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Subject: Revised Select List for the posts of Lecturer Gynae & Obsts. (GMC- Jammu/ Srinagar) in Health & Medical Education Department.
Notification No. 54 - PSC (DR-S) of 2021
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P6 THINK

ACROSS THE AISLE

COVID-19 was, and is, an unprecedented health disaster over which humankind or the governments of the world have little control. No government can be held responsible for the origin of the virus. Governments can be held responsible only for the...

P7 THINK

GENDER EQUALITY IN ISLAM: REALITIES VS 'MISCONCEPTIONS' (PART-II)

Siddiqui's Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Women and Kidwai's and Gupta's Muslim Woman are two more significant and substantial works which help in cleaning the...



P11 SPORTS

ANIL KUMBLE, VVS LAXMAN IN LINE FOR HEAD COACH'S POST

Life may come to a full circle for Anil Kumble as the Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI might ask him to apply for the post of head coach of the Indian team along...



Quote!
You can't be hesitant about who you are
— Viola Davis

NEWS DIGEST

Fall from Walnut Tree, 6 Killed in 1 Week

SRINAGAR: With the walnut harvesting season in full swing accidental deaths from far and wide are filling newspaper spaces here daily. Harvesting season of walnut, a major horticulture produce of the Kashmir valley commences in late August and continues through the month of September. **More On P10**

KPs Celebrate 'Vyeth Truvah'

SRINAGAR: The Kashmiri Pandit community in Srinagar celebrated 'Vyeth Truvah' on the birthday of river Goddess Vitasta, commonly known as Jhelum with great enthusiasm and fervour on Saturday. 'Vyeth Truvah', according to ancient Kashmiri texts, is the day when Jhelum originated. **More On P10**

4.3 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Gulmarg

SRINAGAR: An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale hit Gulmarg tourist resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. According to the National Center for Seismology (NCS), the earthquake occurred at 10.14 am on Saturday. The origin. **More On P10**

3 Senior Police Officers Transferred

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered transfers of three SSPs in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to an order by government, Gurinderpal Singh (IPS),. **More On P10**

Ex-Militant Held In Kishtwar

JAMMU: The government forces have arrested a former militant in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said on Saturday. On specific information. **More On P10**

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Govt Seeks Help Of Clergy As Covid Cases Surge

CAB Violators In City To Be Slapped With Fine: Div Com



An elderly man receiving a vaccine jab at a health centre in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As coronavirus cases continue to surge in Kashmir Valley, the divisional administration on Saturday sought help of religious heads over strict enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) among the people in view of possible third wave of coronavirus.

In a meeting with prominent religious personalities of district Srinagar including Imams and Khateeb of shrines and mosques, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole appealed to them to continue sensitizing people about adopting CAB and not to lower their guard

to save themselves, an official spokesperson said. Pole, he said, termed the religious heads as social influencers and Chief Executive Officers, Waqf Board, Mufti Farid ud din and other board officers were also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said that Div Com appreciated religious scholars for their role and co-operation since the last one and half year of pandemic for educating and sermonizing people, which helped to the large extent to save people from the deadly pandemic. "He informed them that even the developed countries including UK, **More On P10**

152 Cases Detected In 24 Hrs

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 152 fresh cases of novel coronavirus on Saturday while no Covid-19 related fatality was reported from the Union territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 137 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday while the remaining 15 were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 327773. In Valley, Srinagar reported the highest 67 new cases, followed by Baramulla with 23, Kulgam 15, Budgam 10, **More On P10**

50-Bed 'Portable' Hospital Set Up In Baramulla

A 50-bed "portable" hospital, with ICU and oxygen facilities, has been set up in Baramulla district in view of a probable third Covid wave and it was inaugurated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday. The minister did a thorough inspection of the functioning of the "inflatable" medical enclosures, Picturtime, a mobile digital movie theatre company, which has set up the hospital at. **More On P10**

HE ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF FLORICULTURE to establish vaccination booths in the parks and vaccinate non-inoculated visitors. Further, he asked the police to assist the enforcement teams of all the concerned teams in the implementation of CAB."

Govt To Axe 51 Walnut Trees For KP Transit Camp

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: The District administration, Kupwara is all set to axe over 50 fruit-bearing walnut trees in Handwara to pave way for the construction of a transit camp for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

In an order issued by the Divisional Kashmir, the district administration Kupwara has been directed to extend the auction notice of axing the walnut trees from 14 September 2021 for 30 days. "Grant of permission to the felling down of (51) fifty one walnut trees falling under Survey No.462 Min situated at village Kulangam Bagh Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara coming under the alignment of construction of transit accommodation at Kulangam Bagh Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara in favour of the Tehsildar. **More On P10**

Govt Working On Safeguarding Rights Of People: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration is working with an agenda of equitable and balanced development for the upliftment of all the sections of the society, besides safeguarding the rights of the people of the Union Territory.

Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with a cross section of the society, including former legislators, at Raj Bhavan here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

Hands Over Forest Rights Certificates To Tribals

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over certificates of individual and community forest rights to the members of tribal communities of Jammu division on Saturday. Addressing the event, Sinha said a new era of social equality has been ushered in for tribals in the union territory with the handing over of individual and community forest rights certificates to them. He said their participation was significant in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. "We have formulated a robust mechanism to ensure. **More On P10**



He said that former MLC Surinder Choudhary along with a delegation of border dwellers and tribals of Nowshera and Sunderbani on Saturday met the LG and projected their issues, including construction of individual

and community border bunkers to safeguard lives of the people from cross border shelling, holding special police recruitment from the border villages, opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Army School besides. **More On P10**

Militants Escape After Brief Shootout In Srinagar



Security personnel rushing towards the shootout site in Noor Bagh area on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Saturday gave slip to government forces in Noor

Bagh area of this capital city after firing several shots towards a police team. According to reports, a joint team of. **More On P10**

Militants Looking For Soft Targets: DGP

Militants are looking for soft targets in order to create disturbance, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Saturday as he asserted that every attempt of anti-national elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the union. **More On P10**

AIIMS Will Boost Healthcare System In J&K: Minister

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led dispensation is very keen to provide efficient and inclusive health and medicare services to the people, the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday that the establishment of Government Medical Colleges and AIIMS facility in the Jammu and Kashmir will give a major

fillip to the existing healthcare system. Mandaviya, who is also Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, made these remarks during his visit here as part of the Union Government's public outreach programme which aims to evoke public feedback pertaining to developmental concerns, an official spokesperson said. The Minister, he said, termed the upgradation of existing. **More On P10**

Jammu Traders Call For Day-Long Strike Next Week

Resentment Is Brewing Over The Reliance-Like Big Companies' Proposal To Open Retail Stores In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called for a day-long 'peaceful' strike on September 22 to protest the alleged discrimination of highest degree by the government with them. Announcing the strike, JCCI president Arun Gupta said the

taken strike against directionless policies of the government should serve as a wakeup call for it and it should take immediate corrective measures to end the discrimination with Jammu region.

