



P6 THINK

PEGASUS VS PRIVACY

Intrigue and mystery continue to hound the Pegasus row. The central government started off strong by categorically denying any violation of privacy but appears to have fallen short of the requirement expected by the

P7 THINK

TIC DISORDER — WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW WE TREAT THEM

Blinking, coughing, sniffing, clicking the fingers, repeating a phrase or a sound and many other uncontrollable repetitive movements in children often bring the world of worry down over parents. These are tics.



P11 SPORTS

Virat Kohli to Step Down as India's T20I Captain After T20 WC

Virat Kohli on Thursday announced he will step down as India's T20 captain after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test...



PAGE 1 ANCHOR



Crime Against Women Surges In Kashmir, Says NCRB Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Revealing a shocking spike of crimes committed against women in Jammu & Kashmir, the National Crime Records Bureau's latest report has divulged that over 247 women were allegedly raped in J&K last year.

As per the data available in NCRB's "Crime in India 2020" report, J&K recorded 243 rape cases involving 247 victims. The statistics show that in 2020, there were nine cases of dowry deaths, 349 cases of cruelty against women by

their husbands or relatives.

At least 10 attempts to rape cases have been registered in different police stations in the region. Eleven cases of unnatural offences have also been reported from Jammu and Kashmir last year.

Pertinently, last year, 449 cases of kidnapping of women to compel them for marriage have also been registered. The shocking data has also revealed that 1744 cases of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty were also registered in J&K.

Subsequently, the NCRB

report revealed that there were 1639 cases of assault on women involving 1658 victims in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Three cases of sexual harassment at workplaces were also reported last year.

The J&K Police had also registered 56 cases related to the use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe last year. Three cases of voyeurism and 31 cases of stalking have also been registered in the same year.

The NCRB data has also revealed that there has been

a significant increase in the overall crime rate in Jammu and Kashmir. Police have registered 28911 cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and State Local Law (SLW) in 2020 compared to 25408 and 27276 cases in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

More than 183 people were murdered in 2020. Likewise 581 cases of attempt to murder involving 677 victims were registered last year. Around 581 cases of death caused by negligence were booked in 2020.

The NCRB figures reveal that

J&K has witnessed a 15 per cent increase in cognisable crimes in 2020 as compared to 2019.

The report said that Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh registered 29,314 (403 cases in Ladakh) criminal cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or under the Special Local Laws (SLL) in 2020. The murder cases saw an increase of 25% with 149 cases in 2020 as against 119 in 2019.

Divulging more details, the data shows an approximate 29% increase in crimes against children with 606 incidents in 2020 in [More On P10](#)

Quote!

Success is a journey not a destination
— Ben Sweetland

NEWS DIGEST

Blast Kills Girl, Injures Five Others

SRINAGAR: A teenage girl was killed while five of her family members were injured on Thursday in a mysterious explosion in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 17-year-old Shabnum was killed when an explosion took place at her father Ghulam Mohammad Wani's house in Maidanpora village of Tarapora area of Handwara on Thursday evening. [More On P10](#)

Electric Shock Kills Woman

SRINAGAR: A woman died on Thursday after receiving an electric shock in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. 45-year-old Shameema, wife of Ghulam Rasool Dar, was critically injured when she got in contact with a live wire at her home in village Shahgund of the district on Thursday. [More On P10](#)

Patwari Among 2 Held In NDPS Case

SRINAGAR: Haryana police on Thursday arrested two persons including a revenue department official in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) case from central Kashmir's Budgam district. A Police team from Panipat with the assistance of Budgam police arrested two persons identified as Ashiq Hussain Wani son of Mohammad Akbar. [More On P10](#)

Man Falls From Walnut Tree, Injured

SRINAGAR: An elderly man sustained critical injuries on Thursday after falling from a walnut tree in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 60-year-old Mohammad Akram Dar of Lam Tral slipped from a walnut tree and sustained serious injuries in the fall, reports said. [More On P10](#)

Tractor Crushes Man In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A man was mowed down by a tractor in Damhal Hanjipora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday. 35-year-old Javid Ahmad Ganie of Chachamulla was hit and injured by a tractor in DH Pora on Thursday afternoon, reports said. The injured was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead on arrival. A police official said. [More On P10](#)

Five Bovine 'Smugglers' Arrested In Jammu

JAMMU: Five smugglers were arrested and 36 bovine animals were rescued from them in the district on Wednesday, officials said. A police team intercepted two vehicles in Chowki Choura area of the district and carried out searches, they said. The police rescued 36 bovines during searches carried out by them, they said. [More On P10](#)

Govt Tightens Passport Rules For Employees

ACB Clearance Made Mandatory For Obtaining Passport



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday made the latest clearance by the anti-graft body Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) mandatory for its employees for obtaining a passport.

"The passport to

the citizens including Government employee is issued on the basis of verification carried out by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The current system does not contain any mechanism as would help denying the passport to such employees who are [More On P10](#)

Face Recognition System Installed at Secrtt

Government on Thursday ordered Civil Secretariat employees to electronically mark their attendance through Biometric Face Recognition System' from September 27. With a view to ensure punctuality towards duties, the government underlined "Biometric Face Recognition System" has been installed in the premises of Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and Civil Secretariat, Jammu for [More On P10](#)

THUS, THERE IS AN URGENT NECESSITY to instruct all the departments to issue the NOC for issuance of passport on the basis of vigilance clearance only."

170 More Test Covid Positive In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases continue to show an upward trend as 170 more people tested positive for the virus on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir while 98 others recovered from the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 129 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 41 from Jammu division thus [More On P10](#)

Six Of Family Test Positive In Amda Kadal

Six members of a family in Amda Kadal area of the city tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday prompting the district [More On P10](#)

Recruitments In J&K Transparent, Based On Merit: LG

Announces Govt's All Possible Help For Creating Dedicated Fire Academy

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that a transparent and efficient mechanism has been laid down in the Union Territory for recruitments in various posts of government jobs which is entirely based on merit.

Speaking after attending the Passing out Parade of 669 cadets of J&K Fire and Emergency Services at SKPA, Udhampur, the LG said that dedicated efforts are also being made to strengthen the human resource in the Fire Services by filling up the vacancies in a transparent manner on a fast-track basis.

"A transparent and efficient mechanism has been laid down in the UT for recruitments in various posts of government



jobs which is entirely based on merit," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

He said that the LG stated that the Exam and selection process for these posts commenced in 2013, but it was held up unnecessarily. The batch started in 2020 and it's passing out parade has shown the commitment of the present UT government towards speedy disposal of recruitment process.

The LG also announced that his administration will provide every possible support to set up a dedicated Fire Academy to further enhance their capability to confront the future challenges and hazards in the Union territory.

"Fire Fighters place their own lives at risk in order to protect the citizens. Fire & Emergency services personnel are real-life superheroes", [More On P10](#)

Govt Infuses Another Rs 500 Crore Into J&K Bank

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to its capital adequacy, J&K Bank on Thursday received Rs 500 Crore from Jammu and Kashmir government as capital to acquire over 16.76 Cr shares in the Bank.

"The capital infusion of Rs 500 Cr is also part of the government's vision as it will give impetus to our business expansion plan by improving our risk bearing capacity substantially while meeting

regulatory Basel-III norms comfortably for the next few years," the Bank's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R K Chhibber said on Thursday.

Pertinently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently allowed the J&K UT Government to acquire over 16.76 Cr shares in the Bank on preferential basis. With the infusion of Rs 500 Cr, J&K UT Government's equity share in the Bank will rise to over 74 per cent.

"It's a great gesture emblematic of UT [More On P10](#)

Kashmir Inc Holds Interaction With I&C Minister

Seeks One Time Relaxation In Settling NPAs, Handholding Of Industrialists With Capital Infusion

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The representatives of various trade bodies of Kashmir on Thursday demanded a new industrial scheme be extended to existing industrial unit holders also. They also demanded handholding of industrialists with capital infusion besides one time relaxation for settling of NPAs and other issues.

According to an official spokesperson, the representatives of various trade bodies of Kashmir highlighted various issues pertaining to the industrial sector during an interaction with Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce

(I&C), Som Parkash at SKICC here on Thursday.

"They demanded that the new industrial scheme should be extended to existing industrial unit holders also. They also demanded handholding of industrialists with capital infusion besides one time relaxation for settling of NPAs and other issues," he said.

The delegation, he said, comprised of the representatives of Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). [More On P10](#)

Shopian College Named After Fallen Soldier

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday renamed a government degree college in south Kashmir's Shopian district after a soldier who was slain in an encounter with militants six years ago.

According to the reports, the Government Degree College Shopian was renamed on Thursday after Imtiyaz Ahmed Thokar, a Para soldier who was killed in an anti-militancy operation in Sopore town of north Kashmir on February 24, 2015.

The college was rechristened as "Imtiyaz Ahmad Thokar Memorial Model Degree College Shopian" during a function that was attended by officers' police, army, civil administration and college staff. The family members of the slain soldier also attended the ceremony during which the board with the new name of the college was unveiled.

The move to [More On P10](#)

Tribal Transit Accommodation Coming Up In J&K: Munda



Observer News Service

Bandipora: The government of India has approved a project for Tribal Transit Accommodation at eight locations to be constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda said Thursday.

The Minister revealed this during his visit to Bandipora as part of the ongoing public outreach programme of the Union Government, an official

spokesperson said.

The Minister, he said, told the tribal population of the district that the government has launched many welfare schemes that shall change the socio-economic condition of the tribal population with special focus on skill development and employment generation.

"The Union Minister also said that the Government has initiated a number of measures for the welfare of tribal communities. He said [More On P10](#)

'Practice Yoga At Least 5 Minutes A Day'

Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday appealed to people to spend at least five minutes every day practicing yoga for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Inaugurating a yoga demonstration-cum-ayush exhibition here, Sonowal said youths should take a keen interest in the practice as it plays a vital role in changing the lives. "I appeal to everyone to spend at least five minutes every day on practicing yoga as it yields quick and effective results," he said. The Union minister of Ports, Shipping Waterways and Ayush said that a good public healthcare system through the intervention of innovative and traditional practices is the Modi government's top priority. He said institutions of ayush are being strengthened at the grassroots level and every possible step shall [More On P10](#)

WAZIR'S MURDER CASE

Suspects To Be Taken To Punjab, Jammu For Probe

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police will take the suspects in the murder case of former J&K legislative council member Trilochan Singh Wazir to Jammu and Punjab to unearth the whole conspiracy behind the crime.

"The police on Wednesday requested the court that they (accused) are required to be taken to Punjab and Jammu for the search of absconding accused, recovery of the murder weapon and for the recovery of clothes worn at the time of the incident," an official said.

The two accused -- identified as Balbir Singh, 67, hailing

from Preet Nagar in Jammu's Gandhi Nagar, and Rajender Chaudhary, 33, from village Gagore in Jammu's Samba district -- were arrested by the police on Wednesday and produced before a Delhi Court which sent them to police custody for seven days.

According to the police, Balbir initially worked with the Horticulture Department in Jammu for seven years, however, he is presently unemployed. He came to Delhi on September 3 and returned to Jammu in the morning of September 4. Wazir, 67, was found dead inside a washroom [More On P10](#)



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از نیابت ماگام : با اجلاس جناب نائب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام عنوان: مضمون درخواست سبیل شفیع و سلمان شفیع پسران و امیرہ شفیع دختر محمد شفیع پسر ساکنہ درون پورہ مویش براد اٹاگی بیکویڈ ایریا سرٹیفکیت تحت SRO/294 اشتہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست براد عطائیک بیکویڈ ایریا سرٹیفکیت تحت SRO/294 چینی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے کنید کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔

نام	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ
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رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شفیع	40	گھریلو کام	زوجہ
امیرہ شفیع	20	زیر تعلیم	دختر
سبیل شفیع	17	زیر تعلیم	پسر
سلمان شفیع	17	زیر تعلیم	پسر
مہند شفیع	10	زیر تعلیم	پسر
انشاء شفیع	14	زیر تعلیم	دختر

اسکے علاوہ عمید کی مہانت آمدنی زرغ و غیر زرغ 6250 سے سرٹیفکیت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

نائب تحصیلدار SULT

In a first, SpaceX to send all-civilian crew into Earth orbit on Thursday

Can four people who've never been to space before spend three days spinning around Earth after only a few months of training? That's the challenge SpaceX has set for itself when it launches its first tourism mission on Wednesday, the first time a crew of exclusively private citizens will orbit our planet.

A five-hour launch window for "Inspiration4" opens from 8:02pm (0002 GMT on Thursday). A Falcon 9 rocket, with a Dragon capsule at its top, will blast off from the legendary launch complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Centre in Florida, from where the Apollo 11 mission took off for the Moon.

The spaceship's trajectory will take it to an altitude of 575 kilometres, deeper into space than the International Space Station (ISS). At the end of their journey, the four Americans will splash down off the coast of Florida, their descent slowed down by huge parachutes. The mission was paid for by Jared Isaacman, a 38-year-old high school dropout and founder of Shift4 Payments. SpaceX hasn't disclosed what it cost him, but the price tag runs into tens of millions of dollars. "We understand how lucky and fortunate we are," Isaacman told a press briefing on Tuesday.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one Shri : G.M SONS Prop.: Ghulam Mohi -u-Din Rather R/o: Panewa Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Grand i 10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 6582. Chassis number 581038 Engine no. 835406 Model 2014. In favour of Shri. Abdul Latif Wani S/o. Ghulam Nabi Wani R/o Panewa Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Services Ltd B/U Srinagar. 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 officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3367 Assistant Regional Transport officer Dated 16/09/2021

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از نیابت ماگام : با اجلاس جناب نائب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام عنوان: مضمون درخواست سرت سلطان شیخ ولد محمد سلطان شیخ ساکنہ مویش درون پورہ براد اٹاگی بیکویڈ ایریا سرٹیفکیت تحت SRO/294 اشتہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست براد عطائیک بیکویڈ ایریا سرٹیفکیت تحت SRO/294 چینی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے کنید کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔

نام	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ
محمد سلطان شیخ ولد غلام محمد شیخ	40 سال	ملازم	رشتہ
سمیرا بیگم زوجہ محمد سلطان	35	گھریلو کام	زوجہ
سرت سلطان	16	زیر تعلیم	دختر
سبیل احمد	14	زیر تعلیم	پسر
سہرین سلطان	12	زیر تعلیم	دختر

اسکے علاوہ عمید کی مہانت آمدنی زرغ و غیر زرغ 64462 سے سرٹیفکیت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

نائب تحصیلدار SULT

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Insha Yousuf D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir bearing University Registration No: 49749-W-2007 who pursued her Ph.D. programme on whole time basis in the Department of Zoology and submitted her thesis titled "Diversity of insect pests infesting pomegranate in Kashmir Valley with special emphasis on the biology and management of predominant species" under the supervision of Prof. A. A. Buhroo, Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D. Degree in Zoology on August 09, 2021 in the School of Biological Sciences.
Joint Controller of Examinations (Secrecy)
Errors & Omissions Excepted
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Dated: September 10, 2021

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Dt: 16-09-2021

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to "Inadequate" response to the "Quotations" for "Auction of JKHPMC's Chadoora, Budgam Land for Operation of "Make-shift Collection Centre" for Fruit & Vegetables (F&V) produce of District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir for a period of Two (02) Years", the Last Date of receiving Quotations has been extended by a spell of seven (07)days' time and as such the Last Date of Quotation Submission would be 22-09-2021 upto 5 p m
Also the minimum 'Reserve Rent' for the proposed 'Make-shift Collection Centre' be read as Rs. 20,000/- in place of Rs 30,000/- appearing in the earlier published 'Auction Notice' dated 26.08.2021.

Sd/-Managing Director
DIPK-NB-3559-21 JKHPMC Ltd

(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/28/CRD/SMC/SGR/2021-22 DATED:-15-09-2021.
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	Adv. 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	Improvement/ Development of link roads at Naaz Colony, Pantha Chowk 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 (Balance portion)-"Machine mix laid manually"	3.58	200/-	6 Days	HMPO/ AAY CLASS Refer condition "18 r"	5054 "Const. of Roads)	22-09-2021

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Commissioner SMC's order no. 831-SMC of 2021 Dated: 17-06-2021.
Position of TS: Accorded

1) 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:

Date of Issue of Tender Notice		15-09-2021.	
1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM 16-09-2021 10:00 A.M	TO 21-09-2021
2.	Bid submission Start Date	16-09-2021	FROM 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid Submission End Date	21-09-2021	UPTO 4:00 P.M
4.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22-09-2021 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R & B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

8 (f) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.			
DOC-1	DOC-2	DOC-3	DOC-4
CLEAR SCAN COPY OF CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION CARD DULY RENEWED. (2021-2022)	CLEAR SCAN COPY OF TREASURY CHALLAN Note: The Date of Treasury Challan should be after the published date of NIT/ Fresh NIT, any Treasury Challan which is before the date of published NIT shall be summarily rejected.	Scanned Copy of :- 1. PAN Card 2. Copy of GSTIN Registration 3. GSTR-3B Return of previous Quarter to the issued date of NIT i.e June 2021 or after that	CLEAR SCAN COPY OF BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM (ANNEXURE -A) on Court stamp Paper duly signed (Refer para 5(a) (b) above)
(g) The bidder should upload all the necessary documents details given above in One "01" No. PDF file.			

(h) All the bids online shall be open in light of Finance Department communication O.M No: A/24 (2017)-651 Dated: 07-06-2018 and No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J dated 22.12.2020.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option
9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate / (%) percentage rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
11. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder (item rate basis or %age rate basis whatever the case may be) entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
12. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
13. All bidders shall upload the information and documents with their bids such as Copies of original documents defining constitution / legal status, place of registration and Principal place of Business, GST Registration and PAN Card.
14. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
15. A pre-bid meeting will be held to clarify any issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage by the bidders. However participation in the pre-bid meeting shall not be binding on bidders.
16. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.
17. The bidders shall have to quote the rate percentage in the prescribed rate percentage column in case of percentage based BOQ and in case of item rate based BOQ if the bidder does not quote rate for any item or items of the BOQ, cost of such item / items shall be deemed to be part of overall / total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item / items in the allotment of contract.

