



P6 THINK

READING CHINA IN AFGHANISTAN

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid last week announced that China would be the new Afghan government's "most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us... China is our pass to markets all over

P7

ARBA'EEN AND SHIA SPIRITUALITY

The concept of pilgrimage exists in all major religions, however, not many know about the pilgrimage to Iraq – Najaf and Karbala, which is known as Arba'een. The Arabic word Arr-ba-eeen translates to forty days period of mourning (Aza). This period of mourning as an ideology may be



P11 SPORTS

AFGHANISTAN GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM GIVEN ASYLUM IN PORTUGAL

The girls on Afghanistan's national football team were anxious. For weeks, they had been moving around the country, waiting for word that they



Quote!

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door
– Milton Berle

NEWS DIGEST

Landslide Injures 3 Labourers

SRINAGAR: Three labourers were injured in a landslide during construction of a road in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said. The landslide occurred while excavation of a slope for road construction by Beacon authorities was underway at village Dara Gutliyan Uri, they said. ● [More On P10](#)

4 Sticky Bombs Destroyed In Poonch

SRINAGAR: The bomb disposal squad (BDS) of police on Wednesday destroyed four sticky bombs recovered along with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir last month. According to the reports, the bombs were destroyed along banks of a river near Bharirakh in Mendhar. The bombs, recovered ● [More On P10](#)

Lightning Kills 350 Sheep In Kangan

SRINAGAR: Around 350 sheep died and two nomads received injuries when lightning hit the upper reaches of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, reports said Wednesday. SDPO Kangan Yasir Qadri said that the lightning hit Laman Wangath Naranag area and left around 350 sheep dead and two bakarwals injured. ● [More On P10](#)

3 Killed As Cab Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: Three persons were killed when a passenger cab they were travelling in fell into about 300-ft deep gorge in Mendhar area of Poonch district on Wednesday. A police official said that a Tata sumo (HR-1939) on way from Mendhar towards Chunnga Namah, skidded off the road ● [More On P10](#)

Govt Fires Six More Employees For 'Terror' Links

2 Cops, Two Teachers, Forest Range Officer Among Those Dismissed
Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Six government employees, including two policemen, were on Wednesday dismissed from service for their alleged links with militants in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the total number of employees sacked in last nearly six months to 25, officials said. Among those dismissed from service earlier, there were two sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and tainted Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh who was caught along with a wanted militant and two others early this year. The six employees who were dismissed by the government, include constable Showkat Ahmad Khan, a resident of Budgam who was involved in the looting of service weapons from the house of a member of legislative council in Srinagar



Representation Photo

with whom he was posted as a Personal Security Officer in 2018. The policeman was arrested and subsequently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on August 8 last year, the officials said.

They said constable Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar was arrested in a case that is presently under investigation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The probe has revealed that Butt provided his car to Hizbul Mujahideen militants and facilitated their safe movement in his hometown, the officials said, adding that ● [More On P10](#)

with whom he was posted as a Personal Security Officer in 2018. The policeman was arrested and subsequently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on August 8 last year, the officials said. They said constable Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar was arrested in a case that is presently under investigation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The probe has revealed that Butt provided his car to Hizbul Mujahideen militants and facilitated their safe movement in his hometown, the officials said, adding that ● [More On P10](#)

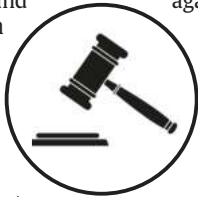
Govt Sending a Wrong Signal To Workforce: Tarigami

PI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday said the summary dismissal of employees with suspected militant links was sending a wrong signal to the workforce in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the UT administration to afford the affected persons a hearing before taking a final decision. "If at all, there are serious allegations against anybody, the procedure is laid down, which is to give them a notice, provide them an opportunity of being heard. That is the least which the government should do," Tarigami said. He was reacting to the administration's decision to terminate six employees for suspected militant links. ● [More On P10](#)

HC Seeks Details Of Cases Pending Against MPs, Ex-MLAs

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has directed the Advocate General (AG) and Assistant Solicitor General of India (ASGI) to furnish a list of cases pending against the former, sitting MPs and ex-MLAs in the twin Union Territories. Befitting the directions of the Supreme Court for monitoring the progress of the trial of cases pending against the sitting and former legislators, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has registered a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) as "Court on its own motion versus Union of India and others". It is pertinent to mention here that on September 16, 2020, the Supreme Court while



hearing a petition filed by one Ashwani Kumar Upadhaya, had observed that one of the main objectives behind issuing notice in the Writ Petition and the various orders that have been passed time to time by this court was to ensure that criminal prosecutions against elected representatives are concluded expeditiously. In the issued order, the Apex Court was of the opinion that such special consideration was required not only because of the rising wave of criminalization that was occurring in the politics in the country, but also due to the power that elected representatives wield, to influence or hamper effective prosecution. "As legislators are the repositories of the faith and trust of their electorate, ● [More On P10](#)

Kulgam Family's Search For Abducted Son Ends Decomposed Body Of Soldier Found, Family Says It's Him

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The decomposed body of a man, suspected to be that of a Territorial Army jawan kidnapped by militants last year, was recovered from Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

Police found the body, wrapped in a tarpaulin, in Mohammadpora in Kulgam.

Police suspect that the mortal remains might be of Territorial Army jawan Shakir Manzoor Wagay who was kidnapped by militants on August 2 last year.

Police has taken the body for identification and other medical formalities, they said.

Meanwhile, the family believes that the recovered body is of Shakir.

"I am sure it is his body. The structure of his feet is



same as mine and the hair is also similar," says 56-year-old Manzoor, Shakir's father.

His family had last month observed Shakir's first death anniversary at their village near Reshipora, 15 km from the main district of Shopian in volatile South Kashmir. The soldier was the sole breadwinner of his family.

Manzoor said it seemed that his son's body was buried

somewhere else and was later dumped near the mobile tower where it was found.

The decomposed body was recovered by the 34 Rashtriya Rifles after receiving information that a body was found wrapped under a canopy near the mobile tower.

The body was handed over to local police who sought a team from neighbouring Anantnag district to collect DNA samples and match it with those of the family members. The skeletal remains were taken to Srinagar for DNA tests. Manzoor was also taken to Srinagar, a family member said.

"I am sure that it is his (Shakir) body but let the legal action be over. After that I will bury him with all rituals," a sobbing Manzoor said.

Since August 2 last year, when Shakir ● [More On P10](#)

Board Announces Mass Promotion For Class-XI Students



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Wednesday announced mass promotion of all the candidates of annual, bi-annual private examination of 11th standard to next level on the analogy of previous year's result declared during the COVID-19.

"In order to save the academic year of all those candidates appearing in the higher secondary part-I (Class XI), annual, private and bi-annual 2020-2021 examination, Kashmir Division, scheduled to be held from 23 September 2021 shall be promoted to next higher class (Class 12th) on the analogy of previous year's result declared during the COVID-19," reads a notification issued by Director Academic, Farooq Ahmed Peer on Wednesday.

It adds that the decision has been taken due to the paucity of time left for conducting forthcoming Annual (Regular) examinations in Kashmir Division/ winter zone areas of Jammu division. The notification further reads that the candidates promoted shall be allowed to appear in the forthcoming class 12th annual regular 2021 examination in Kashmir division and Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division, subject to the condition that they are admitted in schools and have a minimum of 66 percent (online /offline) attendance during the current academic session 2020-21, to be certified by concerned heads of the Schools or Institutions.

"The candidates who have applied for subject change, additional subject and other categories shall also be declared as pass in Class 11 in the respective subjects as one time exception, provided they have ● [More On P10](#)

Shopkeeper Shot At, Injured In Shopian

Soldier Opens Fire At Auto Driver, Foil "Rifle Snatching" Bid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Wednesday shot at and injured a shopkeeper in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

22-year-old Zameer Hameed Bhat was fired upon by suspected militants at his house in Chitragam Kalan area of the district on Wednesday night, reports said. Bhat, who sustained gunshot injuries in his leg, was removed to sub-district hospital Zainapora for treatment.

The youth is said to be running a readymade garment store in his native village.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that preliminary ● [More On P10](#)

...RECHRISTENING INSTITUTIONS

Objective To Present 'Local Heroes' Before Children: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Wednesday that the objective of renaming institutions in the Union Territory after martyrs and prominent awardees' was to present the local heroes before children to inspire and familiarize them with their contribution.

The remarks about it were made by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday during a meeting with the officers of various government departments for renaming institutions and infrastructure with martyrs and prominent awardees' names, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by Director Handloom & Handicrafts,

Secretary J&K Sports Council Srinagar, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Additional Secretary Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Srinagar, Deputy Director Libraries, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Srinagar, artists and artisans. During the meeting, official spokesperson said that the Div Com enjoined the officers to identify the prominent persons who have received awards like Padma or Sahitya Akademy awards or other national and international awards in any field including handloom, handicraft, literature, education, medicine, art, sports etc.

"He said the objective of renaming institutions is to present our local heroes before children to inspire and familiarize them with the contribution of such prominent ● [More On P10](#)

Jammu Shuts Down First Time After Abrogation Of Art 370

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Normal life was hit across the Jammu region on Wednesday amid a day-long strike call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) to protest against the alleged directionless policies of the administration.

The strike, which evoked widespread support from almost all opposition political parties and social groups, remained peaceful with no untoward incident reported from anywhere, officials said.

The work in courts was affected by the strike, which was also supported by the Jammu chapter of J&K High Court Bar Association.

The main markets in the city



wore a deserted look as shops and business establishments including retail chemist shops were closed, while the movement of public and private transport was thin.

Protests and rallies at various places by traders and activists of

National Panthers Party (NPP) in the city marked the strike, which was the first of its kind in the Jammu province after the abrogation of Article 370.

Among other things, the sponsors of the strike are agitated over the ● [More On P10](#)

Ready To Meet Any Security Challenge: Army Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army is continuously monitoring the situation in the country's neighbourhood and is ready to meet any security challenge that comes its way, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Wednesday.

Addressing the AIMA National Management Convention, the Chief of Army Staff noted that the army is prepared to tackle even a dual-front war if the need arose.

He highlighted that the Indian Army was making rapid strides in changing itself from being a manpower intensive army to a technologically empowered one in order to keep an edge over opponents.

"We always continue to do a regional and environmental scan and based on that scan we do keep reviewing what threat



perceptions could be. Based on those threat perceptions, we recalibrate our possible responses.

"That is always work in progress and we will always be prepared to meet whatsoever security challenges that come due to this changed situation," Gen Naravane stated.

He was responding to a query on how the Indian Army views the return of ● [More On P10](#)

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2

Thursday | 23-09-2021

VIGYAN PRASAR
(An autonomous organisation of the Department of Science & Technology)
Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016

FILLING UP OF SHORT TERM CONTRACTUAL POSITIONS

Vigyan Prasas invites applications for various posts under the Project-Weekly Science & Technology Television Programme under the aegis of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India at Noida/Delhi office on contractual basis. The details of the positions, eligibility and experience are available at www.vigyanprasas.gov.in. Applications can be submitted online till 15th October 2021, 5:30 PM.

DAVP/36103/11/0011/2122 Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME:- SHOWKAT AHMAD DAR
S/O :- MOHD YOUSUF DAR
R/O :- SHOUL BATENGGO ANANTNAG

RNA

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGNS

Archi Designs

Architecture, Structure ,
Interiors designs and Private Contracts
Chinnar Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
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Al Buraq

For Used Cars & Two Wheelers
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WhatsApp:- 7006599421

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Deals with clothing
and home appliances at whole sale rates.

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I.G: yardimci_multi_venture_
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

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All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories
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All Mobile and Electronic
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CREATORS SALON FOR MEN

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Beauty
Sannat nagar Srinagar
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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

GREEN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

Dated :- 16-09-2021

Jadipora Kulgam Kashmir

List of Managing Body

S.No	NAME	DESIGNATION	QUALIFICATION	OCCUPATION	RESIDENCE
1	Ab Rehman Seh	Chairman	10+2	Retired Govt Employee	Jadipora
2	Ayaz Ahmad Teeli	Secretary	M.A/B.ED	Private Job	Kharapora Srandoo
3	Ab Aziz Dar	Member	Matric	Retired Govt Employee	Kulpura
4	Sayar Ahmad Bhat	Parent Member	B.A/B.ED	Private Job	Kulpura
5	Najeeb -Ul -Islam	Parent Member	M.A	Private Job	Kulpura

If anybody having any objection against above mentioned persons he/she can submit objection reports in the office of DESK within 7days from the date of publication of this notice . No objection will be entertained after of expiry.

RNA



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one.

Shri : Mohammad
Yousuf Malik S/o: Abdul
Khaliq Malik R/o:
Shunglipora Beerwah
Budgam (Transferor) of
Scooty Vehicle bearing
registration number JK04D-3562 Chasis number
8032774 Engine no.123900 Model 2016. in favour
of Shri.Komal Kumari S/o. Kartar Singh R/o Kahri
Bhaderwah,Kahri Doda (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information
of the general public that objections if any to the
proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed
in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional
Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of
07days from the date of publication of this notice in
the daily newspaper Srinagar Times.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3427 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 22/09/2021 Budgam Kashmir



**UNIVERSITY
OF KASHMIR**

South Campus

**NAAC ACCREDITED 'A+'
GRADE UNIVERSITY**

NOTICE

This is for the information
of all the candidates who
have been selected for
various PG. courses at
South campus for the
Batch-2021 that they
should approach the
concerned Departments
(along with all the original
documents) prior to
deposition of admission fee
so that authority slip/fee
slip can be issued for the
purpose of admission.

No. F/Admission-2021-1JSC/KU/21 Sd:
Dated:-22-09-2021 DIRECTOR
DIPK-NB-3726-10

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K, JAMMU

**Subject:- Selection list for the posts of Assistant Professor, Public
Administration in Higher Education Department-reg.**

Circular No: 07-JK (HE) of 2021

Dated: 21-09-2021

The J&K Public Service Commission vide letter No. PSC/DR/AP/Public Adm./Hr. Edu/2017 dated: 25-08-2021 has recommended the list of Assistant Professors, Public Administration to the Higher Education Department for further appointment. In this regard, all the selected candidates are advised to submit their particulars in terms of Government Order No. 528-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated: 21-06-2021 for verification of Character and Antecedents roles/form (triplicate copies) to the Higher Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar within 15 days positively, to enable the department to conduct Character and Antecedents verification from CID J&K before issuance of the appointment order in favour of recommended/selected candidates (Copy enclosed).

(Anil Sharma)
Under Secretary to the Government
Higher Education Department.

DIPK-9152/21
No:-HED-estb/200/2021-04
Dated:- 21-09-2021

**List of Selected candidates for the post of Assistant Professor (Public
Administration):**

S.No.	NAME	CATEGORY	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS
1	ZUBAIR NAZEER	OM	NAZEER AHMAD MALIK	34 C/O NAZEER AHMAD MALIK NEW COLONY KHANPORA PINJOORA SHOPIAN
2	MOHD SHAFI BHAT	OM	HAJI GHULAM NABI BHAT	16 HERPORA WOPZAN BIJBEHARA
3	NAZIR AHMAD MIR	OM	MOHMAD RAMZAN MIR	DELINA DARPORA BARAMULLA
4	ISHFAQ UL RAHMAN	OM	ABDUL RAHMAN ITOO	6 AIRPORT AVENUE COLONY HUMHAMA NEW AIRPORT ROAD 38 WARD NO 3 LANE NO 2 BARI BRAHMANA
5	SATISH KHAJURIA	OM	BISHAN DASS	89 MOHALLA ANIPORA HARDU- SHICHAN
6	RIFAT GULL	RBA	GH MOHD GANIE	EAST EXTENSION 1/A FRIENDS COLONY TRIKUTA NAGAR
7	GAGANDEEP JANGRAL	SC	SODAGAR MAL JANGRAL	22 BDO OFFICE LANE KOTRANKA
8	MOHD ARIF AHMED	ST	MOHD YOUSAF	

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER,
JKPCC LIMITED ANANTNAG / KULGAM UNIT**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(for Road work/bridges/Buildings)
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM(Up to Rs2.50 Crores)
NIT No:- 19/e-tendering/DGM/ANANTNAG-KULGAM of 2021-22
dated:- 16/09/2021.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPCC Ltd., e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work.	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of tender document (In Rs.)	Time of completion.	M.H of Account.	Class of Contractor.
1	2	3	4	6	7	8
01	Sewerage System, Water Pumps & other allied works at Govt. Medical College Dialgam, Anantnag.	91.00	5000.00	60 days	4210	Registered "A" Class Govt. / CPWD

Major Head of Account = 4210 (Capital Outlay on Medical and Public Health)
Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Available

The Bidding documents consisting of critical dates, qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in under PWD/MDJKPCC/Kashmir Circle

No: -JKPCC/Ang/Kul/ 2621-33 Sd/= Deputy General Manager
Dated:- 16/09/2021. JKPCC Ltd., Ang / Kul Unit.
DIPK-NB-3706/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HORTICULTURE P&M CONST.DIV.SGR.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.46 of 2021 -22 **DATED: 21-09-2021**

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K UT, tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Horticulture (P&M) at Rajbagh by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs	Cost of Tender documents	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Development of berms by way of Khak Bajri Filling to Approach Road Fruit and Vegetable Market Aglar Shopian	2.43	200/-	07 days	DEE	NABARD

Position of AAA/TS: - Accorded. **Position of Funds: - Assured/ Available.**

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-09-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21-09-2021
3.	Bid submission Start Date	21-09-2021
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27-09-2021 up to 4:00 Pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28-09-2021 at 11:00 AM

Note: - As per circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat finance department:

A) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e tenders is dispensed with the same and should be obtained from the bidders who is declare first lowest (L1) after opening of financial bids.