We believe that trade in the Jammu region is being disturbed deliberately as policy decisions are. **More On P10**

Kashmir Safe Destination For Foreign Tourists, Says NCRB Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Despite most of the foreign countries posting an adverse travel advisory to Kashmir, the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report has substantiated the fact that Jammu & Kashmir continues to be a safe tourist destination for foreigners.

The NCRB's "Crime in India 2020" report has revealed that there was only one case of minor offence against foreigners emerging in J&K during 2020.

The report further added that there was no case of violence, sexual assault, rape, forgery and theft reported from J&K against any foreign tourists.

In the last three years, the report revealed, J&K recorded only

two cases of crime against foreign tourists.

The statistics available in the report have signified that in 2020 J&K was once again able to retain the title of Safe Tourist destination.

"It's unfortunate that several media organisations are only portraying a negative image of Kashmir," said Talat Riyaz, a Kashmir-based Tour Operator.

"Political conflict and the impact of the incidents on the border is being projected in such a way that foreign tourists start thinking about their safety. We're hopeful that this NCRB report will serve as an example so that Kashmir once again buzzes up with a huge influx of high-end foreign tourists."

Pertinently, most of the



European countries, United States, Canada and Australia had issued advisories against travelling to

Jammu & Kashmir to their citizens soon after the Government of India revoked the erstwhile

state's special status under Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

"I haven't read the report yet

but if the word of mouth is to believe then we're hopeful that this latest data will act as an eye-opener for foreign countries and will also substantiate the Ministry of External Affairs' stance in motivating these countries to end their travel advisories for Kashmir," Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez told Kashmir Observer.

"Kashmir's Tourism industry has had a long tradition of hosting foreign tourists, so there is apparently no reason for these foreign countries to not allow their citizens to travel to Kashmir, given the safe-status provided to the region."

Kashmir's hospitality sector stakeholders who have already lost hundreds of crores as tourist footfall nosedived in 2020 say

that the stories about Kashmir being unsafe for tourists are exaggerated.

"The latest NCRB report on the trivial crime rate against foreigners in Kashmir clearly shows how safe and hospitable Kashmiris are but unfortunately several travel advisories imposed by foreign Governments against Kashmir had a negative impact on the tourism industry of the region which has hampered our business," Wahid Malik, President Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners Federation, told Kashmir Observer.

"This is an appropriate time for the government of India to take up the issue of lifting these advisories keeping in view the ground situation and NCRB data which clearly. **More On P10**

Drone Attack Killed 10 Civilians In Kabul, US Acknowledges

ALJAZEERA

General Frank McKenzie, the head of the US Central Command, acknowledged that a US drone raid in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, late in August killed 10 civilians, including children. McKenzie said on Friday that it was "unlikely" that those killed were associated with the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, ISKP (ISIS-K), as originally claimed by the US military. "Having thoroughly reviewed the findings of the investigation and the supporting analysis by interagency partners, I am now convinced that as many as 10 civilians, including up to seven children, were tragically killed

attack's victims on Friday and announced a "thorough review" of the investigation into the attack that will also consider the need to alter "strike authorities, procedures and processes" in the future. "We apologize, and we will endeavour to learn from this horrible mistake," Austin said in a statement. Pentagon acknowledges 'mistakes' The strike on August 29 came days after a suicide bombing near the airport, claimed by ISKP, killed at least 175 people, including 13 US service members. The US pulled all of its forces from Afghanistan by the end of last month as the Taliban took over the country, capturing Kabul in mid-August.



in that strike," McKenzie said. The US general offered "profound condolences" to the families of the victims, stressing that the attack was taken with the "earnest belief" that it would prevent an imminent attack on the airport where American forces were evacuating people. "It was a mistake, and I offer my sincere apology," McKenzie said. "As a combatant commander, I am fully responsible for this strike and this tragic outcome." US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin offered condolences for the

US troops, which remained in control of the airport in Kabul as the Taliban took control of the capital, conducted a massive and chaotic evacuation operation to airlift American citizens, third-country nationals and Afghan allies. American officials warned of "credible" threats to the airport by ISKP throughout the evacuation operation. Family members of the August 29 drone raid victims told Al Jazeera after the attack that the 10 people killed ranged in age from two to 40 years old.

Iran Denounces 'Unilateralism' As It Becomes Full SCO Member



ALJAZEERA

TEHRAN, IRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi has said Iran wants closer ties with its regional neighbours and rejected the United States' "unilateralism", as his country became a full member of the influential Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Iran said on Friday it had been accepted as the eighth full member of the organisation during its annual conference in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. Senior officials from other full member states – namely China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan – were in attendance. Iran had held observer status for the past 15 years. It expects the full membership to help it boost its economy and regional standing. In a speech to the summit, newly elected Raisi predominantly emphasised his main stated foreign policy goal, which is to expand political, economic and cultural ties with countries

across the region and protect Iran from unilateral punishments from the West. He said Iran's geopolitical position, population, energy supplies, transport potential, workforce and culture can provide "meaningful momentum" to major regional masterplans, including China's Belt and Road Initiative. "The world has entered a new era," Raisi said. "Hegemony and unilateralism are failing. The international balance is moving toward multilateralism and redistribution of power to the benefit of independent countries." In this vein, the Iranian president referred to "sanctions or economic terrorism" as major hurdles for regional progress, and called on the SCO member states to develop structures and mechanisms to fight sanctions as a group. "Unilateral sanctions are not against only one country," he said. "As it has become evident in recent years, sanctions have targeted more independent countries, especially members of the organisation."



The UN General Assembly in September 2018, before the Covid-19 pandemic Angela Weiss/ AFP

World Leaders Descend On New York To Attend UNGA Despite Pandemic

Agencies

Some 100 world leaders descend on New York next week in a partial return of the annual UN extravaganza despite Covid concerns, with progress sought on pressing global problems – starting with the pandemic. The UN General Assembly will also look to build momentum to reach an ambitious climate agreement and seek unity after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, in the shadow of high tension between the United States and China. "We need to re-establish confidence. The current geopolitical division in the world is an obstacle," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told AFP ahead of the summit. The world "is really in a very dangerous situation," he said. "We need to sound an alarm to wake up political leaders." US President Joe Biden will address the General Assembly for the first time on Tuesday and a

day later will convene a virtual summit on Covid-19 as he seeks to show US leadership on vaccines. With the Delta variant triggering renewed infection spikes, Guterres warned that the world was "heading in the wrong direction in all areas" in the pandemic. "It's absolutely unacceptable that there are countries where 80% of the population is vaccinated and some where two % are vaccinated," he said. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will come to New York tomorrow to seek action on climate ahead of a UN conference in Glasgow in November as temperatures and severe weather rise to startling levels. Other world leaders set to attend include Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who like Biden will be making his first appearance. The United States discouraged heads of state from visiting and asked that delegations be kept small as a way to fight Covid-19. French President Em-

manuel Macron, a frequent UN presence, will be among leaders who cited Covid concerns for sending a pre-recorded video. "We are concerned about the UN event being a super-spreader event," Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters. "Leaders have to be responsible, and they have to take responsibility for their actions." One leader who is not minding the guidance is President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, which by tradition is the first nation to speak. The far-right leader said he plans to come to New York even though he is not vaccinated against Covid-19, defying New York city authorities who want everyone to present proof of vaccination. Guterres defended the record of the United Nations, which quickly went mostly virtual last year at the start of the pandemic that has claimed more than 4.5 million lives worldwide. "I am very proud this was never a centre of spreading Covid and I hope it will remain so," Guterres said.