NIT/28/CRD / SMC/SGR/2021-22/e-tendering/
DATED:- 15-09-2021.
Executive Engineer,
City Roads (SMC) Division, Srinagar.
DIPK-8729-21

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGNS
Archi Designs
Architecture, Structure, Interiors designs and Private Contracts
Chinnar Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
Contact:-9018381436/7006897503

AUTOMOBILE
Al Buraq
For Used Cars & Two Wheelers
Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar
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WhatsApp:- 7006599421

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SEW IN STYLE BY NISSA
A complete Boutique to style your life, Sannat Nagar, Srinagar
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CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES
YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE
Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
Contact:-0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

COMPUTERS
Maccs computers
Ground floor & 1st floor Polo view Srinagar
Contact:-01942457988

CROCKERY AND GIFT ITEMS
Heaven Crockery
Main Market Dalgate Srinagar
Contact:-9906629707

DEPARTMENTAL STORE
Cash N Carry
Super Store
Jawahir Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9622904015

C. P Needs

ELECTRONICS
10X Mobile Store
Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-7889657769

PLEASURE
1st floor Akhara, Bldg, Budshah Chowk, Srinagar.
Contact:-9622693484

ADNAN ELECTRONICS
Furniture Market Babodh Srinagar
Contact:-8493957698

OFF COMPLUS
2nd floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar
Contact:-9419069964/9797000252

MOBILE ACCESSORIES
2nd floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar
Contact:-9622430737

TECH WORLD
All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.
Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:- 9149965005/9682370979

ELECTRICAL
Butt Co
Dalgate Srinagar
Contact:-9419071159

PUNJOO TRADING CO
Nowhata Chowk Srinagar
Contact:-9796370068/7006045451

FURNITURE & FIXTURES
Gulfam Furniture
New Road Bagwaan pora Srinagar
Contact:-9419001154

SUNNY FURNITURE
Nakashpora Barbarshah Srinagar
Contact:-9469323572

REAL-ESTATE
Closers (The Broker Network)

Commercial & Residential Plots on Sale
Contact:-+91 700 696 5635

STATIONERIES
Media Stationers
Dalgate Near CD Hospital Srinagar
Contact:-7006083439

SALONS & SPA
Creators Salon For Men
Hair/Spa/Beauty
Sannat nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9103119812

SERVICE PROVIDERS
Carpet Cleaning
QUALITY SERVICES
AFFORDABLE PRICES
Contact No:-7780805347

Valley Associates
E-Filing-TDS, Income Tax Returns sales
Tax, GST, and all Account related jobs
Contact:- 9419540025

Labour Jobs

Mohd Ashraf 9419480345 / 9149940701.
Idrees Bhat- 9908433040
Asif Bhat - 9084190855

PLUMBING JOBS
AH Tube wells- 9419066446
Amrzi Services- 7947411032
Valley Plumbers - 7947130027
Shah Constructions- 7947130111
Electric & Plumbing - 7947130256
Ajaz Plumber- 6008402994

CARPENTER JOBS
Manpreet Singh- 9988612761
Mohammad Yaseen- 9419502845
Mohammad Ishfaq - 6064850094
Wasta Aashiq- 606480982
Kuljit Singh- 9906480421
Najjar Furniture Works- 9906598910
Urmaid & Company- 7889686402
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Contact:-7006515740

Div Com Chairs SSCL Meeting

City Riverfronts To Get Facelift



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:-- The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Thursday chaired a meeting of Srinagar Smart City Limited regarding Development of Srinagar Riverfront from Zero Bridge to Amira Kadal under Srinagar Smart City project, here.

At the outset, Planning officers of Srinagar Smart City Limited gave a detailed presentation on the Srinagar Riverfront Development Phase-I from Zero Bridge to Amira Kadal during which the officers showed pictures from the past and gave detailed proposals for upgradation of Riverfront road.

The officers highlighted the issues on the site regarding encroachment, deteriorated conditions of Ghats, fencing around green areas which are acting as barriers for users, dilapidated conditions of heritage buildings, additional railings create segregation and drainage issues, lack of provision of Universal accessibility at embarking points to Riverfront, lack of provision of

Universal accessibility to public toilets, and other issues related electric wires and poles etc.

The Smart City planning team suggested various proposals for transformation of Riverfront including the features like directional signages and interpretation boards, public toilets, lighting and illumination, landscaping, walkway and cycle path, access improvements, pop up features, children play elements, picket fencing, jetty points, Wi-Fi hubs, CCTV surveillance etc

On the occasion, the Div Com directed concerned officers to re-align the electric wires and poles to clear the visual pollution. He also directed designing of footpaths and directed revenue officers to provide the land details pertaining to the private persons or bodies and government.

He further directed officers to check whether the present and old Ghats can suffice or needs redevelopment to cater to the increased population and other activities.

He sought complete details about the heritage buildings fall-

ing in the said stretch and their rightful owners whether Government or Private.

The Div Com also directed concerned officers to conduct a survey of house boaters who wish to settle at other places and said that it will also decongest the river.

He enjoined the officers to mark Riverfront as No Hawker Zone so that the pristine glory of the developed area shall not get affected.

Furthermore, he emphasized on the officers to find out the integration of festivals including religious and food to increase the footfall and recreational activities in the area.

He directed officers to reuse the existing material during the process of developmental works. Besides, he called for exploring the plan to utilize proposed features and facilities during summer as well as winter season.

The Div Com also directed for the involvement of the public and fixation of their responsibilities, adoption of uniform designs of signages, removal of obstructions by themselves, future compliance and removal of visual pollution.

He also passed directions to revenue officers to provide land details of water channels and lease details of market places or other areas which have lapsed or are about to lapse. The meeting was attended by CEO, Smart City Limited; Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City; SE, Irrigation and Flood Control; Revenue officers; officers of Smart City Planning team; representatives of Communication companies including Jio, Airtel and BSNL, and other stakeholders.

Srinagar's Young Women Achiever Takes Compassion To Another Level

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Humble family background didn't deter her to follow her heart to work for downtrodden and destitute people albeit the simple roots helped her to get connected to the people for whom she has dedicated herself.

This is the story of Shaziya Andleeb who runs an organization Insaniyat—Let's help poor trust—that works for poor people, women, orphans etc taking compassion to another level.

Andleeb says her work gives her peace of mind whenever she lends her hand to help.

"I enjoy working for people especially those who are in dire need of help of any kind, it simply gives me peace of mind," reaffirms Andleeb.

Recently Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha had felicitated Young achievers with the 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award' during the Kashmir Leadership Summit at Srinagar and Andleeb was among 46 who were awarded in various fields for their achievements.

During his address, Lt Governor Sinha had noted that young leaders facilitate the creation of a prosperous society. "The young leaders, young minds can alone solve the entire world's great problems and generate more ideas and resources to confront the future challenges", he had said.

For Andleeb, Young Leadership Award means recognition of her work which, according to her, will motivate her to do more. "This

award means acknowledgment of my small work and I take it as a compliment of my work done to motivate me to continue my food work," says confident Andleeb.

Andleeb, a resident of Srinagar has done her Masters in Sociology and that is where she took a cue of helping people. Her organization Insaniyat, which means humanity, assist poor and orphan girls in marriage, works for child abuse, drug addiction, empowerment of both the genders and women related issues viz women rights, domestic violence, harassment, dowry, destitution etc.

Her organization's achievements include education, besides she has sponsored several young children for education up to 10th class.

Not only this, the Insaniyat provides awareness regarding scholarships to students and other centrally sponsored schemes related to education.

"We also provide scribe or writer to specially-abled children or a person. Besides free medicines and medical facilities to poor and below poverty line families with the help of several NGOs," informs Andleeb about her organization's other humanitarian works.

Andleeb is a person who doesn't get satisfaction easily with respect to her work: "I keep searching for more assignments so that I can help more people who are in need. I never feel tired or hopeless," she says.

She continues and says that her organization also provides blood donation to needy patients in all districts in collaboration with a group of youth who remains in touch with us.

Water Supply To Remain Affected For 2 Days In Srinagar Areas

KO NEWS SERVICE

Water supply will remain affected in various areas of Srinagar for two days.

In a statement, Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar, said that the water supply shall remain affected December 17 and 18 to carry out repair works of major supply lines at TANGNAR System.

The water supply will remain affected in Natipora, Batwara, Shivpora, Somerbag, Shalimar, Lasjan, Soiteng, Kanihama, Pahroo, Wagora, Sutsoo, Chattergam, Magraypora, Dooniwari, Nowgam, Faizabad Colony, Basherat Colony, Kanipora, Shankerpora, Tengan, Khand, Methan, Khonmoh, Zewan, Sempora, Pampore, Zawoora, Pantha Chowk, Balhama, Wuyuan and Zaffron Colony.

The mentioned areas shall take adequate measures with respect to storage of potable drinking water," the statement reads.

In case of any emergency / essential requirement of water supply, the Provisional Control Room of Jal Shakti P.H.E. Deptt. may please be contacted on following Phone No.'s 0194-2477207, 2452047

Defunct Traffic Lights Irks Commuters

Agencies

SRINAGAR:-- Despite tall claims of Government to streamline traffic in Srinagar, most of the traffic signals on vital junctions of the city are laying defunct, irking commuters and transporters.

The Traffic signals which were installed at vital junctions in and around the city are either dysfunctional or it is only yellow, making commuters suffer.

The traffic signals at Dalgate, Qamarwari, Batamalo, Fire and Emergency Services Department Crossing, Jehangir Chowk, Karan Nagar, Rambagh and several other areas are defunct with people pitching for their restoration and expressed serious concern over the issue.

As per commuters, most of the traffic signals which were installed in the summer capital several years ago are lying defunct and authorities are least bothered about the issue.

Aadi Ahmad a commuter said that some of the traffic

signals are defunct which results in the chaos and confusion among the people.

"Only few metres away from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) office, the traffic signal at Batamalo crossing, near Fire & Emergency Services, headquarters and Secretariat is dysfunctional forcing the Traffic police to manually regulate vehicular movement," he said.

He said in a distance of approximately two kilometre stretch from Batamalo to Jehangir Chowk, the three traffic signals are dysfunctional.

The residents of city alleged that the traffic signals which were installed at the congested junctions were never functional. "Since the traffic signals were installed here, I have never seen them functional. The areas like Dalgate, Ram Bagh and Lal Chowk are very congested and the traffic signal would have been very useful in controlling huge rush of vehicles. But authorities are least bothered about this," Yasir Rasool, a local resident of Dalgate said

DC Visits Shrine Of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom(RA)

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:-- Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad Thursday visited the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom(RA) and took stock of the Developmental Works for beautification of the shrine.

The DC inspected the developmental scenario of the locality around the Shrine and the works approved or in progress for improving facilities for local people.

While interacting with the members of Management Committee of the Shrine the DC enquired

about the routine religious rituals being held in the Shrine and adherence to Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour.

The DC urged the members of the Management Committee to ensure strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs to counter the spread Covid-19 infection. He also urged for ensuring that devotees paying obeisance at the Shrine are wearing masks.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers of all concerned departments to ensure all basic amenities at the Shrine and the nearby localities so that people do not face any problem.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN POLICE RECRUITMENT BOARD FOR 02-BORDER BN3 PHQ J&K SRINAGAR

Subject:- Production of Deficient Documents

Reference: PHQ J&K Advertisement issued under endorsement No. Pers Rectt-A-105-2018/16207-50 dated 09.03.2019.

It is for the information of all those candidates hailing from District Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora whose Roll Nos. are enlisted at Annexure "A" and who after having applied for the post of Constable in 02 Border Battalions of J&K Police advertised vide the above referenced Advertisement Notice and qualified the PET/PST that they can produce their original valid reserved category certificates possessed by them before the Police recruitment Board w.e.f 17.09.2021 to 21.09.2021 (including Sunday) at PRB Section PHQ J&K Srinagar & Jammu. It is apt to mention here that the candidates can change their reserved category filled in by them while submitting their application forms and can now produce any certificate pertaining to their reserved category to which they actually belong Moreover, the candidates having submitted their application forms under open merit but belong to any reserved category can also produce their valid original reserved category certificates possessed by them. It shall be the last and final chance for such candidates and no such claim shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal IPS ADGP Security J&K Srinagar Chairman PRB 02 Border Battalion

No. PHQ/PRB-BB-04/2021/682-87 DATED: 14/09/2020 DPK-8715-21

Table with 4 columns of candidate roll numbers and names, listing candidates for recruitment in various districts.

Table with 4 columns of candidate roll numbers and names, continuing the list of candidates for recruitment.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 642 - Arab forces under Amr ibn al-As conquer Alexandria
1462 - The Battle of wiceno (or Battle of arrowic) is fought during Thirteen Years' War.
1598 - Dutch sailors discover island of Mauritius
1644 - French troops occupy Mainz
1678 - France & Spain sign Treaties of Nijmegen
1778 - 1st treaty between the US & Indian tribes signed (Fort Pitt)
1809 - Peace between Sweden and Russia in the Finnish War. The territory to become Finland is ceded to Russia by the Treaty of Fredrikshamn.
1862 Battle of Mumfordsville, Kentucky, US Col J Wilder surrenders city
1862 - American Civil War: The Allegheny Arsenal explosion results in the single largest civilian disaster during the war; 78 workers killed.
1899 - 1st British troops leave Bombay for South Africa
1916 - WWI flying ace The Red Baron of the German Luftstreitkräfte, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France
1924 - Italy signs treaty of Rapallo
1934 - USSR joins League of Nations (Netherlands, Switzerland & Portugal vote no)
1939 - German U-29 sinks British aircraft carrier Courageous, 519 die
1939 - Soviet Union invades Eastern Poland allowing Germans to advance West, taking 217,000 Poles prisoner, without a formal declaration of war
1940 - Adolf Hitler indefinitely postpones Operation Sealion, the planned German invasion of Great Britain
1941 - World War II: A decree issued by the Soviet State Committee of Defense, restoring Vsevoluch "Universal compulsory military training of the citizens of the USSR" in the face of the "Great Patriotic War"
1943 - World War II: Soviet city of Bryansk is liberated from Nazis.
1944 - Dutch begin railroad strike against German occupiers
1959 - Transit 1A, 1st navigational satellite launched; failed to orbit
1959 - Typhoon kills 2,000 in Japan & Korea
1962 - US space officials announce selection of 9 new astronauts
1968 - Zond 5 completes circumnavigation of Moon
1970 - Jordan launches offensive against guerrilla army
1972 - Tanzania troops march in to Uganda
1975 - Rollout of 1st space shuttle orbiter Enterprise (OV-101)
1976 - Amnesty International receives Erasmus-prize
1976 - NASA publicly unveils space shuttle Enterprise in Palmdale, California, named after Star Trek Enterprise with cast attending
1978 - Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin and Jimmy Carter sign the Camp David Accords, frameworks for peace in the Middle East and between Egypt and Israel
1980 - Iraq under Saddam Hussein signs accord with Algeria
1980 - Iraq breaks 1975 treaty with Iran and proclaims sovereignty over Shatt al-Arab waterway
1984 - Brian Mulroney sworn in as Canada's 18th Prime Minister, succeeding John Turner
1984 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
1985- Soyuz T-14 carries 3 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station



09

SAFAR -UL- MUZAFFAR

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 4:50
ZUHR 12:36
ASR 4:53
MAGRIB 6:42
ISHA 8:02

From KO Archives

OIC Gears Up For Key Role On Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is to convene a special session for deliberations on the situation prevailing in Kashmir, and depute a team for an on-the-spot assessment of the same. At the OIC contact group meet, presently underway in New York, OIC Secretary General, Izzah Din Lairaki, said the Conference wants to play a key role with regard to the future of Kashmir-Pledging all possible assistance to facilitate tripartite negotiations on Kashmir, the OIC said it would pursue the issue in the United Nations and depute an envoy for the purpose.

The OIC contact group on Kashmir, which includes the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Niger, Pakistan and Turkey held a series of sessions in which the Secretary General of the Conference also participated.

An APHC statement issued here today said the OIC foreign ministers meet in New York had declared the multiparty alliance the authentic representative body of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which could play a fundamental role in determining the fixture of the state.

Reiterating his country's commitment and support to the Kashmir issue, the Pakistan foreign minister said the Hur-riyat was the acknowledged representative body of Kashmiris and thail Pakistan would abide by all decisions the alliance takes (with regard to 'he Kashmir issue). Echoing the sentiments, his Turkish counterpart said all efforts would be undertaken to resolve the issue.

Earlier, Mirwaiz Farooq, who flew from Tehran to New York on Wednesday, gave an overview of the situation in Kashmir. The prime minister of Pak-Controlled Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mehmood and Sardar Abdul Qayoom Khan also attended the sessions.

The PCK chapter of the APHC was represented by Moham-mad Yousuf Naseem and Dr. Gulam Nabi Fai. OIC delegates expressed grave concern at what they called persecution of Hurriyat leaders and political activists in Kashmir and observed these were in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention on human rights. The OIC adopted a resolution detailing measures it would undertake in this regard.

(Kashmir Observer, September 17, 2000)

Ahead Of SCO Meet, China Says Will Work Closely With Bloc Members On Afghan Issues

Agencies

BEIJING: Ahead of the SCO summit, China on Thursday said it is ready to have close communication and coordination with the bloc's member states and jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure in the war-torn country controlled by the Taliban.

The eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan will hold its 21st summit on Friday at Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

Afghanistan is an observer in the SCO.

The SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) comprising Russia and Central Asian States will hold a joint summit meeting on Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Chinese President Xi Jinping would address the summit via video link.

Asked about the SCO and CSTO summit on Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "the Afghan situation bears on regional security and stability".