B) first lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR /FDR within (02) two days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

C) All bidders must have to upload Card Verification Certificate issued by Concerned Authority.

Deposit Head (HPM)
The Horticulture Planning and Marketing Division does not have sanctioned deposit Head.
The Allotted agency should produce FDR @ 10% of running bills which shall be treated as bill deposit and shall be released after DLP is over as per the procedure.

1) All bidders have to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the secular of finance department (bid security declaration form is as Annexure A below

2) The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

3) Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury challan to be credited into revenue head 0401(nonrefundable) in favour of Executive Engineer HPM (Tender Inviting Authority)

4) 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.

5) The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer.

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

7) The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make 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.

d. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

8.1. 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 in acquaint bid submission process.

8.2. 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.

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

8.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.8.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. 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. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan in favor of Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Rajbagh, to Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Rajbagh must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. Including scanned copy of WhatsApp contact Number.

11. 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 inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

12. Price escalation and Taxes: -The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to 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.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

15. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item / items in the allotment of contract.

No. EE/Horti/P&M/2021-22/1196-98 Sd/-Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M)
Dated:- 21-09-2021 Construction Division Kashmir Srinagar
DIPK-9107/21

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGNS

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

AUTOMOBILE

Al Buraq
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Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar
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WhatsApp:- 7006599421

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A complete Boutique to style your life, Sannat Nagar, Srinagar
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Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
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G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture_
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

COMPUTERS

Maccos 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

Dalgate, Srinagar
Contact:-9419064835

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 Babodhem Srinagar
Contact:-8493957698

Off Complux
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
Nakshpora 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-Filling-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- 9419006446
Amriz 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
Suraj Joinery Works- 9906698804

Tutorials
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Excellent Coaching for,
9th,10th,11th &12th classes
Contact:-7006515740



AS THE AUTUMN SEASON (HARUD) SETS IN, KASHMIR'S WALNUTS ARE PRODUCED FOR THE MARKETS in and outside Kashmir. J&K is the major walnut producing region with production of around 2.66 lakh metric tonnes. The Kashmiri walnut industry contributes about 98 per cent of the total walnut exports from India to other countries. KO Photo Abid Bhat

No Response From Commercial Airlines For Night Flights: Director

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Airport authorities here said that the Night landing facilities are available at Srinagar international Airport, but the airlines have so far not responded about the proper night flight operations. "We have informed almost all the Airlines that they can use the Srinagar Airport runway for night landing, but so far they have not responded," Director Srinagar Airport Kuldeep Singh told the news agency. Kuldeep Singh said that all the facilities for night flight operations are available at the airport. "If any airline is interested in flying the night flights like Srinagar Mumbai, Delhi, or other destinations, they can use the facilities at the Airport," he said. "We have conveyed the message to all the Airlines and now it is up to them to make their decision. If we are running the last



flight from Srinagar at 7.30 PM, we can also run a flight at 11 PM. We have all facilities available here in the Airport for night flight operations", he said. Sources said that the all necessary permissions for night-landing

operations have been granted and that extending hours of operations at Srinagar Airport will provide a great boost to aviation activities and tourism sector in Kashmir. At present, the last flight from the summer capital of Jammu

and Kashmir takes off at 7: 30 pm. Once night flying operations begin, this is expected to be extended till 11 pm. The Srinagar airport, which was given international status in 2005 is the main airport in the Kashmir Valley. Sources said that the increase in flying hours is likely to boost the tourism sector in the state. However, airport authorities may not allow night flights during winters as part of safety measures against snow and fog. The Jammu airport has been designated as an alternative airport in case of emergencies, sources said. Officials informed that after the Indian Air Force and Defence Ministry gave nod to the operation of night flights at Srinagar Airport, the then government had decided to start night operations from lone airport in the summer capital from February

2016. However, the facility could not take off due to poor response and fear of losses by airlines. A senior Civil Aviation official here informed that airlines were invited to start evening flights in 2016; however, most airlines feared of incurring losses as there was not much response to evening flights as most of the markets in Kashmir were closed by the time of dusk. However it is to be mentioned here that in the month of March this year the Srinagar airport was technically cleared for night operations. Go Air was the first private player to take off from Srinagar to New Delhi. The Go Air flight G8 7007 then had taken off from Srinagar Airport around 7:35 pm. It was for the first time in the history of Indian aviation that a night flight was taken off from Srinagar Airport. (KINS)

WE HAVE CONVEYED THE MESSAGE TO ALL THE AIRLINES AND NOW IT IS UP TO THEM TO MAKE THEIR DECISION. If we are running the last flight from Srinagar at 7.30 PM, we can also run a flight at 11 PM. We have all facilities available here in the Airport for night flight operations"

Water Scarcity In Sgr Parts, People Aghast

Syed Hamid

SRINAGAR: Scores of areas in Srinagar are reeling under acute shortage of drinking water. A large number of areas in Downtown said they are reeling under the acute water crisis for the last several days. Residents of Kral Khud, Haba Kadal, Chinkrar Mohalla, Basant Bagh, Nai Sarak, Gaw Kadal and its adjacent areas are facing water scarcity. Inhabitants of Haba Kadal said that locality is facing hardships in absence of regular water supply. "Authorities have failed to supply water and we have to fetch water from other places to use it for drinking and cooking," said a delegation to KNT. Some localities in Srinagar city said that the existing water line is not sufficient for adequate wa-



ter supply to consumers. "We have time and again requested authorities for shifting some of the water tap connections to another line. They have failed and we are suffering," they said. Concerned PHE engineer Zubair Naqash said that they are working on the issue and hopefully water supply will be restored in these areas by Thursday.

This Year's Flu Vaccine Even More Essential For Pregnant Women: DAK

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said this year's flu vaccine is even more essential for pregnant women because of Covid-19 pandemic. Urging pregnant women to get vaccinated against flu as soon as possible, DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said this season's flu vaccine is particularly important for expecting mothers. "We could be facing a double danger of flu and Covid this fall and winter. Getting both diseases at the same time can be serious and even deadly," he said. "While pregnant women are less likely to get serious illness from Covid, flu can increase their chances of getting serious

disease from the novel coronavirus," he added. The DAK President said pregnancy changes the immune system, heart and lung function that makes pregnant women more prone to severe illness from flu as well as hospitalization and even death. "The risk of premature labor and delivery increases when expectant mothers catch the flu and there is a greater chance of birth defects and even death of a baby in the womb," he said. "Preventing influenza during pregnancy is an essential element of prenatal care and the most effective strategy for preventing influenza is vaccination," Dr Hassan said. Quoting a study, he said pregnant women who received flu vaccination were 40 percent less likely to be hospitalized during pregnancy than pregnant wom-

en who weren't vaccinated. "Flu vaccine in pregnancy saves infants from dying in the womb," said Dr Nisar. Quoting another study, he said flu vaccination was associated with 51 percent reduction in stillbirths. Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said flu vaccine is perfectly safe for pregnant women and can be given during any stage of pregnancy. "It is the injectable flu vaccine that should be given to pregnant women and not the nasal flu vaccine as it is made from live virus that makes it less appropriate during pregnancy," he said. "The power of vaccination in pregnancy is a message that should be broadcast far and wide. It is imperative that obstetricians should advocate for influenza vaccination and provide flu vaccine to their pregnant patients," he added—(KNO)

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1408 - Battle of Othée; victory of John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy over Liège.
- 1459 - Battle of Blore Heath in Staffordshire, 1st major battle of the English Wars of the Roses
- 1513 King Henry III & Emperor Maximilian conquer Doornik
- 1739 - Russia & Turkey sign Peace of Belgrade
- 1913 - Serbian troops march into Albania
- 1932 - Abdulaziz Ibn Saud merges the Kingdom of Nejd and Hejaz into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 1941 - General de Gaulle forms government in exile in London
- 1941 - German air raid on Soviet naval base at Kronstadt (battleship Marat sinks)
- 1941 - The first gas murder experiments are conducted at Auschwitz, concentration camp
- 1942 - Soviet counter offensive at Stalingrad
- 1944 - Proclamation No. 30 was issued, declaring the existence of a state of war between the Philippines and the United States and the United Kingdom
- 1949 - US President Harry Truman announces evidence of USSR's 1st nuclear device detonation
- 1950 - Nobel peace prize awarded to Ralph Bunche for mediation in Israel - 1st African American winner
- 1970 - Abdul Razak bin Hussain becomes premier of Malaysia
- 1973 - Largest known prime, 2 ^ 132,049-1, is discovered
- 1976 - South Africa decides to allow multi-racial teams to represent them
- 1976 - Soyuz 22 returns to Earth
- 1977 - 3rd test of Space Shuttle Enterprise
- 1999 - NASA announces that it has lost contact with the Mars Climate Orbiter.
- 2002 - The first public version of the web browser Mozilla Firefox ("Phoenix 0.1") is released
- 2003 Crime drama "NCIS" starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherley, Pauley Perrette and David McCallum premieres on CBS in the US
- 2017 - Women are allowed in King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh for the first time during Saudi Arabia's 87th anniversary celebrations



HIJRI
CALENDAR

15

SAFAR
-UL-
MUZAFFAR

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
4: 56
ZUHR
12: 24
ASR
4:45
MAGRIB
6:32
ISHA
7:52

From KO Archives

Beerwah Police, CRPF Taste RR Ire

Cops Accused Of Harboring Militants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an unprecedented operation, army carried out a cordon and search operation at a police station in the central Kashmir district of Budgam yesterday. Administration and police authorities have taken a strong exception to the incident which left the police and central reserve police force (CRPF) personnel shell shocked and gripped in fear. Quoting police, agency reports said troops of 34 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) led by Col T Shashidharan laid seige to the police station at Beerwah at about 6 p.m. yesterday and called out all the policemen and the CRPF personnel from its 197 battalion deployed in a portion there. Six persons lodged in the police lock up at the moment were also brought out. Accusing the police of harbouring militants in the police station, the army officer told the officials a suspect had entered the premises shortly before. That was why the operation was started, he said. The surprised policemen produced one Ghulam Rasool before him saying he had come to report the theft at his home earlier. Denying that he was the person who had entered the premises earlier, the army officer allegedly threatened the policemen of torching the police station along with the personnel in the event of any untoward incident there. The entire premises including the police station and the family quarters were thoroughly searched. The operation lasted one and a half hours. On learning about the incident, the deputy commissioner, Budgam, accompanied by the superintendent of police, visited the police station this morning, primarily to mollify the visibly agitated police officials. They assured them of investigation into the matter and 'appropriate action' against those responsible. Reports said the RR action has generated fear not only among the police and security forces, but among the local people as well. Residents told API the RR personnel had allegedly made their life miserable. Viewed in light of their action against the police and CRPF, they said, one could easily guess what could be the extent of the harassment they caused to the common people. It may be recalled the RR camp located next to the police station was stormed by the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jami'at-ul-Mujahideen groups in a pre-dawn sneak attack on 12th of this month killing about a dozen army jawans and injuring several others before getting killed themselves. An API report had put the toll in the incident at 21. The deputy commissioner, Rohit Kansal, said this evening the army had searched some private buildings adjacent to the police station, including a building "being used by the police for various purposes". The police matter had been taken up with the army authorities at the corps headquarters here and they were enquiring into it. When contacted, the deputy inspector general of police, Srinagar-Budgam range, K Rajender, confirming the incident, told Observer News Service the matter had been taken up with the army authorities at the corps headquarters here and they were enquiring into it.

(Kashmir Observer, September 23 , 2000)

Div Com Convenes Meeting For Renaming Of Govt Institutions, Infrastructure

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday held a meeting with the officers of various government departments for renaming institutions and infrastructure with martyrs and prominent awardees names. The meeting was attended by Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Secretary J&K Sports Council Srinagar, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Additional Secretary Academy of

Art Culture and Languages, Srinagar, Deputy Director Libraries, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Srinagar, artists and artisans. During the meeting, the Div Com enjoined the officers to identify the prominent persons who have received awards like Padma or Sahitya Akademy awards or other national and international awards in any field including handloom, handicraft, literature, education, medicine, art, sports etc. He said the objective of renaming institutions is to present our local heroes before children

to inspire and familiarize them with the contribution of such prominent personalities besides giving them recognition. Also, he directed officers to compile the list of awardees with relevant description including date of birth, place of birth, parentage, education, field of interest, work, photographs and year of receiving award, and the list of infrastructures of their respective departments so that the institutions and buildings shall be named as per relevance to the person. He said these details will be written

on the metal plates installed at the institutions and buildings, so that the students, youth and general public will remember them. The Div Com asked Dy. Director Libraries to provide the details of those libraries which have been already named with famous personalities and also compile details of those legends and their contribution. Similarly, he asked the Secretary Sports Council and JD, YS&S to provide the details of indoor and outdoor stadiums and the national and international medalists who have achieved

first, second or third position in government held events whether in individual or group competition so these infrastructures shall be named appropriately. Further, he also directed officers present in the meeting to conduct the survey and collect information of descendents of awardees and their present status. Meanwhile, Div Com stressed on linkage of artist, artisan and sports awardees with the schools to teach students skills which will help to preserve our local rich culture—(KNO)

Severe COVID-19 Can Lead To Delirium, US Study Finds



WASHINGTON: A study of 150 patients hospitalised for COVID in the US at the beginning of the pandemic found that 73 per cent had delirium, a serious disturbance in mental state wherein a person is confused, agitated and unable to think clearly.

The study, published in the journal *BMJ Open*, found that patients with delirium tended to be sicker, with more comorbidities like hypertension and diabetes, and appeared to have more severe COVID-related illness.

"COVID is also associated with a number of other adverse outcomes that tend to prolong hospitalisation and make recovery difficult," said study author Phillip Vlisides, from the University of Michigan in the US.

The researchers used patient medical records and telephone surveys following hospital discharge for a group of patients hospitalised in the intensive care unit between March and May 2020. They attempted to identify common threads amongst patients who developed delirium.

The researchers noted that the disease itself can lead to reduced oxygen to the brain as well as the development of blood clots and stroke, resulting in cognitive impairment.

Inflammatory markers were greatly increased in patients with delirium. Confusion and agitation could be a result of inflammation of the brain, they said.

"Early on in the pandemic, we weren't performing standard delirium prevention protocols like we usually do," Mr Vlisides said.

"A big reason for that is early on in the pandemic in the pre-vaccine era, we had limited personal protective equipment and were trying to limit COVID exposure and disease transmission," he added. There was a correlation between the use of

sedatives and delirium - patients with delirium were sedated more often and frequently at higher doses.

"It is common to use IV sedatives in the ICU, particular for patients on a ventilator. However, from talking to nurses, we found that patients with severe COVID were inherently more delirious and agitated at baseline, perhaps prompting more sedative use," said Mr Vlisides.

The study also found that cognitive impairment can persist even after discharge.

Almost a third of patients did not have their delirium marked as resolved in their chart upon leaving the hospital and 40 per cent of these patients required skilled nursing care.

Almost a quarter of patients screened positive for delirium based on assessment by their caretaker. For some patients, these symptoms lasted for months.

This can make managing the recovery process after hospitalisation that much more difficult.

"Whatever creative ways we can implement in delirium prevention protocols is likely to be very helpful," Mr Vlisides said.

"That includes consistent communication with family members, bringing in pictures and objects from home, and video visits if family cannot safely visit," he added.

The take-home message is that for patients hospitalised with severe COVID-19, cognitive impairment - including depression and delirium - is highly likely, he added.

"Overall, this study highlights another reason why getting vaccinated and preventing severe illness is so important. There can be long term neurological complications that perhaps we don't talk about as much as we should," Mr Vlisides said.

Aircraft Intercepted From New York Restricted Area As Biden Addresses UN



Agenceis

WASHINGTON: A small aircraft on Tuesday (local time) entered the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) area in New York City while the United Nations General Assembly with participation from world leaders had commenced.