World On Catastrophic Path To 2.7-Degree Heating: UN Chief

The world is on a catastrophic pathway to 2.7-degrees of heating. This is breaking the promise made six years ago to pursue the 1.5-degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Saturday. He said failure to meet this goal will be measured in the massive loss of lives and livelihoods. The Secretary-General was responding to the UN Climate Change synthesis report of climate action plans as communicated in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The NDC Synthesis report indicates that while there is a clear trend that greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced over time, nations must urgently redouble their climate efforts if they are to prevent global temperature increases beyond the Paris Agreement's goal of well below 2 degrees Celsius – ideally 1.5 Celsius – by the end of the century. "G20 nations account for 80 per cent of global emissions. Their leadership is needed more than ever. The decisions they take now will determine whether the promise made at Paris is kept or broken," Guterres said. "Before COP 26 all nations should submit a more ambitious NDC that help to place the world on a 1.5-degree pathway. We also need developed nations to finally deliver on the \$100 billion commitment promised over a decade ago in support to developing countries. The Climate Finance report published today by the OECD shows that this goal has not been reached either," he added. The Synthesis Report released by the UN Climate Change on Fri-



day was requested by Parties to the Paris Agreement to assist them in assessing the progress of climate action ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November in Glasgow in Scotland. The report includes information from all 191 Parties to the Paris Agreement based on their latest NDCs available in the interim NDC registry as at July 30, including information from 86 updated or new NDCs submitted by 113 Parties. The new or updated NDCs cover about 59 per cent of Parties to the Paris Agreement and account for about 49 per cent of global GHG emissions. IANS

Girls Excluded From Returning To Secondary School In Afghanistan

Agencies

Girls were excluded from returning to secondary school in Afghanistan on Saturday, after the country's new Taliban rulers ordered only boys and male teachers back to the classroom. The group ousted the US-backed government last month, promising a softer brand of rule than their repressive reign in the 1990s, when women were mostly banned from education and work. But the diktat from the education ministry was the latest move from the new government to threaten women's rights. "All male teachers and students should attend their educa-

progress has been made in girls' education, with the number of schools tripling and female literacy nearly doubling to 30 per cent – however, the change was largely limited to the cities. The UN said it was "deeply worried" for the future of girls' schooling in Afghanistan. "It is critical that all girls, including older girls, are able to resume their education without any further delays. For that, we need female teachers to resume teaching," the UN's children's agency, Unicef said. Primary schools have already reopened, with boys and girls mostly attending separate classes and some women teachers returning to work.



tional institutions," a statement said ahead of classes resuming on Saturday. The statement, issued late on Friday, made no mention of women teachers or girl pupils. Secondary schools, with students typically between the ages of 13 and 18, are often segregated by sex in Afghanistan. During the Covid-19 pandemic, they have faced repeated closures and have been shut since the Taliban seized power. Since a US-led invasion ousted the Taliban in 2001, significant

The new regime has also permitted women to go to private universities, though with tough restrictions on their clothes and movement. Women's ministry closed In a further sign that the Taliban's approach to women and girls had not softened, they appeared to have shut down the government's ministry of women's affairs and replaced it with a department notorious for enforcing strict religious doctrine during their first rule.

Hundreds Arrested In Australian Anti-Lockdown Protests

Agencies

Australia's police have arrested 235 people in Melbourne and 32 in Sydney at unsanctioned anti-lockdown rallies and several police officers have been injured in clashes with protesters. Victoria police said six officers required hospitalisation during the violence on Saturday. Several officers were knocked to the ground and trampled, the police said and television footage showed. Officers used pepper spray after approximately 700 people managed to gather in parts of Melbourne. Some 2,000 officers made the city centre virtually a no-go zone, setting up checkpoints and barricades. Public transport and ride shares into the city were suspended. "What we saw today was a group of protesters that came together, not to protest freedoms, but simply to take on and have a fight with the police," Victoria Police Commander Mark Galliot told media. The illegal gathering comes as the city goes through its sixth lockdown since the pandemic started, with the state of Victoria reporting more than 500 cases of COVID-19 on Saturday. Footage from one incident showed a crowd charging through a police line as scuffles erupted along a tram route. In Sydney, riot squad officers,



highway patrol, detectives and general duties police were also deployed to the streets, preventing large gatherings. Australia has been grappling with an outbreak of the Delta variant of the coronavirus since mid-June, with both Sydney and Melbourne, and the capital Canberra, in strict lockdowns for weeks now. On Saturday, 1,882 new coronavirus cases were reported, most of them in Sydney. Most of the restrictions in Victoria, New South Wales and Canberra are to remain until at least 70 percent of those aged 16 or older are fully vaccinated, which based on the current pace of inoculations could be achieved in late October or early November. A high rate of compliance with public health orders has helped Australia keep the number of infections relatively low, with just below 85,000 total cases and 1,145 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The vast majority of Australians support vaccinations and public health measures, but there have been sporadic and sometimes violent protests against the management of the pandemic.

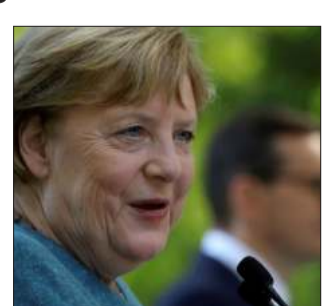
NEWS MAKERS

Not Gone Yet: Merkel To Hang On As Active Caretaker

Agencies

After 16 years in power, Chancellor Angela Merkel is not seeking re-election in Germany's September 26 election but she is anything but a lame duck. The likelihood of protracted coalition talks after the vote means Merkel will not be leaving office any time soon and she fully intends to use her time after the election to press on with foreign policy initiatives, government officials say. Under the German constitution, Merkel will remain chancellor until a majority of Bundestag lawmakers elects a successor, who is then sworn in. There are no formal restrictions on her powers in this time, though Merkel is a consensus seeker and previous chancellors have not taken radical decisions during the window.