"Members of the SCO and CSTO are all close neighbours of Afghanistan and they all actively support the peace and reconstruction and reconciliation process in Afghanistan," he said.

"China is a member of the SCO which is ready to have close communication and coordination with relevant countries, jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, make a clean break with all forms of terrorist groups and live on friendly terms with other countries."

"We are ready to continue to have good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation with Afghanistan, and play a constructive role in its peace and reconstruction," he said.

China, which has kept its embassy open in Kabul along with Pakistan and Russia, has maintained close communication with the Taliban's interim government though it has not formally recognised it.

Beijing has announced a USD 31-million aid for the war-torn country.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks

before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE.

The Taliban spread across Afghanistan and captured all major cities in a matter of days, as Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the US and its allies melted away.

Thousands of Afghan nationals and foreigners have fled the country to escape the new Taliban regime and to seek asylum in different nations, including the US and many European nations, resulting in total chaos and deaths.

On the SCO, Zhao said that the grouping has transcended differences in social systems, histories and cultures, and successfully found a path of cooperation and development of a new type of regional organisation.

The SCO members "have played active roles in regional and international affairs and vital theoretical and practical exploration for building a new type of international relations and a community with shared future for mankind," he said.

At the upcoming SCO summit, President Xi will review the success of the SCO with leaders of other countries, have an in-depth exchange of views on SCO cooperation, and major regional and international issues, and approve a series of new key cooperation documents, and charter the course for the SCO going forward, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"We believe that with the advancement of the heads of states, the SCO will make new progress at new starting points and stay committed to building an even closer community for a shared future for the benefit of people of all countries in the region," he added.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will pay a two-day official visit to Tajikistan to attend the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit in Dushanbe.

The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an economic and security bloc which has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

EU Says 'Not Informed' About New Australia-UK-US Alliance



Agencies

BRUSSELS: The EU was not told in advance about a new military partnership between the United States, Britain and Australia, a spokesman said Thursday, fueling fears Europe is being cut out by Washington.

The three countries' leaders unveiled the alliance on Wednesday in what was seen as a move to counter China's rising might.

The agreement to provide a nuclear submarine fleet to Australia raised hackles in EU member France, which saw its earlier multi-billion dollar deal with Canberra

scrapped.

"The EU was not informed about this project or about this initiative and we are in contact with the said partners to find out more," European Commission spokesman Peter Stano said.

"And we will, of course, have to discuss this within the EU with our member states to assess the implications."

A second spokesperson Dana Spinant insisted that the new alliance would have "no impact" on relations with the three countries.

US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morris-

son and British counterpart Boris Johnson unveiled the new alliance -- dubbed AUKUS -- just as the EU prepared to detail its own Indo-Pacific strategy on Thursday.

The 27-nation bloc is looking to strengthen ties in the region, which it says is of "prime strategic importance for EU interests".

Brussels said in April the strategy could include bolstering the European naval presence in the Indo-Pacific.

Many in Europe were dismayed with the way the US pulled out of Afghanistan, critics accusing Biden of sidelining allies over the decision.

"Will Aggravate Arms Race": China Attacks New Australia-UK-US Partnership

Agencies

BEIJING: China today sharply criticised the US, the UK and Australia's trilateral military partnership under which Canberra will be assisted to build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, saying it will closely monitor the pact that will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race and hurt international non-proliferation efforts.

The remarks of Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian came after the US, the UK and Australia announced a new trilateral security alliance for the Indo-Pacific to take on the threats of the 21st century and allow for greater sharing of defence capabilities, including help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Under the historic pact -- seen as an effort to counter China's growing power and military presence in the strategically vital region -- Australia will be assisted to build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, using American technology.

The pact, to be known as AUKUS, will also cover artificial intelligence, cyber and quantum technologies.

Mr Lijian, when asked for his reaction to the trilateral defence pact, said: "The US, the UK and Australia are engaging in a cooperation in nuclear-powered submarines that gravely undermines regional peace and stability, aggravate arms race and hurts the international non-proliferation efforts".

"The US and UK are about to export highly-sensitive nuclear-powered submarine technology to Australia. This once again shows that they are using nuclear exports for geopolitical gaming tools and applying double standards which is extremely irresponsible," he said.



"Australia is a non-nuclear weapons state, party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and a party to the nuclear weapon-free zone in the southern Pacific. Now it is importing nuclear-powered submarine technology which is of strategic military value," Mr Lijian told a media briefing here.

The international community, including the neighbouring countries, have raised questions on its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, he said.

"China will closely monitor the situation. China always believes that any regional mechanism must go with the trend of the times for peace and development and should be conducive to mutual trust and cooperation between the regional countries. They should not target any third party or harm the third party's interests.

"To form an exclusive and closed clique or small group goes against the trend of the times and the aspiration of regional countries," Mr Lijian said, adding that such grouping has no future.

The relevant countries should abandon the obsolete Cold War zero-sum mentality and narrow-minded

geopolitical concept, respect regional people's aspirations and do more things conducive to regional peace, stability and development. Otherwise, they will end up hurting their own interests, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman added.

Unveiling the ambitious security initiative, US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Australian counterpart Prime Minister Scott Morrison in a joint statement said their move will promote stability in the Indo-Pacific and support of their shared values and interests.

Interestingly, the announcement of AUKUS has come a week before a meeting of Quad leaders to be hosted by US President Biden in Washington on September 24. The meeting will also be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Australia Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Under the AUKUS alliance, the three nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.

Hezbollah-Brokered Iranian Fuel Arrives In Crisis-Hit Lebanon

Agencies

BEIRUT, LEBANON: The first of several truck convoys carrying Iranian fuel has arrived in Lebanon from Syria, a Hezbollah spokesperson told Al Jazeera -- a shipment intended to help ease crippling fuel shortages amid a dire economic crisis.

The first shipments of the fuel, carried by two convoys totalling 40 trucks according to Hezbollah's Al Manar television channel, arrived in Lebanon on Thursday.

The fuel delivery has been portrayed by the Iran-linked Lebanese group as a huge boost to the cash-strapped country. However, the shipments violate United States sanctions imposed on Iranian oil sales and have gotten a mixed response in Lebanon.

The first of four Iranian fuel tankers docked in Syria's Baniyas port earlier this week.

Oil export monitor Tanker Trackers says the four-tanker shipment contains a total of 33,000 metric tonnes of gasoil and would need 792 trucks to deliver the entire shipment to Lebanon, which is in desperate need of fuel.

Lebanon's energy crisis is a result of an economic meltdown that has devastated the country since 2019. The value of the Lebanese pound has plummeted by about 90 percent and about three-quarters of the population lives in poverty.

Power cuts have plagued Lebanon for months. The state has struggled to provide more than a couple of hours of electricity per day, while families often struggle to afford the surging costs of private generators and to secure diesel fuel to run them.

Hospitals in Lebanon are in critical condition as they struggle to secure enough fuel to keep their lights on and equipment functioning.

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech earlier this week that a month's supply of the Iranian fuel would be donated to institutions such as public hospitals, the Lebanese Red Cross, Civil Defence forces, and orphanages.

Private hospitals, bakeries, factories that produce medicines, and other institutions can purchase the fuel at a low cost in Lebanese pounds. Nasrallah said they have not yet determined the price, but said it would be very affordable and not for profit.

Private generator distributor Kassem, who only provided his first name over safety concerns, told Al Jazeera his business is struggling to cover maintenance fees for generators and fuel costs, and that he is open to purchasing Iranian fuel from Hezbollah.

"We're waiting to see how Amana will price it," Kassem said, referring to the Hezbollah-affiliated company organising the distribution.

The US, which has designed Hezbollah as a "terrorist" organisation, has sanctioned Amana for its links to the party.

Though the Iranian fuel tanker did not dock in Beirut, Lebanon could risk facing sanctions given that the fuel was financed, transported, and distributed through US-sanctioned entities.

Neither Lebanese nor US officials have commented on Thursday's delivery.

Kassem claims that his decision to buy the fuel is not political, but is out of desperation.

Taliban Hand Over Seized Cash, Gold To Afghan Bank As Thousands Withdraw Their Savings

Agencies

KABUL: The Taliban has handed over about \$12.3 million cash and some gold to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank, a statement said on Thursday.

The cash and gold bars found from the houses of former administration's officials and local offices of former government's intelligence agency have been returned to Da Afghanistan Bank's treasury, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

"The officials of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by handing over the assets to national treasury proved their commitment to transparency," it added.

All commercial banks in the region and the world usually keep 10 per cent of their capital as cash and use the remainder in various commercial activities and provide useful services to their people, the statement said.

"Commercial banks in Afghanistan, on average, keep 50 per cent of the Afghan and foreign currency of former government's banking sector is in a good condition."

"These banks have invested a certain amount of money inside the country and abroad to play a useful role in the economic growth of Afghanistan," the Governor added.

The statement came as thousands of customers are trying



The statement also said that Mohammad Idrees, acting governor of the central bank, has assured the safety of Afghans' deposits in commercial banks.

"Da Afghanistan Bank assures our countrymen that all commercial banks operating in the country are under serious supervision and are conducting their operations better than before. The banks are completely secure," Idrees was quoted as saying.

withdraw their savings since the Taliban's takeover in mid-August.

Reports of freezing Afghanistan's bank assets by the US as well as a halt of funds by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have fueled concerns among Afghans.

On August 28, the central bank issued an order to all banks in the country, setting a temporary limit of withdrawals of \$200 or 20,000 Afghani for one customer every week.

China Fully Vaccinates More Than 1 Billion People Against Covid

Agencies

BEIJING: China has fully vaccinated more than one billion people against the coronavirus -- 71 percent of its population -- official figures showed Thursday.

The country had mostly curbed the virus within its borders but is racing to get the vast majority of its population vaccinated as a new outbreak takes hold in the southeast.

"As of September 15, 2.16 billion vaccine doses have been administered nationwide," said National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng at a press briefing.

Chinese health authorities said late last month that 890 million people in China had been fully vaccinated and two billion doses administered.

The government has not publicly announced a target for vaccination coverage, but top virologist Zhong Nanshan said last month that the country is likely to have 80 percent of its population inoc-



ulated by the end of the year.

China is currently battling an outbreak of the Delta variant in the southeastern province of Fujian that has infected almost 200 people so far in three cities, many of whom are schoolchildren.

The Fujian cluster is the biggest rebound in weeks and comes after the country declared the Delta variant under control, in a test of China's "zero-case" approach to the pandemic.

China reported 80 new cases on Thursday, of which 49 were domestic transmissions.

NEWS MAKERS

Tallest Teen, Fastest Hair Skipping Feature In New Guinness World Records List

Agencies

LONDON: From the dog with the longest ears to the world's tallest teenager, Guinness World Records reveals its latest record breakers in the 2022 edition of the popular book.

The annual publication, out on Thursday, features an array of records and feats, including the fastest walking on hands and the most skips over a person's own hair in 30 seconds.

Briton Bethany Lodge, a gymnast since a young age, scored the titles of fastest 100 metre forward rolls in 42.64 seconds - and the most backwards somersault burpees by a female in 30 seconds - five.

"It feels incredible to achieve a Guinness World Record title. It's something that I never even considered doing. I always used to get the books when I was little and used to read through them



and just look at all the incredible things that people could do," Lodge said.

"So it's kind of surreal to then know that I have got a record title and to see that in the book."

American Zion Clark, who was born without legs, took the record for fastest 20 metres walking on hands, achieving the feat in 4.78 seconds.

Laetitia Ky from Ivory Coast set the record for most skips over a

person's own hair in 30 seconds - 60. The 25-year-old model, actress and artist is known for making sculptures with her locks.

"For this new record, Laetitia braided her natural hair and then added extensions to form the 'rope' she would use to skip," Guinness World Records said in a statement. "She attempted to break this record to inspire others to celebrate their talents." The title of tallest teenager living (male) went to American Olivier Rioux, with a height of 226.9 cm (7 ft and 5.33 in).

Lou, whose owner is American Paige Olsen, took the record of longest ears on a dog (living). His ears are 34 cm (13.38 in) long.

Dog and cat duo Lollipop and Sashimi, from Canada, earned the record of fastest 5 metres on a scooter by a dog and cat (pair), with a time of 4.37 seconds.

Biden Backs Top General On Calls To China Over Trump Mental State

Agencies

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden expressed "complete confidence" in the United States' top general after revelations that he spoke to his Chinese counterpart twice amid concerns about then-president Donald Trump's mental state.

Biden pushed back against Republican calls to fire Joint Chiefs Chair General Mark Milley for allegedly undermining civilian control of the military in the calls last October and January as Trump refused to accept his election loss to the Democrat.

"The president has complete confidence in his leadership, his patriotism and his fidelity to our constitution," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

Milley insisted his calls to Chinese

General Li Zuoqiang, revealed Tuesday in excerpts from a new book by Washington investigative reporters Bob Woodward and Robert Costa, were a normal part of his duties.

"The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs regularly communicates with Chiefs of Defense across the world, including with China and Russia," Milley's spokesman Colonel Dave Butler said in a statement.

"His calls with the Chinese and others in October and January were in keeping with these duties and responsibilities conveying reassurance in order to maintain strategic stability."

The Woodward-Costa book, "Peril," details worries among Milley and other top national security officials between October last year and January 20 that Trump, an-

gered by his defeat, could initiate a conflict with China or Iran.

It also reports that Pentagon officials understood that China feared a US attack and would possibly misread US actions, like a planned military exercise, as preparations for that.

To assuage the Chinese, the book said, unbeknownst to Trump, Milley called Li to assure him that the United States was not planning action, and that the political turmoil was just the "sloppy" face of democracy.

Nuclear weapons Even so, the book said, as tensions in Washington grew over Trump's attempts in early January to retain power, Milley called his deputies together and told them to make sure he was informed if the president sought to launch a nuclear weapon.

Faced by accusations from Re-

publicans that Milley was usurping the president's power over the US nuclear arsenal, Butler said the meeting was simply "to remind uniformed leaders in the Pentagon of the long-established and robust procedures" on nuclear weapons.

"General Milley continues to act and advise within his authority in the lawful tradition of civilian control of the military and his oath to the Constitution," Butler said.

After excerpts from the book were published, senior Republican Senator Marco Rubio demanded in a letter that Biden fire the general. Rubio alleged Milley "worked to actively undermine the sitting Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces and contemplated a treasonous leak of classified information to the Chinese Communist Party."

DGP J&K Chairs Joint Security Review Meeting In Shopian

Agencies

SHOPIAN: Director General of Police Dilbag Singh today visited South Kashmir Shopian District where he chaired joint security review meeting, addressed the Darbar of Jawans & officers and inaugurated CCTV monitoring system. The DGP was accompanied by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar. The Security review meeting was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range, Abdul Jabbar, DIG South CRPF, N.S Nagi, Brig 12 Sector RR, Brig N. S. Grewal, SSP Shopian, Amritpal Singh, CO, 14th BN CRPF, Shri Vishwal Khandwal, CO 178 Bn CRPF Surjeet Kumar, CO 34 RR Shri Sha-

ket Bhardawaj, CO 15 Gadwal, Austhosh Thapliyal, CO 44 RR A.K Singh and jurisdictional officers of the district. While addressing the meeting, the DGP impressed upon the officers, to continue to put in best efforts not only to maintain peace and order in Jammu Kashmir but also to ensure that the dividends of a peaceful environment are further consolidated. He said that Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the other security forces have contributed in a big way in building the current conducive security scenario and would not allow enemies of peace and people to disturb it.

Union AYUSH MoS Visits Baramulla, Presides Over Seminar



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Union Minister of AYUSH and Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal visited Baramulla district Thursday as part of the Union Government's public outreach programme. Sonowal inaugurated a Yoga Demonstration cum AYUSH Exhibition wherein young athletes showcased their yoga skills. He also inspected the stalls installed by the Department of AYUSH depicting different practices and medical procedures. The minister also presided over a seminar titled "AYUSH Intervention with Special Focus on AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres for Development of Modern Kashmir". Complimenting the participants who attended the seminar,

the Union Minister highlighted the significance of AYUSH medicare services and said that good public health through the intervention of innovative and traditional practices is the top most concern of the government. He added that the Ministry is working in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for giving people a happy and healthy life. The minister further added that special thrust shall be given for establishing a research lab where scientific study on medicinal herbs shall be carried out so as to explore their benefits. Later, the Minister inaugurated a local cricket tournament titled "Big Bash Tournament Cup" at Showkat Ali Stadium that was organised by Baramulla Cricket Forum in collaboration with District Administration.

Union MoS For Labour & Employment Visits Doda



Observer News Service

DODA: Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, Rameswar Teli visited Doda district on Thursday. The Union MoS distributed sanction letters of LPG connections under Ujjwala-2.0, e-Shram cards among scores of beneficiaries and COVID Care relief cheques identified under Atal Bhimit Yojana at Community Hall Doda, besides inaugurating the newly widened Ghat road

stretch of 4 km constructed under CRF at an estimated cost of 813 lacs. The minister also interacted with various deputations which included DDC members, Block development council Chairpersons, MC chairman & members, Sarpanchs/ Panches, recently constituted Youth Clubs, Women SHGs and political leaders. The deputations which met with the minister projected various demands of public importance to which minister gave patient hearing.

Residential Quarters Of 5 Political Workers Sealed In Budgam

Political Workers Say No Prior Notice Served To Them

Agencies

BUDGAM: The authorities on Thursday locked government residential quarters of several political workers including BDC member Pakherpora and former youth leader of PDP, Nazir Ahmad Yattoo in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. However, the move has been resented by the political workers, who according to them were residing in these government quarters for the past several years, according

to news agency KNS. The political workers said they were not served prior notice by the authorities about locking of these residential quarters, the news agency reported. "We have been residing here in these quarters for the last many years and today the authorities locked them without even informing us, which is very unfortunate on their part. We strongly resent this move by the authorities," said Mohammad Maqbool Malla, leader of Apni Party. Notably, officials said that

on the directions from higher authorities on Thursday, Tehsildar Chadoora locked the R&B building near Tehsil office Chadoora, which was being used by following several political leaders as residential quarters. These quarters were being used as residence by Mohammad Maqbool Malla of Apni party, Nazir Ahmad Yattoo, former youth leader of PDP, Feroz Ahmad Bhat senior worker of NC, Showkat Ahmad Rai former BDC and Hasena Begum BDC Pakherpora.