A Cessna 182 entered the TFR at approximately 2 pm and the small aircraft was intercepted by an F-16 fighter jet and escorted out of the TFR "without incident," Federal Aviation Administration's North American Aerospace Defense Command said in a statement.

The TFR was in place order for VIP movement in New York from Monday at 4:45 pm until

Tuesday at 3:45 pm (local time). The restricted region includes the Hudson River and the East River.

The developments came during the high-level segment of the 76th United Nations General Assembly that began in New York on Tuesday. Top leaders from across the world have converged in New York for UNGA high-level debate.

According to media reports, the incident took place at about the same time that US President Joe Biden who had addressed the UNGA in the morning departed the city after meetings with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Iraqi President Barham Saleh.

The UNGA meeting this year is in a hybrid format but a large number of leaders are expected to arrive in New York.

WHO Says Air Pollution Kills 7 Million Annually, Toughens Guidelines

Agenceis

The World Health Organization (WHO) strengthened its air quality guidelines on Wednesday, saying air pollution was now one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, causing seven million premature deaths a year.

It said urgent action was needed to reduce exposure to air pollution, ranking its burden of disease on a par with smoking and unhealthy eating.

"WHO has adjusted almost all the air quality guideline levels downwards, warning that exceeding the new... levels is associated with significant risks to health," it said.

"Adhering to them could save millions of lives."

The guidelines aim to protect people from the adverse effects of air pollution and are used by governments as a reference for legally-binding standards.

The UN health agency last issued air quality guidelines, or AQGs, in 2005, which had a significant impact on pollution abatement policies worldwide.

However, the WHO said in the 16 years since, a much stronger body of evidence had emerged, showing how air pollution impacts on health at lower concentrations than previously understood.

"The accumulated evidence is sufficient to justify actions to reduce population exposure to key air pollutants, not only in particular countries or regions but on a global scale," the organisation said.

Southeast Asia hard-hit

The new guidelines come just in time for the COP26 global climate summit held in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.

The WHO said that alongside climate change, air pollution was one of the biggest



environmental threats to human health. Improving air quality would enhance climate change mitigation efforts, and vice versa, it said.

The WHO's new guidelines recommend air quality levels for six pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

The other two are PM10 and PM2.5 -- particulate matter equal or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter.

Both are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs but research shows PM2.5 can even enter the bloodstream, primarily resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory problems, but also affecting other organs, said the WHO.

In response, the PM2.5 guideline level has been halved.

In 2019, more than 90% of the world's population lived in areas where concentrations exceeded the 2005 AQG for long-term PM2.5 exposure. Southeast Asia is the worst-affected region.

Premature deaths

"Air pollution is a threat to health in all countries, but it hits people in low- and middle-income countries the hardest,"

said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The WHO said that while air quality had markedly improved since the 1990s in high-income countries, the global toll in deaths and lost years of healthy life had barely declined, as air quality had generally deteriorated in most other countries, in line with their economic development.

"Every year, exposure to air pollution is estimated to cause seven million premature deaths and result in the loss of millions more healthy years of life," the WHO said.

In children, this could include reduced lung growth and function, respiratory infections and aggravated asthma.

In adults, ischaemic heart disease -- also called coronary heart disease -- and stroke are the most common causes of premature death attributable to outdoor air pollution.

Evidence is also emerging of other effects such as diabetes and neurodegenerative conditions, the organisation said.

The WHO said the burden of disease attributable to air pollution was "on a par with other major global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking".

Special Envoys Of China, Russia And Pak Hold Talks With Top Taliban Officials, Karzai In Kabul

Agenceis

BEIJING: Special envoys of China, Russia and Pakistan have met the top officials of the Taliban's interim government as well as Afghan leaders Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul and discussed the formation of an inclusive government, combating terrorism and humanitarian situation, a top Chinese official said on Wednesday.

The three special envoys visited Kabul from September 21 to 22 and held talks with acting Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Finance Minister and other high-level officials of the interim government, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here.

Significantly, they also met with former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, President of the Council for National Reconciliation under the previous government.

This is perhaps the first time that the foreign diplomats met Karzai and Abdullah who stayed put in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan last month ahead of the withdrawal of the US and NATO troops.

Their meeting also coincides with the Taliban's letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominating its spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's

new ambassador to the UN.

The Afghan militant group also asked Guterres to allow it to participate and speak in the 76th session of the General Assembly currently underway in New York.

Besides coordinating closely with Russia on Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, who are playing a lead role after the Taliban seized Kabul, are trying to establish a new grouping of countries sharing borders with Afghanistan.

The new grouping includes China, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all of them Afghanistan's neighbours. The Foreign Ministers of the group held a virtual meeting on September 7.

Highlighting its significance, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan told BBC on Tuesday that the new group will jointly decide about extending recognition to the Taliban's interim government.

Elaborating on China, Russia, Pakistan Special envoys talks with the Taliban officials in Kabul, Zhao said they discussed the situation especially regarding inclusiveness, human rights, economic and humanitarian matters and the friendly relations between Afghanistan.

They also discussed ties with other countries as well as the reunification and territorial integrity of the country, he said.

"They had an in-depth and constructive discussion and also expressed support to combating

terrorism and drug crimes," he said.

Their offer to extend support comes amid increasing attacks reportedly by ISIS-K on the Taliban officials in Jalalabad in the past few days resulting in a number of casualties.

"Taliban said they highly valued the relations with the three countries and they play a responsible role in consolidating the stability in Afghanistan. The three countries called on more humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan from the international community," Zhao stated.

They stressed that the US and allies shoulder the main responsibility for the economic and social reconstruction in Afghanistan and provide much needed economic livelihood and humanitarian assistance, Zhao said.

The three countries have agreed to maintain constructive contact with the Taliban to promote peace, prosperity, regional stability and development, he said.

In their talks with Karzai and Abdullah, they discussed issues related to peace and stability in Afghanistan, he said.

"China said we will not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and has been playing a constructive role for the political settlement of the Afghan issue. The Afghan side should make a political arrangement that is open, inclusive and exercises prudent policy," Zhao added. PTI

"First Time In 20 Years US Not At War, We Have Turned The Page": Joe Biden

Agenceis

UNITED NATIONS: The US has ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan and as Washington closes this period of "relentless war", it is opening a new era of "relentless diplomacy" to lift people up around the world and renew and defend democracy, US President Joe Biden said today.

In his maiden address to the high-level 76th UN General Assembly, Mr Biden told world leaders and diplomats gathered in the General Assembly hall that in his view the world is at an "inflection point in history".

"Instead of continuing to fight the wars of the past, we are fixing our eyes and devoting our resources to the challenges that hold the keys to our collective future - ending this pandemic, addressing the climate crisis, managing the shifts in global power dynamics, shaping the rules of the world on vital issues like trade, cyber, and emerging technologies and facing the threat of terrorism as it stands today.

"We've ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan and as we close this period of relentless war, we're opening a new era of relentless diplomacy; of using the power of our development aid to invest in new ways of lifting people up around the world; of renewing and defending democracy; of proving that no matter how challenging or how complex the problems you're going to face, government by and for the people is still the best way to deliver for all of our people," he said.

Mr Biden referred to the UN Security Council resolution on Afghanistan, adopted under India's Presidency of the 15-nation UN organ last month, and said that while the United States will do its part, but "we're more successful and more impactful if all of our nations are working" together.

"That's why more than a 100 nations united to get around a shared statement when the Security Council adopted a resolution outlining how we will support the people of Afghanistan moving forward,



laying out expectations to which we will hold the Taliban when it comes to respecting universal human rights.

"We must all stand up for the rights of women and girls to use their full talents, to contribute economically, politically, socially and pursue their dreams free of violence and intimidation, from Central America to the Middle East, Africa to Afghanistan, wherever it appears in the world," he said.

"We all must call out and condemn the targeting and oppression of racial, ethnic and religious minorities, whether it occurs in Xinjiang (in China) or Northern Ethiopia, or anywhere in the world," Mr Biden said.

He said, "I stand here today for the first time in 20 years with the United States not at war. We've turned the page. All the unmatched strength, energy, commitment, will and resources of our nation are now fully and squarely focused on what's ahead of us. Not what was behind.

"As we look ahead, we will lead, we will lead on all the greatest challenges of our time from COVID to climate, peace and security, human dignity and human rights but we will not go alone. We will lead together with our allies and partners and in cooperation of all those who believe as we do that this is within our power to meet these challenges, to build a future and lift all of our people and preserve this planet," the US president said.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi Slams US In First Speech To UN As Leader



DUBAI: Iran's new president slammed US sanctions imposed on his nation as a mechanism of war, using his first UN address since his swearing-in to forcefully call out Washington's policies in the region and the growing political schism within America.

President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday delivered a far more critical and blunt take on American foreign policy than his moderate predecessor, Hassan Rouhani, had done in previous speeches to the UN General Assembly.

Raisi, who was sworn in last month after an election, is a conservative cleric and former judiciary chief seen as close to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

His speech espoused Iran's Islamic political identity and where the Shiite-led nation sees its place in the world, despite crushing US sanctions that have hurt its economy and ordinary Iranians.

"Sanctions are the US' new way of war with the nations of the world," Raisi said, adding that such economic punishment during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic amounts to "crimes against humanity."

US sanctions, while allowing for humanitarian aid, have made international purchases of medicine and equipment much more difficult. Iran has endured multiple waves of the coronavirus, with nearly 1,18,000 deaths recorded -- the highest in the region.

In taking aim at the United States, Raisi also referenced the shocking Jan. 6th insurrection on Capitol Hill by supporters of then-President Donald Trump, and the horrific scenes at Kabul airport last month as desperate Afghans plunged to their deaths after clinging to a US aircraft evacuating people.

"From the Capitol to Kabul, one clear message was sent to the

world: the US' hegemonic system has no credibility, whether inside or outside the country," Raisi said.

The Iranian president said "the project of imposing Westernized identity" had failed, and added erroneously that "today, the US does not get to exit Iraq and Afghanistan but is expelled."

The US military withdrew from Afghanistan amid a hasty and chaotic airlift of more than 1,00,000 Afghans and foreigners, and has largely withdrawn from Iraq. Iran shares long borders with Afghanistan to its east and Iraq to its west, where Shiite militias are powerful.

The perseverance of nations, he said, is stronger than the power of superpowers. In a dig at the political slogans used by Trump and his successor President Joe Biden, Raisi said: "Today, the world doesn't care about 'America First' or 'America is Back'."

Speaking remotely via video from Tehran, Raisi wore a black turban on his head that identifies him in the Shiite tradition as a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. He praised Iran's Islamic Revolution of 1979 as the fulfilment of "religious democracy" and linked the growth of "indigenous terrorism in the West" to a decline in spirituality.

Despite the criticism aimed at Washington, Raisi appeared not to rule out a return to the negotiating table for the nuclear accord, saying Iran considers talks useful if their ultimate outcome is the lifting of all sanctions. Still, he stated: "We don't trust the promises made by the US government."

Tensions peaked last year between the US and Iran after the Trump administration's assassination of powerful field commander, Qassim Soleimani, and a top Iraqi Shiite militia leader by a US drone strike in Iraq.

NEWS MAKERS

Taliban Ask To Address UN, Name Suhail Shaheen As Afghan Envoy

Agenceis

UNITED NATIONS: The Taliban have asked to address world leaders at the United Nations in New York this week and nominated their Doha-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's UN ambassador, according to a letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi made the request in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday. Muttaqi asked to speak during the annual high-level meeting of the General Assembly, which finishes on Monday.

Guterres' spokesperson, Farhan Haq, confirmed Muttaqi's letter. The move

sets up a showdown with Ghulam Isacai, the UN ambassador in New York representing Afghanistan's government ousted last month by the Taliban.

Haq said the rival requests for Afghanistan's U.N. seat had been sent to a nine-member credentials committee, whose members include the United States, China and Russia. The committee is unlikely to meet on the issue before Monday, so it is doubtful that the Taliban foreign minister will address the world body.

Eventual U.N. acceptance of the ambassador of the Taliban would be an important step in the hard-line group's bid for international recognition, which could help unlock badly needed funds for the

cash-strapped Afghan economy.

Guterres has said that the Taliban's desire for international recognition is the only leverage other countries have to press for inclusive government and respect for rights, particularly for women, in Afghanistan.

The Taliban letter said Isacai's mission "is considered over and that he no longer represents Afghanistan," said Haq. Until a decision is made by the credentials committee Isacai will remain in the seat, according to the General Assembly rules. He is currently scheduled to address the final day of the meeting on Sept. 27, but it was not immediately clear if any countries might object in the wake of the Taliban letter.

Donald Trump Sues Niece, Newspaper For \$100 Million Over "Crusade" Tax Story

Agenceis

New York: Former US president Donald Trump on Tuesday filed a \$100 million lawsuit against his estranged niece Mary Trump and The New York Times, alleging they engaged in "an insidious plot" to obtain his tax returns for the paper's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation of his finances.

The lawsuit, filed in Dutchess County, New York state, says that New York Times reporters Susanne Craig, David Barstow and Russ Buettner conducted "an extensive crusade to obtain Donald J.

Trump's confidential tax records."

"The defendants engaged in an insidious plot to obtain confidential and highly-sensitive records which they exploited for their own benefit and utilized as a means of falsely legitimizing their publicized works," the lawsuit says, alleging they were "motivated by a personal vendetta."

The New York Times and the three journalists won the Pulitzer in 2019 for their investigation of the Trump family's finances, which the Pulitzer Prize Board said "debunked his claims of self-made wealth and revealed a business empire riddled with tax dodges."

Renaming Historical Roads Egregious, Insensitive: AIP



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) leader Sheeban Ashai on Wednesday in a statement lambasted J&K Administration's move to rename a cross section in Botshah Mohalla, Lal Bazar. Reacting on the development Ashai said, "It defies popular wisdom why would anyone meddle into renaming a landmark, street or road named after a revered Sufi Saint such as Botshah Sahab (R.A)."

"Why is that such insensitive manoeuvres and decisions are being thrust upon people of Kashmir without taking into consideration sensitivity of the matter. The criteria laid down for entertaining requests to change names of roads as per Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines clearly mention that such requests should have a historical relevance, respect the sentiments of people, also it must be felt that there is a need to recognise the personality

whose name has to be given to the street," Ashai added.

"In the case of Botshah Mohalla without a shred of doubt, the basic criteria has been outrightly violated as it hurts the sentiments of people since locality is named after a revered Sufi Saint. It is baffling how the chairman and council entertained such a request. Moreover as per norm after resolution is passed it is sent to the state road naming authority of urban development department for its approval," the statement said.

"LG Manoj Sinha must immediately put his foot down and nip this controversial decision in the bud. It should be made amply clear to the relevant department to not any circumstances approve the move of renaming one of the junctions in Botshah Mohalla."

Ashai, in the statement, also critiqued Srinagar Municipal Corporation for such an insensitive decision, stating: "While occupying a public office one must be cognisant, sensitive towards people's sentiments. Such indiscretion is unbecoming of positions occupied by those at helm in SMC, it is a disgraceful event and elected representatives of the SMC must cede their propensity for being in news for all the wrong reasons."

Union MoS Home Ajay Mishra Visits Shopian Inaugurates Several Projects



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra on Wednesday visited district Shopian under the ongoing public outreach programme.

The Minister e-inaugurated several developmental projects during his visit. He also laid e-foundation of Indoor Stadium Keller and Indoor Stadium Zainapora, coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 98 lakh and Rs 93 lakh respectively.

The Minister also visited District Hospital Shopian and e-inaugurated Dialysis Unit coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 25.45 lakh and also in-inaugurated the Blood Bank of the hospital. He interacted with health functionaries and also met with the people assembled there.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister about the developmental activities achieved so far in the district and also threw light on some major developmental issues and initiatives needed to be redressed in future.

The Minister also held a public interaction wherein several

delegations called on him and apprised him about various issues being faced by them.

Mishra said that the need of the hour is to inspire youngsters, especially the youth, to utilize their energy in a positive way. He assured every possible support from the government to uplift the district by way of development.

Sharing the vision of the Union Government, Mishra said that the Centre wants its ministers to assess on-ground situation and take feedback from the public. "The Centre also wants to ensure that the people's lives are being touched and positive change is brought," the minister added.

The Union MoS Home also interacted with DDC Members, BDCs, ULBs, PRIs, Civil Society Members ST/SC Members, youth of the district and other political leaders and workers.

DDC Chairperson, Bilqees Jan, DDC Vice-Chairperson Irfan Manhas, Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SSP, Shopian, Amrit Paul Singh and other senior officers of the district were also present.