Ukraine and European Union climate talks are two issues in her sights. "She will have to play an important role, because everybody in Berlin will be involved in the coalition talks," a leading conservative in Berlin said of negotiations on the EU's climate protection plans. Armin Laschet, Merkel's would-be conservative successor, and Greens co-leader Robert Habeck both expect coalition negotiations to run for the rest of the year. After the September 24, 2017 election, they went on until the following March. A fractured vote means coalition formation could be more complicated this time, meaning Merkel could easily surpass her former mentor, Helmut Kohl, as the longest-serving post-war



chancellor – a record she would set on December 17. Such a scenario would give Merkel the chance to broker a new round of so-called "Normandy format" talks with Russia, Ukraine and France in an effort to quell the conflict in eastern Ukraine – negotiations she pushed for during a trip to Kyiv last month. "I advocate working on having another meeting at the political

leadership level with myself, the French president and of course the Russian and Ukrainian presidents," she said during that trip, making clear this could happen after September 26. One person is especially nervous about her future role: French President Emmanuel Macron. French diplomats say they are worried that coalition talks could drag on into the first half of next year, when Macron will need a strong German partner both to champion his European agenda during France's rotating EU presidency and when he faces French presidential elections. "In that case, it would be even best for Macron if Merkel remained in office until the presidential election in April 2022," said Claire Demesmay, France expert at the DGAP German Council

on Foreign Relations. Turbulent climate Merkel and Macron's governments have been scoping out what they can agree during the French EU presidency, and a productive tenure would boost Macron's re-election chances, Demesmay said. "It would be very bad for him if a new coalition were to form at the beginning of 2022 – because the German partner would then be largely absent from agreements," she added. Merkel has already indicated she will have a role to play beyond September in the EU's climate protection plans, entitled "Fit for 55". Saying tough negotiations on this could begin while a new German government was being formed and she was still acting chancellor, she said in July: "We want to make sure we have a good handover."

US Woman Gets 12 Years In Prison For \$31 Million Coupon Fraud Scheme

WASHINGTON: An American woman who elevated counterfeiting coupons to an art was sentenced this week to 12 years in prison for causing losses of \$31 million to several companies, officials said Friday. Lori Ann Talens, 41, and her husband and co-defendant, Pacifico Talens, "constructed what may be one of the biggest counterfeit coupon schemes in history," prosecutors in charge of the case said. Using social media and her background in retail, the woman's skills were so deft "that the coupons she created were virtually indistinguishable from genuine coupons and took counterfeit coupon experts to positively confirm them as counterfeit," prosecutors said. At home, she created so-called "Frankenstein" coupons, by assem-

bling product images, company logos and valid barcodes on her computer. "The only suspicious aspect" was the amount of the reduction, equal to or greater than the value of the products, according to the documents. From 2017 to 2020, under the pseudonym "Masterchef", she recruited more than 2,000 clients online and sold her fake promotional coupons across the United States, raising a total of nearly \$400,000. But the losses caused to businesses were estimated at a whopping \$31 million. The suspect's husband, who was responsible for shipping the vouchers, was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison. Coupons for retail purchases are wildly popular in the United States, earning dedicated websites, communities of fans and even, in 2011, a reality TV show.

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Twitter Talks



"When the dust settles, the blame lies with the little gandhis, brother & sister. let this linger too long, handled badly with amarinder humiliated. he did badly, lost support & popularity. but in the long term view, amarinder has done well by punjab at some crucial junctures"
@HartoshSinghBal

"What are the responsibilities of Indian researchers doing work in Kashmir? And what happens when researchers choose not to disclose who they are?"
Pertinent questions on the ethics of research"
@SidrahDP

"Also, let's not forget that large parts of the Afghan diaspora were busy protesting against imaginary Pakistani drone strikes recently while they were absolutely silent when real US drones killed 1000s of people and Afghanistan was the most drone bombed country in the world"
@Emran_Feroz

Orientalist Binaries

Latbi Sadiki

Much of the reporting and commentary on Afghanistan over the past few weeks has been awash in Orientalism. Many of us are guilty of this practice in the process of opinion- and knowledge-making. It is, therefore, legitimate to ask whether when writing, commenting, reporting or analysing Afghanistan, those doing so are depicting aspects of its history, culture and people, or whether they are just producing reductive representations and stereotypes.

Afghanistan as an Orientalist category.
How many of us can identify an Afghan poet such as Gul Zhoumandai (d.1988) or the mathematician Sediq Afghan (born 1958)? Not many people would link Afghanistan to the great poet and learned scholar and mystic of Islam Jalal Al-Din Rumi (d.1273).
At best, they may muster the name of Khaled Hosseini, author of the famed novel The Kite Runner.

IF THERE IS ANY PARTING word from the attempts at 'constructing' Afghanistan, past and present, it is that no amount of Orientalist word play and attendant regimes of truth, whether by the media, social media, or the official transcripts of the powers-that-be, can win the battle of hearts and minds in the 'West' or the 'East'.

Yet Afghanistan is readily and easily confused with 'the Taliban'. Many students in universities fail to mention a single of these luminaries' names. They will, at best, have a vague idea of Taliban leaders such as Abdul Ghani Badar

and, in particular, the late Mullah Omar. Even the Cannes-winning Afghan director, Shahraboo Sadat, like filmmaker Sahraboo Karimi, are recalled today mainly in the context of their escape from the Taliban, who are generalised as 'fundamentalist', 'militant' and violent Pashtun tribesmen.
As in Edward Said's definition of Orientalism, the 'style of thought' on this Muslim Central Asian country reproduces the epistemological binary that pits Afghanistan against the entire world, and especially against European and North American countries.
In such a style, diversity cedes to singularity. The rich multi-ethnic fabric that makes up Afghanistan (ranging from Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, Turkmen, and Hazara to Kyrgyz, Sadat, Pamiri, Gujjar, among others) is under-stated, if not effaced completely.

It is a clear case of epistemic violence, postcolonial scholar Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak would wager.
If there is any parting word from the attempts at 'constructing' Afghanistan, past and present, it is that no amount of Orientalist word play and attendant regimes of truth, whether by the media, social media, or the official transcripts of the powers-that-be, can win the battle of hearts and minds in the 'West' or the 'East'.

That battle will definitely not be won by language and knowledge practices integral to imperialist pathology, such as 'forever war', 'long war' and 'war on terror'.
Knowledge makers today face a stark choice between the deflection of criticism and disruption of racism, sexism, and imperialism.

The continuing relevance of academia or media lies in the willingness to be transgressive by speaking truth to power, to denaturalise 'truths' about all kinds of 'otherness' in our world.

It is such transgressiveness that recasts the use of knowledge-power from imperial epistemic violence into intellectual consciousness, which is imbued with social and moral commitment.
That is, a commitment to rethink the power relations between coloniser and colonised, and reject regimes of oppression - discursive or political.

Most US government initiatives, wars and villains can essentially be summarised in catchy two- to three-word titles: the "Cold War", the "Red Scare", the "New World Order", the "Axis

Afro-Middle East Centre

Across The Aisle



P Chidambaram

THEIR WORST FEARS ABOUT THE education of their children – or the lack of it – have proved true. There is data to show that the country has paid a humongous price for the enforced closure of schools for 18 months

COVID-19 was, and is, an unprecedented health disaster over which humankind or the governments of the world have little control. No government can be held responsible for the origin of the virus. Governments can be held responsible only for the sufficiency or insufficiency of the response to the pandemic: its spread in the country concerned, the number of infections and deaths, the vaccination programme, and the help and support extended to citizens.

A Mixed Record
India is somewhere in the middle of the rankings. It faltered, but recovered, in containing the spread of the virus; the rise in the number of infections can be attributed to the lax social behaviour of the people; the number of deaths has been grossly underestimated; the 'vaccination for all adults' programme was painfully slow in the early months due to supply and distribution failures but seems to have gathered pace in the last three weeks; and, as for succour to the poor, there was cruel neglect by the government.

