scored 42 goals in all competitions for PSG last season and has reportedly said he wants to move to Spain. PSG sporting director Leonardo had said the 160 million euro bid was "not sufficient" and that Mbappe, who has one year left on his current deal, would only leave on the Ligue 1 club's terms.

"We've always been very clear... the situation, the position of the club," PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi told BeIN Sports at the Champions League group stage draw, where the



French club were drawn alongside last year's runners-up Manchester City.

"We're not going to repeat it every time. You know our position, it has not changed.

"Mbappe joined PSG from AS Monaco in 2017, initially on loan and then permanently a year later in a deal valued at 180 million euros."

Leonardo added that PSG were not willing to let Mbappe go for a fee that was less than what they had paid to sign him from Monaco, as they still owe them money from the 2017 transfer.

Cristiano Ronaldo To Complete Stunning Manchester United Move

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo is headed back to Manchester United.

The English club said Friday it has reached an agreement with Juventus for the transfer of the 36-year-old Portugal forward, subject to agreement of personal terms, visa and a medical examination.

Ronaldo, a five-time world player of the year, told Juventus on Thursday that he no longer wanted to play for the Italian club, coach Massimiliano Allegri said.

United did not disclose a transfer fee for Ronaldo, but it is reported to be 25 million euros (\$29.5 million). He had one year left on his contract at Juventus.

Ronaldo played for United from 2003-09 and turned into a superstar under the guidance of then-manager Alex Ferguson.

"Everyone at the club looks forward to welcoming Cristiano back to Manchester," United said in a brief statement, ending a day of fast-moving developments.

It is the latest blockbuster move of the transfer window, with Lionel Messi — Ronaldo's long-time rival — having joined Paris Saint-Germain after his contract at Barcelona expired. PSG forward Kylian Mbappe is also the subject of a bid of about 160 million euros (\$188 million) from Real Madrid.

Hours before United confirmed Ronaldo's return to the club where he scored 118 goals in 292 games, current manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said Ronaldo "knows that we're here" if he wanted to join.

"He is the greatest player of all time, if you ask me," said Solskjaer, a former United striker who played alongside



Ronaldo. "Such a tremendous human being as well ... Everyone who's played with him, I think, has a soft spot for him."

Ronaldo will leave Juventus after three years. He joined the club from Real Madrid.

"Yesterday, Cristiano told me that he no longer plans to play for Juventus," Allegri said in a news conference. "Cristiano gave his contribution. He made himself available, now he leaves and life goes on."

Manchester City had been considering an option to buy Ronaldo after its top target, Harry Kane, said Wednesday he was staying at Tottenham for now. But City manager Pep Guardiola sounded pessimistic about that possibility when speaking at a news conference at about the same time as Solskjaer.

It is not the first time United has beaten City to a player that both clubs wanted. Alexis Sanchez joined United in 2018 after appearing to be close to moving to City, while United was prepared to pay 80 million pounds (then \$97 million) to sign Harry Maguire from Leicester in 2019 — a sum City didn't try to match.

United, which hasn't won the Premier League since 2013, has also signed England winger Jadon Sancho and France center back Raphael Varane for a combined cost of about \$150 million.

Champions League Group Stage Draw In Full

Agencies

ISTANBUL: European football's biggest teams didn't need a Super League to secure heavyweight clashes this season.

The draw for the Champions League did the job in Istanbul on Thursday, after three of the rebels still pursuing the breakaway competition were allowed entry to the group stage.

So Madrid, the record 13-time winners of the European Cup, will be taking on Italian champion Inter Milan — one of nine clubs who quickly abandoned the Super League split in April. They are in Group D with Shakhtar Donetsk and Sheriff, the Moldovan side which qualified for the Champions League for the first time and would have struggled to squeeze into the planned largely-closed breakaway.

Barcelona, which is weighed down by \$1.6 billion in debt and won the fifth of its European titles in 2015, is in Group E with Bayern Munich, the six-time winners who wouldn't sign up to the



Super League. They'll also play Benfica and Dynamo Kyiv.

Juventus will come up against defending champion Chelsea, one of the six English clubs to implode the Super League inside 48 hours and accepting fines from UEFA for the mutiny. They are in Group H with Malmo and Zenit St. Petersburg, whose stadium will host the final.

Group F will see rematches of last season's Europa League final which saw Manchester United surprisingly beaten by Villarreal. They will also face Atalanta and Young Boys.

Sporting Lisbon, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax and Besiktas were drawn in Group C. Lille, Sevilla, Salzburg, and Wolfsburg are in Group G.

Group A: Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Leipzig, Club Brugge.

Group B: Atletico Madrid, Liverpool, Porto, AC Milan.

Group C: Sporting Lisbon, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax, Besiktas.