Director Agriculture Takes Stock of Paddy Harvesting



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Wednesday visited New Theed and other areas of district Srinagar.

During the visit, the Director met some progressive vegetable growers. He also took stock of Paddy harvesting amid recent rains in the area and also participated in some of the harvesting operations.

While interacting with the farmers, the Director reiterated the Department's commitment to the welfare and well-being of the farming community.

Interacting with a progressive farmer who has cultivated only Tomato crop on his 5 kanal land, the Director said that the Department is there to provide all the technical guidance and whatever hand holding is needed.

The Agri. Department in collaboration with JKHPMC is offering a multi layer marketing channel to the farmers so that they could sell their produce in and outside of

UT of J&K, in a more effective and profitable manner, he said.

He added that the Department under Farm Mechanization Program is planning to provide Paddy Thrashers to all the districts from next year so that the cost of the thrashing could be minimized.

He asked the Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar and his team to work in close coordination with the farmers so that the agriculture sector could touch new heights and the socio economic transformation of the farming community could be achieved.

Later, the Director chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the status of PM-Kisan Scheme in some of the identified areas of district Srinagar and district Ganderbal. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that every deserving individual gets benefited from the PM Kisan scheme.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar Mohammad Younis Chowdhary and other senior officers of the Department.

Court Orders Release Of Monthly Relief To 25,000 Migrant KP Families



Press Trust of India

JAMMU: In a major relief to protesting Kashmiri Pandits, a local court on Wednesday modified its earlier order to pave way for the release of monthly relief allowance to over 25,000 migrant families.

Additional District Judge (Commercial Court) Syed Sarfaraz Hussain Shah passed the order on humanitarian grounds after hearing a plea filed by senior advocate Monika Kohli.

The petition was filed on behalf of the migrant pandits for modification of the August 26 order which had resulted in stopping of the monthly relief, the only source of livelihood for some displaced families.

Hearing the long-pending case, the court on August 26 had ordered attachment of major head 2055, sub head 0872 and 1057 of judgement debtors, relief commissioner in connection with a case filed by a contractor who had constructed two-room tenements at Nagrota and Muthi for migrants at a cost of Rs 9.22 crore after getting the contracts between 2005 and 2008.

After receiving the full pay-

ment, the builder contested for loss before the sole arbitrator and got an award regarding both the buildings but the relief organisation filed two different applications for setting aside both the awards which were subsequently dismissed by the court due to failure of the prosecutor to plead the case.

The stopping of the relief led to protests by migrant Kashmiri Pandits at different places in Jammu over the past fortnight.

Advocate Kohli successfully pleaded the case before the additional district judge on behalf of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

"Accordingly, having regard to the undertaking submitted by the judgment debtor No.2 (Relief and Rehabilitation Migrants) and in view of the sufferings of the Kashmir migrant families, the order dated August 26 is modified to the extent that Major Head 2055 Sub Head 0872 and 1057 are detached and instead the Treasury Officer Tirath Nagar, Talab Tilo Muthi, Jammu shall deduct the decretal amount to the tune of Rs 89,10,613 from the detailed head 001 (Solary Head) of judgment debtor No 2 and keep in fact/reserve the

same subject to further order," the court said.

The relief and rehabilitation commissioner (migrants), in his undertaking, has submitted that an amount to the tune of Rs 1 crore will be maintained or kept intact in the detailed head 001 (salary head) till the final outcome of the court proceedings pending adjudication.

Kohli pleaded before the court that the migrant families are at the risk of starvation as the attachment of the heads lead to chaos and confusion among them.

"It is submitted on behalf of the Kashmiri migrant families that they are living in the camps and are solely dependent on the monthly cash assistance provided by the Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) Jammu and by attaching the Major Head 2055, Sub Head 0872 and 1057 they are suffering from starvation," the court said.

It said the counsel for the decree holder (builder) has submitted that he is aware of the sufferings of the Kashmiri migrant families and he favours such an order which may satisfy their grievances.

The court said the instant execution petition is pending disposal before it for more than three years and till date, the judgement debtors on one pretext or the other only gained time and failed to pay the decretal amount to the decree holder.

"On failure of the judgement debtors to pay the decretal amount to the decree holder, this court was left with no other option except to attach the Major Head 2055 Sub Head 0872 and 1057 of the Relief Commissioner (Migrants) Jammu," it said.

IT IS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE KASHMIRI MIGRANT families that they are living in the camps and are solely dependent on the monthly cash assistance provided by the Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) Jammu and by attaching the Major Head 2055, Sub Head 0872 and 1057 they are suffering from starvation,"

Disengaged ICDS Helpers Were Backdoor Entries: Farooq Khan

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Farooq Ahmad Khan, Advisor to J&K LG, on Wednesday said that all the ICDS helpers who were engaged in the department have no appointment order, however, the government tried hard to accommodate them, which could not happen.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, Khan as per the news agency KNO said that all these helpers were brought into the department through backdoor entries as none of them have any appointment order.

"We have been trying hard for the last one year to somehow accommodate them, but



it did not happen as nobody has any appointment order. Now we have devised a new scheme, where we are creating several posts for these helpers and those who will be qualifying for the post, we will give

them extra marks in the interview for their experience," Khan said.

He said that through this mechanism a lot of these helpers will be back to the department and urged the helpers not to choose agitation as a way as the government is trying to ensure that nobody remains unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There has been nothing wrong done to anybody especially after August 05, 2019 and if there wrong happening is because of the mistakes done in the past by those who befooled the people of Jammu and Kashmir was never so peaceful as today in the past 31 years," he added.

WE HAVE BEEN TRYING HARD FOR THE LAST ONE YEAR to somehow accommodate them, but it did not happen as nobody has any appointment order. Now we have devised a new scheme, where we are creating several posts for these helpers and those who will be qualifying for the post, we will give them extra marks in the interview for their experience,"

Workshop On Forest Rights Act Held In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: With an aim of reaching out to the tribal and traditional forest dwellers (OTFD), a workshop on Forest Rights Act (FRA) was held at Darwan Basti Yusmarg in Pir Panjal forest division of Budgam on Tuesday.

The workshop was organised by NGO Koshish. The speakers during the workshop explained in detail the rights guaranteed to scheduled tribe (ST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) communities who under FRA are supposed to get various entitlements.

Speakers and resource persons explained in detail the Individual Forest Rights and Community Forest Rights. They also handled the population in filing the claim forms under FRA 2006.

Some documentaries on the Forest Rights Act and rights of tribal people were showcased during the workshop. Locals of Darwan Basti and Nagbal appreciated the programme conducted by Koshish. Director of the NGO Koshish, Dr Rouf Mohiudeen, Social activists Chowdhary Farooq Badhana, Chowdhary Riyaz Bhadana and RTI activist, Dr Raja Muzaffar also spoke on the occasion.

The community leaders and panchayat members also participated in the day-long workshop. This was the second workshop in the area during the last two weeks. The NGO is planning to hold more such public outreach programmes on Forest Rights Act in the coming months in Raithan and Doodh Ganga forest ranges of Budgam.

Army Says 'Life Is Normal' Along LoC In Kashmir

Gurez Is Absolutely Peaceful; No Ceasefire Violation'



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army on Wednesday said that peace has returned in the villages along the Line of Control ever since the ceasefire pact was established between India and Pakistan in February this year.

"Gurez is absolutely peaceful. With ceasefire pact, the people of the border villages have got long required peace. They are able to carry routine activities without any fear or constraints. Life has become normal here," Lt General DP Pandey, Commander of the Chinar Corps, said in Bandipora.

Pandey, however, said that there have been some incidents of infiltration attempts, but those were not "adequately supported" by ceasefire violations unlike previous years.

"The ceasefire violations have not increased. This year there has been none (ceasefire violation). At least in the Kashmir Valley, there has been zero," he said.

While there has been no case of provocation from Pakistan, the Indian Army is alert and prepared to respond appropriately in case of any escalation, he said.

"We are totally prepared for ceasefire violations, if anything happens, we are all set to respond appropriately. But, frankly, there has been no instigation from across the border," the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps said.

The senior Army officer reiterated that there have hardly been any successful infiltration attempts by militants from across the LoC this year.

"There have been some attempts. Unlike previous years, these have not been adequately supported (by ceasefire violations). There have hardly been any successful attempts, only about two attempts have succeeded. One was neutralised in Bandipora and we are looking for the second one," he said.

Smriti Irani's 2-Day Visit To Budgam Ends Inaugurates Sports Stadium At Magam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on Wednesday concluded her 2-day visit to Budgam.

The Minister maintained that the objective of centre's outreach to UT of J&K has been initiated to know about the grievances of the people at the ground level. She assured that demands and grievances projected would be put up with Centre as well as with the local government of J&K UT for early redressal.

Minister Irani inaugurated the Sports Stadium in Magam, constructed and developed on the latest patterns by J&K Sports Council. The Minister at the stadium witnessed a live football match and interacted with the players of the local clubs.

Irani also visited the Horticulture High density orchard and fruit & vegetable preservation unit at Malpora, Magam. On the occasion while interacting with the farmers she said that Kashmir has a huge potential to become the 2nd largest producer of high quality apples in the world.

"There is a need for diversification in fruit production for introduction at global level. Kashmir is fortunate to have a conducive climate and fertile land for high yield cultivation of horticulture produce," she added.

She assured that the Government will envisage all necessary



support, technical guidance, sponsorship through banks to the farmers and Farm Producing Organizations (FPOs) willing to adopt high density plantation.

Earlier on her visit, the Minister inaugurated Anaemia Camp at Govt. Degree College Magam and also visited craft village Kanihama. The Minister interacted with local artisans and Self Help Groups from NRLM. She was accompanied by Secretary Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda, DC Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza among many others.

Speaking on the occasion Irani said, "I was enthusiastic to see the skills, dedication and patience these highly skilled artisans showcased while weaving their high cost Kani Shawl and other products."

During her visit to Magam the Minister also witnessed the presentations of cultural programmes performed by renowned cultural artists organized by the Department of Social Welfare and District Information Centre Budgam.

DC Kupwara Reviews Activities In Handwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din on Wednesday visited Handwara subdivision to take stock of development activities being carried out in the subdivision.

The DC was accompanied by District Development Council Member Rajwar, Mir Sulimaan and other concerned officers. The DC inspected Solid Liquid Resource Management (SLRM) at Bakhiaker, coming up at a cost of Rs 40 lakh. He was

informed that the SLRM is a unique waste management asset, first of its kind in the area.

He also visited Khaipora in Rajwar Handwara and inspected Agriculture Farm, Mini Stadium and Administrative Complex and expressed his gratitude for developing the area on modern lines.

The DC announced that the Agriculture Farm shall be upgraded with another 5 kanals of land, raising its value up to 10 kanals. He said that the Agriculture Farm shall become

an asset in the area which will work as a training centre for farmers, apart from yielding a high variety of different vegetable seeds and crops.

He said that the farm will provide an alternate income source in the Agriculture sector. He also congratulated local administration and all stakeholders for their best efforts in developing the area.

Later, the DC convened a meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara and reviewed the developmental profile of the subdivision.

JKPC Appoints Sheikh Imran As Youth President

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) on Wednesday appointed former SMC Deputy Mayor Sheikh Mohammad Imran as party's

youth President.

The party spokesman in a statement issued here announced Imran's appointment, expressing confidence that Imran will play a significant role

in furthering party's message and mission among the young generation of Jammu and Kashmir and will work towards strengthening of the organization at the grassroots level.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

For Peace To Prevail

General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey, said on Monday there has been no ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir since the reaffirmation of the 2003 agreement between the armies of India and Pakistan in February this year. He added that some infiltration attempts unlike previous years have not been "adequately supported" by ceasefire violations by Pakistan. Lt Gen Pandey's statement attests to the peace ushered in along the LoC by the February truce. The sudden announcement of the agreement between India and Pakistan at the time had taken everyone by surprise. The truce came at a time when the relations between them had plunged to their lowest in the wake of the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. But despite the fact that the two neighbours have not been able to follow up on the agreement by engaging in dialogue, as had appeared likely, the peace on the border has held. This is also apparent from the fact that there have been just two successful infiltrations this year, as revealed by Lt Gen Pandey.

As against this, there were 111 successful infiltration attempts into J&K last year, as was disclosed by the then Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy in parliament. Also, last year, security forces had killed over 200 militants and so far this year around 163 militants have been killed in various encounters. But according to the existing figures, the number of militants continues to hover around 200. If anything, these figures show that the militancy in the Valley has gone nowhere following the revocation of Article 370. Over the last two years, the security forces have achieved greater success in the operations against militants and at one time it appeared a distinct possibility that the militancy was on its way out.

But going by the rise and fall of militancy over the past three decades, such a prospect is unlikely to come about. The militancy in Kashmir has often risen from the ashes. Never had it come so close to extinction as by 2013 when the Valley had a little over hundred militants, only a small number of them locals. But from 2014 the number started rising again. In 2018, the most violent year in a decade, 271 militants were killed but it still didn't make any difference to the ground situation.

Going forward, there is little indication that the militancy would cease. The simultaneous recruitment of the local youth in the militant ranks and the now shrunk infiltration from across the border invariably replenishes the shortfall created by the killings of the militants. And it will continue to do so unless the dynamic that animates the militancy is addressed. And this redressal is not in the killing of the militants but in a meaningful political outreach that has been sorely missing in the current climate. Ironically so, when the current establishment has the power to make such an outreach. It only needs the will.

OTHER OPINON

Lost Pitch

It was supposedly the last step in Pakistan's long and arduous road to bringing cricket back home. After a decade in wilderness, post the attack on Sri Lanka's team bus by terrorists in Lahore in March 2009, Pakistan was being incrementally reintegrated into the touring schedule. It has hosted West Indies, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, besides the elite players of world cricket in the popular Pakistan Super League in the last two years. The fear and reluctance of touring the country were gradually receding, and hosting New Zealand and England, in the next couple of months, was the logical and final step in declaring to the sporting world that Pakistan is safe to tour. But the cancellation of both tours, have sucker-punched their dreams and ambitions to be once again a vibrant, colourful cricket host.

New Zealand's reluctance, citing "specific, credible security threat" against the team, is more reasonable, and hence acceptable, than that of England. Only a fortnight ago an ISIS sympathiser randomly stabbed six people at a supermarket in Auckland. In the past, their cricketers have endured close shaves, twice in Colombo at the peak of Lankan civil war and once in Karachi, after an explosion outside their hotel. But England's excuses in cancelling the trip, chiefly "the mental and physical well-being of our players", "increasing concerns about travelling to the region" and "bubble fatigue", reeked of panic and pretence.

The boards of New Zealand and England, perhaps the ICC too, might compensate Pakistan's logistical loss, but not the damage it has inflicted on a sparkling cricket culture, as deep and diverse, as joyous and frenzied as India's. The cricket-mad country will have to be content with PSL and visits of low-rung nations, even those could be limited in the aftermath of the pullouts, and their best cricketers would be forced to consider someone else's home their home again. That last step on Pakistan's redemption road now looks longer and more arduous than ever before.

Indian Express

Reading China In Afghanistan



Dan Glazebrook

INVOLVING
HUNDREDS OF
billions of dollars of
infrastructure investment
in low-income countries,
the project is perhaps the
most ambitious project of
global south-south
economic cooperation ever
imagined, with the
potential to free the south
from its neocolonial
dependence on western
markets, finance and
distribution networks once
and for all

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid last week announced that China would be the new Afghan government's "most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us... China is our pass to markets all over the world".

Coming hot on the heels of Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar's visit to China in late July, such statements have been taken by many observers as confirmation that China is the unequivocal strategic victor of recent events. China's apparent alliance with the new Taliban government will, it is claimed, ensure it can consolidate its economic dominance through Afghanistan's full integration into the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), position itself as regional security guarantor and start to exploit Afghanistan's estimated \$1tn worth of untapped mineral resources.

Certainly, the combination of a friendly Afghan government and an end to the country's near half-century of war will be of enormous benefit to China. China's BRI has long envisaged Afghanistan as a vital component of its grand vision of a new Silk Road, providing high-speed connectivity across the entire Eurasian landmass and into Africa.

Involving hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment in low-income countries, the project is perhaps the most ambitious project of global south-south economic cooperation ever imagined, with the potential to free the south from its neocolonial dependence on western markets, finance and distribution networks once and for all.

And for China, it holds the dazzling prospect of ending the country's dependence on seaborne trade - trade that is at the mercy of the US Navy's control of the world's key "choke-points" - allowing it to import its energy needs and export its goods without a shipping container in sight, neutralising perhaps the last remaining element of US preponderance at a stroke.

'Afghan connectivity'

And Afghanistan - the gateway between Central Asia and South Asia - is fundamental to the realisation of this vision. "Without Afghan connectivity," said the Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan in 2016, "there is no way to connect China with the rest of the world."