These consequences are measurable in terms of numbers or money. Beyond what is visible, however, there is a fallout that was not visible to the naked eye. I shall call the fallout the less, but greater catastrophe.

I refer to the education of our school children. Urban families with young children know that keeping the children within the confines

of the home was a challenge; rural families, after the first few months, simply let them roam the village streets and fields. All families were gripped by the fear of falling sick. They survived the first phase of fear without much thought to absence of school for their children. But as the weeks became months and months became a year, and the enforced absence from school has stretched into the second year, the families are gripped by panic.

Paid Humongous Price
Their worst fears about the education of their children – or the lack of it – have proved true. There is data to show that the country has paid a humongous price for the enforced closure of schools for 18 months.

The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2020 Wave 1 was released on February 1, 2021. It recalled the learning deficiency of rural children (as reported in ASER 2018) and probed the impact of the lockdown when schools were closed. After analysing data relating to parental education, availability of smartphones and access to textbooks and learning material, the report concluded:

- Overall, only about 35 per cent

children reported receiving any learning material from their school;

- 72 per cent of children received learning material only through WhatsApp. A majority (55 per cent) of children are in relatively poorer households that do not have a smartphone; their access to whatever learning material was being distributed would be limited;
- A study by the World Bank simulated the learning loss and concluded that school closure of seven months will cause children to lose almost a year of learning adjusted years of schooling;
- School closures will result in significant learning loss; these losses are likely to be much greater for already disadvantaged children, resulting in even greater learning gap between the rich and the poor;
- All children will need some remediation, as and when schools open
- Remedial Education

A subsequent study of 24 rural districts of Karnataka (believed to be

one of the better states in imparting school education) measured the foundational skills of children – reading and arithmetic. The findings are depressing:

- there is a marked deterioration in foundational skills between 2018 and 2020
- among children in Std V, 46.0 per cent could read a Std II level text in 2018, but this proportion declined to 33.6 per cent in 2020 (the pattern was the same across Std I to Std VIII);
- similarly, among children in Std V, 34.5 per cent could subtract and 20.5 per cent could divide in 2018, but these proportions declined to 32.1 per cent and 12.1 per cent in 2020 (the pattern was broadly the same across Std I to Std VIII).

Another study of 1,362 households across 15 states, co-ordinated by Mr Jean Dreze, has concluded that only 8 per cent of children in rural India were able to access online education while at least 37 per cent have stopped studying altogether.

There has been a lot of debate on availability of hospital beds, oxygen, ventilators, medicines, ambulances, space at burial/cremation grounds and vaccines. Courts stepped in to prod governments to do more. Many governments were alarmed and actually did more. Unfortunately, however, there has been little debate countrywide, and less action, on the learning losses of children and the remedial measures.

Unmindful of the immediate crisis, the government has launched the National Digital Architecture with the goal of "eradicating inequality in education". The Prime Minister wants to make the education system "globally competitive and the youth future-ready". These are undoubtedly splendid goals and the intention is noble, but should we not first get the children 'reading- and arithmetic-ready'?

The immediate need is remedial education. Teachers must be incentivised to work longer hours and children must be helped to overcome learning losses. No expenditure is too high to ensure that every child gets a complete school education.

The lavish feast promised by the PM can wait, the government must first ensure there is roti, chawal and sabzi on every leaf or plate.

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 Financial Express

9/11 Attacks: Why The 'War On Terror' Has No Clear Ending

Ibrahim al-Marashi

Towards the end of January 2002, I was having lunch with an Iranian friend in a restaurant in my hometown of Monterey, California. Our waitress overheard us speaking in Persian and asked: "Where are you guys from?"
I looked up at the waitress and replied in a proud voice: "I am from Iraq and he is from Iran."
"Oh. All you need is a North Korean friend and you can have an Axis of Evil luncheon," the waitress responded, apparently proud of her knowledge of global politics.

I think she expected us to laugh, or at least smile, at her clever quip - but neither of us was amused. The night before, then-President George W Bush had coined the term "Axis of Evil" in his State of the Union speech to refer to Iraq, Iran and North Korea.

I came to a few realisations after her comment. Firstly, I would give her only a 10 percent tip rather than the customary 15 in the US, and I would do so begrudgingly. Secondly, the US I had grown up in had changed for the worse after 9/11 for Muslims like myself. And thirdly, as much as I hated to admit it, these catchy titles worked.

Whoever speechwriter came up with Axis of Evil hoped to alienate the parties named, to set them apart from the rest of the "good" countries in the world. When the waitress grouped us into the unfavourable classification, I felt the marginalisation that the title was intended to inflict.

Not only did the title succeed in creating an identifiable enemy bloc, it also succeeded in working an entire political agenda into its listeners' memories. After the speech, that waitress could still remember what the Axis of Evil was and who belonged to it.

Most US government initiatives, wars and villains can essentially be summarised in catchy two- to three-word titles: the "Cold War", the "Red Scare", the "New World Order", the "Axis

THE CONFLICT WITHIN ISLAM HAS been described in the West as a battle between "radical Islam" and "moderate Islam", another problematic set of two-word titles. How does one measure whether a Muslim is "radical" or "moderate"? A Muslim is not a mobile phone with a battery symbol indicating the strength of his or her charge

Evil", and finally the "war on terror". The problem with these concise, catchy titles is that they repackage complex global phenomena into deceptively simple components. They can also backfire; the war on terror suggests that only one of the two sides can win. In this case, it was Osama bin Laden.

Struggle for agency
Twenty years ago, when the neologism war on terror was coined, it implied that terror was something that could be targeted, fought and defeated. But in reality, terror was a worldwide problem that under-represented parties have resorted to for ages in their struggle for agency.

The Bush administration could have more aptly declared a "war on Osama bin Laden", or even a "war on OBL" to fit into the three-word formula. Better yet, he could have launched a "war on al-Qaeda". Yet, it was clear that such a broad name was intentional. There were those in the Bush administration who wanted to target not just al-Qaeda, but Iraq and Iran - and the war on terror gave them free rein to justify any military action in the name of seeking out terrorists, wherever they may be. Once the administration had created the villain of the Axis of Evil, it was compelled to act against it.

Indeed, the Axis of Evil justified "Operation Iraqi Freedom" as a continuation of the war on terror. A war against Iraq was justified by merely stringing together three three-word titles.
Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilizations, depicting an essentialist conflict between western and Islamic civilisations, was another easy three-word

formula adopted by policymakers 20 years ago. What this theory neglected was the conflict wherein multiple Muslims would fight each other for the loyalties of Muslims worldwide.
The conflict within Islam has been described in the West as a battle between "radical Islam" and "moderate Islam", another problematic set of two-word titles. How does one measure whether a Muslim is "radical" or "moderate"? A Muslim is not a mobile phone with a battery symbol indicating the strength of his or her charge.

A better description for this dichotomy could be "nostalgic Islam" versus "dynamic Islam". Those called fundamentalists and radicals have one unifying factor: they believe that Islam should be practised as it was during a mythical golden age. Some have deployed violence to destroy any country, entity or ideology that challenges their views.