WE HAVE BEEN RESIDING HERE IN THESE QUARTERS FOR the last many years and today the authorities locked them without even informing us, which is very unfortunate on their part. We strongly resent this move by the authorities,"

LG Releases Silver Souvenir Coin, Inaugurates E-Library



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on Thursday released 20-gram Silver Souvenir coin (999 fineness) ahead of the "Sharad Navratras and Diwali" for millions of devotees worldwide during the 68th meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board here at the Raj Bhavan. The rates of the coins depend on the denomination chosen and the prevailing gold/silver rates. These coins are avail-

able at souvenir shops at Bhanu, Jammu Airport, Katra and Vaishnavi Dham Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor reviewed pilgrim-centric infrastructural facilities put in place by the Board. He emphasised the need for extending the best possible facilities for the visiting pilgrims in sync with the emerging requirements with special focus on cleanliness and hygiene. During the meeting, the Board approved a Grant-in-Aid for the FY 2021-22 to SMVD Charitable Society which includes SMVDIME, SMVD Gurus-

kul, SMVDNS Hospital, SMVD Sports Complex and SMVD College of Nursing. In addition, the LG also inaugurated a digital library established at SGC Katra with the aim to ease out the difficulty in finding out information from voluminous books. The meeting was attended by the Board Members - H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; Dr. Ashok Bhan; Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli; Sh. K. K. Sharma; Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma; Sh. K. B. Kachru and Sh. Vijay Dhar in person and through virtual mode.

Barbed Wire, Poles Replacement: Advisor Baseer Khan Reviews Progress



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to LG, Baseer Ahmad Khan on Thursday directed the officers of the Power Development Department (PDD) to expedite the process of replacement of poles and barbed wire so that the same is completed before the onset of winter season. He passed on these directions during a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to resolve the pressing issues regarding procurement of barbed wire and other material in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officers to make necessary procurement of material and put in place the labour to complete the work within the set time frame. He said that the government has attached a lot of importance to the replacement of barbed wire and will be monitored at a high level. Chief Engineer Jammu informed the Advisor that 87000 poles and 12551 kilometres of barbed wire is the total requirement and the replacement of the same is targeted for this financial year, the process of which has already been started. Regarding the replacement of poles, barbed wire and other material in Kashmir division, Advisor was informed that 60 percent work of the Phase 1 Barbed wire has been completed and work is going on smoothly on the rest. It was also informed that tenders for the Phase 2 will be allotted by the end of October 2021. Chief Engineer concerned informed that they have enough material available and the same is being supplemented from time to time.

SKIMS Doctors Perform Rare 'Bentall's Operation'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Doctors at SK Institute of Medical Sciences here, recently performed a unique cardiac surgery by replacing the aortic root, aortic valve and transposing the coronary arteries to the newly formed aortic root. This operation is known as Bentall's operation. A team of doctors headed by Professor Muhammad Akbar Bhat performed the operation on 52-year-old female, a resident of Kupwara, who was suffering from aortic root (origin of largest artery from the heart) dilatation (diameter 6.5 cms) and she had a leaking heart valve (severe aortic regurgita-

tion). Patient had imminent danger of death due to rupture of aorta (largest artery of heart) or heart failure and was not able to perform daily routine activities due to this heart ailment. Patient was evaluated by Cardiologists at the Department of Cardiology and planned for Surgery after approval. The Aortic root replacement (Bentall's Operation) has been performed for the first time in SKIMS. After surgery, patient was shifted to cardiac surgery intensive care unit where expert nursing team managed her post-operative period. The patient is doing well after surgery and has been discharged from the institute.

Centre Committed To Provide People Of J&K Basic Facilities: Rane

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Union minister Narayan Tatu Rane on Thursday said the central government was committed to provide enhanced basic facilities to the people of Jammu and at their doorsteps. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone of a development park in Samba district. As part of a public outreach programme launched by the Centre, Rane interacted with delegations of entrepreneurs and panchayat raj institutions (PRIs) of Bari Brahmana and Samba areas on the occasion. "The central government is committed to provide enhanced basic facilities to people at their doorsteps," the minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) said.

He asked for maintaining strong coordination between the administration and the people for effective implementation of various welfare and development programmes launched by the Centre. Later, the minister held a meeting with stakeholders along with senior administrative functionaries to assess the development scenario of the area. Rane interacted with various delegations of industrialists, local bodies' representatives and PRIs and listened to their issues and concerns, an official statement said. The minister assured them that the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to resolve all genuine issues and said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are getting focused attention.

J&K Police Books 3 Drug Peddlers Under PSA

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: In a bid to eradicate the menace of drugs, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has booked three notorious drug peddlers in Kupwara district under the stringent Public Safety Act, an official spokesman said on Thursday. "In a series of actions, police have seized huge quantity of contraband substances from the possession of three notorious drug peddlers, identified as Javid Ahmad, Shamim Ahmad and Jahangir Ahmad," the spokesman said. Accordingly, cases were registered in respective police stations

and the accused were arrested. "The cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from the authorities concerned, the arrested drug peddlers was detained under the Public Safety Act and shifted to the Centre Jail in Kotbhalwal in Jammu," the spokesman said. In another case, the police in Anantnag district recovered 60 kg charas powder from the house of Gh Mohi-ud-din Mantoo and 10.5 kg charas from the house of Wazeer Ahmad Lone. "The accused house owner Gh Mohi-ud-din managed to flee from the spot, while as Wazeer Ahmad was arrested," the spokesman said.

Apni Party Delegation Meets Union Minister

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An Apni Party delegation led by District President Baramulla, Shoaib Lone on Thursday participated in a meeting called by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal at Dak Bungalow in Baramulla. Besides Lone, the other delegation members included Apni Party District Youth President along with Party Youth leader & Chairman Municipal Council Baramulla, Mudassar Tantray. In a statement issued here, Lone said that Apni Party representatives demanded widening of Srinagar-Baramulla highway so that the problem of frequent traffic jams and consequent accidents are prevented.

"The people travelling to-&-from on Srinagar to Baramulla highway have to face excruciating traffic congestion on a daily basis. Most of their precious time gets consumed in frequent traffic jams. We requested the Hon'ble Union Minister to direct the concerned department for the widening of Srinagar-Baramulla highway into a four-lane road," he said. Lone said that there exists much potential in commencing a water transport facility from Sangam to Baramulla which will also help to lower the traffic congestion on roads. He said that Apni Party delegates apprised the Union Minister about the presence of numerous unexplored medicinal herbs in district Baramulla which need to be benefited from under AYUSH.

Rajouri: District Level Committee On FRA Approves 408 Claims

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: District Level Forest Rights Committee which met under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Rajesh K Shavan here on Thursday cleared 408 claims after conducting thorough scrutiny of the claims received from sub-divisional Committee. The BDC Chairperson Qila Darhal, Khalid Firdoz, besides Divisional Forest Officer Rajouri, Dr Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera, Suresh Manda; ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; ADC Nowshera, Sukhdev Singh Sambayal; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Koteranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; ACR, Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACD, Sushil Khajuria; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; AC Defence, Saleem Qureshi; ACP, Abdul Rashid besides other members of the District Level Committee attended the meeting. Pertinently, the Forest Rights Act of 2006 provides rights to forest dwellers and was made applicable after October 31, 2019, recognizing the rights of forest-dweller communities for the first time. The committee approved 408 claims which included 8 individual and 400 community right claims.

Man Dies After Being Hit By Tractor In Kulgam

Agencies

KULGAM: A 35-year-old man died after being allegedly hit by a tractor at DH Pora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday. Officials identified the deceased as Javid Ahmad Ganie son of Abdul Kudus Ganie of Chachamulla DH Pora Kulgam. A police official confirming the accident told GNS that Ganie was referred to nearby Hospital soon after the accident. However, he said, doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. He said that a case under relevant sections of law has been taken up and further investigations into the incident initiated.

Youth Injured In Leopard Attack In Tangmarg

Agencies

TANGMARG: A 25-year-old youth was injured after being attacked by a leopard in Qazipora Village of Tangmarg sub division of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday evening. According to news reports, the youth identified as Showkat Ahmad Khatana son of Jaladeen Khatana resident of Qazipora village of Tangmarg was outside his home when a leopard attacked him. The family and others, who were around, rescued him and chased away the beast with sticks and stones, they said. The injured was shifted to nearby sub district hospital Tangmarg for treatment, they added.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Sanitary and Plumbing work of 04 Storeyed Residential Quarters at Main Campus.	46.63	1100/-	02-Months	15-09-2021 To 23-09-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-09-2021 (11.30AM)	"AA" & "BEE"
2	Sanitary/ Plumbing Works for Raising of 1 st Floor of Office Complex at Sheikh Hamza ^{2A} Guest House.	2.86	200/-	20-Days	15-09-2021 To 23-09-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-09-2021 (11.30AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.
 NIT No: - F (E.Tend) (UCD) KU/ 38/21
 Sd/- Executive Engineer
 DPK-NB-3529-21
 DATED: -14-09-2021.

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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsv.net

K O V I E W

Indo-Pak dead-end

India on Wednesday slammed Pakistan as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Commission. India's response which was delivered by first secretary in India's permanent mission in Geneva Pawan Badhe at the 48th session of the human rights council called Pakistan "a failed state." He said that Pakistan has been globally recognised as a country openly supporting, training, financing and arming terrorists including UN proscribed terrorists as a matter of state policy. Padhe further said that Pakistan has failed to protect the rights of its minorities, including Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and Ahmadiyas.

As for the OIC, Indian diplomat said that the group has no locus standi to comment on internal affairs of the country. He pointed out that "the OIC has helplessly allowed itself to be held hostage by Pakistan, which holds the chairmanship of their Geneva Chapter, to sub serve its own agenda".

Earlier Pakistan on Sunday unveiled a dossier, claiming that it contained details of the alleged human rights violations committed by India in Kashmir. Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi along with National Security Adviser Moeed Yousaf and Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari launched the 131-page document at a press conference in Islamabad. The dossier has even named the Indian security officials.

If anything, the bitter exchange at the UN and Pakistan's dossier once again underlines how far the two countries have drifted apart since their failed attempt at a back-channel dialogue early this year. After the agreement on a ceasefire along the Line of Control early this year, the two countries have failed to build on the goodwill. There have been no further measures, nor does it look likely there will be any in the near future. New Delhi feels little need to relent. Nor does it want to push the current engagement with Islamabad beyond a point. The unmistakable signal to Pakistan is to temper its expectation about the extent to which India can accommodate it on Kashmir. As always, India wants terrorism to be the central issue and wants Islamabad to stop supporting militancy in Kashmir. Pakistan doesn't accept it backs terrorism.

Both the countries are putting onus on each other to take the first step towards resuming engagement. Islamabad has made any re-engagement with India conditional to New Delhi reversing the August 5 move or at least providing a roadmap for doing so. New Delhi continues to insist on end to cross-border terrorism before talks begin. And as things stand, neither country is, in a position, to meet the condition. As of now it is the evolving situation in Afghanistan that remains the focus. There is thus little hope that the two neighbours will get back any kind of engagement in near future.

OTHER OPINION

Prospects For Al Mayadeen Media Network

About two months ago Al Mayadeen Media Network launched its English language website. This is likely to have a positive impact on West Asia's media landscape in the long-term.

As with most news outlets, the impact will be felt beyond the media and expand into political and social realms. Al Mayadeen Media Network was founded by Ghassan bin Jeddo, a prominent Tunisian journalist who left Al Jazeera due to the network's overt peddling of Qatari-US policy on igniting the war in Syria. Thus, from its inception in 2012, Al Mayadeen branded itself as a media outlet geared towards countering the narrative put forward by Washington.

Al Mayadeen's counter branding of itself as an indigenous voice of the region was not taken seriously at first. Many did not expect Al Mayadeen to emerge as a credible alternative to the well-financed Al Jazeera and its Western secular narrative. Fast forward to 2021, Al Mayadeen's editorial line and its paradigm, at times makes the Qatari Al Jazeera channel look like Washington's package in indigenous wrapping for Arab audiences. Al Mayadeen Arabic managed to establish itself as a credible and indigenous voice of the region.

There is no reason to assume that its English service, which is likely to expand in the next few years will not do the same among the English-speaking audience. Overall, Al Mayadeen's growing influence is not simply a manifestation of a changing media landscape in West Asia, but a sign of something bigger, namely the decline of Western soft power appeal. Al Mayadeen is nowhere near as wealthy as Al Jazeera, CNN or the BBC. The network also does not enjoy a favorable position in the corridors of power of regional and non-regional governments.

Thus, its journalistic work, which is dependent on access to information is severely restricted when compared to its competitors.

Nevertheless, the network continues to surprise viewers with professional journalistic work and realistic assessments. While Al Mayadeen is unlikely to focus greatly on increasing influence among the English-speaking audience, since its focus is mainly on Arabic viewers, the launch of its English website signals the network's confidence in its perspective. It is safe to assume that if Al Mayadeen manages to include some critical coverage of its own perspectives, the network will continue to gain popularity as it will begin to appeal to viewers outside of its immediate audience.

It should be noted that one of Al Jazeera's key strengths is its ability to camouflage its narrative by giving detractors of the Western imposed global order limited voice. It allows the network financed by an autocratic monarchy to appear objective and geared towards press freedom. As all media is essentially propaganda, if Al Mayadeen manages to project itself as partially self-critical, it has the required capabilities to outperform Al Jazeera.

Its message is rooted in the region's indigenous paradigm, and it is not directly linked to any governmental entity.

Crescent International



Pegasus Vs Privacy

NS Nappinai

On usage, the focus was, till now, on the individuals claiming violation of their privacy rights, whereas in law, the burden always lies with the person raising a claim. But with the ambivalent stand taken by the government before the SC, it appears that the norm may have been turned on its head and the government is now in the spotlight having to prove the negative



immediately.

On usage, the focus was, till now, on the individuals claiming violation of their privacy rights, whereas in law, the burden always lies with the person raising a claim. But with the ambivalent stand taken by the government before the SC, it appears that the norm may have been turned on its head and the government is now in the spotlight having to prove the negative (if negative it be).

That the government's refusal to furnish more details would result in an adverse inference being drawn by

the SC is a certainty. What the consequences of such adverse inference is likely to be is the question that now takes primacy.

The law is explicit on the Centre's rights to intercept, monitor (including traffic data), decrypt or block. Parliament has enacted provisions under Sections 69, 69A and 69B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (as amended), and read with the rules framed thereunder, these clearly delineate the permissible from the impermissible.

The permissible is restricted to access not only through compliance with the process set out under these provisions, including of reasonable

service provider, which, in this hypothetical case, is WhatsApp. Nowhere in the IT Act or Rules is there permission for use of spyware.

Similarly, Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 provides for taking temporary possession or for interception. The Rules framed for implementing Section 5 explicitly provide for the interception directions to be served on the designated officer of the licensee under the said Act. Hence, similar to the IT Act, the Telegraph Act also clearly vests the implementation of an order for interception in the licensee or service provider.

Usage of a spyware, therefore, for interceptions or monitoring does not have the imprimatur of law. The SC, in Puttaswamy v UOI (2017), upheld and clarified privacy to be a sacrosanct fundamental right. It cannot be trivialised or diluted, least of all through ambiguous claims.

The appointment of an independent committee by the SC appears inevitable. There can only be speculation on the scope of inquiry ie, of whether the same would expand to include purchase also or be limited to usage.

An adverse inference against the government would not, by itself, absolve the individuals claiming violation of their privacy of their burden of proof. At best, an adverse inference only provides the basis for the intervention of the SC. Each person claiming infringement of his or her rights would still have to establish such violation. However, if the scope were to include the issue of purchase, then the ball lies squarely in the government's court. The reason to assume that the scope of inquiry may be limited to only usage is that while purchase may be assumed to precede usage, mere preparation in law is not a violation, unless such act of preparation itself amounts to a violation.

Either way, for India and its citizens, the Pegasus row is a positive move, for as with Narada and his trouble-making, it is from Kalaham (conflict) that clarity results.

NS Nappinai is an advocate, Supreme Court of India and founder - Cyber Saathi.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Hindustan Times



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Hot Septembers?

Kashmir isn't consistently cold and has its fair share of hot days. However, that September temperatures are so high is quite worrying. One can physically see waterbodies drying up due to lack of rainfall and humidity seems to have hit a new high. This is definitely an outcome of climate

change as experts have pointed out time again. Even as Kashmir isn't a metro city, pollution levels here aren't any less. Use of resources isn't meticulous and urbanisation is unmitigated. This has resulted in many hazards that have only escalated climate change affects. Whether it is irregular snowfall,

extreme summers or scanty rain; something is definitely off.

Civil society members, especially scholars and researchers need to take a pro active role in identifying new ways to find a way out of this mess. Additionally, the government must fund such researches and work in tandem with such projects

to facilitate schemes that are more eco friendly and environment conscious.

At an individual level, we must also pay attention to how we interact with nature and how we consume it.

Suzain Tufayil
Suzaint@rediffmail

Mindful Fridays

Tic Disorder – What Are They And How We Treat Them

Wasim Kakroo

Blinking, coughing, sniffing, clicking the fingers, repeating a phrase or a sound and many other uncontrollable repetitive movements in children often bring the world of worry dawn over parents. These are tics.