Group D: Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Shakhtar Donetsk, Sheriff.

Group E: Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Benfica, Dynamo Kyiv.

Group F: Villarreal, Manchester United, Atalanta, Young Boys.

Group G: Lille, Sevilla, Salzburg, Wolfsburg.

Group H: Chelsea, Juventus, Zenit St. Petersburg, Malmo.

Three New Faces For Germany In Hansi Flick's 1st Squad

Agencies

BERLIN: Germany coach Hansi Flick made three new call-ups and recalled five players on Friday including Borussia Dortmund captain Marco Reus among his first selections for upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

Flick, naming his first squad since taking over from Joachim Löw, continued the rebuilding started by his predecessor in calling up Hoffenheim midfielder David Raum, Freiburg defender Nico Schlotterbeck and Salzburg forward Karim Adeyemi for the first time. All three players are 23 or younger.

As well as the experienced Reus, Flick also recalled Reus' Dortmund teammate Mahmoud Dahoud, Paris Saint-Germain defender Thilo Kehrer, Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Florian Wirtz and Wolfsburg defender Ridle Baku. None of the five were included in Löw's squad for the European Championship.

Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos retired from international soccer after the tournament, giving



Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich, Manchester City's Ilkay Gündoğan and Borussia Mönchengladbach's Florian Neuhaus the chance to take on greater roles. Flick also retained faith in Bayern veteran Thomas Müller, but Dortmund's Mats Hummels was still working on his return to fitness.

Germany will play Lichtenstein in St. Gallen for Flick's debut

as coach next Thursday, then Armenia in Stuttgart three days later, before a trip to Reykjavik to face Iceland on Sept. 8.

"The whole coaching team is looking forward to what's coming," Flick said. "We know that it certainly won't be easy, the three games, but we're ready. I think we're well prepared. That's the decisive factor in this situation. We hope we

ultimately show it on the field."

Germany squad:

Goalkeepers: Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Kevin Trapp (Eintracht Frankfurt), Bernd Leno (Arsenal)

Defenders: Ridle Baku (Wolfsburg), Robin Gosens (Atalanta), Thilo Kehrer (Paris Saint-Germain), Lukas Klostermann (Leipzig), David Raum (Hoffenheim), Antonio Rüdiger (Chelsea), Nico Schlotterbeck (SC Freiburg), Niklas Süle (Bayern Munich)

Midfielders: Mahmoud Dahoud (Borussia Dortmund), Leon Goretzka (Bayern Munich), Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich), Leroy Sané (Bayern Munich), Ilkay Gündoğan (Manchester City), Jonas Hofmann (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Florian Neuhaus (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Florian Wirtz (Bayer Leverkusen)

Forwards: Karim Adeyemi (Salzburg), Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund), Serge Gnabry (Bayern Munich), Thomas Müller (Bayern Munich), Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich), Kai Havertz (Chelsea), Timo Werner (Chelsea)

Central Govt Being Run By Big Corporates: BKU Leader Rakesh Tikait

Agenceis

CHANDIGARH: Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Friday alleged the Centre was 'pro-corporate' which is why has not been holding talks with farmers protesting the agri laws, but asserted the agitators sitting at Delhi's borders will return home only when their demands are met.

Tikait, who was here to galvanise support for the 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' to be held at Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh on September 5, said the farmers' agitation was not just against the three contentious Central agri laws but also to save the country.

"This agitation has been going on for nine months and the government has not held talks since January 22. We have repeatedly said that this government is being run by big corporates. That is why they are not talking to us," he said. Tikait also accused the government of selling off public sector enterprises.

"But they say these are being given on lease. Will one day they give Parliament on lease too?" he posed.

About the Centre's decision to hike the minimum price that mills have to pay to sugarcane growers by Rs 5 per quintal, the

BKU leader said they raised the price by 5 paise per kilogramme.

The government will have to rescind the three farm laws and give a legal guarantee for minimum support price, Tikait said, adding the farmers protesting at Delhi's borders will not return to their homes till their demands are met.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that farmers' income will double in 2022.

"We will also publicize this and sell our produce at double rates from January 1, so the government makes arrangements accordingly," Tikait said sarcastically.

He also alleged that the Central government was bent upon systematically destroying the manner in which farmers grow different crops.

"Under pressure from the sugar lobby, they will import sugar and destroy sugarcane growers. They will do the same to farmers growing pulses," Tikait alleged.

The BKU leader also dubbed the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2021, passed by the state assembly earlier this week as "anti-farmer". PTI

Boy, 16, Flees Home After Spending ₹10 Lakh To Play PUBG



Agenceis

Mumbai: A 16-year-old boy ran away from home in the western suburb of Jogeshwari after his parents reprimanded him for allegedly spending 10 lakh through online transactions for playing PUBG, police said on Friday.