But it is precisely because a peaceful Afghanistan has such potential for global south integration that it cannot be tolerated by the US.

"We may expect that the CIA will try to stand up an Afghan counter-insurgency [sic] to the new government," wrote Alastair Crooke, former MI6 liaison officer to the Mujahideen. While the Asia Times noted that "an unstable Afghanistan that exports terror threats to strategic rivals Russia, China and Iran is actually in Washington's geopolitical interest".

Given the current US National Defense Strategy's brazen admission that "interstate strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in US national security", and its commitment to "forcing" competitors "to confront conflict under adverse conditions", such worries seem sadly well placed.

But can the US and its sidekick Britain actually keep the desired war going now that its troops have vacated the region? Broadly speaking, there are three major potential "spoilers" for a peaceful, stable Afghan future, all of which have historical links to western special forces.

Most obvious is Isis-K, the Islamic State group's offshoot whose 26 August attack on Kabul airport offered a glimpse of a possible future depressingly like the horrific past. Noted Pepe Escobar in the Asia Times: "It's no secret among intel circles in Eurasia that Isis-K has become disproportionately more powerful since 2020 because of a transportation ratline from Idlib, Syria to eastern Afghanistan ...[for which] Moscow and Tehran, even at very high diplomatic levels, have squarely blamed the US-UK axis as the key facilitators."

Up to 10,000 jihadi fighters have entered the country in recent months, according to the New York Times, including forces "allied with Isis-K, presenting a major challenge to the stability and security the Taliban promise to provide for the country".

Warlords

Secondly, there are Afghanistan's notorious "warlords", many of them veterans of the anti-Soviet war of the 1980s. Some of the most powerful include Ahmad Massoud, son of the MI6 favourite Ahmad Shah Massoud; war criminal and CIA asset Abdul Rashid Dostum; and the corrupt and fabulously wealthy Atta Mohammad Noor, whose son is a recent graduate of Sandhurst military academy. Until earlier this year, all of these men controlled substantial militias and territories. However, as the Taliban swept all before them, they increasingly seemed like a busted flush, and have all now fled the country.

The country's erstwhile most dangerous warlord, however, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, may still have cards to play. A leading recipient of CIA and British support in the 1980s who personally threw acid in a woman's face and once met Margaret Thatcher, he was "famed for skinning infidels alive" and went on to mercilessly bombard Kabul in 1992 following his exclusion from the city's conquering armies. He has been deeply involved in negotiations with the Taliban, and may yet be able to stir up trouble if things do not go his way, especially given his links to the other powerful political figures left out of the Taliban government following negotiations, Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah.

Finally, there is the potential for opposition from within the Taliban's own ranks. The Taliban leadership has been keen to present a scrubbed image to the world, emphasising its commitments to counter-terrorism, girls' education and "inclusive government", as well as its commitment to friendly relations with China.

Yet power now lies with the fighters, not the political spokesmen, and their acceptance of this new agenda is far from assured. Signs of dissent emerged during the negotiations over the composition of the government, when Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob - the well-respected son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar and head of a huge network of field commanders - "let it leak that those 'living in luxury in Doha' cannot dictate terms" to the fighters.

Discontent is likely to grow as social conditions worsen. The US has frozen the entirety of Afghanistan's \$9.5bn central bank reserves, and the IMF has cancelled its lending to the country, leaving the new government unable to pay the salaries of government officials or for imports. Any hint that Kabul is succumbing to pressure from the West to impose an alien liberalism is also likely to drive a wedge between the leadership and the rank-and-file.

This could all prove fertile soil for recruitment among demoralised fighters by Isis-K or reconstituted warlord militias. Whether Chinese largesse can plug the gap in finances quickly enough to avert a humanitarian disaster, with all its political consequences, remains to be seen.

What is clear is that the West's policies thus far appear tailor-made to foment division.


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

Daan Glazebrook is a political writer and journalist. The article originally appeared in The Middle East Eye

Many lives could be saved if the farmers are educated and if more scientific methods are used. One such method could be the use of tree stands about 30 ft above ground and use of non-slip boots. Similarly, the use of safety harnesses such as head gear, chest and abdomen gears are recommended. Moreover, nets can also be provided to people, to slow down the fall.

More urgently, experienced and trained professionals should be provided with licences and without licences, it should be prohibited to climb such tall trees, this will lead to a dramatic decrease in mortality and morbidity caused by falls from walnut trees.

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Fatal Falls

Falls are the second most common cause of injury-associated mortality worldwide. This is true of Kashmir as well and is especially relevant given the recent deaths reported due to this occupational hazard. In fact, in September last week, around six deaths were reported due to fall from walnut trees. This pushed J&K Disaster Management Department to issue Dos and Don'ts to prevent these accidental deaths.

Falling down from a walnut tree, which is quite tall, is one of the major causes of grievous injuries and a leading cause of seasonal deaths in Kashmir.

Walnut trees are found almost everywhere in Kashmir. It is one of the prime indigenous products of Kashmir and is referred to as the pride of Kashmir's dry fruits.

Official data suggests that around 2.66 lakh metric tonnes of walnuts are cultivated on 89,000 hectares across Jammu and Kashmir. Walnuts constitute almost 98 per cent of the dry fruit that Kashmir produces in a year.

Walnut trees can grow up to the height of 50-60ft and the bark of these trees is very slippery. When the walnut cultivators climb these trees carrying a long stick in their hand to hit the fruit, they lose their balance which results in them falling off it.

Fatalities and the injuries caused by falling from walnut trees are most common and still remain so, especially in the harvesting months of August and September. Hence, these falls have become a seasonal occupational hazard and are exacerbating health care especially during the time of covid-19 pandemic.

I am a medical student, posted in the CT-Scan section of Government Medical College, Anantnag. Every day, we receive at least five patients, who are robust males but have a history of fall from walnut trees due to these traditional outdated methods employed in our region for harvesting walnut trees.

Cervical spine injuries (27.50%) are the most common injuries reported, followed closely by brain contusion (26.43%) and multiple fractures, mainly rib fractures. Many patients have multiple injuries. The mortality rate is about 50%. 20% of patients are rendered paralysed for life.

Government must come up with some ideas about preventive measures including educating walnut cultivators about the safety mea-

Arba'een And Shia Spirituality

Mohammed Khaku

ARBA'EEN IS DISTINCTIVELY
Shia spirituality, however Sunnis, even Christians, Yazidis, and Zoroastrians partake in both the pilgrimage as well as serving of devotees. In recent years, Archbishop of Tbilisi Malkhaz has participated in the walk. This means one thing: people regardless of color or creed see Hussein as a universal leader and symbol of freedom and justice

The concept of pilgrimage exists in all major religions, however, not many know about the pilgrimage to Iraq – Najaf and Karbala, which is known as Arba'een. The Arabic word Arr-ba-een translates to forty days period of mourning (Aza). This period of mourning as an ideology may be new to many, but there are many parallels to the outpouring of grief by Catholics shown at Easter. Sicilian and Spanish faithful who reenacted the crucifixion of Jesus by nailing a young man to the cross and then beating their chest with chains. Arba'een is the living symbol of the rise of the Shia power deprived for 1400 years.

On Sept 26th thirty million dressed in black, Shiite Muslim worshippers will converge on Iraq's holy city of Karbala as part of the annual pilgrimage, culminating a 40-day mourning period for the killing in AD 680 of Imam Hussain (as), grandson of the prophet Muhammed (pbuh) He was killed in Karbala on a day which became known as "Ashura", the tenth day of the Islamic month of Muharram, having refused to pledge allegiance to the corrupt and tyrannical caliph, Yazid.

Arba'een is distinctively Shia spirituality, however Sunnis, even Christians, Yazidis, and Zoroastrians partake in both the pilgrimage as well as serving of devotees. In recent years, Archbishop of Tbilisi Malkhaz has participated in the walk. This means one thing: people regardless of color or creed see Hussein (as) as a universal leader and symbol of freedom and justice.

No such an event exists in the world with such a frequency and magnitude. This is the largest peaceful gathering which you've probably never heard of it and many western media have failed



Shia pilgrims gathering in front of the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS). PHOTO: AFP

to cover or deliberately censor.

Why?
This is due to stereotyping towards the Arba'een pilgrimage who are mainly Shias and growing obsession with linking Shia's with suicide bombers and terrorism.

Why have Americans not heard of Arba'een, but they have heard of half a million people gathering for The Woodstock Music Festival of August 15, 1969. It probably has to do with the fact that the press is concerned with negativity, and dramatized tabloids than with inspiring stories, particularly when it comes to Arba'een. How could a man Imam Hussein who was killed 1400 years ago be so alive and have such a profound presence today that he makes millions take up his cause?

There is also hypocrisy in the US media

which gives 24/7 airtime to a pro-democracy demonstration in Hong Kong and impeachment, but a gathering of thirty million people fails even to make it into print media or cable news. US media demonstrates blatant disregard for this important news story and tries to keep it marginalized. Nevertheless, the media outlet has many correspondents even in the most remote parts of the world who cover the news events immediately and minute-by-minute. The deliberate censorship of newsworthy of 'Arba'een' is to undermine the important significance of the event.

Arba'een is newsworthy, because of a unique and exceptional 55-mile walk. Millions will walk for three days during the daytime with the scorching desert sun bearing down upon them and they will rest in the evenings in tents when the blistering cold takes over as temperatures rapidly plummet. They walk in unison toward Karbala as part of the ocean of faithful walking in waves like the ocean waves. The volunteers, doctors, and devotees distribute free food and drinks by the roadside and have tents for medical attention, relaxing, sleeping and washing.

The pilgrims are perplexed at the sight of thousands of tents with make-shift kitchens set up by local villagers who live around the pilgrim's path. The tents (called 'mawkeb') are places where pilgrims get practically everything they need. From fresh meals to eat and a space to rest, to free international phone calls to assure concerned relatives, to baby diapers, to practically every other amenity, free of charge.

All sorts of questions arise: who will accommodate all these people? What

about the food? Yet everyone in Iraq, whether they are children or adults, civilians, or soldiers, wealthy or poor, works together to serve the visitors of Husain. Even the children would stand with either a perfume they spray on the people walking by or a packet of tissues, prompting anyone to take as they please. This is the hospitality and generosity that truly reflects the image and legacy of the Infallible whose shrines are there. The event of Arba'een, is largely self-organizing however, the event is well secured and superbly managed by the Iraq authorities. The mood of the pilgrimage is one of intense piety, unity, and solidarity

The author can be reached at mkhaku@phoenixtube.com. Views expressed are author's own

Long Covid And Double Jabs

Misha Ketchell

In unvaccinated people, around one in 20 who get symptomatic COVID-19 experience symptoms for at least eight weeks. Around one in 50 have symptoms that drag out for three months or more.

We wanted to know whether COVID-19 vaccines might protect against developing long-lasting symptoms. To find out, we looked at data provided by more than a million regular contributors to the COVID Symptom Study, a project in which members of the public log their symptoms via an app to help with research.

Our latest analysis of the study's data, covering around 2 million vaccine doses, shows that vaccines significantly reduce the risk of catching COVID-19, with only 0.2% of those fully vaccinated later testing positive for the virus.

Even if you're unlucky enough to catch the virus after being vaccinated, your chances of falling seriously ill or dying are slashed. Double-vaccinated people are 31% less likely to experience acute COVID-19 symptoms and 73% less likely to be hospitalised – a result that's borne out in the relatively low hospitalisation and death rates we're seeing now even as tens of thousands of people are still testing positive every day in the UK.

Reassuringly, for those who did fall ill with COVID-19 after being vaccinated, only around 5% went on to have symptoms that lasted for more than four weeks, meaning their chances of developing long COVID were cut by half. One of the best ways to reduce your risk of getting long COVID is to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

However, we did notice that frail older people and those living in more socially deprived areas were more likely to be infected and fall ill with COVID-19 after being vaccinated, especially if they had only had one vaccine dose. This suggests that we should prioritise further vaccination efforts and public health measures such as masking and social



ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES OF DEVELOPING LONG COVID AFTER
being vaccinated are small, this is a numbers game and a small percentage of a big number can still be substantial. As long as we are seeing tens of thousands of cases every day, we can still expect to see a substantial number of people living with lingering symptoms over the coming months

distancing among these groups, especially where infection rates are high and people are mixing and moving around.

Vaccines and long COVID
As the UK vaccination programme rolled out, we also started to notice anecdotal reports from people living with long COVID that their symptoms seemed to improve after being vaccinated.

The patient-led LongCovidSOS group chose to investigate this by surveying over 800 long COVID patients early

in 2021. More than half of those surveyed noticed an overall improvement in their symptoms after vaccination, which then appeared to be sustained in about half of this group. Around a quarter of the overall respondents reported no difference and one-fifth said their symptoms had got worse. These findings have been released as a preprint, so haven't yet been reviewed by other scientists, but they've been backed up by data from the COVID Symptom

Study, which we'll be publishing soon.

However, while there does seem to be some kind of link between receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and improvements in long COVID, it's not clear exactly how the two are connected. It could be that the immune response triggered by the vaccine has a direct impact on symptoms.

Alternatively, it could just be that time has continued to pass since these people were originally infected and they're ex-

periencing a natural recovery from the virus. Or it could be a bit of both. Either way, more research is needed to tease out what's going on.

What we can say is that COVID-19 vaccines certainly aren't harmful for people with long COVID. What's more, because we know that it's possible to be reinfected with the virus, there's a risk that catching it a second time could exacerbate symptoms for people living with long COVID and set them back even further. It's therefore vital that we encourage anyone with long COVID who has not been vaccinated to do so as soon as possible, to help protect themselves and those around them.

A serious threat
Although the chances of developing long COVID after being vaccinated are small, this is a numbers game and a small percentage of a big number can still be substantial. As long as we are seeing tens of thousands of cases every day, we can still expect to see a substantial number of people living with lingering symptoms over the coming months.

This is particularly important for younger people, who may be less worried about hospitalisation or death, yet who can still be susceptible to the debilitating long-term effects of the virus. A lot can happen in a few months when you're young, and long COVID can mean that people miss out on life-changing opportunities, like sitting an exam or taking up a new job, as well as the social activities that bring joy and wellbeing to life.

We'll probably all be living with COVID-19 for some time to come. But with a combination of vaccination and public health measures where necessary, we can help to make sure that as few people as possible have to directly live with its life-limiting long-term effects.

The author is a Reader in Ageing Research, King's College London. The article is being reproduced by arrangement with The Conversation

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one.

Shri : Gulzar Ahmad Mir
S/o: Gh Mohi Ud Din Mir
R/o: Manipapy Budgam
(Transferor) of LMV. Vehicle
bearing registration
number JK04F-5737.
Chasis number 36168



Engine no. 6287951 Model 2020. in favour of Shri. Mudasar Yousuf Mir S/o. Mohd Yousuf Mir R/o Quil Pulwama (Tranferee) as well as HPA Cancellation with J&K Bnak B/U JK BOSE Jammu Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Srinagar Times.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3332
Dated 22/09/2021

Budgam Kashmir
Assistant Regional Transport officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME:- TARIQ AHMAD BHAT
S/O :- AB RAHMAN BHAT
R/O :- SHOUL BATENGGOO ANANTNAG

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME:- AKIF REHMAN KHANDAY
S/O :- ABDUL REHMAN KHANDAY
R/O :- NIPUR ANANTNAG

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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NAME:- JAVAD AHMAD BHAT
S/O :- GHULAM MOHAMMA BHAT
R/O :- NIPUR ANANTNAG

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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NAME:- WAKEEL AHMAD BHAT
S/O :- GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/O :- NIPUR ANANTNAG

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME:- SHOWKAT AHMAD IT00
S/O :- WALI MOHAMMAD IT00
R/O :- MOHDHOLE KULGAM

RNA

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD**

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu
www.jkssb.nic.in

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Subject: Postponement of Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for various posts of various Departments advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01 and 02 of 2021 scheduled from 25th of September 2021 to 01st of October 2021- regarding.

The J&K Services Selection Board vide Notice No SSB/COE/2021/1162-70 dated 09-09-2021, notified the schedule of Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for various posts of various Departments advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01 and 02 of 2021 w.e.f. 25th September, 2021 to 1st of October, 2021 in multiple batches.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the aforesaid CBT examination scheduled from 25th September, 2021 to 1st of October, 2021 is hereby postponed till further orders.

The fresh schedule for the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for various posts relating to different Departments and Advertisement Notification Nos, post wise and dates for conduct of aforesaid CBT examination shall be notified later on.

By Order.