Tics are rapid, repetitive muscular movements that cause bodily jolts or sounds that are difficult to control. They're fairly frequent among children, and they usually appear around the age of 3 to 9 years and are most severe between the ages of 9 and 11. Boys are more likely to have tics than girls. Children with tic condition are more likely to have additional mental health issues. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), anxiety, and depression are examples of these conditions. Tics can also start in adulthood but such occurrences are less common. Tics are usually not serious and become better with time. However, they might be frustrating and obstruct daily activities of a child

ANXIETY AMONG parents about their children's tics may have the unintended consequence of exacerbating them. Parents can inadvertently make a child feel self-conscious and concerned by drawing attention to a tic that he isn't worried about, which can aggravate the tic. The best thing you can do for your child is to remain calm and avoid drawing attention to the tic

or an adolescent.

A tic is an issue in which a part of the body moves uncontrollably, repeatedly, swiftly, and suddenly. Tics can affect any region of the body, including the face, shoulders, hands, and legs. They can be voluntarily stopped for short periods of time. The majority of tics are minor and barely detectable. However, in certain circumstances, they are frequent and severe, affecting a child's life in a variety of ways.

When a child develops a tic, it can be frightening for parents, who wonder if the small repetitive coughs or blinks will ever go away or if they are an indication of something more serious. The good news is that most tics will go away on their own and will not return. If you believe your child has developed a tic, you should consult a paediatrician or a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist to ensure that what you're



witnessing is a tic. However, in the vast majority of situations, parents will be advised to merely observe and wait before considering any additional intervention. Treatment is only required when tics become persistent and incapacitating.

Causes of Tics:

The absolute cause of tics is unknown to the scientific world. However, it is postulated that the changes in the areas of the brain that control movement are thought to be the cause. They can run in families, and in many cases, there is a hereditary cause. They frequently occur in conjunction with other conditions, such as hyperactivity-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) etc.

Tics can also be triggered by illegal drugs like cocaine or amphetamines, and they can also be triggered by more serious health issues like cerebral palsy or Huntington's disease.

Types of Tics:

Tics are of a variety of types. Some have an effect on body movement (motor tics), while others result in a sound (vocal or phonic tics).

Tics include excessive blinking, wrinkling the nose, or grimacing, jerking or slamming the head, clicking the fingers, coughing, grunting, or sniffing repeating a sound or phrase – this may be something vulgar or objectionable in a limited percentage of cases.

Patients experience an inner drive or a local premonitory sensation that is eased when the tic is performed. Tics can occur at any time and are often associated with stress, anxiety, exhaustion, enthusiasm, or happiness. They tend to worsen when they're discussed or concentrated on. Tic disorders can be either primary (inherited) or secondary (caused by other illnesses) (e.g., head trauma, encephalitis).

What should you do if your Child or a family member is Diagnosed with Tic disorder?

Taking an active role in your kid's care, learning about tics, and understanding treatment and symptom management can all help you make the best decisions for your child and family.

The majority of children with tics usually have at least one additional mental, behavioural, or developmental problem, which can add to stress and make managing tics more challenging. Work with a mental health professional (Psychiatrist/Clinical psychologist) to deal with all the issues including tics.

Anxiety among parents about their children's tics

may have the unintended consequence of exacerbating them. Parents can inadvertently make a child feel

TICS INCLUDE EXCESSIVE BLINKING, wrinkling the nose, or grimacing, jerking or slamming the head, clicking the fingers, coughing, grunting, or sniffing repeating a sound or phrase – this may be something vulgar or objectionable in a limited percentage of cases

self-conscious and concerned by drawing attention to a tic that he isn't worried about, which can aggravate the tic. The best thing you can do for your child is to remain calm and avoid drawing attention to the tic. A big part of helping your child and yourself is managing your own anxiety.

How is chronic motor or vocal tic disorder treated? Treatment is not necessarily required if a tic is moderate in severity and not producing any other issues. Self-help advice, such as avoiding stress or exhaustion, is frequently highly beneficial to the majority of individuals in managing their tics.

Some of the self help tips to reduce the occurrence of tics are as follows:

1. Manage stress, anxiety, and boredom by finding a calming and enjoyable activity to do, (such as a sport or a hobby). Read more about stress reduction, and how to help an anxious youngster avoid becoming overstressed.
2. Get a good night's sleep whenever possible. Read to know more about sleep hygiene and techniques to combat exhaustion.
3. Avoid calling attention to your child's tic by ignoring it and not talking about it too much.
4. If your child happens to have a tic, do not chastise them.
5. Assure your youngster that everything is fine and that they have no reason to be embarrassed.
6. Inform others with whom you have regular contact about your tics so that they are aware of them and know not to react when

they occur.

7. If your child is having trouble in school, talk to their teacher about how to help them. If their tics are extremely bad, kids may benefit from being allowed to leave the classroom. Arrangements with school staff may be made for the child to take exams separately from the rest of the class, especially if the youngster has vocal tics. When marking the child's oral, written, and practical work, the degree to which the tics interfere with exam performance should be taken into account. Exam time pressure should be reduced, and students should be allowed to take periodic breaks throughout tests to lessen the frequency of tics.

If a tic is more severe and interfering with daily activities, therapies (psychotherapy and/or pharmacotherapy) aimed at reducing the frequency of tics may be prescribed.

The following are the most common tic treatments: Habit reversal therapy seeks to teach you or your child intentional movements that "compete" with tics so that the tic cannot occur at the same moment.

Habit reversal therapy entails:

- Teaching the child to recognise the sensation that precedes a tic.
- Assisting the child in understanding what triggers their tics.
- Training them to do something different when they feel they'll have a tic. The behaviors they perform will be such that it will not be noticeable to others.

A child with a sniffing tic, for example, can learn to practice a breathing exercise instead.

CBIT (comprehensive behavioral intervention for tics) is a series of behavioral approaches that can assist people learn how to control their tics. It incorporates CBT strategies such as habit reversal technique (discussed above), psychoeducation about tics, and relaxation techniques.

Exposure with response prevention (ERP) seeks to assist you or your child become accustomed to the unpleasant sensations that occur frequently shortly before a tic, with the goal of preventing the tic from developing.

If the above psychotherapeutic procedures do not help much, pharmacotherapy (use of medicines) in combination with psychotherapy should be a good option.

They are usually prescribed by either a paediatrician or a psychiatrist and can be used in conjunction with psychological therapies or after unsuccessful attempts at these therapies.

Children who have tics and who are struggling in school should be evaluated for learning disorders and provided with support if needed.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (an alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and is currently working as a child and adolescent mental health therapist at Child Guidance and Well-Being Centre at Institute of Mental Health And Neurosciences-Kashmir (IMHANS). Reachout at wasimkkroo21@gmail.com

The ABC Approach To Life

Ziggi Ivan Santini, Rob Donovan And Vibeke Jenny Koushede

KNOWN AS "ACT-BELONG-COMMIT", the approach promotes keeping active, building stronger relationships with friends, family and community groups, and committing to hobbies, challenges and meaningful causes. Together they constitute a simple "do-it-yourself" approach to enhancing mental health

While we take physical workouts very seriously, there is much less said about the "workouts" that help us remain mentally agile and healthy. But just as with physical health, there are simple and practical ways that can help everyone to enjoy good mental health.

Our research has led us to a method for promoting mental health and wellbeing within communities, which follows a simple model that can be adopted by anyone.

An earlier study showed that people intuitively know what enhances their mental health, but they don't think about it on a daily basis. Unlike their physical health, people rarely consider what they could or should be doing for their mental health.

At present, the focus in mental health campaigns is on treatment for mental disorders, the removal of stigma from talking about mental health problems, early intervention and the reduction of risk factors which lead to illness.

But the burden of mental illness continues to rise – it is thought that an estimated 50% of people in OECD countries will experience mental illness in their lifetime, so there is a need to raise awareness in communities and to promote simple and practical steps to achieving and maintaining good mental health.

By building on research into what people can do to improve their mental health, we have developed an "ABC" model that can be easily adopted in everyday life. Known as "Act-Belong-Commit", the approach promotes keeping active, building stronger relationships with friends, family and com-

munity groups, and committing to hobbies, challenges and meaningful causes. Together they constitute a simple "do-it-yourself" approach to enhancing mental health.

Act

Keep alert and engaged by keeping mentally, socially, spiritually and physically active.

Research has credited a lifestyle with plenty of activities outside work as fostering positive emotions and protecting our brains from decline. An active mind and body, particularly in the company of others, can be naturally rewarding and a healthy alternative to worrying, overthinking or engaging in substance use.

Belong

Develop a strong sense of belonging by keeping up friendships, joining groups, and participating in community activities.

Research has shown that our relationships with one another are fundamental to mental health in terms of providing a sense of identity, acting as a source of support, and being an important coping resource for dealing with pain, stress and difficult life events.

Commit

Do things that provide meaning and purpose in life like taking up challenges, supporting a good cause and helping others.

A sense of meaning and purpose is vital to our well-being and has been shown to help extend our lives and maintain a healthy brain. Committing to a hobby, a challenge, a good cause or helping others can all boost feelings of self-worth and protect against feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness.

Participating socially and contributing to the community can preserve brain function,

promote thoughts of "making a difference" and reduce feelings which aren't helpful for well-being, such as self-centredness.

To show that these principles promote and protect mental health, we recently completed a series of observational studies on a nationally representative sample of adults in Ireland. People were interviewed at the start of the survey and then re-interviewed two years later.

We categorised the activities of participants into indicators of acting, belonging and committing. Engaging in various social and recreational activities, such as sport, going to films, eating out or travelling for pleasure were indicators of Act. Staying in touch with friends, family and community groups served as an indicator of Belong and the frequency of engaging in social and recreation-

al activities was an indicator of Commit.

The results of these studies together demonstrate that higher levels of all three measures enhance quality of life, life satisfaction, and self-rated mental health, protect people against developing depression, anxiety and brain function decline, and lower the risk of people becoming dependent on alcohol.

Our research has also shown that the approach is helping patients with mental illnesses and is now being used as a tool for recovery by mental health professionals.

The campaign

The Act-Belong-Commit campaign aims to harness resources already present in communities – because the behaviours that promote mental health and well-being are everyday activities that most people are already doing or are readily available. Hence the campaign's focus is on raising awareness of this fact and validating the belief that these behaviours are good for mental health.

By encouraging people to follow and prioritise this ABC approach, the campaign's simple messages could resonate in communities worldwide and sustain the mental health and well-being of people well into the future.

Ziggi Ivan Santini is a Postdoctoral associate, University of Southern Denmark. Rob Donovan is Adjunct professor, The University of Western Australia and Vibeke Jenny Koushede is a Senior researcher, University of Southern Denmark. The article is being reproduced here by arrangements with The Conversation

Fact-checking significantly reduces belief in misinformation

Agencies

The findings of a new study suggest that fact-checking reduces belief in misinformation leaving a more enduring mental imprint than false claims.

The study, "The Global Effectiveness of Fact-Checking: Evidence from Simultaneous Experiments in Argentina, Nigeria, South Africa, and the U.K.", was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and it shows fact-checking is an effective tool to combat misinformation across countries, cultures, and political environments.

"While previous research has shown that factual corrections reduce false beliefs, even on politically charged topics, we've had precious little evidence about how fact checks work globally," Ethan Porter, assistant professor of media and public affairs at the George Washington University, said. "This study makes clear that fact checks can reduce false beliefs against misinformation around the world, and that the reductions persist for some time."

Porter, who is also affiliated with GW's Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics, and Thomas Wood, a political science professor at the Ohio State University, examined 22 fact checks conducted simultaneously in Argentina, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United



Kingdom in September and October 2020.

The research team partnered with fact-checking organizations operating in the countries where the experiments took place, with participants randomly assigned to see fact checks and then queried about their factual beliefs. The researchers investigated a broad array of topics, including COVID-19, local politics, crime and the economy.

According to the study, fact checks significantly reduced belief in the false claims, while exposure to misinformation only minimally increased belief in the falsehoods.

Survey participants who were presented with fact checks often retained factual information for some time. Participants

were still affected by the facts originally presented to them approximately two weeks after taking part in the initial experiment. Fact-checking generally increased accurate beliefs regardless of political affiliation, a trend that held firm even if the misinformation topic was politically salient. For example, fact checks about the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change increased accuracy in all countries.

"Throughout the pandemic, we saw bad information put lives at risk," Will Moy, chief executive of Full Fact, said. "This study shows the difference fact-checkers can make. Thanks to their work around the world, more people are able to recognise false claims and make informed decisions about their own health and

communities."

While the deliberate spread of false information is a global problem, most studies measuring the effectiveness of fact-checking focus on single-country experiments conducted in North America, Europe, or Australia. By carrying out simultaneous experiments in four countries located on three continents, this study demonstrates that fact-checking is also a potent tool against misinformation in countries with different political issues, economic situations, and ethnic compositions.

The research team partnered with fact-checking organizations operating in the countries where the experiments took place, such as Full Fact (United Kingdom), Africa Check

(Nigeria and South Africa), and Chequeando (Argentina). Fieldwork and data collection were handled by Ipsos MORI and YouGov. The study was initiated by Full Fact with funding from the international philanthropic organization Luminare and the GW Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Up-gradation of Drainage/ Disposal System of Botany and Zoology Block at Main Campus.	5.11	300/-	30-Days	14-09-2021 To 23-09-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-09-2021 (11.30AM)	"CEE" & "DEE"
2.	Providing and Fixing of Wall Paneling in Social Work Department at Naseem Bagh Campus.	2.63	200/-	25-Days	14-09-2021 To 23-09-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-09-2021 (11.30AM)	"DEE"
3.	Repair and Renovation of Quarter No.15 at Naseem Bagh Campus.	2.17	200/-	25-Days	14-09-2021 To 23-09-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-09-2021 (11.30AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.
NIT No: - F (E.Tend) (UCD) KU/ 37/21
DATED: -14-09-2021.

Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-3530-21 20

How a simple crystal could help pave the way to full-scale quantum computing

Agencies

Vaccine and drug development, artificial intelligence, transport and logistics, climate science these are all areas that stand to be transformed by the development of a full-scale quantum computer. And there has been explosive growth in quantum computing investment over the past decade.

Yet current quantum processors are relatively small in scale, with fewer than 100 qubits the basic building blocks of a quantum computer. Bits are the smallest unit of information in computing, and the term qubits stems from quantum bits. While early quantum processors have been crucial for demonstrating the potential of quantum computing, realising globally significant applications will likely require processors with upwards of a million qubits.

Our new research tackles a core problem at the heart of scaling up quantum computers: how do we go from controlling just a few qubits, to controlling millions? In research published

today in Science Advances, we reveal a new technology that may offer a solution.

What exactly is a quantum computer? Quantum computers use qubits to hold and process quantum information. Unlike the bits of information in classical computers, qubits make use of the quantum properties of nature, known as superposition and entanglement, to perform some calculations much faster than their classical counterparts.

Unlike a classical bit, which is represented by either 0 or 1, a qubit can exist in two states (that is, 0 and 1) at the same time. This is what we refer to as a superposition state.

Demonstrations by Google and others have shown even current, early-stage quantum computers can outperform the most powerful supercomputers on the planet for a highly specialised (albeit not particularly useful) task reaching a milestone we call quantum supremacy.

Google's quantum computer, built from superconducting electrical circuits, had just 53 qubits and was cooled to a temperature below -273? in a high-tech refrigerator. This ex-

treme temperature is needed to remove heat, which can introduce errors to the fragile qubits. While such demonstrations are important, the challenge now is to build quantum processors with many more qubits.

Major efforts are underway at UNSW Sydney to make quantum computers from the same material used in everyday computer chips: silicon. A conventional silicon chip is thumbnail-sized and packs in several billion bits, so the prospect of using this technology to build a quantum computer is compelling.

The control problem In silicon quantum processors, information is stored in individual electrons, which are trapped beneath small electrodes at the chip's surface. Specifically, the qubit is coded into the electron's spin. It can be pictured as a small compass inside the electron. The needle of the compass can point north or south, which represents the 0 and 1 states.

To set a qubit in a superposition state (both 0 and 1), an operation that occurs in all quantum computations, a control signal must be directed to the desired qubit. For qubits in silicon,

this control signal is in the form of a microwave field, much like the ones used to carry phone calls over a 5G network. The microwaves interact with the electron and cause its spin (compass needle) to rotate.

Currently, each qubit requires its own microwave control field. It is delivered to the quantum chip through a cable running from room temperature down to the bottom of the refrigerator at close to -273?. Each cable brings heat with it, which must be removed before it reaches the quantum processor.

At around 50 qubits, which is state-of-the-art today, this is difficult but manageable. Current refrigerator technology can cope with the cable heat load. However, it represents a huge hurdle if we're to use systems with a million qubits or more.

The solution is global control An elegant solution to the challenge of how to deliver control signals to millions of spin qubits was proposed in the late 1990s. The idea of global control was simple: broadcast a single microwave control field across the entire quantum processor.

SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Bemina, Bye Pass Near SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar, Kashmir-190018
Tel: 0194-2493191, FAX: 0194-2493180, Email: srinagardevelopmentauthority@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE NO: 06/DLM of 2021 -22

On behalf of Vice Chairman, SDA, Srinagar Development Authority invites tenders by e-tendering for Collection of parking charges at SDA's parking lots at different locations in Srinagar from approved and eligible persons/ Contractors/ Firms:-

S. No.	Name of Job	Parking fee For CAR/ JEEP	Parking fee for 2 Wheelers	Minimum reserved bid For one year	Security Deposit @10%ofthe Minimum Reserved bnf	Cost of Tender Document Including 12% GST (Non-refundable)	Period of contract
1.	Parking lot at Polo view Lalchowk Srinagar.	Rs.20/Car per hour	Rs.107/Entry	Rs.2,50,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.5607-	three months
2.	Parking lot near Baqa Masjid at Batmallo, Srinagar	Rs.20/Car per hour	Rs.10/Entry	Rs.2,00,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.560/-	Six months
3	Parking lot at Meerakshah Batmallo, Srinagar	Rs.20/Car per hour	Rs.10/Entry	Rs.1,00,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.560/-	Six months

- Date of Publishing 14-09-2021.
- The Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-09-2021 (10AM) to 05-10-2021 (4.30 PM).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-09-2021 (10.00AM) to 05-10-2021 (4.30PM).
- a. Tie bids received will be opened on 07-10-2021 (12.00 Noon), b. The complete bidding process will be on line.