When US troops entered Saudi Arabia in 1990 to eject Iraq from Kuwait, bin Laden feared the influence of Americanism on Saudi Arabia's Islamic values, and hence eventually revived the group he founded in Afghanistan in the 1980s - what is known as al-Qaeda today.
Those Muslims who see Islam as fluid believe that their religion can evolve without losing its original nature practised during the prophet's lifetime. They have managed to accommodate their beliefs within a modernising world. Yet, in doing so, they have also become the target of terrorist groups, the most violent of which, so far, has been Islamic State (IS).

Mythical power
After 9/11, al-Qaeda became the epitome of the new state of world affairs; a non-state actor capable of challenging the strongest power in a unipolar world. Bin Laden, as the man who the all-powerful US could not capture for a decade, had defied the odds - a feat that granted him an almost mythical power.

Al-Qaeda provided the model that new groups imitated. The exploits of bin Laden and his supporters sparked other disenfranchised, nostalgic Muslims to act on its behalf, with other al-Qaeda groups emerging in the Arabian Peninsula, North Africa, Syria and Iraq, along with affiliates such as al-Shabab and Boko Haram.

The war against terrorism and the Iraq War that followed never achieved their goal of eradicating terror, but instead fuelled even more terrorist activity. The war on terror made bin Laden, a renegade, an adversary worthy of the attention of the world's greatest superpower. It told a world of malcontents that one disgruntled man can orchestrate a series of events that can mobilise a superpower. It also provided a myriad of causes for those malcontents to rally against. Twenty years ago, bin Laden scored the ultimate victory.
We as Muslim Americans, on the other hand, were the losers in this conflict. For two decades, we have been subject to discrimination as a result of this open-ended war. German or Japanese Americans endured systemic prejudices, but World War Two had a clear ending. Even with the death of bin Laden, anti-Muslim discrimination persisted with the rise of IS.
For us, there was no Berlin or Tokyo to surrender and declare that the war was over. Perhaps it will take the fall of Kabul, an American surrender, to finally signal the end of this latest "three-word" war.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article originally appeared in The Middle East Eye

J&K Bank CMD meets PHDCCI delegation

Entire industrial development package of Rs 28400 Cr should be routed through J&K Bank: Chaya



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of his outreach to the various trade and business associations in the J&K UT, J&K Bank Chairman & MD R K Chhibber along with his management team Saturday held an elaborate meeting with the delegation comprising of members of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kashmir Chapter) led by its Mentor Mushtaq Ahmed Chaya to discuss mutually significant issues.

The Bank's President & Special Secretary to CMD Karanjit Singh, President Anil Deep Mehta and Zonal Head Kashmir (Central-1) Syed Shafat Rufai, Vice Presidents Tasaduq Ahmad Dar and Syed Shujaat Hussain Andrabi were also present at the meeting besides members of PHDCCI including Chair PHDCCI, Baldev Singh, Chair PHDCCI Showkat Ahmed Chowdhary and Regional Director PHDCCI (J&K) Iqbal Fayaz Jan and other executive members.

Speaking on the occasion, the CMD said, "Having a systemic role in the functioning of the region's economy, J&K Bank remains sensitive to both concerns and expectations of people especially of those belonging to trade, commerce and industry; for the growth of Bank is directly linked to their financial progress."

Expressing gratitude to the UT Government for timely capital infusion of Rs 500 Cr, he said the infusion will help in the Bank to lend more to the productive sectors and grow its business.

Earlier, at the outset, Mushtaq Chaya thanked the Bank's CMD for his valuable presence at the meeting. In his remarks, he pitched strongly for routing the entire industrial development package of Rs 28400 Cr through J&K Bank.

Acknowledging the Bank's

vital role in supporting the commercial and industrial ventures during tough times, the participants said that their emotional connect with the Bank was unique and exceptionally strong, which could not be forged with others.

The delegation requested the Bank to delegate more powers to branches, support circumstantial defaulters, reduce procedural formalities and settle insurance claims timely besides further improving customer services at the branch level. The members of the chamber put forth various suggestions on the occasion besides impressing upon the need for speedy resolution of the discussed issues.

Listening patiently to the various issues and suggestions put forward by participating members, CMD R K Chhibber said the feedback was highly valuable and assured the chamber of complete support from the bank for meeting all genuine demands within the regulatory framework towards upliftment of the regional economy as a whole.

Urging the customers to have frequent interactions with their respective Cluster Heads and Zonal Heads, he said the powers have been regulated at all levels as per the laid down guidelines. Heeding the delegation's concern for timely settlement of claims, the CMD assured the members that the insurance partners would be advised to meet the customer expectations earnestly and also have regular interactions with them.

On the occasion, Mentor PHDCCI expressed his gratitude to the CMD R K Chhibber for his patient audience and positive assurance. He expressed hope that all the issues raised in the meeting shall be taken care of on the basis of merit and in a time bound manner.

Selection for Sheep Units Shopian Through Draw of Lots held

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The selection process for the establishment of various Sheep Units among the selected beneficiaries of Shopian district under various Centrally-Sponsored Schemes was held today.

The selection was carried out by the designated committee of officers headed by District Sheep Husbandry Officer Shopian, Rafiq Ahmed Shah in presence of District Development Council (DDC) Vice-Chairperson, Irfan Manhas, Chief Planning Officer, Shopian, Khursheed Ahmed Khatana,

Wool Development Officer and other concerned officers was carried out at Sheep Husbandry Complex Shirmaal, Shopian.

The selection process of the beneficiaries was held openly through a draw of lots in which nine (09) beneficiaries were selected for establishing different Units of Sheep of 25 Ewes, 125 Ewes, 175 Ewes and 200 Ewes with subsidy of 50 percent ((Rs 1 lac per 25 Ewes units totaling to Rs 29 Lac subsidy).

Besides, nine (09) persons were selected for the benefit of shearing machines with Gen Set with a subsidy component of Rs 4.5 lacs.



Non-filers of monthly GST return to be barred from filing GSTR-1 from Jan 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Businesses that default on filing summary return and paying monthly GST will not be able to file GSTR-1 sales return of the succeeding month from January 1 next year.

The GST Council in its Lucknow meeting on September 17 has decided to take a host of measures to streamline compliance, including mandatory Aadhaar authentication for businesses to file refund claims.

These moves would help prevent revenue leakage due to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was launched on July 1, 2017.

The Council decided to amend Rule 59(6) of the Central GST Rules with effect from January 1, 2022, to provide that a regis-

tered person shall not be allowed to furnish Form GSTR-1, if he has not furnished the return in Form GSTR-3B for the preceding month.

Currently, the law restricts filing of return for outward supplies or GSTR-1 in case a business fails to file GSTR-3B of preceding two months.

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

The Council has also made Aadhaar authentication of GST registration mandatory for being eligible for filing refund claim and application for revocation of cancellation of registration.

The Central Board of Indirect

Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had notified Aadhaar authentication for GST registration with effect from August 21, 2020.

The notification also provided that in case businesses do not provide Aadhaar number, then GST registration would be granted only after physical verification of the place of business.

The Council has now decided businesses will now have to link their GST registration with biometric Aadhaar for claiming tax refunds as also applying for revocation of cancellation of registration.