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller of Examinations

DIPK-9036/21 J&K Services Selection Board Jammu
No. SSB/COE/CBT-II/2021/6199-6209 Dated: 20-09-2021

**Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
ASYM DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM**

E-Mail address: medsupdhh@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Short Term Tenders affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, from the registered Firms of J&K UT for the supply of Drugs/Medicines/Disposables as per the details/ specifications given in the tender documents. These tender documents can be had on written request during all working days up to 29.09.2021 (3.00 p.m.) against the Non-refundable cash amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five Hundred only) for which necessary G.R be collected from the office of the Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam as cost of tender, which should be enclosed while submitting Tender Documents, otherwise the tender shall be rejected out rightly. The tender documents can also be seen & downloaded from the official website www.dhskashmir.org.

The tender on the prescribed format shall be submitted for each items in a single (big size) envelope containing three envelopes one for "Eligibility Bid" second for "Technical Bid" & third for "Financial Bid, duly sealed and super-scribed as tender for the supply of Drugs/Medicines/ Disposables for the year-2021-22 addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam. Email address: medsupdhh@gmail.com & should reach this office by or before 30.09.2021 up to 1:00 p.m. The sealed tender(s) should personally be deposited in the tender box available in this office or can be sent by Registered Post. Tenders received after due date shall not be entertained. The tender(s) will be opened on 30/09/2021 at 2.00pm in presence of intending supplier / any other authorized representative who may be present. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of the tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

The intending tenderer shall have to deposit an amount Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousands Only) for general bidders and Rs. 5,000/= (Rupees five Thousand only) in case of SSI Unit holders for aforesaid group as token provision of refundable Earnest Money in the shape of CDR / FDR from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank preferably Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd pledged to the Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam. The tender without Earnest Money Deposit shall out rightly be rejected. In the event of any of mentioned dates above being declared as holidays/closed day, the Short Term Tenders will be sold /received/ opened on the next working day at the scheduled time.

DIPK-9064/21

Medical Superintendent
ASYM District Hospital Budgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: **Change of Location in the Registration Certificate of the Travel unit namely M/s Travel Height Holidays.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Syed Mohammad Ausif Rafiqi and Mr. Maninder Bhasin has approached to this office change of location of their Travel Unit running under the name and style "M/s Travel Height Holidays" from Shiv Ji Temple, Ishber Nishat Srinagar to Pandit House, 1st floor, Sir Syed Market, Gogjibagh, Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas the unit is registered with this department under Registration No.- Reg/1983/477/DTK/35/L-11/P-17 dated 04-09-2018 and is renewed up to 31.03.2022

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Original Registration Certificate, Site Plan of new location, Rent Deed, NOC from the bank, Photographs of new location in support of his claim. The Travel unit was inspected on 18-09-2020.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for change of location of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

DIPK-9068/21

No: Reg/T/1604/1250/DTK
Dated:-19-01-2021.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir)

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.**

B

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT NO. 99/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 09/2021**

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Face Lifting by way of Painting to all the four Blocks at Old Natipora Srinagar.	2.13 lacs	200/-	20 Days	DEE	2216 Non Plan
2.	Renovation / Repairs to Set No B-59 at Budshah Flats Srinagar. (I Shape Building).	1.74 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
3.	Renovation / Repairs to Set No B-60 at Budshah Flats Srinagar. (I Shape Building).	0.99 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	
4.	Up-gradation of Set No. D-2 & A-6 at Silk Factory Srinagar.	1.73 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
5.	Construction of Wardrobes / Almirah and other Civil repairs in Set No. C-3 at Silk Factory Srinagar.	0.68 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	
6.	Up-gradation of Stair Case by way of Laying of Marble at One Block New Natipora Flats Srinagar.	2.05 lacs	200/-	20 Days	DEE	

Position of AAA:

Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20.09.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	20.09.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	01.10.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	01.10.2021 at 3.05 PM. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- 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 technical bid.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/4091-01/T-1

Dated:- 18-09-2021

DIPK-8991/21

Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION VAILOO ANANTNAG

Email:- executiveengineernbdiv.vailoo@gmail.com

**FRESH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
FOR MACADAM WORKS**

Fresh NIT No. 116 / 4536-45 of R&B/Vailoo /2021-22 /e-tendering/ DATED:- 21.09.2021

For and on behalf of the President of India , e-tenders on (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	6	8
1	Up gradation / Restoration of road surface by way of P/L 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam including 25 mm thick semidance , 6 mm seal coat and tack coat including WMM laid with mechanical paver on Bidhar Kharity road at Bidhar inner links.	11.45 (including cost of Bitumen)	600	10 days	HOT MIX PLANT HOLDER

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21.09.2021
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 22.09.2021 To 27.09.2021
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 22.09.2021 To 27.09.2021
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 27.09.2021
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28.09..2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailoo (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 earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - 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.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - 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 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.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
21. The tender document issued this FY makes establishment of a mobile quality control lab by the contactor compulsory.
- All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer/ Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration card
- All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated by this office letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018

SD/-

DIPK-9111/21

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division

Zee Entertainment, Sony India Announce Merger



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures on Wednesday said they have received in-principle approval for a merger that will combine both companies' linear networks, digital assets, production operations and program libraries.

Further, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka will lead the merged entity.

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) said the merger would bring together two leading Indian media network businesses, benefitting consumers throughout India across content genres, from film to sports.

"The combined company is expected to benefit all stakeholders given strong synergies between ZEEL and SPNI," said SPNI.

As per the deal, the shareholders of SPNI will hold majority stake in the merged entity.

This exclusive, non-binding pact to combine both companies' assets will "enhance the combined company's digital platforms across technology and content, ability to bid for broadcasting rights in the fast-growing sports landscape and pursue other growth opportunities," said SPNI.

Further, Sony Pictures Entertainment, the parent company of SPNI, would invest growth capital so that SPNI has a cash balance of approximately USD

1,575 billion, SPNI said in a statement.

According to ZEEL, basis the existing estimated equity values of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) and SPNI, the indicative merger ratio would have been 61.25 per cent in favour of ZEEL.

"However, with the proposed infusion of growth capital into SPNI, the resultant merger ratio is expected to result in 47.07 per cent of the merged entity to be held by ZEEL shareholders and the balance 52.93 per cent of the merged entity to be held by SPNI shareholders," it said.

It also added that Zee Entertainment Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka, who is facing pressure from two largest shareholders of the company - Invesco and OFI Global China Fund LLC - to quit the post, would lead the merged entity.

Last week, the two investment firms - which together hold 17.88 per cent of the paid-up share capital of the company that carries the right of voting - had called an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders seeking to remove Goenka from the position.

"The combined company's board of directors would include directors nominated by Sony Group and result in Sony Group having the right to nominate the majority of the board members," said SPNI statement.

Adb Lowers India's GDP Growth Projection For This Fiscal To 10 Pc On Covid Disruptions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's growth projections for the current financial year by a percentage point to 10 per cent, mainly due to disruptions in economic activity caused by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, ADB had projected a growth rate of 11 per cent in 2021-22 for India.

In its update of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) released on Wednesday, the multilateral lending agency has also trimmed the growth forecast for Asia as a region from 7.3 per cent to 7.1 per cent for 2021, though it retained the growth projections for China at 8.1 per cent.

"The growth forecast for India in fiscal year 2021 (ending March 2022) is revised down, as May's spike in COVID-19 dented the recovery. The outbreak, however, dissipated faster than anticipated, resulting in several states easing lockdown measures and returning to more normal travel patterns," said the ADO Update (ADOU) 2021.

The economy is expected to rebound strongly in the remaining three quarters of FY2021, and grow by 10 per cent in the full fiscal year, before moderating to 7.5 per cent in FY2022 (fiscal ending March 2023), ADB said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also trimmed India's economic growth projection by a similar margin to 9.5 per cent in June this year.

The forecast, for the 12 months ending March 31, 2022, takes into account disruptions in economic activity caused by the second wave of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which adversely impacted services, domestic consumption, and the urban informal sector, ADB said.

Because consumption will recover only gradually, the government spending and exports will contribute more to FY2021 than they did in the previous fiscal, it said.

"The Indian economy is showing encouraging signs of recovery as the effects of the second wave dissipate. The gov-



ernment's vaccination drive, its new fiscal stimulus package, and initiatives to free more resources for infrastructure development, along with measures to strengthen health-related interventions, are helping speed up recovery," Takeo Konishi, ADB Country Director for India, said.

About South Asia, comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, the update said the outlook varies across the subregion.

"The subregion is projected to expand more slowly this year than earlier projected, but faster next year. While India's drives the forecast, growth rates will vary across economies. As well as for India, this Update revises down 2021's forecasts for Bangladesh and Nepal, both grappling with another resurgence in COVID-19 cases."

However, China will remain strong, despite a protracted recovery in household consumption. "The GDP growth forecast remains unchanged at 8.1 per cent in 2021, and 5.5 per cent in 2022, as a solid export performance and higher fiscal support in the second half of 2021 keep growth on track," as per ADB's estimate about China.

Even as COVID-19 cases increase in China, the gradual recovery in consumption is expected to continue, buttressed by improvements in the job market and consumer confidence.

The contributions of net exports and investment to China's growth, supported by healthy trade dynamics, are also expected to increase this year, before moderating in 2022, it said.

ADB said the pandemic is clouding developing Asia's economic prospects despite rebound

in exports demand and revival in global demand.

"Renewed COVID-19 outbreaks since July are slowing the growth momentum in some parts of the region. The recovery has been weaker in economies hit by domestic outbreaks and those facing weak demand for their key industries such as tourism-dependent economies," ADB said.

Developing Asia comprises 46 members of ADB.

The rebound in Developing Asia is expected to be a bit weaker than ADO 2021's forecast. Regional GDP is expected to expand by 7.1 per cent this year, a marginal downward revision from the earlier projection of 7.3 per cent, it said.

"Regional growth this year will be characterized by slower-than-expected expansions in South Asia and Southeast Asia, a slight contraction in the Pacific and faster recoveries in East Asia and Central Asia."

ADB said strong growth in advanced economies will continue supporting the recovery in global trade.

"Rapid vaccine rollouts in these economies have reduced the incidence of severe cases, hospitalizations, and deaths during the resurgence of COVID-19 infections," as per the update.

Growth in the US, Euro area, and Japan will remain robust in 2022 with GDP likely to grow by 3.9 per cent on an average.

On the price front, ADB said inflation has moved up in some economies in Asia due to rising energy and food prices as well as exchange rate depreciation.

"But it nevertheless remains close to the targets of central banks across the region, excluding Central Asia. Against this backdrop, fiscal and monetary policies continue to be accommodative and financial conditions remain robust," the ADOU 2021 said.

India's Reserve Bank has projected retail inflation at 5.7 per cent in the current fiscal year on account of supply-side impediments, firm crude oil prices and higher cost of raw materials. RBI takes into account retail inflation as a key input to decide its monetary policy every two months.

J&K Tourism Organizes Promotional Event At Ahmedabad



Observer News Service

AHMADABAD: Continuing with its promotional campaign, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department Wednesday organized a promotional campaign here in which good numbers of travel agents, representatives of prominent travel organisations like TAAI, TAFI, ADTOI, TAG etc representatives of Gujarat Film Industry and other stakeholders participated.

Earlier an interaction was also held with the print, electronic media fraternity of Ahmedabad as well.

The visiting officers, Natsasha Kalsotra, Joint Director, Tourism Jammu and Masarat Hashim, CEO, Pahalgam Development Authority informed the delegates that the J & K Government is very keen to promote tourism and various tourism products of the Union Territory. They shared the post Covid

scenario in Jammu & Kashmir and highlighted positive steps taken by the administration for the safety of the tourism stakeholders including vaccination campaigns and capacity building measures.

The officers, among other aspects, also briefed the participants about the addition of new destinations besides formulating a new film policy. All the relevant information was shared with the representatives of the Film Industry in order to encourage them to visit and shoot in J&K.

A cycling event at Sabarmati River front was also organized. Officers of the Tourism Department, local travel trade fraternity, local boys wearing tourism promotional outfits participated in the event.

The local media was briefed about the tourism products & upcoming 75 festivals scheduled to be organized soon.

‘Significant Difference Of Opinion Within Govt On Draft e-Commerce Rules’



NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI): There is a significant difference of opinion within the government on the draft e-commerce rules put out by the consumer affairs ministry, a top government official said on Wednesday and flagged concerns that continuous change of the policy causes a great deal of uncertainty.

The official said that unnecessary fear is created that the government's current e-commerce policy is hurting small traders. "There is a significant difference of opinion within the government on the draft Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules put out by the consumer affairs ministry... Continuous change of the policy causes a great deal of uncertainty," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

Ban on fraudulent flash sales and misselling, and appointment of chief compliance officer/grievance redressal officer are among the key amendments proposed to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, 2020.

The ministry had sought public comments on the draft rules by July 6 and later the deadline was extended to July 21.

The official said that the issue related to competition does not come under the consumer affairs ministry and those issues come under the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Further, he noted that out of estimated 7 crore traders, 85 per cent are micro traders and are benefiting from the current e-commerce policy.

"Modernisation of e-commerce will create more jobs and economic growth... and 85 per cent micro traders' profit will also increase," the official said. Recently, Consumer Affairs Secretary Leena Nandan said the government will take a "balanced" approach while finalising the amendments proposed to the rules as "wide and varied" comments have been received from stakeholders.

The secretary had said e-commerce was a relevant sector last year and continues to be even now.

In June, Chief Commissioner of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Nidhi Khare had made it clear that the ministry "will not regulate" the trade on e-commerce platforms and e-tailers need not be "anxious" about the proposed changes in the rules.

NABARD conducts workshop on ACABC Scheme

Youth To Get 44% Subsidy In Setting Up Of Agri Business Units

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to support agriculture development and create gainful employment for agriculture graduates besides extending extension services to the farmers, the Govt of India has announced a scheme for establishment of Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centers (ACABC).

This was revealed at a district level workshop organized by NABARD at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (SKUAST) Anantnag.

The workshop was inaugurated by DDM NABARD Rouf Zargar and was attended by Agriculture graduates of the district besides, the district heads of Agriculture, Horticulture, SKUAST and Banks were also present.

Giving details of the scheme, the DDM said that the scheme aims to provide business opportunities to unemployed agriculture graduates and the doorstep delivery of agricul-

tural extension services to farmers to cater to their local needs and affordability.

These Clinics/business centers shall provide expert advice and services to farmers on various technologies.

The DDM informed that the requisite 60 days training shall be provided to applicants free of cost by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), through Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs).

After the training, the applicants will be provided a bank loan from 20 lakh to 1 crore (individual or group) to start the unit. NABARD will channelize the 36 percent subsidy to general category applicants and 44 per cent to applicants belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and north east, hilly states.

Interested applicants can call toll-free number 1800-425-1556 or apply online on acabcmis website.

Need Higher Investment In Healthcare, Infrastructure For Sustainable Growth: RBI Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday pitched for higher investment in infrastructure and reforms in labour and product markets to achieve sustainable growth post-pandemic.

Addressing AIMA National Management Convention, Das underlined the need for increased investment in healthcare education, digital and physical infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth and generate employment opportunities.

Noting that the pandemic has affected the poor and the vul-



nerable more in emerging and developing countries, Das said, "Our endeavour should be to ensure livable and sustainable growth in the post-pandemic future. Restoring the durability of private consumption, which has remained historically the main-

stay of aggregate demand will be very crucial going forward".

More importantly, sustainable growth should entail meeting on macro fundamentals via medium-term investments, sound financial systems and structural reforms, he said.

"Towards this objective, a big push to investment in healthcare, education, innovation, physical and digital infrastructure will be required. We should also continue with further reforms in labour and product markets to encourage competition and dynamism, and to benefit from the pandemic induced opportunities," he added.

SHORT TAKES

Markets Slip Ahead Of Fed Policy Decision; HDFC Twins Top Drags

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks ticked lower in choppy trade on Wednesday, weighed by selling in banking and finance counters, as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Fed's policy decision.

However, global markets were in better shape after China's Evergrande group reached a deal to pay some bond interest, calming fears of a default.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 77.94 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 58,927.33. The broader NSE Nifty declined 15.35 points or 0.09 per cent to 17,546.65.

HDFC was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 1.46 per cent, followed by Nestle India, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, HUL and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, M&M, HCL Tech, Bajaj Auto, RIL and Tata Steel were among the prominent gainers, climbing up to 3.70 per cent.

Domestic benchmark indices traded in a

range ahead of crucial FOMC meeting outcome tonight. Global markets also traded mixed with European markets witnessing sharp rebound, said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Auto, IT, metal and realty stocks witnessed sharp rebound, while Nifty media index surged over 15 per cent mainly led by a rally in Zee Entertainment following its merger deal with Sony Pictures, which is seen as quite positive for the company, he noted.

India's largest publicly-traded television network Zee Entertainment Enterprises will merge with Sony Pictures Network India (SPNI), capping days of high drama during which the firm's shareholders sought removal of key officials.