No:- SDA/DLM/
Dated: 2021
DIPK-NB-3558-21

Director,
Land Management,
Srinagar Dev, Authority

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING, ANANTNAG
E-Tender Notice No: 77 of 2021-22 Dated: 13-09-2021

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

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents	Class of Contract	Time for Completion	Major Head	Panchayat/ Gram Sabha
1	Repairment/Renovation of Panchayat Ghar halqa Shangus A Block Shangus	2.50	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Shangus A
2	C/O Public Park at Chohar Khulichoahar Block Shangus	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Khulichoahar
3	C/O Public Park near masjid shareef Reshipora Ward 8 Khulichoahar Block Shangus	1.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Khulichoahar
4	C/O Fencing near Graveyard at Khul Khulichoahar Block Shangus	2.50	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Khulichoahar
5	C/O Public park near masjid Shareef Mirpora khulichoahar Block Shangus	1.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Khulichoahar
6	C/O Road from main road to masjid shareef Buchan Krad A Block Shangus	1.50	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Krad A
7	C/O Lane/Drain at crossing to Masjid Sheikh Sheikhpora Block Shangus	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	Back to village - III	Sheikhpora

Position of A/A: Accorded
Position of T/S: Accorded
Position of Funds: Available with BDO

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.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-09-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	13-09-2021 from 4:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	05-10-2021 upto 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	07-10-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form is not Deposited within 2 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

SPECIAL CONDITION:

Only the eligible contractor of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process in light of the Government Order No. 251-FD of 2020 Dated: 17-09-2020. Bidders must upload a certificate from concerned Block Development Officer of residence proof that he/ she is residing in the respective panchayat.

- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The L1 is required to deposit a Performance Security @ 3% of advertised value in the shape of CDR in favour of allotting authority (Executive Engineer REW Anantnag) at the time of finalization of allotment/ agreement with the Department.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. 13.1.1.1. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing Anantnag

DIPK-8768-21

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (RE TENDER)
NIT NO: - 89/XEN/REW/BLA/2021-2022 DATED. 15/09/2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS	Position of Funds
1	C/o P Bund at Patcher Halqa Chandoosa B Block Baramulla under B2V.	3.00	200	60 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted
2	C/o P Bund at Gohan P/H Chandoosa B Block Baramulla under B2V.	3.14	200	60 days	DEE.	B2V	AAA Accorded	Allotted

- 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 the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-09-2021 to 22-09-2021 up to 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	15-09-2021
4	Bid Submission End Date	22-09-2021 up to 4:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 23-09-2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The contractor could take part in the tendering process of only those works which are to be executed in Gram Panchayat (G.P) to which he/she belongs, Bids from bidder other than the concerned Gram Panchayat (G.P) will be rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. (Copy enclosed) in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All the Bidders has to submit Bid Security 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 hard copies of all the documents uploaded online with an amount equal to 3 % of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
a. On contractors representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the department.
b. Extension of time shall be admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The department will not be responsible for any damage/ destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earth quake/theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch & ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No 8261-68
Dated 15.09.2021
DIPK-8739/21

Executive Engineer,
REW Baramulla

RBI, Finance Dept conduct e-Kuber training workshops in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in collaboration with Directorate General of Accounts and Treasuries, Finance Department conducted training workshops on e-Kuber payment system for all district treasury officers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Two separate workshops were conducted in Jammu and Srinagar on 14th and 16th of September for treasury officers of the respective divisions.

The purpose of workshops was to train treasury officers on e-Kuber payment system, which is a RBI's national level payment platform for government transactions.

K P Patnaik, Regional Director, RBI Jammu and Mahesh Dass, Director General, Accounts and Treasuries, J&K, in

presence of senior officials of RBI and Finance Department inaugurated the workshops in Jammu. The training sessions were delivered by the officers of RBI and NIC team, J&K.

Pertinently, e-kuber payment system was launched in J&K by Arun K Mehta, Former Financial Commissioner Finance on February 18, 2021 making the UT one of the first few states/UTs to go-live with e-payments on e-Kuber version 2.

At present, nine major government treasuries in J&K are processing payments through e-Kuber constituting 44% of all government payments. With all district treasuries expected to implement e-Kuber payments soon, it is considered as a major governance reform and an advancement of government payments system in J&K.

To promote film tourism, Dir Tourism, Kashmir, Jammu hold meetings with B'wood biggies



Observer News Service

MUMBAI: Director Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo and Director, Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, who are on a promotional visit to Maharashtra Thursday held a series of discussions with leading Bollywood production houses and film makers and impressed upon them to further revive their connections with Jammu & Kashmir.

During their interactions, the visiting officers underscored the potential of film tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and the need to further strengthen the bond the place has been having with Bollywood.

The officers informed the leading producers and film personalities that recently J&K administration has launched a Film Policy which is aimed at providing a single window mechanism for shooting of movies. They were informed that besides the Film Policy aims at incentivising shootings in the UT and the Tourism Department would be doing all coordination in this regard.

Today the film units which Dr. Itoo and Vivekanand Rai had deliberations with included heads of Reliance Entertainment, Yash Raj Productions, Mukesh Bhatt Productions, Producers Guild, Motion Picture Association of America, Excel Entertainment and other production houses.

Most of the film units and production houses evinced warm response to the call of shooting in Jammu & Kashmir while reaffirming to promote J&K through their film projects and hoped to shoot their upcoming projects in the UT. They recalled with nostalgia their past connections with J&K and the warmth they have received from the local people.

Several tour operators from J&K besides their counterparts from Maharashtra were present during these interactions.

It may be recalled here that to promote film tourism and persuade film world to consider J&K as their preferred shooting location, the J&K administration has recently launched Film Policy which has made the permission process hassle free besides including incentives for producers opting for J&K as a shooting location.



Govt Committed To Develop Industrial Sector In J&K: MoS I&C

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce (I&C), Som Parkash Thursday chaired a meeting to review the performance of I&C department in Jammu and Kashmir at SKICC, Srinagar.

During the meeting, Parkash highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has a vast potential for the industrial sector and the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has initiated several schemes to tap that potential.

The Minister said that the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir announced by the Union Home Minister with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 crores is one of the best schemes for the overall development of this sector in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the central government is committed to develop the industrial sector in J&K with an aim to create employment avenues for the youth of J&K.

Underlining the need for publicizing the objectives of the new central sector scheme, the minister impressed upon the officers of I&C department to utilize all

possible avenues for conveying objectives of new policy to the people of J&K so that more people are made aware about the scheme and hence avail due benefits from it.

While reviewing the progress on Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), Prakash directed the officers to ensure that all the cases should be disposed-off timely and pendency of cases be reduced. He impressed upon proper hand holding of the budding entrepreneurs and constant facilitation of them at each level.

The meeting was attended by Director I&C, Kashmir Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos; Senior Development Officer, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), New Delhi, Secretary J&K Khadi Village and Industries Board, Director Planning, I&C, Joint Director I&C Jammu/Kashmir, Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir, representatives of SICOP/SIDCO, representatives of JKDFC and other concerned officers of the department.

During the meeting, Director I&C, Kashmir, gave a detailed presentation on the achievements and progress of I&C department. She informed the minister that

3512 units have been established in organized sector generating employment for 52,961 persons while as in un-organized sector, 22370 units have been established benefitting 120599 souls.

The minister was apprised that under the PMEGP, 2371 units have been established in 2021-22 with an amount of Rs 5291.47 lakhs margin money/subsidy disbursed among them.

Meanwhile, the Union Minister also paid a visit to Silk Factory, Rajbagh and reviewed its functioning.

While interacting with the staff at the factory, the minister asked them to manage production on modern lines with introduction of new product ranges which are trending in present markets besides the marketing networks of the factory should be strengthened to make it compatible with the present fashion industry.

The Union Minister appreciated the efforts of I&C department in creating this unique factory having end-to-end market solutions especially for the raw materials available in J&K.

During the visit, the minister also interacted with the Artisan clusters of Willow wicker, Paper machie, Crewel and Wool.

Chauhan visits Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park at Pampore

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Under the Union Government's public outreach programme, the Union Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan had a detailed visit to Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park, Pampore on Thursday where he inspected various departments of the processing unit.

In addition to the Stigma Separation Center, the minister also inspected the drawing, grading, packing and E-Auction Centers at the park.

On the occasion, the Minister said that the Central Government is ready to provide all possible help and support to the farmers. With the existence of Spice Park, the income out of saffron production of growers has doubled. Center will provide all kind of facilities and assistance to the farmers that will make the lives of our farmers prosperous, he added.

Chauhan met various stake-



holders, including Fruit growers, NRLM beneficiaries, Youth, Sports, Traders Association, Industrial Unit Holders and listened to their issues. The delegations put forth their demands and projected many other issues of public concern.

The union minister also spoke to delegations, who presented grievances before the Minister. They were assured that the government will take up the issues on priority to resolve the legitimate demands of these delegations.

Government of India has already been working on various flagship programmes aimed at

uplifting socio-economic status of the people, Chauhan said. A number of new schemes are also in the pipeline and that the need of the hour is to generate a massive awareness regarding all welfare schemes so that the benefits of these schemes could reach the grassroots level, he further emphasized.

Director, Information & Public Relations, Rahul Pandey; Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Baseer Ul Haq Chowdhary, Joint Director Information Kashmir Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Prospects brightening for economy as 2nd COVID wave wanes: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Prospects are brightening for the Indian economy achieving "escape velocity" from the pandemic as the second wave of COVID-19 wanes and preparedness for future remains on war-alert status, according to an RBI bulletin published on Thursday.

An article on the state of the economy, published in the September bulletin, said aggregate demand is gaining firmer ground, while on the supply side, IIP and core industries mirror improvement in industrial activity and services sector indicators point towards sustained recovery.

"In August, we believe that India passed a turning point which consolidates and thrives come September," said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

It further said the trajectory of inflation is shifting down more favourably than anticipated.

"As pandemic scars heal and supply conditions are restored with productivity gains, a sustained easing of core inflation can be expected, which will reinforce the growth-supportive stance of monetary policy," it said.

The central bank, however, said the opinions expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The article further said domestic economic conditions rounded a turning point in August as growth impulses gathered momentum with the progressive opening up of the economy and scaling up of the vaccination drive.

"Prospects are brightening for the economy achieving escape velocity from the pandemic as the second wave wanes and preparedness for future remains on war-alert status," it said.



On aggregate demand, it said e-way bills remained above pre-pandemic levels of February 2020, signalling higher GST collections going forward.

Besides, retail sales of motor vehicles registered growth over a low base in August last year; railways freight continued to be impressive; and fast-moving consumer goods sector surged, among others. Also, merchandise exports continued with their stellar performance.

"In the August issue, we wrote about the music of autumn drowning out the songs of spring. We did so because we believe that at the current juncture, the Indian economy is evenly poised for that gravitational slingshot that will launch it on its aspirational growth trajectory.

"As the enervating effects of the pandemic recede, giving way to dormant growth impulses, the choice of strategy becomes critical," the authors said.

Talking about the price situation, the article said the trajectory of inflation is shifting down more favourably than anticipated.

The inflation outcome for August has vindicated the RBI Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee's call for treating the May price shock as transitory and looking through it, it said.

The softening of prices of various food items is likely to extend into third quarter of the fiscal and contain the upside price pressures stemming from fuel and core prices on headline inflation.

GST Council to meet today; rate review, tax concession to 11 COVID drugs on cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on Friday, which among other things may review tax rate of over four-dozen items and extend till December 31, tax concessions on 11 COVID drugs.

Also, taxing petrol and diesel under the single national GST tax and a proposal to treat food delivery apps such as Zomato and Swiggy as restaurants and levy a 5 per cent GST tax on supplies made by them would be taken up by the Council at its meeting in Lucknow on September 17.

"Finance Minister Smt @ nsitharaman will chair the 45th GST Council meeting at 11 AM in Lucknow tomorrow. The meeting will be attended by MOS Shri @mppchaudhary besides Finance Ministers of States & UTs and Senior officers from Union Government & States," the Finance Ministry tweeted.

The Council, comprising

central and state finance ministers, will deliberate on the proposal of extending the existing concessional tax rate structure on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab, Remdesivir and anti-coagulants like Heparin, till December 31, 2021, from the present September 30.

Tax rate on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab was cut to 'Nil', while Remdesivir and Heparin was reduced to 5 per cent in June 2021.

The Council on Friday may also discuss the proposal of reducing GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent to seven more drugs till December 31, 2021. These are Itolizumab, Posaconazole, Infiximab, Bamlanivimab & Etesevimab, Casirivimab & Imdevimab, 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose and Favipiravir.

To curb tax evasion, the proposal to make the food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato liable to pay the Goods and Services Tax on restaurant services supplied through them would also be considered by the Council.

SHORT TAKES

Cabinet Clears Proposal For Govt Guarantee For Bad Bank

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet has cleared a proposal to provide Rs 30,600 crore government guarantee for security receipts issued by the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) as part of resolution of bad loans, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

The proposed bad bank or NARCL will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be government-guaranteed security receipts.

The government guarantee would be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value.

Briefing reporters on the decision, she said banks have recovered Rs 5.01 lakh crore of unpaid loans in the last six years. Of this, Rs 3.1 lakh crore has been recovered since March 2018. (PTI)

Markets maintain record run; Sensex breaches 59k for first time

MUMBAI: Market benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday as investors remained in risk-on mode following the government's policy support measures for various sectors.

Advancing for the third consecutive session, the 30-share BSE index climbed 417.96 points or 0.71 per cent to its new closing peak of 59,141.16. It touched an intra-day record of 59,204.29. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 110.05 points or 0.63 per cent to finish at its fresh lifetime high of 17,629.50. During the session, it scaled an all-time peak of 17,644.60.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 7.34 per cent, followed by ITC, SBI, Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

In contrast, TCS, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Dr Reddy's were among the laggards, slipping up to 1.32 per cent.

"Driven by reforms, the Indian market kept rais-

ing its bar and traded to new record highs. Today's market rally was driven by strong buying in Banking stocks especially in PSBs. The banking sector is expected to perform well in the coming days as the sector which failed to fairly participate in the ongoing rally due to fear over asset quality is gaining traction.

"Asian markets traded with cuts as the fall in Chinese property stocks pushed Asian stocks down while European markets traded with positive sentiments," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said, "Ahead of the operationalisation of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), banks provided the much needed ammunition to the bulls to notch up record highs of 59K on the Sensex. The charge of the energised bulls took India's market capitalisation ahead of France as PSU banks lent the firepower."

Gold plunges Rs 491; silver tumbles Rs 724

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Thursday plunged Rs 491 to Rs 45,735 per 10 gram amid a decline in international precious metal prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 46,226 per 10 grams.

Silver also tumbled Rs 724 to Rs 61,541 per kilogram from Rs 62,265 per kilogram in the previous trade.

The Indian rupee inched higher by 5 paise to 73.45 against the US dollar in opening trade on Thursday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,786 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.60 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak falling below \$1,790 per ounce with a rally in US bond yields," according to HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

J&K Admin Requires Employees To Maintain Absolute Integrity, Honesty, Allegiance To India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday issued a slew of instructions to officials while carrying out periodic character and antecedents verification of government employees including failure to report any immediate family member who is associated with any foreign entity hostile to India.

According to a circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), every government employee is mandatorily required to maintain absolute integrity, honesty and allegiance to the Union of India and its Constitution and do nothing which is unbecoming of a government servant.

The GAD said during periodic verification of character and antecedents of government employees, the officials should report involvement of an employee in any act of sabotage, espionage, treason, terrorism,

subversion, sedition/secession, facilitating foreign interference, incitement to violence or any other unconstitutional act.

The authorities have been asked also to report association or sympathy of any employee with persons who are attempting to commit any of the above acts or involved in aiding or abetting or advocating the above acts.

The other facets to be looked at include involvement of an individual's immediate family, persons sharing residential space with the employee to whom he or she may be bound by affection, influence, or obligation or involved in any of the acts, directly or indirectly, having potential of subjecting the individual to duress, thereby posing a grave security risk, as per the circular.

"Failure to report relatives, persons sharing residential space or associates who are

connected with any foreign government, associations, foreign nationals known to be directly or indirectly hostile to India's national and security interests," it read.

The directions also include the failure to report unauthorised association with a suspected or known collaborator or employee of a foreign intelligence service among the criteria to be followed.

"Reports indicating that representatives or nationals from a foreign country are acting to increase the vulnerability of the individual to possible future exploitation, coercion or report contacts with citizens of other countries or financial interests in other countries which make an individual potentially vulnerable to coercion, exploitation, or pressure by a foreign Government," the circular said.

The GAD said on the basis of discrete verifications on the above parameters, a list of adversely reported employees received by the government from time to time shall be taken into cognisance by the administrative departments concerned which shall then immediately report it to the General Administration Department.

"In the event, such employee(s) are due for promotion, their cases shall be put on hold immediately. Further, such cases shall be submitted to the UT Level Screening Committee constituted for the purpose, for a decision.

"On confirmation of the adverse report by the UT Level Screening Committee, further action shall be taken against the adversely reported employee(s), which may include termination from Government services," it added.

HDFC Bank and Central Square Foundation join hands to support Foundational Literacy and Numeracy programme

NEW DELHI: HDFC Bank's flagship CSR programme Parivartan and Central Square Foundation (CSF) today announced their partnership to support Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programmes in 5 states — Assam, Punjab, Telangana, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. Both partners will closely work to support the state governments in implementing FLN programmes, borrowing heavily from the guidelines suggested by the Ministry of Education while launching NIPUN Bharat — the national mission on FLN. The partnership aims to improve FLN outcomes in these 5 states to achieve the vision outlined by the National Education Policy 2020.