The police subsequently traced the runaway teen to Mahakali Caves area in Andheri (east) on Thursday afternoon and sent him back to his parents, an official said.

The incident came to light on Wednesday evening, after the boy's father approached the MIDC police station with a missing person's complaint, and since the boy was a minor,

the police registered a case of kidnapping and a search was launched, the official said.

During the probe, the boy's parents informed the police that the teenager had been addicted to PUBG since last month, and while playing on the mobile phone, he spent 10 lakh from his mother's bank account to get an ID and virtual currency to play the game, he said.

When the parents found out about the online transaction, they scolded the boy, following which he wrote a letter and left the home, the official said.

With the help of informants and technical analysis, the crime branch team managed to trace the boy, who was sent back to his parents after counselling, he added.

"Kerala Reports Over 30,000 Covid Cases For 3rd Consecutive Day; Positivity Rate At 19.22%



Agenceis

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala continued to report over 30,000 cases for the third consecutive day on Friday and showed an increased Test Positivity Rate, while 179 deaths took the death count to 20,313.

The state logged 32,801 cases today, up from 30,007 on Thursday. The figure was 31,445 cases on August 25.

The number of samples tested in the last 24 hours increased to 1,70,703, health minister Veena George said, compared to 1,66,397 on Thursday.

The Test Positivity Rate stood at 19.22 per cent, an increase

from 18.03 on August 26.

"Out of those found infected today, 144 reached the state from outside while 31,281 contracted the disease from their contacts. The sources of infection of 1,260 are yet to be traced. Among the infected are 116 health workers," the minister said in a release.

Among the districts, Malappuram reported the highest number of cases (4,032), followed by Thrissur 3,953 and Ernakulam 3,627, Kozhikode 3,362 and Kollam 2,828. Meanwhile 18,573 persons recuperated from the disease on Friday, taking the total cured in the state to 37,30,198.

Currently, there are 1,95,254 persons under treatment in the state. The health department said there are 353 wards across 70 local self government bodies where the weekly infection population ratio was above eight per cent.

The steady rise in cases had seen Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla review the situation with top officials on Thursday and the steps taken to contain the alarming graph of the virus in the state.

The central government had said that the southern state is the only one reporting over one lakh active COVID-19 cases, while four states have 10,000 to one lakh active cases and 31, less than 10,000 active cases.

I Know Lot Of Things, Will Bring Out Cases Step By Step: Narayan Rane Warns Shiv Sena

MUMBAI: In a veiled warning to the ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, Union minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane, who is locked in a bitter fight with it, on Friday said he knew a lot of things about the party and its leaders and would bring out cases "step by step".

Without taking anybody's name, he said he knew who had asked whom to throw acid on brother's wife.

Mr Rane was speaking at a rally in Ratnagiri district as a part of his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra'.

Earlier this week, he had made remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, which kicked up a row and led to his arrest on Tuesday before his release a few hours later. The episode had sparked off clashes between Shiv Sena and BJP supporters.

"I have worked with them for 39 years, I know a lot of things. I know who asked whom to throw acid on his own brother's wife. What kind of 'sanskari' is it?" the BJP leader said on Friday.

In a veiled attack on Uddhav Thackeray, who is also the president of Shiv Sena, Mr Rane said,



"What did one achieve by arresting a Union Minister? I will bring out cases step by step."

"A Sena boy - Varun Sardesai - had come outside my home (in Mumbai) and threatened me. If he comes next time, he won't go back," the former Maharashtra Chief Minister added.

Mr Sardesai is a leader of the Yuva Sena, the youth wing of the Shiv Sena. The Yuva Sena workers had protested outside Mr Rane's bungalow in Mumbai on Tuesday over his remarks.

Mr Rane, who started off his political career as a Shiv Sena worker, became the state Chief

Minister in 1999. However, in 2005, he was expelled from the Sena for "anti-party activities". After that he joined the Congress and stayed there till 2017. Promoted to Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

After quitting the Congress, he launched the Maharashtra Swabhiman Paksha in October 2017. In 2018, he declared support for the BJP and was elected to the Rajya Sabha on that party's nomination. In October 2019, he merged his party with the BJP. He was made the Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) last month in the cabinet reshuffle.

SC Terms Filing Of Sedition Cases On Regime Change As Disturbing Trend

Agenceis

Filing of sedition cases when regimes change is a disturbing trend, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while granting protection from arrest to the suspended Director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy against whom two criminal cases of sedition and amassing of disproportionate assets have been filed by the state government.

"State of affairs in the country is sad," said a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana.

Gurjinder Pal Singh, the 1994-batch IPS officer who had served as the IG of Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur during the earlier BJP rule, was initially booked in the disproportionate assets case following raids at his premises by state's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

Another case of sedition was invoked against him later on the grounds of his alleged involvement in promoting enmity and hatching a conspiracy against government.