Sony, which will invest USD 1,575 billion, will hold 52.93 per cent stake in the merged entity and Zee the remaining 47.07, Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) said in a statement.

Gold Jumps Rs 196, Silver Climbs Rs 319

NEW DELHI: Gold rose by Rs 196 to Rs 45,746 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid firm global cues and rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 45,550 per 10 gram.

Silver jumped Rs 319 to Rs 59,608 per kg from Rs 59,289 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated by 26 paise to 73.87 against the US dollar on Wednesday.

In the international market, gold was trading in the green at USD 1,776 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.72 per ounce.

"The speculation ahead of the US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) and uncertainty over China's Evergrande crisis has sent mixed cues to the market boosting buying in bullion," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

Navneet Damani, VP Commodities Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said, "Bullions edged higher as unease over China's Evergrande insolvency and OECD's lower growth forecast for 2021 spurred safe-haven buying, ahead of the US Fed policy meet." (PTI)

Rupee Slumps By 26 Paise To Nearly 4-Week Low Against Dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee declined by 26 paise to close at a nearly four-week low of 73.87 against the US currency on Wednesday due to a stronger dollar in overseas markets ahead of the outcome of the US Fed meeting and worries over China's Evergrande situation.

Forex traders said investors are awaiting cues on taper timeline and US Fed's projections on interest rates. The US Fed meeting outcome will be announced later in the day.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 73.70 and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.66 and a low of 73.93 against the US dollar in day trade.

The local unit finally settled at 73.87 a dollar, the lowest closing level since August 26. On Tuesday, the rupee had settled at 73.61 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of

six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent higher at 93.22.

"The Indian Rupee depreciated against the dollar on Wednesday, tracking losses in regional currencies. Most Asian currencies were weaker ahead of the Fed decision and worries about the China's Evergrande situation and weighed on the local unit," said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

Investors are wary of the Fed meeting tonight and some are expecting that the Federal Reserve could provide more hints about scaling back its asset purchases later.

"Tonight's Fed meeting will be watched closely. The market is expecting US Fed to announce a timeline on taper, issue inflation forecast, and update its interest rate projection via dot plot. We expect USDINR to remain within a range of 73.40-74.20 over the near term," said Anindya Banerjee, DVP, Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives at Kotak Securities Ltd.

LG Flags Off 95 Newly Procured Buses Of JKRTC

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a major boost to the government owned J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC), the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday flagged off the first lot of 95 newly procured buses for the corporation and dedicated them to the service of people of J&K.

“Connectivity brings people closer and it is one of the key drivers of growth and prosperity,” the LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

The newly procured buses are part of the revival plan which involves a major expansion of JKRTC’s fleet with the addition of more than 500 new vehicles in a gradual manner.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG said that by augmenting the fleet of busses, JKRTC will be in a position to expand its operational network, besides providing safe, secure, hassle-free, and economical transport services to the general public of the UT.

Sinha, he said, reiterated J&K Government’s commitment to



provide quality transport facilities to the public in the UT, and said that the unprecedented augmentation of public transport system will boost revenue generation as more and more viable and lucrative routes will be included in the operational network of corporation.

The official spokesperson said that the LG stated that the new addition will address the long

pending demand of the general public of remote areas as the preference for operation of new buses among other routes will be given to the remote areas of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, besides major Interstate routes.

“The UT Government has made significant advances towards improving the standards of Mass Public Transportation by providing cost-effective and

convenient public transport to cater to the needs of the people,” Sinha said.

“Dedicated efforts are being made to reach out to the unconnected habitations with transport connectivity, especially in rural and remote areas so that

the population living in these areas can be provided with better means of transportation,” he added.

The official spokesperson said that JKRTC is the only transport corporation in the country having both types of transport vehicles viz Goods as well as Passenger vehicles. It also ensures timely transportation of food grains and other essential commodities to every nook and corner of the UT of J&K, besides playing vital role during exigencies like natural calamities including earthquakes and floods.

“As part of the revival plan of JKRTC, a total of 503 vehicles including 277 Trucks, 185 Buses and 41 AC Buses will be added to the fleet of JKRTC in a phased manner,” he said.

By adding 277 Trucks to the fleet of JKRTC, the general public will be benefitted by prompt delivery of essential commodities including food grains particularly the people living far-flung and inaccessible areas.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG felicitated Ms Navleen Kour for designing the graphics for newly procured vehicles. Her design was selected through crowd sourcing by JKRTC.

PM Modi's Plane Flies Over Pakistan Airspace En Route To US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plane en route to the United States flew over the Pakistan airspace on Wednesday after the neighbouring country gave permission for the aircraft, according to sources.

There was no official confirmation from the government on whether the prime minister's aircraft flew over the Pakistan airspace, but sources confirmed that the route included Pakistan airspace.

According to flight-tracking website Flightradar24, the plane -- Boeing 777-337 (ER) -- took off from the national capital at a little past 11.40 am and the route shows it flying over Pakistan and Iran, among other countries.

The sources said the permission came late from Pakistan authorities for the prime minister's plane to fly over its airspace. In case, permission was not given, there

was an alternative plan for the prime minister and his entourage to make a stop at Frankfurt and then proceed to the US, they added.

In October 2019, Pakistan had denied India's request to use its airspace for Modi's flight to Saudi Arabia. The same year in September also, Pakistan had denied over-flight clearance for the prime minister's aircraft.

Modi enplaned for the US on Wednesday morning. His office tweeted a picture of him just before boarding the plane for the US where he will take part in a wide range of programmes.

In a statement just before leaving for the US, Modi said he will conclude his visit with an address at the United Nations General Assembly focusing on the pressing global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to combat terrorism, climate change and other important issues.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Fires Six

he is currently on bail since August 30.

Teacher Abdul Hamid Wani of Bijbehara in Anantnag district was also among those dismissed from service. It is alleged that before joining government service, he was a district commander of militant group Allah Tigers and propagated secessionist ideology, the officials said.

They said he had reportedly secured the employment without any selection process by leveraging Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) influence. He was a key speaker and organiser in the 2016 agitation following the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani.

A junior assistant in the Roads and Buildings Department, Mohd Rafi Butt of Kishtwar, is accused of having provided logistical support to Hizbul Mujahideen militant in Kishtwar, besides providing a safe environment to them to execute militant plans. He figures in an FIR registered by the NIA and is presently on bail after being arrested, the officials said.

They said teacher Liyaqat Ali Kakroo of Baramulla was appointed in government service in 1983 and was arrested in 2001 with an explosive substance. The probe against him revealed that he was a locally-trained militant.

A cache of arms was recovered from his possession in 2002 and subsequently, he was detained under the PSA for two years. However, he was acquitted by court in both the cases, the officials said, adding that two grenades were recovered from his possession again in 2021.

Range officer Tariq Mehmood Kohli of Poonch was allegedly involved in smuggling of illegal arms, ammunition and explosives, including hard drugs and fake Indian Currency Notes from Pakistan, they said.

They said Kohli, who was arrested in a case registered against him in 2010, had remained in touch with active militants and was mentioned as an overground worker in police records.

In an identical order about the dismissal of the six employees, the General Administration Department (GAD) said the Lt Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and on the basis of the information available that the activities of these employees were such as to warrant their dismissal from service.

“...the Lieutenant Governor is satisfied under sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in the case of... Accordingly, the Lieutenant Governor hereby dismisses... from service, with immediate effect,” the order said mentioning the name of each sacked employee.

On July 11, as many as 11 employees, including two sons of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief, were dismissed from service.

Earlier in April-May, the administration dismissed seven employees, including DSP Davinder Singh.

Idrees Jan, a teacher from North Kashmir's Kupwara district was the first government employee to be sacked from service for anti-national activities on May 1.

His dismissal came barely a week after the Union Territory administration constituted a Special Task Force (STF) empowered to look into allegations against government employees of involvement in anti-state activities and recommend dismissal of those found involved.

Govt Sending a Wrong

The communist leader said the administration should also consider the impact of these summary dismissals on the general working and psyche of the employees.

“Virtually, it sends a message of creating fear among the larger sections of the employees and, I am afraid, it will impact the psyche and the working of the government employees adversely,” he said.

Tarigami said employees are the instruments of carrying forward the development and governance agenda.

“This is a machinery and if this machinery is frightened or demoralised, it will affect the functioning of the government itself,” he added.]

Covid Cases

wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 80 cases, Budgama 28, Baramulla and Ganderbal 14 each, Pulwama and Bandipora 7 each, Anantnag 5 and Kupwara 4. The twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian reported no new

case of virus.

In Jammu division, Reasi reported 28 cases followed by 4 new cases in Samba, Rajouri and Jammu districts and one new case each in Udhampur, Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar and Poonch. No case was reported from Ramban district.

Also, the officials said that 118 more Covid -19 patients have recovered during the time—17 from Jammu Division and 101 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, there was no 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. (With GNS inputs)

Cop Kills Colleague

near the temple, the guard there observed suspicious movement and signalled him to stop. Dhar apparently could not hear the sentry, prompting him to open fire,” the officials said.

They said Dhar was rushed to a hospital here but succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

This is the second incident of fratricide in Kupwara district in three days. An Army soldier died in a firing incident on Monday following an argument with his colleague during a break from patrolling.

Board Announces

qualified the main examinations in all compulsory subjects,” the notification reads.

It further adds that the promotion of the candidates shall be subject to the condition that, if for any reason at any stage of time in future, it is found that the candidates were not eligible for appearing in 2020-21 session,

“The JKBOSE shall reserve the right to cancel their promotion without any prior notice,” the notification reads.

“The same policy shall be adopted in the forthcoming Annual (Private), Bi-Annual examination-2021, summer zone of Jammu division as well,” it adds.

HC Seeks Details

there is a necessity to be aware of the antecedents of the person that is or was elected. Ensuring the purity of democratically elected institutions is thus the hallmark of the present proceedings.” The order read.

Taking cognizance of the directions contained by the Supreme Court passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No 699/2016, the Division Bench of acting Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul has mentioned that, “Keeping in view the given suo-moto motion, the Union of India shall be represented through Home Secretary, Union Territory of J&K through Commissioner Secretary, Home and Union Territory of Ladakh through Commissioner Secretary, Home.”

Shortly after, the High Court arrayed the Union Home Secretary, J&K's Commissioner Secretary Home and Commissioner Secretary Home Ladakh as respondents, Tahir Majid Shamsi, ASGI, accepted notice on behalf of Ministry of Home Affairs and UT of Ladakh while Advocate General D.C.Raina accepted on behalf of J&K.

“Let the respondents be arrayed accordingly and notice be issued to them,” the bench directed.

The Division Bench has asked both learned counsel to inform the Court by 21st October, about the number of trials that are pending in different subordinate courts of the erstwhile state as well as the matters that are pending in the High Court against the legislators.

It is worthwhile to mention here that in the significant order, the Supreme Court had said, “there are about 175 cases pending under the Prevention of Corruption Act and 14 cases are pending under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 against sitting and former legislators”.

Kulgam Family's

was abducted and believed to have been killed, the Wagey family has faced other tragedies. Manzoor's elder son, Muzzafar, a truck driver, met with an accident and suffered a permanent disability.

Manzoor's other son, Shahnawaz is studying in the second semester of Bachelor of Business Administration.

“He (Shakir) had a surgery on his foot and after we washed the body, the marks of stitches were still there. And the 'kada' in his right arm was also there,” Shahnawaz said.

Shakir, posted with the 162 battalion of the Territorial Army, attached with Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, was going to the Army

camp at Beehi Bagh from home when militants abducted him from a nearby apple orchard. Next day, his car was found burnt and later, his blood-soaked clothes were recovered, an Army officer said.

Initially, it was presumed that Shakir may have joined ranks with a militant group but later Shakoor Parrey, an informer, who joined banned Al-Badar militant group, claimed responsibility for his killing, the official said.

Later, during an anti-militancy operation, 44 Rashtriya Rifles ensured a surrender in August last year of an Al-Badar militant Shoaib who told the investigators that Shakir was killed by Parrey and buried at an undisclosed location. The Army had dug at least 27 places during the past year, the official added.

Shahnawaz said that his father had to spend a fortune on offering the last prayers of Shakir. “He (Manzoor) used to wake up during the night crying for his son. After all, bhai (brother) was a ray of hope in their old age. Now I am trying to live up to their expectations,” 20-year-old Shahnawaz said.

The family had searched all adjacent villages, including Landoora, Kundlan, Malpora, Nildora and Nihama, where Shakir's burnt car was located.

At least three militants, arrested or surrendered, have told investigators that they had tortured Shakir and later on Parrey killed him and disposed of his body, the official said.

Shopkeeper Shot

investigation has revealed that “terrorists” had fired upon the youth causing injuries to his leg.

“He has been evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment where his condition is said to be stable,” he said.

He further said that a case in this regard under relevant sections of law has been registered.

“Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on,” the police spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, an auto-rickshaw driver was shot at by a soldier on Wednesday for allegedly snatching the latter's weapon in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Mohsin Ahmad (24) sustained bullet injuries in his leg after he was shot at by the soldier of a patrolling party at Azadgunj in Baramulla district, they said.

A defence spokesman said the incident took place when Ahmad tried to snatch the soldier's weapon.

“The individual was shot in the legs to thwart the weapon snatching attempt,” he said.

The spokesman said Ahmad had assaulted a soldier on duty in similar circumstances around two months ago.

The individual was counselled by the Army on that occasion and was let off on the assurance of his family members,” he said.

A case of stone pelting was also registered against him in 2012 and 2014.

“Ahmad had gone missing on August 21, 2019 and was apprehended on October 5 that year at Kralahar Naka, Kanispura in a military operation. Subsequently, he was released from custody on June 22, 2020,” he said.

The spokesman added that police have registered a case in the latest incident and investigation is in progress.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a statement issued late night said that statements of eye witnesses, family and other bystanders acquainted with facts and circumstances are being recorded besides, evidence including CCTV footage etc is also being collected and analyzed.

“The investigation into the matter is going on and the full circumstances leading to the incident from all possible angles is being ascertained,” he added. (With PTI inputs)

Objective To

personalities besides giving them recognition,” he said.

“Also, he directed officers to compile the list of awardees with relevant description including date of birth, place of birth, parentage, education, field of interest, work, photographs and year of receiving award, and the list of infrastructures of their respective departments so that the institutions and buildings shall be named as per relevance to the person,” he added.

Pole, as per the official spokesperson said that these details will be written on the metal

plates installed at the institutions and buildings, so that the students, youth and general public will remember them.

He further said that the Div Com asked Dy. Director Libraries to provide the details of those libraries which have been already named with famous personalities and also compile details of those legends and their contribution.

“Similarly, he asked the Secretary Sports Council and JD, YS&S to provide the details of indoor and outdoor stadiums and the national and international medalists who have achieved first, second or third position in government held events whether in individual or group competition so these infrastructures shall be named appropriately,” he said.

Further, Pole, the official spokesperson said, also directed officers present in the meeting to conduct the survey and collect information of descendents of awardees and their present status.

“Meanwhile, Div Com stressed on linkage of artist, artisan and sports awardees with the schools to teach students skills which will help to preserve our local rich culture,” he added.

Jammu Shuts

scrapping of ‘darbar move’ by the government without consulting the stakeholders, new Geology and Mining policies, restrictions on banquet halls and proposed opening of chain of Reliance Retail stores even as the company on Tuesday evening clarified that the talk of 100 stores being opened in Jammu is “completely untrue”.

Leading a rally outside the Chamber house here, JCCI president Arun Gupta described the statement of Reliance Retail as “misleading” and said “we are all united and will continue our struggle to safeguard the interests of the people of Jammu region.”

“This government is deaf and dumb and had miserably failed to fulfill its responsibility to safeguard the interests of the traders. They (Reliance Retail) are claiming that they are not opening the stores but the situation on the ground is different,” he said, amid chants of slogans against opening of Reliance Retail stores and alleged discrimination with Jammu.

Another group of traders led by president of Traders Federation WareHouse Deepak Gupta staged a protest at Nehru Market, while the Chemist Association led by General Secretary Prem Sharma also took to streets near the Exhibition ground, terming the statement of the Reliance retail as an “eye wash”.

“We are concerned about 50,000 small shopkeepers who will be rendered jobless if Reliance opens its retail stores. We will not tolerate any decision which we feel is against the interests of the people of Jammu business community,” Gupta said.

Activists of the NPP also staged protests in support of the traders and restoration of statehood.

“We are supporting the strike call given by traders on genuine concerns of the business community and wrong policies of the government,” NPP chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said.

Almost all opposition political parties including Congress, National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Apni Party, CPI(M), Lok Janshakti Party besides several social groups had supported the strike and urged the government to roll back the decisions which are against the legitimate interests of trade and commerce.