The partnership was announced at a virtual launch event which brought together senior officials and functionaries of the two organisations with state representatives — Gangadhar Sahoo from SCERT, Odisha, Ms Nandita Medhi from Samagra Shiksha, Assam, Ms Tehseen Sultana from SCERT, Telangana in attendance and

addressing the panel.

"Under Parivartan, promoting education, and financial literacy and inclusion are focus areas for us," said Ms Nusrat Pathan, CSR Head of Parivartan by HDFC Bank. "Foundational literacy and numeracy are an important aspect to enhance learning capabilities of children. The pandemic disturbed schooling schedules and unequal access to quality education support has set back children. An on-ground intervention with innovative solutions was a need of the hour. We are confident this collaboration will deliver long-lasting impact for the beneficiaries."

"If action is not taken soon, we could lose 100 million or more students to illiteracy over the next few years," said Mr Ashish Dhawan, Founder-Chairperson of CSF. "We at Central Square Foundation, understand the importance of quality education for the children of this country and are committed to the goal of supporting the central and various governments in strengthening their FLN programmes and

ensuring all children in India attain FLN skills by grade 3."

There was also a panel discussion on 'State's journey and plans for improving FLN outcomes for children.

Ms. Nandita Medhi, State Programme Officer, Samagra Shiksha Assam, said: "Our focus in Assam has been on bridging the digital divide and plugging the learning loss. We are distributing academic packages to students across Assam, and more than 25 lakh students from class 1 to 5 would benefit from these packages."

Gangadhar from SCERT Odisha said: "Concerted efforts by the government(s) and NGO partners can help improve learning outcomes. Regular review meetings will be the first step towards effective collaboration".

Ms. Tahseen Sultana from SCERT Telangana said: "The Project Management Unit (PMU) led by CSF in Telangana has been supporting the state government in ensuring children, especially those in FLN grades, continue to learn at home with effective EdTech solutions.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Crime Against Women

comparison to 473 and 470 cases in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

The report also reveals that the augmenting suicide cases in J&K have played a significant part in the increased crime statistics with approximately 472 incidences of attempt to commit suicide in 2020.

As per the report, the region has also recorded 317 cases of offences against the state.

Govt Tightens

either under suspension or facing departmental inquiry or prosecution on account of serious charges," reads a government circular.

Hitherto, a Government employee was only required to inform his employer for applying for a passport.

"Also, the guidelines for obtaining passport have been reviewed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, GoI in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and vide Office Memorandum No. F. No. 11012/7/2017-Estt.A-111 dated February, 2020, elaborate instructions have been issued for obtaining fresh vigilance clearance while considering grant of passport to Government employees," it reads.

The government said Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K has also brought into its notice that the present mechanism for issuance of passport to Government employees without obtaining requisite vigilance clearance results in the issuance of passport to those employees against whom vigilance cases are pending. "Thus, there is an urgent necessity to instruct all the departments to issue the NOC for issuance of passport on the basis of vigilance clearance only."

Accordingly, the government has impressed upon all the Administrative Departments/ Heads of Departments to mandatorily obtain the latest vigilance clearance in respect of an employee applying for obtaining passport in terms of Office Memorandum dated February, 2020 issued by DoPT, GoI, strictly.

Face Recognition System

monitoring the arrival and departure of the employees. However, it has been noted that some employees are not marking their attendance through the Biometric Face Recognition System, while there are some who are not registered on the system as yet, the government said in a circular.

After reviewing the matter, the government ordered that all the employees shall mark their attendance on arrival and departure electronically with effect from 27th of September through Biometric Face Recognition System' at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and Jammu respectively.

The employees who are not registered on Biometric System till date have been directed to enroll themselves through Information Technology Department by or before 27th of September positively, for which the Information Technology Department shall make immediate arrangements.

All Drawing & Disbursing Officers in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu shall draw the salary of the employees for the month of October and onwards only upon obtaining a report of Bio-metric attendance in respect of employees working in their departments, it reads.

The Information Technology Department shall install two additional Biometric Face Recognition Systems each at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and Civil Secretariat, Jammu at different locations to ensure implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, it added.

170 More Test

taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 327466.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 70, Baramulla 12, Budgam 27, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 5, Bandipora 3 and Ganderbal 7 new cases of Covid. Three districts of south Kashmir, including Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian reported no new cases of virus.

Similarly, Jammu reported 10, Reasi 19, Udhampur 1, Rajouri 5, Doda 4 and Kishtwar 2 fresh cases, while no case was detected in Kathua, Samba, Poonch and Ramban districts of the Jammu division, they said.

Moreover, officials said, 98 more Covid-19 patients have recovered—12 from Jammu and 86 from Kashmir.

The officials also said that no coronavirus related death was reported on Thursday. So far 4415 people have died—2169 in Jammu division and 2246 in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, there was one fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today, they said. So far 46 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added.

Six Of Family

administration to declare the area as 'micro-containment' zone.

According to officials, six members of a family from Amda Kadal tested positive for coronavirus after undergoing tests. They said acting swiftly, the area was declared a 'micro-containment' zone to prevent further spread of the deadly disease in the area.

Also, the officials said, random testing will be carried out to establish if more people have been infected by the virus in the area.

In the neighbouring Baghwanpora area, the officials said that over a dozen cases of Covid-19 have been detected during random testing by the health authorities.

Recruitments In J&K

Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson on Thursday.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG extended his best wishes to all trainee Fire Fighters who successfully completed their training, and asked them to perform their duty with highest degree of commitment and sincerity for ensuring the safety of people.

Observing that there is no greater public service than saving lives, the LG, he said, exhorted the cadets to discharge the noble responsibility with utmost zeal and dedication.

"Carry forward the rich legacy of courage and bravery, and come out as a formidable force to deal with emergency situations," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, highlighted the government's efforts to develop the skills and expand the scale of the emergency services to meet its increasing need in continuously developing villages, towns, and cities.

He further added that the LG ensured upgradation of all facilities of Fire and Emergency Services and provision of modern fire tenders and rescue equipment.

"Continuous training of fire services personnel, and keeping them aware of the changing fire safety norms is the need of the hour. The UT government will provide every possible support to set up a dedicated Fire Academy to further enhance their capability to confront the future challenges and hazards," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

"I assure the support of the government in creating requisite infrastructure and human resources to develop our fire services personnel as the best Fire-Fighters crew of the country," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that fire fighters are also rendering distinguished and efficient services in the internal security framework of the UT.

"The Police Academy at Udhampur has a long history of producing brave police personnel who are doing commendable job in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people of J&K, and securing National Unity & Integrity through counter-insurgency operations; maintaining peace, law and order," the LG said.

Earlier, the official spokesperson said that the LG inspected the Parade, and took salute at an impressive March Past by the trainee contingents.

He also felicitated the cadets who excelled during their training course, on the occasion.

Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Dr. B. Srinivas, Director General, Fire & Emergency Services; Dr. S.D Singh, Director, SKPA; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Ms Indu Kawal Chip, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Senior officers of UT administration, BSF and Indian Airforce besides family members of the cadets were present on the occasion.

Govt Infuses Another

Government's support and trust in this institution, and for this, I am profoundly grateful to Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, who has a focused vision about the economic development of the

J&K UT and requisite commitment to see it through. I am also thankful to Chief Secretary, Dr A K Mehta and Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Atal Dulloo for their insightful guidance and continued support," Chhibber added.

Notably, the bank's recently issued Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS - 2021), to raise capital of Rs 150 Cr, received an overwhelming response from the bank staff and got over-subscribed within days after the issue. The Bank got an over-subscription amount of more than Rs 200 Cr instead of the board-approved figure and will now allot the number of shares to staff in proportion to its laid-down eligibility criteria.

"In terms of commitment to meet our institutional objectives, we along with our promoter and major stakeholder are moving in tandem as the capital infusion from government and successful issue of ESPS-2021 will go a long way in bolstering the confidence of all other stakeholders of Bank pushing it to accomplish greater goals in future." CMD J&K Bank added.

Kashmir Inc Holds

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

According to the official spokesperson, the representatives also demanded relaxation in SIBAL and Credit ratings for the industrial units of Kashmir besides interest subvention for next five years and fixation of power tariff for next five years for the industries.

"They also requested for revision of industrial zones in Kashmir and declaration of entire Kashmir region as Zone B as the region is industrially backward with no rail connectivity, harsh weather and very less market access," he said.

While interacting with the representatives, he said that the Union Minister stated that the Central Government is committed for the revival and handholding of industrial units of Jammu and Kashmir and in that direction the government launched the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 crores.

"The Minister assured the representatives of trade bodies that all of their genuine demands and concerns will be looked into meticulously and will be resolved on priority," the official spokesperson added.

Director I&C, Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos was also present during the interaction.

Suspects To Be

of a flat at Basai Darapur here in the national capital on September 9.

According to the police, the accused, Raju Chaudhary, who was arrested from Jammu has revealed during the interrogation that Wazir was shot dead on September 3 and four more people were present at the time of the incident. A police official said Wazir was also given sedatives before being killed.

Wazir had arrived in Delhi on September 1 and was staying with his acquaintance Harpreet Singh and his friend Harmeet Singh, a native of Jammu, at their rented flat in the Basai Darapur area.

Wazir was scheduled to leave for Canada in two days. On September 3, his family contacted the Jammu Police who requested their Delhi counterparts to check on the missing man.

Six days later, on September 9 his body was found in a decomposed state.

After this several teams were formed and search operations were carried out in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and J&K to nab the two suspects -- Harpreet Singh and Harmeet Singh. Both Harpreet and Harmeet are still absconding, and several police teams have been formed to trace them.

Tribal Transit

his ministry has recently approved a project for Tribal Transit Accommodation at eight locations to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Munda said that the Department of Tribal Affairs is taking steps for effective implementation of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006. He said the District Level and Sub-Divisional Level Committees have been constituted while the Tribal Affairs department is also working on developing community facilities.

While talking about the tribal health plan,

the Minister, he said, informed that the Tribal Affairs Department in coordination with National Health Mission and Department of Health and Family Welfare has rolled out a special Tribal Health Plan for the first time.

"An amount of Rs 15 crore has been earmarked for the year 2021-22 which will include establishment of Tribal Sub-centres, mobile medical care units for migratory population, machinery and equipment, capacity building and emergency response system," he said.

He further added that Munda said that the UT government is shortly scheduled to roll out an ambitious scheme for establishment of 1500 mini Sheep Farms at a cost of Rs 1500.00 Lakh during the current financial year which will provide employment to 3000 tribal youth.

"The scheme will be an annual affair and every year Sheep Farms with 33% additional number shall be established," Munda said, as per official spokesperson.

The minister, he said, added that the department recently authorized work on 16 Milk Villages at an estimated cost of Rs 1600.00 Lakhs which will provide employment to around 2000 youth and establish a network of dairy farms in J&K.

"The Union Minister also said that the government recently constituted a Working Group for establishment of Tribal Research Institute (TRI) headed by Secretary Tribal Affairs Department to take key steps for establishment of TRI museums, cultural centres and also putting in place an administrative framework which will go a long way in preserving the tribal art, culture, tradition, languages, literature and their promotion. TRI is also in process for organising a number of programmes and rolling out tribal fellowship programme," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, Munda said that the Tribal Affairs department has rolled out an innovative "Tribal Youth Engagement Programme" under which notification has been issued for selection of 500 youth in advanced and future skills.

"The minister added that the Department has also approved Rs 300.00 Lakh project for developing Home Stays in 15 villages. Additionally, youth groups can avail Rs 10 Lakh under Mission Youth scheme of Tourist Village Network, he further said," he added.

Sharing the vision of the Prime Minister, Munda as per the official spokesperson said that the PM wants his ministers to assess on-ground situation and take feedback from the public.

"The PM wants to ensure that the people's lives are being touched and positive change is brought," the minister said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Union Minister visited SK Stadium Bandipora and participated in sports activities besides inspecting stalls erected by various departments to showcase their performance and with an aim to create awareness about various welfare schemes being offered by them for the youth. Munda, he said also distributed prizes among winning teams and players of various sports that were going on in the district including football, volleyball and tug of war.

"The minister while interacting with the sports persons appreciated them for taking keen interest in sports and urged them to be the beacons of peace. He said they will inspire other youngsters to utilize their energy in positive way. He assured every possible support from the government to uplift the sports infrastructure in the district," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the minister inaugurated several developmental projects and interacted with multiple public delegations, members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and political parties besides interacting with youth especially sports persons.

"He inaugurated a bridge at Bapora in Arin block that connects Arin with tribal areas. He also inaugurated a newly constructed Panchayat Ghar," he added.

'Practice Yoga

be taken in this regard. Sonowal said the Ayush Ministry is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for giving people a happy and healthy life.

Underlining the need for unity in diversity for a strong nation, he said the ambitious 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mohatsav' initiative is a unifying factor where all sections of the society

converge and excel.

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has a special identity in the country, the minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a good dream for the development of the union territory and the central government has been working on various flagship programmes aimed to develop the socio-economic status of the people in the region.

Later, the minister inaugurated a local cricket tournament titled "Big Bash Tournament Cup" at Showkat Ali Stadium, organised by the Baramulla Cricket Forum in collaboration with the district administration.

Shopian College

rename educational institutions and roads comes almost a week after the government constituted a high-power committee for renaming government educational institutions and roads after "martyrs" and eminent personalities across the Union Territory.

The seven-member committee is headed by principal secretary home with administrative secretaries from department of rural development and panchayati raj institution, housing and urban development department, director general of police (DGP) CID-J-K, general administration development department and secretary culture department and divisional commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu.

The panel has been set up for making recommendations on the representation and proposals for installation of statues and memorial plaques, naming of roads and buildings. (With KNT inputs)

Blast Kills Girl,

reports said. Five other members of her family were injured in the blast.

The injured identified as Ghulam Muhammad Wani his wife Raja Begum, daughter Rifat, Janti Begum, and Mukhti Begum were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred Raja Begum and Mukhti Begum to SMHS hospital for specialized treatment.

Meanwhile, Kashmir zone police said that a person died while 6 others were injured due to a blast in scrap material consisting of unexploded shell and grenade.

"In an #unfortunate incident in Tarathpora, #Handwara one person died and 06 others injured. Blast took place in scrap materials consisting of unexploded shell & #grenade which was probably stored in his house. #Investigation going on," police Tweeted.

Electric Shock

evening, reports said. She was removed to the community health centre (CHC) Hajin by her relatives for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her brought dead.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Patwari Among

a resident of Durbal Bemina, (Parwari) attached with DC office Budgam and Irshad Ali Ganie son of Ali Mohammad, a resident of Wahpora Budgam in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances case registered at Panipat in year 2019.

They said that Ashiq was booked by Panipat Police under FIR no 633 of 2019 under section 21, 29 of NDPS act and Irshad was booked under FIR no 433 of 2019 under section 21 and 25 of NDPS act.

Both persons were handed over to Panipat Police for further investigations after completing all legal formalities by Budgam Police, they added. (KDC)

Man Falls From

He was immediately shifted to Sub-district hospital Tral in a critical condition.

Tractor Crushes

that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Five Bovine 'Smugglers'

Those arrested have been identified as Mohammad Yousof, Faisal Bashir, Touseef Ahmed Sheikh, Muneeb Ahmed Shiekh, residents of Anantnag district of South Kashmir and Barkat Ali of Akhnoor area of Jammu district, they said.

Further investigation in the matter is underway, police said. (PTI)

JKTA Conclude 23rd District Budgam Taekwondo Championship



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The 23rd Budgam District Taekwondo Championship 2021 concluded on Wednesday at Railway Hall, Budgam under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association (JKTA).

Chief Area Manager, Northern Railways, Saqib Yousuf was the Chief Guest on the presentation ceremony of the event. Yousuf distributed medals and certificates among the winners of day 2 of the Championships.

The chief guest also promised to support the game at every possible level and donated Rs 3000 for the purchase of mouth guards of the players who were playing without such equipment.

Among other guests, Nisar Hussain Wani, Vice President (K) J&K Taekwondo Association, was present as guest of honour.

Syed Ashaq Hussain, Joint Secretary (K), and Secretary District Budgam Taekwondo Association, was presiding over the closing ceremony.

The result of day two of the said event is as:

Sub junior boys: <50kg Rayees Ali (G), Uzair Shabir (S), Furhaan Tariq (B)

Junior Girls: <49kg Shahida Yousuf, (G) Muskaan Zainub (S) <63kg Arifa Zehra (G), Rabia Zehra (S), Aira Zargar (B)

Junior Boys: <48kg Yasir Bashir (G), Aabid Hassan (S),

Adil Ramzan (B) <55kg Anam-ul- Yousuf (G), Ayan Javaid Rather (S), Adil Hussain (B)

<59kg Azad Ahmad Beigh (S), Danish Mushtaq (S), Dawood Mushtaq (B)

<63kg Sajad Ahmad Beigh (G), Zeeshan Rafiq (S), Anees Yousuf and Talha Rashid Qureshi (B)

<68kg Danish Ali (G), Nadeem Yousuf (S), Nadeem Ramzan (B) Senior Girls: <53kg Misbah Altaf (G), Iqra Akhter (S)

Senior Boys: <58kg Waseem Ahmad Kumhar, (G) Mohammad Abass (S), Aaqib Hussain (B)

<63kg Ishfaq Ahmad Wani (G), Aijaz Ali (S), Imdad Ali (B)

<68kg Bilal Ahmad Rather (G), Sheikh Aadil (S), Nahid Shafi (B) Waseem Kumhar of Dynamic Academy of Martial Arts was awarded the Best Fighter of the Championship award.

The Championship was organised by Budgam District Taekwondo Association under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association. The medal winners of this Championship will be selected in Team Budgam to participate in the forthcoming State Championships.

D.N Pangotra, President J&K Taekwondo Association congratulated District Budgam Taekwondo Association for successful completion of the District Championships.