In its 45th meeting, the Council, comprising Central and state finance ministers, also decided that GST refunds will be disbursed in the bank account, which is linked with the same PAN on which registration has been obtained under GST.

Opposition-ruled states demand extension of GST compensation regime beyond June 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Finance ministers of Opposition-ruled states have demanded that the GST compensation cess regime be extended beyond June 2022.

Briefing reporters after the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow on Friday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST will end in June next year.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In his speech at the meeting, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiagarajan demanded continuation of the compensation mechanism, and deferment of a decision on this issue.

While we are broadly, and firmly in favour of the continuation of the compensation mechanism, we are concerned by many of the details, he said.

Thiagarajan said all the Council Members will require some time to analyse and assess the features and consequences of the options presented during the 45th meeting, and hence expect that any decision on the way for-



ward will be deferred to the 46th meeting at least.

To be doubly sure, we formally place a request that no final decision be made on this most important issue without the benefit of the time needed to fully assess the options, Thiagarajan added.

Briefing reporters, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Saturday said he has pitched for extending the GST compensation regime as he highlighted that the state is already grappling with significant revenue shortfall.

In case the GST compensation regime ends next year, the state will face further revenue shortfall, Balagopal said and expressed hope that it would be extended.

Minister of State for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Chandrima Bhattacharya said the state has demanded an extension of the compensation

mechanism by five years.

It has been decided to set up a GOM for deciding the modalities of compensation mechanism, she had said after the meeting on Friday.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the matter of compensation cess would be referred to a group of ministers (GoM).

Briefing reporters on Friday, Sitharaman had said that in the 43rd GST Council meeting it was decided that beyond July 2022 the collection of cess would be for payment of loans taken.

Beyond July 2022, the cess that we are collecting, as agreed in the 43rd Council meeting, was for the purpose of repaying the loan. That commences July 2022 and goes till March 2026 only and only for paying the loan given to states since last year.

So for repaying the loan taken and given to states as back-to-back loan since last year and is continuing this year also, we need to have collection of cess beyond July 2022 and till March 2026, Sitharaman had said.

The Centre has estimated the shortfall in GST compensation payable to states in the current fiscal year at Rs 2.59 lakh crore, of which about Rs 1.59 lakh crore would have to be borrowed this year.

Last fiscal year too, the Centre borrowed and released to states Rs 1.10 lakh crore towards GST compensation.

Directorate of H&H signs MOU with SKAUST



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir and SKAUST Saturday signed an MOU at SKAUST, Kashmir to test the Pashmina fibre at Shuhama, Ganderbal now onwards.

The testing of the fibre was done by the PTQCC lab of the Handicrafts & Handloom Department.

In view of the overwhelming response of getting the GI Mark at PTQCC Lab and to concentrate only on GI Marking, the Department has found that the Pashmina testing lab of SKAUST at Shuhama is fit for doing the tests and henceforth all the testing of Pashmina fibre

will be done at Shuhama. As an additional facility the Pashmina Lab of SKAUST at Shuhama will furnish the results through email, thus helping in increasing the overall efficiency and expeditious delivery of results.

The PTQCC Lab at Bagh-i-Ali Mardan, Nowshahra Srinagar hence forth will do only GI Certification.

The rates charged by the SKAUST shall be Rs 500/- per sample. Rates have been reduced keeping in view of the demand projected by various organizations dealing in the concerned trade.

This arrangement shall be beneficial for both the organization.

7.3 MT sweet corn yield expected this year: Director Agri Kashmir

Holds virtual meet to review marketing facilities



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Saturday held a virtual meeting with the senior officers of the Department and JKHPMC regarding the marketing of Sweet Corn in and outside of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture asked the concerned officers to explore all the available marketing options in and outside the UT of J&K. Besides the conventional markets ensure the availability of sweet corn at all the tourist destinations of valley, he said and added.

Director Agriculture said the Department is going to celebrate Sweet Corn Day to appreciate the efforts of Sweet Corn Farmers and the concerned officers/ officials of the Department who worked hard to make it a successful venture.

He reiterated the hand holding to the farmers so that they could not face any problem with respect to the marketing of their produce. He directed the concerned Chief Agriculture Officers to showcase sweet corn at local as well as outside markets because sweet corn is still a

new crop to the consumers of valley which will on one hand help the propagation of this cereal and on the other hand will also attract more and more farmers towards this remunerative and economically sustainable agriculture commodity.

Chowdhary Iqbal asked the officers to make use of refrigerated vans of the Department for the transportation and marketing of the sweet corn. He directed for exploring the value addition of Sweet Corn so that it could be branded more effectively at different marketing platforms in and outside of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinent to mention 132 hectares of land has been brought under the cultivation of sweet corn this year in the valley with an anticipated production 7.3 MT of sweet corn.

Speaking on the occasion, MD JKHPMC Shafat Sultan reiterated the commitment of corporation to provide the better marketing facilities to sweet corn growers. He said that Corporation is working to explore the possibilities of processing of sweet corn so that it could be offered to the consumers in a multi seasonal and multi formal manner.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Age, and Education. Lists names of candidates for sheep units.

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BJP MP Babul Supriyo Joins TMC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: BJP MP and former minister Babul Supriyo, who recently announced that he was quitting politics, joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata on Saturday.

"Today, in the presence of national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and RS MP Derek O'Brien, former Union Minister and sitting MP Babul Supriyo joined the Trinamool family," the party said in a tweet.

Last month, Supriyo had announced that he was quitting politics but was later persuaded against resigning as a Lok Sabha member even as the singer-turned-politician insisted that he would no longer be part of active politics.

Speaking to reporters after



meeting BJP president J P Nadda, the Asansol MP had said he would continue to discharge his constitutional responsibilities as a parliamentarian but would withdraw from politics and leave his official residence in the national capital. PTI

Journalist Arrested In Haryana For Publishing "Incorrect Place" Of Terrorist's Arrest



Ambala (Haryana): A journalist was arrested and another was booked at Ambala Cantonment here for allegedly mentioning "incorrect place" of arrest of a suspected terrorist in a news report, prompting the opposition to attack the Haryana government for "suppressing" freedom of press.

An FIR was registered against reporter Sunil Brar and news editor Sandeep Sharma of Dainik Bhaskar on Thursday under different sections of the IPC, police said, adding that Brar was taken into custody yesterday. Efforts are on to nab Sharma, they said.

A suspected terrorist was arrested by the Punjab Police on Wednesday over an alleged tiffin bomb plot from Mardon Sahib village of Ambala. The newspaper headline the following day stated 'Punjab police claims arrest of terrorist at Cantt from near IOC depot'.

However, the newspaper published a correction the next day on the location from where the suspected terrorist was arrested. SHO, Ambala Cantt, Vijay Kumar said the case against the journalists was registered as they published the news without any authentication. Journalists Sunil Brar and Sandeep Sharma have created fear among the

masses by publishing false news, he added.

The two have been booked under IPC sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 177 (furnishing false information), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 505 (2) (statement creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes), police said.