The bench expressed displeasure over the trend of filing of sedition cases just after senior advocate F S Nariman made opening submissions on behalf of Singh, saying the gentleman has served as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and was acting as the Director of the Police Academy and now the proceedings under section 124A (sedition) of the IPC have been initiated against him.

This is a very disturbing trend in the country and the police department is also responsible for this... When a political party is in power, police officials take the side of the particular (ruling) party.

Then when another new party comes into power, the government initiates action against the police officials. This needs to be stopped, it said.

The bench, which also comprised Justice Surya Kant, directed the Congress-led state government not to arrest Singh till further orders in either of the cases.

Issue notice in both the matters returnable after four weeks. Learned Senior counsel appearing for the State of Chhattisgarh accept and waive formal notice on behalf of the said State. In the meantime, the State is directed not to arrest the petitioner in both the matters until further orders.

The petitioner is directed to participate in the inquiry/investigation and fully cooperate with the investigating agency without fail, the bench said in the order.

The state government was represented by senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Rakesh Dwivedi and lawyer Sumeer Sodhi.

At the outset, Nariman said the issue of custodial interrogation of the police officer does not arise as the charge sheet has already been filed. The officer was once called by the present Chief Minister and asked to help in taking action against the former Chief Minister, he said.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the state government, opposed Singh's

plea saying that he had been the head of the police academy in the state and look at his conduct, he has been absconding.

No relief such as protection from arrest should be granted to him, Rohatgi argued.

We will consider the sedition case. This is a very disturbing trend and the police department itself is responsible for this... Do not say this that your client (Singh) was fair, your client must have acted as per the directions of the government of the day..., the bench observed.

Dwivedi also opposed granting any relief to the suspended police officer saying that the probe agency has found disproportionate assets nine times more than the known sources of his income.

Senior lawyer Vikas Singh, representing the suspended police officer in the assets case, sought protection against any possibility of the arrest.

Recently, the Chhattisgarh High Court has refused to quash the sedition case against the officer who moved the top court against the order. Chhattisgarh government had moved the top court by filing caveats in the matter seeking hearing if any order is passed on his plea.

According to the police, the documents recovered during the ACB/EOW raids revealed that Singh was allegedly involved in promoting enmity and hatching a conspiracy against the established government and public representatives and was booked under sedition charges.

Singh was booked under IPC sections 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc) of the IPC at Raipur's City Kotwali Police Station.

He has sought the case be handed over to the CBI or other independent agencies to ensure a fair probe. The director of the state police academy was suspended on July 5 after the ACB/EOW, on June 29, registered an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the disproportionate assets he had allegedly amassed.

The ACB/EOW, which carried a three-day search at around 15 locations linked to Singh from July 1 to 3, claimed to have discovered movable and immovable assets worth around Rs 10 crore.

During the raid at the official residence of Singh, torn pieces of paper were also found from the backyard of the house. When the pieces were rearranged, serious and sensitive contents were found to be written and typed on it, the FIR said.

These papers contained objectionable comments against leaders of reputed political parties along with detailed plans of conspiracy. Besides, secret assessments related to representatives and candidates of different assembly constituencies along with comments on serious issues of concerned area were also written. The papers contained critical comments on several government schemes, policies, social and religious issues, it said.

Biman Bangladesh Pilot Has Heart Attack Mid-Air; Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Nagpur

Agenceis

NAGPUR: A Biman Bangladesh plane going from Muscat to Dhaka made an emergency landing at Nagpur on Friday after the pilot suffered a heart attack, an airport official said.

The Boeing aircraft with 126 passengers on board landed at 11.40 am, the official said. The pilot was admitted to a local hospital, he added. The plane was near Raipur when it contacted Kolkata ATC for an emergency landing and was advised to land at the nearest airport Nagpur. Biman Bangladesh recently resumed flight services with India after air travel between the two countries was suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. PTI

Man Arrested For Making Indecent Remarks Against Adityanath

Ballia (UP): The Uttar Pradesh police on Friday arrested a man for allegedly using inappropriate language against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a phone call.

A complaint was filed by district unit secretary of Hindu Yuva Vahini (Hiyuva), Rajni Singh Chandel on Thursday that he got a call from an unidentified man who verbally abused him and gave him death threats. He alleged that the caller also made indecent remarks against the chief minister. Ballia Superintendent of Police Ramkaran Nayyar said.

"A case was registered against the man under relevant sections of IPC and the Information Technology Act at the Nagra Police Station on Thursday," he said. The police later found that the mobile number in question belonged to Ankit Yadav of Kothwa village and he was arrested, the officer added. — PTI

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