Premier Division On Cards As DFA Srinagar Meets Clubs

To broadcast matches live for the first time



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley's top-most footballing League, Premier Division 2021-22 is all set to begin from September 27, 2021 at Synthetic Turf, Srinagar and the main features of the tournament will be the live telecast of all the matches throughout the country and abroad," a JKFA statement said.

"The lots will be drawn on September 21, in presence of the representatives of the participating Clubs. The Regulations & the Ground Rules were read out and approved by the members present," it said.

"The Clubs were informed to keep their team in readiness for the start of the Tour-

nament. The president DFA Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Sofi informed the house that the Premier Division league football tournament will start from September 27, 2021 at Synthetic Turf, Srinagar and the main features of the tournament will be the live telecast of all the matches throughout the country and abroad," a JKFA statement said.

"It was decided in the meeting that all clubs will complete their registration formalities up to September 20. No request for registration will be entertained after this date," the JKFA statement concluded.

The meeting was also attended by Tariq Ahmad, Secretary DFA Srinagar who discussed various issues with the managers. Farooq Shaheen, Chairman Referees Committee and Muzaffar Ahmad, Assistant HOR, also attended the meeting.

J&K Bank Beat Downtown Heroes In GVEI Exhibition Match

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Green Valley Educational Institute Invitational Football Cup began on Thursday with an exhibition match between J&K Bank FC and Downtown Heroes FC at the school's grounds.

The match ended 1-0 in favour of Bank FC.

Kashmir Valley's top football clubs are set to participate in the Green Valley Invitational Cup.

Apart from J&K Bank FC and Downtown Heroes, the other teams set to compete in the

tournament include: Real Kashmir FC, Iqbal Sports FC, Solina Sports FC, Kashmir United FC, Kashmir Maharaja FC, Musuada Foundation FC, Kashmir Panthers FC, Sher-e-Khas FC, Court Road FC, Ganderbal FA, Fort View FC, Ali Jana FC and Towheed FC.

The first set of matches of the GVEI Invitational Cup will see J&K Bank FC take on Kashmir United FC on September 18 at 2:00 PM. In the second match at 4:30 PM, Fort View FC will go head to head with Musuada Foundation FC.



India's ODI Tour Of New Zealand Postponed To 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WELLINGTON: India will not be touring New Zealand later in the year due to a packed calendar and COVID-19 related restrictions.

India would have had to quarantine for 14 days to play three ODIs as part of the World Cup Super League.

A New Zealand Cricket (NZC) spokesperson confirmed to Stuff that the India games will be played after the T20 World Cup in Australia next year. New Zealand anyway are scheduled to tour India in November for two Tests and three T20s.

New Zealand will be hosting Bangladesh, The Netherlands

and South Africa in the summer besides the seven teams in Women's World Cup in March-April.

The Tests against Bangladesh and South Africa are part of the World Test Championship.

"We've got to be mindful of players coming back from a long winter and we've got to give them time at home as well," NZC chief executive David White said.

The Black Caps will undergo 14 days of managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) after returning from India just before Christmas. That won't allow NZC to host the Boxing Day Test on December 26 and the opener against Bangladesh could begin on December 28 or later.

Four Matches Played In Srinagar Super & 'A' Division



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four matches were played on Thursday in the ongoing DFA Srinagar Annual Football League 2021 here.

In the Super Division second stage, two matches were played at Synthetic Turf, TRC.

The first match between Court Road FC and Qamarwari FC ended as a 1-1 draw. Court Road took the lead in the 5th

minute through Faisal. Qamarwari FC equalised in the 54th minute of the second half.

In the Super Division second match, FC Views took on Syed Tajuddin FC. Both teams created several opportunities but failed to find the net. The match ended as a 0-0 draw.

In the 'A' Division League, two matches were played at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match was played between Al-Ahram FC and Young Boys Balhamam. The match was won by Al-Ahram FC by 4-1 goals. Momin scored three goals and Rehmat scored one for Al-Ahram FC. Noor Hussain was the scorer for Young Boys Balhamam.

The second 'A' Division match between Alamdar Madina FC and Flying Kashmir FC ended as a goalless draw.

Virat Kohli To Step Down As India's T20I Captain After T20 WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Virat Kohli on Thursday announced he will step down as India's T20 captain after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test cricket.

"I've decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October," Kohli said in a statement posted on his Twitter page.

For some time, there has been speculation about Kohli's future as white-ball captain especially in the backdrop of Rohit Sharma's brilliant track record of winning five IPL titles for Mumbai Indians.

"Understanding workload is a very important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9 years playing all three formats and captaining regularly for last five to six years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODI cricket,"



Kohli said in a statement on his Twitter page.

"I have given my everything to the Team during my time as T20 captain and I will continue to do so for the T20 captain and will continue to do so for the T20 team as a batsman moving forward," he further added.

The decision, Kohli said, was taken after consulting head coach Ravi Shastri, his heir apparent Rohit, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah. The T20 World Cup starts on October 17.

Pakistan Keen To Expose Depleted NZ's Frailty Against Spin



Agencies

RAWALPINDI: A weakened New Zealand's frailty against spin bowling in Bangladesh recently has given Pakistan the blueprint to success in their three-match one-day international series starting from Friday.

Spin is always a major factor in Pakistan but its importance has been ramped up after the Kiwis lost a Twenty20 series in Bangladesh 3-2 on turning pitches.

New Zealand is also touring without frontline players such as regular captain Kane Williamson, Trent Boult, Kyle Jamieson, Lockie Ferguson, and Tim Southee who are unavailable due to the Indian Premier League, which was supposed to finish in May. None of the Kiwis' T20 World Cup squad is involved, either.

The depleted state of the visitors means Pakistan could rue missing out on a maximum 30 points in the World Cricket League after the Pakistan Cricket Board failed to acquire the Decision Review System for the ODI series.

New chairman Ramiz Raja called it a "huge mess" and said he will look into why the board couldn't get the technology in time. The series, marking New Zealand's first visit to Pakistan since 2003, is just a bilateral series.

"Unfortunately," was Pakistan captain Babar Azam's reaction to the missing DRS.

Three leg-spinners in vice captain Shadab Khan, Usman Qadir and Zahid Mahmood are in Pakistan's 12 for the first ODI

at Pindi Cricket Stadium, which also hosts the other matches on Sunday and next Tuesday.

Whether they pick all three and drop a seamer will be decided on the morning of the match and the state of the pitch, Babar said.

Allrounder Mohammad Nawaz was ruled out of the ODI series after contracting the coronavirus but is expected to be available for the five-match T20 series in Lahore.

With the T20 World Cup in mind, Pakistan has loaded its squad with spinners to help their preparation.

"The World Cup is just round the corner and we wanted our spinners to get maximum practice ahead of it," Babar said.

While Mahmood missed out on the T20 World Cup squad, Qadir is among the travelling reserves. Pakistan has until Oct. 10 to change its squad.

New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Tom Blundell was ruled out of the ODI series due to a left quad strain. He was injured during the fourth T20 in Bangladesh but is expected to be fit in time for the T20 series against Pakistan from Sept. 25. "I'll be taking the gloves again," captain Tom Latham said. "Disappointing for Tom to pull out with that injury, but fingers crossed he keeps progressing and he'll be ready for the T20 series."

All-rounder Daryl Mitchell, flown in for the T20 series, will replace Blundell in the ODI squad and be available for selection from the second ODI after completing mandatory isolation.

NEWS MAKERS

England Could Boycott Ashes Down Under: Reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Top English players could boycott the high-profile Ashes series against Australia starting end of this year as they don't want to be confined to their hotel rooms close to four months due to strict quarantine rules in the country.

According to ESPN Cricinfo, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are still adamant and have not thought about postponement which has irked the senior players and support staff.

"The prospect of England

fielding a significantly under-strength squad in the Ashes would appear to have grown following talks between the team and officials at the ECB," the website reported.

The players have been left disappointed because of ECB's refusal to even countenance a partial or even complete postponement of the tour.

"As a result, they are considering their options. One of those options is understood to be the entire team - including coaching and support staff - taking a collective decision to boycott the tour.

"While the players appear, in general, fairly sanguine about the prospect of a two-week quarantine for themselves, they are reluctant to put their families through it. And with some players away for the best part of four months (the IPL being followed by the T20 World Cup and the Ashes), they are understandably reluctant not to see their families for the entire period," it stated.

The type of quarantine has also angered the English players.

"The nature of the quarantine is also understood to

have disappointed the players. Although there has been talk of allowing them the use of a resort hotel on the Gold Coast, it is now understood they are likely to be permitted only two or three hours out of their hotel rooms each day for training.

"There is also a possibility the squad will be obliged to remain in some sort of 'bubble' throughout the tour to avoid difficulties in moving between states. Families, meanwhile, could still be required to undergo a 'hard' quarantine involving 14 days in a hotel room," it also reported.

Spanish Clubs Relieved To Resume La Liga After CL Turmoil

Agencies

BARCELONA: Antoine Griezmann jeered. Sergi Roberto booed. Sevilla thankful it drew with a team from Austria.

Spanish teams used to look forward to the end of summer and the return of the Champions League.

Not this time. Of five Spanish teams, Real Madrid was the only one that could manage a win from the opening batch of games in Europe's elite competition.

And even Madrid will be relieved to get back to the Spanish league on Sunday when it visits Valencia with both tied on points atop the table with Atlético Madrid.

Valencia has exceeded expectations under new coach José Bordalás and a breakout season by Carlos Soler. The midfielder leads Valencia with three goals and has scored twice for Spain in World Cup qualification in recent weeks.

But Carlo Ancelotti will be expecting his Madrid to offer more in Mestalla Stadium than just another gritty defensive performance that kept it alive against Inter Milan before Rodrygo could snatch a 1-0 victory with an 89th-minute goal on Wednesday.

Rodrygo's was only the second shot Madrid steered toward Inter's goal in the entire match. It took Dani Carvajal almost an hour to get its first strike on target.

Until then, Madrid was on pace to reproduce the embarrassment by Barcelona that was too much for some of its fans to bear.

Overwhelmed 3-0 by Bayern Munich, Barcelona was unable to muster a single shot on goal in the entire match on Tuesday.

The crowd, back at Camp Nou for its first European match since the start of the pandemic, took out its frustration on Roberto. The homegrown player who instantly became a hero for his last-gasp winner in Barcelona's memorable 6-1 rout of Paris Saint-Germain in 2017, was booted when he was substituted after being completely outplayed by Bayern's Alphonso Davies.

ED Raids Home, Office Of Former IAS Officer Harsh Mander Activists Call It 'Harassment'



Agenceis
New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted multiple raids at the premises of human rights activist and retired IAS officer Harsh Mander in the national capital in connection with a money-laundering investigation.

Raids were conducted at the residence, office and non-government organisations (NGOs) run by retired Indian Administrative Services officer. Sources close to news agency PTI said that residence and NGO offices located in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj, Adchini and Mehrauli areas are being searched under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Several teams of ED are looking at financial and banking documents of the two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) linked to Mander.

However, Mander was not in the country when raids were conducted at his premises. He left for Germany along with his wife in the early hours of Thursday. Mander is stated to be on a fellowship in that country.

The 66-year-old activist has authored a number of books and writes newspaper editorials on subjects related to social justice and human rights.

The civil rights activist, last year, a press conference organised on Delhi Police's investigation into the Delhi riots which took place in February 2020 resulting arrest of several student activists including Umar Khalid.

Activists, Intellectuals Condemn ED Raids

Several activists and public intellectuals reacted to ED's action against Mander, calling it to be a part of a "continuing chain of abuse of state institutions" to silence its critics.

Activists including Aruna Roy, **WE CONDEMN THESE RAIDS TO HARASS and intimidate a leading human rights and peace activist who has done nothing but work for peace and harmony, consistently upholding the highest moral standards of honesty and probity. Over the past year, Harsh Mander and the CES have been subjected to continued harassment by multiple state agencies.**

These Are the Salaries of Facebook Employees



Agenceis
Yesterday, Monday, reports revealed shocking numbers about the employee salaries of the social networking giant Facebook.

The Business Insider website was able to obtain information about Facebook salaries from thousands of work visa applications that the company submitted to the US government during 2020, as companies must disclose salary information. However, the information is limited and lacks the salaries of executives, and it does not include grants, company stocks owned by employees, or the effect of experience in determining wages.

Essentially, all of Facebook's key workers earn a 6-figure salary in a year, but some workers earn more than others. Business Insider stated that the largest salaries for non-executive positions within Facebook are in its core engineering and marketing operations.

According to the site, the salaries depend on the position. However, it depends on where the worker resides. For example, a software engineer in New York City earns \$160,000, while another in Rhode Island or Texas earns \$118,000 annually. Below are salaries earned an-

former Planning Commission member Syeda Hameed, Economist Jean Dreze, Senior Advocate Indira Jaising, DU Professor Apoorvanand, women's activists Kavita Krishnan and Annie Raja and 22 others have signed the statement condemning the raids, Indian Express reported.

"We condemn these raids to harass and intimidate a leading human rights and peace activist who has done nothing but work for peace and harmony, consistently upholding the highest moral standards of honesty and probity. Over the past year, Harsh Mander and the CES have been subjected to continued harassment by multiple state agencies," the statement said.

FIR Against Harsh Mander
ED raids come on the backdrop of FIR filed by a Delhi Police economic offences wing (EOW) in February against the Centre for Equity Studies (CES) that runs two child NGOs. Mander is the Director of these NGOs.

According to PTI, the police complaint was filed under Sections 75 and 83(2) of the Juvenile Justice Act along with Indian Penal Code Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) on the complaint of the registrar of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) against alleged violations in Umeed Aman Ghar and Khushi Rainbow Home in south Delhi, both established by the CSE.

As per Delhi Police, the case was registered on the basis of an inspection of these homes by NCPDR teams in October last year. Mander had called the allegation 'unjustified'.

"I think it is completely unjustified. We created a very strong system, like we had elder women (caretakers) sleeping with smaller children and we have counselling. It is just an allegation and a rumour," he had said earlier.

India's Daily COVID Cases Cross 30k After 4 Days, Surge In Deaths Too



Agenceis
India reported 30,570 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 12.4 per cent higher than Wednesday. The number of deaths during the last 24 hours has been 431, higher than recent daily numbers.

This is the second consecutive day when the country has witnessed a surge in daily cases, according to the Union Health Ministry's report released on Thursday. Also, daily Covid cases in the country crossed the 30,000 mark after four days. The country reported 27,176 on Wednesday, 25,404 on Tuesday, and 28,591 on Monday.

India also witnessed a spike in daily Covid deaths in the last 24 hours. Daily Covid related deaths for the last few days have been between 300 and 350. On Thursday it reported 431 deaths, pushing the total fatalities so far to 4,43,928.

The fatality rate has remained at 1.33 per cent for the last few days, according to the health ministry's data. The current active cases in the country stand at 3,42,923, which is 1.03 per cent of the total Covid infections reported in the country since early 2020.

In the same time span, a total of 38,303 Covid-infected patients have recovered, pushing the country's total recoveries to 3,25,60,474. The Covid recovery rate rose to 97.64 per cent on Thursday, as per the Ministry's data.

The weekly positivity rate was reported at 1.93 per cent, which is less than 3 per cent for the last 83 days, while the daily positivity rate was 1.94 per cent, which remained below 3 per cent for the last 17 days.

India has so far tested a total of 54.77 crore (54,77,01,729) Covid samples, out of which, 15,79,761 were conducted in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry.

Till date, the country has administered over 76.57 crore (76,57,17,137) doses of Covid vaccines, out of which 64,51,423 jabs were given in the last 24 hours, the data showed.

Govt Calls Recent NYT Article On Covid Response 'Provocative, Attention Seeking'; Condemns It

Agenceis
The government called the recent New York Times article on India's Covid response a "provocative, attention seeking" piece that comes at a time when the country is doing well in tackling the pandemic.

The article claimed that the "ICMR tailored its findings to fit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's optimistic narrative despite a looming crisis".

Responding to a question at a press briefing, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said, "This is a provocative, attention seeking article published at a time when India is doing good and our vaccination is excellent and it is diverting attention. All the issues raised are dead ones and probably do not merit any attention."

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the Union government as well as the state governments are fully emerged in fighting a pandemic and all our energies and time is devoted to that.

"We cannot afford to be diverted by things that can be addressed and editorial freedom and at the same time we must also realise that all of us - Union government as well as the state governments - are fully emerged in fighting a pandemic and all our energies and time is devoted to that."

"We greatly value journalistic and editorial freedom and at the same time we must also realise that all of us - Union government as well as the state governments - are fully emerged in fighting a pandemic and all our energies and time is devoted to that."



Crores Of Rupees Deposited In Bank Accounts Of Two Children In Bihar

Agenceis
People of Bihar are surprised over crores of rupees being credited in the bank accounts of two children.

The incident appeared in Katihar district where two class 6 students, Ashish Kumar and Gurucharan Biswas received Rs 6,20,11,100 and Rs 90,52,21,223 in their bank accounts on September 15 respectively.

Both the children are native of Pastia village in Bagahura Panchayat. They have bank accounts in Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank.

Udayan Mishra, the district magistrate of Katihar also confirmed that the children have received hefty amount.

"Big amounts were credited in the accounts of two children. The amount can be seen in the mini statements. The senior officials of the bank are being informed," Mishra said.

"As soon as we learnt about the money being credited in the accounts of two children, we have put the accounts on freeze and stopped withdrawal. When inquired with the parents of the children, they were also unable to reveal the source of the fund. Now, we are investigating the matter to find out who is the sender," said M.K. Madhukar, the LDM of Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank.

Earlier, a person named Ranjit Das of Bihar's Khagaria district also received Rs 5.5 lakh in his Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank account.

Das refused to return the money to the bank claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised every citizen to give Rs 15 lakh in their bank accounts. He said he has received first instalment of it.

Das further said that he had withdrawn the money from the account and spent it. Now he has no money. After he showed inability to return the amount, bank officials lodged an FIR against Das and he was arrested by Khagaria police. Now, he is lodged in jail.

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