Meanwhile, Brar was today produced in the court of Duty Magistrate Mukesh Kumar. The court granted him bail on furnishing a personal bond of 50,000.

Latching onto the issue, the opposition parties, including the Congress, INLD, Haryana Democratic Front and BSP, criticised the action taken against the mediapersons.

Senior Congress leader Rohit Jain said the arrest was made against the direction of the Supreme Court. He said the police had not issued any prior notice to the journalist before arresting him.

Chitra Sarwara, a senior leader of the Haryana Democratic Front, and BSP leader Prakash Bharti alleged that the police had violated the norms of democracy. It is an attack on the freedom of press, they said.

Amarinder Singh Resigns As Punjab Chief Minister

Agenceis

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh submitted his resignation from the post to Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Saturday, September 18. The decision came after a meeting of legislators close to the Chief Minister at his official residence in Chandigarh. Raninder Singh, Captain Amarinder Singh's son, tweeted a picture of his father handing over his resignation to the Punjab Governor after a press conference on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, Amarinder Singh phoned Congress president Sonia Gandhi and expressed his anguish over the "humiliation" meted to him, sources told PTI. Over 50 MLAs in the party had reportedly written to Sonia Gandhi seeking that Amarinder Singh be replaced as Chief Minister, a development that comes just about four months ahead of Assembly elections in the state. The MLAs, in their letter, sought the convening of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, held on Friday at the Congress Bhawan in Chandigarh. The high command had deputed senior party leaders Ajay Maken and Harish Chaudhary as central observers.

The All India Congress Committee general secretary



in-charge for Punjab affairs of the party, Harish Rawat, was also present during the meeting. The sources termed the current crisis amidst the party in Punjab "serious", as many MLAs had sought Amarinder Singh's replacement so close to elections.

Trouble between the CLP and the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), the two factions of the Congress in the state, has been brewing for a long time and Amarinder Singh was strongly opposed to Navjot

Singh Sidhu's appointment as PCC chief.

Sidhu has been at loggerheads with Amarinder Singh ever since he quit the Punjab cabinet as a minister in 2019. Sidhu's principal strategic adviser and former IPS officer Mohd Mustafa in a tweet said it is the time to have a "Congress CM" after a "long agonising wait" of four and a half years. "Today is the time for course correction," Mustafa said, referring to the meeting on Saturday.

'Navjot Sidhu Imran Khan's Buddy, A Security Risk'

Agenceis

CHANDIGARH: Dubbing Navjot Sidhu as anti-national, dangerous, incompetent and a security threat to the country, Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday said he will fight any move to make the Punjab Congress president the chief minister of the state.

Agitated by the trust reposed by the party high command on his bete noire, Amarinder said there was no question of supporting Sidhu, who according to him "was clearly mixed up with Pakistan and a danger, as well as a disaster, for Punjab and the country".

"I cannot allow such a man to destroy us, I will continue to fight the issues that are bad for his state and its people," said the outgoing Chief Minister in an interview with the NDTV, lashing out at Sidhu for his close alliance with the leadership



across the border. "We have all seen Sidhu hugging Imran Khan and General Bajwa, and singing praises for the Pakistan Prime Minister at the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor while our soldiers were being killed at the borders every day," he said, pointing out that the

ex-cricketer had attended Imran's swearing-in even after he (Capt Amarinder) categorically told him not to.

"The government of Punjab means the security of India, and if Sidhu is made the face of the Congress for chief ministership, I will fight him at every step," he added.

“ WE HAVE ALL SEEN SIDHU HUGGING Imran Khan and General Bajwa, and singing praises for the Pakistan Prime Minister at the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor while our soldiers were being killed at the borders every day.”

Courts Can't Use Power To Summon As Accused In "Casual" Manner: Supreme Court

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said that courts can exercise their power to proceed against persons not accused but appearing to have committed an offence only when there is "strong and cogent evidence" against such individuals and not in a "casual and cavalier manner".

Under Section 319 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), when during the course of inquiry or trial of offence, it appears from the evidence that any person, who has not been made an accused, has committed any offence; the court can proceed against such individual for the offence which he appears to have committed.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and P S Narasimha while dealing with a criminal case said, "This is yet another case where summons issued purporting to invoke power under Section 319 of the CrPC has brought the newly summoned person to this court."

It said that the test as laid down by the Constitution bench of this court for invoking power under Section 319 CrPC inter alia includes the principle that only when strong and cogent evidence occurs against a person from the evidence, the power under Section 319 CrPC should be exercised.

"The power cannot be exercised in a casual and cavalier manner. The test to be applied, as laid down by this court, is one which is more than prima facie case which is applied at the time of framing of charges," the bench said in its September 13 order.

The top court referred to the 2014 Constitution bench verdict in Hardeep Singh versus State of Punjab and others which dealt with the issue of applicability of Section 319 of CrPC and said it will all depend upon the evidence which is tendered in a given case as to whether there is a strong ground to proceed against an individual, who has not been made accused.

The top court made the remarks in the order on a plea filed by Ramesh Chandra Srivastava, whose driver's body was found in 2015.

The wife of the driver alleged and made a deposition in the court that Mr Srivastava, who has not been arraigned as an accused by the prosecution, murdered her husband with the help of his friends.

The trial court based on the deposition of the wife of the

driver summoned the employer as an accused.

Mr Srivastava then challenged the order of the trial court before the high court unsuccessfully and approached the top court.

The top court said, "We are of the view that from the facts of this case, it becomes necessary for us to direct the sessions judge, Khiri, to consider the matter afresh in the light of the principles which have been clearly enunciated by this court."

It allowed the appeal of Mr Srivastava and set aside the judgment of the Allahabad High Court and the order of trial court summoning him as an accused.

"The sessions judge, Khiri, will apply his mind in the light of the principles which have been laid down by the Constitution bench. The sessions judge, Khiri, will call this case on September 30, 2021. The parties will be present on the said day. Thereafter the court will pass appropriate orders bearing in mind the principles which have been laid down by this court in the Hardeep Singh case (2014 verdict)," the bench said.

According to the prosecution, an FIR was lodged on June 27, 2015 by the wife of the driver, alleging that her husband told her that he is leaving for work to meet Mr Srivastava.

In the FIR, it is also stated that at 2 pm on the same day, her husband called and said that he is going to Gola town of Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh and shall return by evening.

She claimed that her husband's phone was then switched off and an unidentified body was found. She further alleged that the murder of her husband was committed by his employer with the help of his friends.

In her deposition before the court on August 5, 2017, she said that on June 23, 2015, her husband left home around 7-8 in the morning telling her that his car owner had called him immediately.

She also deposed that when she called Mr Srivastava, he told her that the car was found near the government tubewell nearby Lagucha area and that slippers of her husband were lying in that car.

On the day of her deposition, an application was filed on behalf of the prosecution invoking Section 319 CrPC and the sessions judge, Khiri, in the order of September 11, 2018, took the view that the power under Section 319 CrPC has to be invoked and ordered to summon Mr Srivastava.

“ THE POWER CANNOT BE EXERCISED in a casual and cavalier manner. The test to be applied, as laid down by this court, is one which is more than prima facie case which is applied at the time of framing of charges.”

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