The officials said police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength in sensitive areas to maintain law and order.

Ready To Meet

Taliban in Afghanistan and what it could mean for the country's security.

Asked about the Chinese incursions and how the Indian Army is changing its strategies and capabilities to face the situation, he noted: “As we go along, we will also be continuously monitoring the developments in various regions, whether it is land based, space based and based on these changes, we will continue to refine our operational strategies.”

He pointed out that the nature of war remains constant and it is the character of war that keeps changing over a period of time.

“...the nature of war is constant, the nature of the war will always be to impose your will on the opponent...the methodology of imposing that will keep changing,” Gen Naravane said.

To a query regarding the army's preparation

for a multi-front war with China and Pakistan, he said: “All of us know that to our North and West we have unsettled borders and obviously with these unsettled borders, there are challenges that we face.”

“But these challenges are not insurmountable and if the need arises, we will be always ready to tackle both these challenges at the same time,” he said.

“Of course, there would always be a primary front and a secondary front and the focus would be on the primary front as we try to contain the secondary front. And that is the overall strategy as far as we are concerned. Act on one, contain the other, that is going to be the strategy,” he said.

Gen Naravane further said with changing times, the Indian Army is also working on all aspects of future warfare.

“It has been our endeavour over the last many years to slowly and steadily change ourselves from a manpower intensive army to technologically empowered one. This change cannot happen overnight.

“This change obviously would happen when technological capacities improve, as and when sophisticated weapons keep getting inducted and once we train on them and graduate using these hi-tech weapons,” he noted.

He further said: “So this is work in progress and I would like to ensure everyone that we are nowhere behind as far fighting in the newer domains of cyber, space and such aspects. We are on our way in incorporating all this big data, AI, quantum technologies. You name it and we are working on all these aspects and how to incorporate them into the characteristics of the war.”

Gen Naravane also said the army has made rapid strides in honing skills in new technologies and has partnered with the industry and academia, including IITs, in this regard.

“Our officers are even attached with these institutions so that in no way should we lag behind. The industry, academia and the top notch technology institutions have (been) more than willing to come forward to meet our futuristic requirements. So we are well on the way. We are no way lagging behind,” he stated.

Landslide Injures

The injured were immediately removed to MI Room Beacon wherefrom they were referred to Sub- District Hospital Uri for specialized treatment, the officials said, as per news agency GNS.

The official identified the injured persons as Khadim Hussain son of Mohammed Shah , Razaq Bhatti son of Ahmed Ali Bhatti and Ajiz Ahmed son of Mutwali Bhati, all residents of village Dara Gutliyan Uri.

4 Sticky Bombs

along with an IED on August 13 in Mendhar, were destroyed on the directions of a court.

The bombs were claimed to have been recovered by a joint team of BSF, police and army from Mehmood Hussain of Kasbalari during regular checking, two days ahead of August 15 celebrations.

Police had also claimed to have recovered an amount of Rs 10500 from Hussain's possession. He was later booked under FIR no.313/2021 u/s 23 ULAP Act at the police station Mendhar.”

Lightning Kills 350

Soon after the incident, the police party was dispatched to the spot to assess the situation.

The two family members that were injured in the incident include M. Yaseen Bijran and Mumbai Ahmad Bijran from Kalakote Rajouri.

Qadri said that both the injured were brought to SDH Kangan for treatment— (KNO)

3 Killed As Cab

near Chunnga Main at about 18.45 p.m. and fell into the gorge, resulting in serious injuries to five persons. All the injured were removed to hospital. However three of them succumbed to the wounds.

The deceased have been identified as Khadam Hussain (65) , Mohammad Zahir (driver) and Gulraz Ahmed (45), all residents of village Chungga Mendhar.

The injured have been identified as Tazeem Akther wife Gulraz Ahmed and their 7-year-old son Naveed-UI -Hussan.

Block Medical Officer Mendhar Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Khan said that three ambulances were rushed to the spot for shifting the injured to Government Sub District Hospital Mendhar. (GNS)

4 Matches Played In Srinagar Football League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four matches of the DFA Srinagar Annual Football League 2021 were played on Wednesday here.

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

In the first match, Real Kashmir U18 defeated IFC Kashmir 3-1.

Kamran gave RKFC the lead in the 28th minute, which they held on to till the end of the first half. IFC Kashmir managed to equalise via a penalty in the 67th minute, scored by Ishfaq Ali. The equalising goal jolted the young Snow Leopards in to action, and Muffaid managed to score the second and third goal in 70th and 76th minute, respectively to seal the match.

In the second Super Division match, Galaxy FC defeated Qamarwari FC by two goals to nil.

While the first half ended 0-0, the second started with Galaxy players trying hard to take the lead. The team was rewarded when Furqan Ahmad managed to score Galaxy FC's first goal in the 38th minute. Furqan then doubled the lead in the 54th minute to end the game in Galaxy FC's favour.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar 'A' Division, two matches were played at the Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match between Makdooi FC and Real Cosmos FC ended in a goalless draw.

In the second match, Al-Rashid FC defeated Nishat FC 1-0. Hatim scored the only goal of the game.

Pak Claim Threatening Email To NZ Team Was Sent From India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday alleged that a threatening email was sent to the New Zealand cricket squad from India, which prompted the Kiwis to call off a tour of the country.

The Kiwis called off their first tour of Pakistan after 18 years last Friday due to a security threat to the team, followed by a decision by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Monday to cancel a bilateral series scheduled for next month in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been claiming that India was behind some of the terror attacks in the country recently. India has dismissed these claims as "baseless propaganda" and asked Islamabad to take "credible and verifiable" action against terrorism emanating from its soil instead.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed here on Wednesday, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that a fake post was created in August under Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan militant Ehsanullah Ehsan's name which told the New Zealand cricket board and government to refrain from sending the team to Pakistan as it would be "targeted".

Despite this, the New Zealand cricket team travelled to Pakistan. However, on the day of the first match New Zealand officials said that their government had concerns of a credible threat and cancelled the tour, Chaudhry said.

"Pakistan Cricket Board officials, the interior ministry se-

curity team, everyone went to them and asked them to share the threat ... [but] they were as clueless as us," he was quoted as saying by Dawn News.

He said that a day later, a second threatening email was sent to the New Zealand team using the ID, Hamza Afridi.

He claimed that investigating authorities discovered that the email was sent from a device associated with India.

"It was sent using a virtual private network (VPN) so the location was shown as Singapore," he claimed.

He said that the same device had 13 other IDs, nearly all of which were Indian names.

"The device used to send the threat to the New Zealand team belonged to India. A fake ID was used but it was sent from Maharashtra," he claimed.

He said that the interior ministry had registered a case and had requested Interpol for assistance and information on the Tehreek-i-Labbaik ProtonMail and the ID of Hamza Afridi.

He said that the West Indies team was travelling to Pakistan in December. "A threat has already been issued to the team," he claimed, adding that this was also issued via a ProtonMail account.

"This is unfortunate. We believe this is a campaign against international cricket. The International Cricket Council (ICC) and other bodies must take notice," he said.

On Tuesday, Chaudhry had claimed that his country was paying a price for saying no to the US on allowing American military bases on its soil.

Union MoS Pramanik Holds DYSS Meeting, Attends Finals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sports and Home Affairs, Nishit Pramanik on Wednesday interacted with the officers of Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) at Youth Hostel Srinagar and later attended the finals of Inter Zonal Competitions at Amar Singh College here.

Minister Pramanik is on a 4-day visit to Kashmir under the central government's public outreach programme, chaired a meeting of DYSS officers and officials in which Director DYSS J&K, Gazanfar Ali gave a detailed presentation regarding the programmes and achievements of the department so far.

The meeting was attended

by Farooq Khan, Advisor to LG, Principal Secretary to Govt. DYSS, Alok Kumar, Special Secretary to Govt., M.A. Bhat, Secretary JK Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, Joint Director Kashmir DYSS, Bashir Ahmad, Principal Government College Of Physical Education College Ganderbal, Dr. Hartej Singh, besides all District DYSS officers of Kashmir division.

The Union MoS also visited the recently established shooting hall at Youth Hostel where he interacted with student trainees undergoing basic training in the discipline of Shooting. The Minister assured and also passed on instructions to sponsor 5 student trainees to undergo advanced training in Shooting at New Delhi.

Later, N Pramanik visited

Amar Singh College Srinagar to witness the closing ceremony and final matches of Inter Zonal District level competitions. A Khelo India Pledge was imparted to the student in presence of the MoS and other officers of the UT administration.

Colourful cultural programmes were also held during the occasion.

While addressing the gathering he encouraged the students to participate in games and sports to make their lives active and productive. He further highlighted the sports related initiatives of GOI under Khelo India and Fit India Mission.

The Minister also gave away trophies and awards to the winning teams of the tournament. He also gave away sports kits to Zonal Physical Education offices of District Srinagar.

Union MoS Pramanik Felicitates Pencak Silat Medallists



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sports and Home Affairs, Nishit Pramanik on Wednesday felicitated Pencak Silat medallists during the ongoing 3-Day 6th State Level Pencak Silat Championship 2021 which is being held at Indoor Stadium, Polo Ground, here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that such events not only promote sports but also a spirit of sportsmanship and brotherhood among the athletes coming from different districts and states.

The Minister witnessed a demonstration of Pencak Silat displayed by some National and International athletes. He

also interacted with different participants who had come from over 16 districts across the Union Territory of J&K, including a Central team of J&K Police.

Principal Secretary DYSS, Alok Kumar, Director DYSS, Special Secretary, DYSS and officials of the Pencak Silat Association of J&K were present on the occasion.

IPL 2021, MI vs KKR Preview

MI Eye Improved Batting Effort Against Rejuvenated KKR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Defending champions Mumbai Indians would look for inspiration from skipper Rohit Sharma, who is set to return to action, when they take on a rejuvenated Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

Mumbai were without the services of Rohit and star all-rounder Hardik Pandya in their 20-run defeat to Chennai Super Kings on Sunday as both were rested as a precautionary measure due to having niggles. However, head coach Mahela Jayawardene has said Rohit should be fit and available for selection for the match against KKR.

KKR, on the other hand, have registered a dominating nine-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in their opening game of the second leg of the league.

Mumbai, who are currently placed fourth in the table with eight points, began their second leg campaign in a typical slow manner

but with only half the tournament left to play, the defending champions need to win to stay in the top half of the league table.

Rohit, who has been in fine touch of late, will be expected to continue in the same vein and help his side make amends of the inept batting performance against CSK. Apart from Saurabh Tewary, who hit an unbeaten half century, none of the other batsmen were able to capitalize on their starts against CSK, failing to chase down 156.

On the other hand, the comprehensive win would have boosted KKR's confidence. Having struggled in the first leg, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated RCB.

The Eoin Morgan-led side, placed sixth in the points table, fired on all cylinders with mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and star all-rounder Andre Russell wreaking havoc with the ball before openers Shubman Gill and debutant Venkatesh Iyer chased down the 93-run target with 10 overs to spare.

SRH Player T Natarajan Tests COVID Positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer T Natarajan has tested positive for COVID-19 but the team's IPL match against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday will go ahead as scheduled, the BCCI said.

Left-arm pacer Natarajan, who is coming back from knee surgery, has been isolated along with six close contacts which also include out of favour India all-rounder Vijay Shankar.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad player T

Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 at a scheduled RT-PCR test. The player has isolated himself from the rest of the squad. He is currently asymptomatic," a BCCI release stated. "The rest of the contingent including the close contacts underwent RT-PCR tests at 5:00 am local time this morning and the test reports are negative."

"As a result, tonight's game between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals will go ahead at the Dubai International Stadium, Dubai," it further stated.

MCC To Use Gender-Neutral Term 'Batter' Instead Of 'Batsman'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) on Wednesday announced that the gender-neutral term "batter" will replace "batsman" with immediate effect, in a bid to reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game.

The amendments to the laws were approved by the MCC Committee, following initial discussion by the Club's specialist Laws Sub-committee.

"MCC believes that the use of gender-neutral terminology helps reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game for

all," MCC, the custodians of the game, said in a statement.

"The amendments are a natural evolution from work already undertaken in this area as well as an essential part of MCC's global responsibility to the sport," the statement added.

Women's cricket has enjoyed unprecedented growth at all levels around the world and there had been calls to adopt more gender neutral terms to encourage women and girls to play the game.

A number of governing bodies and media organisations already use the term batter .

NEWS MAKERS

ICC Charges Marlon Samuels For Breaching Anti-Corruption Code

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council on Wednesday charged former West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels of breaching four counts of the anti-corruption code during a T10 league, including failure to disclose hospitality benefits that could bring disrepute to the sport.

The game's governing body charged the West Indian on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), the organiser of the T10 League which is four seasons old.

"Samuels will be given a time period of 14 days to respond to the charges," an ICC release said.

The 40-year-old Samuels played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is in his international career, scoring 11,134 runs and taking 152 wickets. He retired

from international cricket in November 2020.

According to the ICC, Samuels breached articles 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.6 and 2.4.7 of the Code.

The three articles deal with failure to disclose to the Anti-Corruption Official, receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that "could bring the participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute", non-cooperation with the investigation, and obstructing or delaying the investigation by "concealing information that may have been relevant..."

The T10 league's latest edition was held in Abu Dhabi in January-February earlier this year.

Samuels was a part of the event in 2019 when he turned up for Karnataka Tuskers, which was led by South African star Hashim Amla.

Afghanistan Girls Football Team Given Asylum In Portugal

AGENCIES

LISBON: The girls on Afghanistan's national football team were anxious. For weeks, they had been moving around the country, waiting for word that they could leave.

One wants to be a doctor, another a movie producer, others engineers. All dream of growing up to be professional football players.

The message finally came early Sunday: A charter flight would carry the girls and their families from Afghanistan — to where they didn't know. The buses that would take them to the airport were already on their way.

"They left their homes and left everything behind," Farkhunda Muhtaj, the captain of the Afghanistan women's national team who from her home in Canada had spent the last few weeks communicating with the girls and working to help arrange their rescue, told



The Associated Press. "They can't fathom that they're out of Afghanistan."

Since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the girls, ages 14-16, and their families, had been trying to leave, fearing what their lives might become like under the Taliban — not just because women and girls are forbidden to play sports, but because they were advocates for girls and active members of their communities.

Late Sunday, they landed in Lisbon, Portugal.

In interviews with the AP this week, Muhtaj, members of the football team, some of their

family members, and football federation staff, spoke about their final days in Afghanistan, the international effort to rescue them and the promise of their newfound freedom.

The rescue mission, called Operation Soccer Balls, was coordinated with the Taliban through an international coalition of former U.S. military and intelligence officials, U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, U.S. allies, and humanitarian groups, said Nic McKinley, a CIA and Air Force veteran who founded Dallas-based DeliverFund, a nonprofit that's secured housing for 50 Afghan families.

7 Female Afghan Taekwondo Athletes Resettle In Australia

AGENCIES

MELBOURNE: A sports association official says seven female taekwondo athletes who fled Taliban-controlled Afghanistan have resettled in Melbourne.

Australian Taekwondo's chief executive Heather Garriock said on Wednesday the women are completing quarantine this week. Although most of the athletes were not identified, there were no female Afghan taekwondo athletes scheduled to compete at the Tokyo Olympics.

Garriock said former Australian national soccer captain and humanitarian advocate Craig Foster worked with the Australian government, Australian Taekwondo and Oceania Taekwondo on a high-risk evacuation from Afghanistan after the Taliban re-took control of the country. No other details of the evacuation were provided.

Taliban officials have since been quoted as saying that women will not be allowed to compete in sport.

"We're really pleased the ladies are safe and incredibly grateful for the assistance of the Australian government and Oceania Taekwondo in getting them out of Afghanistan," Garriock said.

"The lives of these women were in danger.

"As a sport, we needed to pull together and do something to help. The Australian taekwondo community is incredibly welcoming, and these ladies will be welcomed with open arms."

Garriock — who played women's soccer for Australia at two Olympics — contacted Foster to help in relocating the athletes to Australia.

"Craig is a passionate advocate for multiculturalism and refugees, so it was only natural that he was the first person I contacted to discuss what needed to happen," Garriock said.

One of the athletes, Fatima Ahmadi, was quoted as saying that she was grateful for the assistance of all parties who supported their evacuation.

India's Oldest Mosque Basks In Past Glory After Renovation; Set To Reopen



Agenceis

Thrissur, Kerala: India's first mosque and the oldest in the sub-continent is all set to welcome back devotees and general public after regaining its past glory and grandeur.

The classic beauty and humble style of the "Cheraman Juma Masjid", dating back to 629 AD, was restored after a painstaking renovation and conservation process spread over nearly 30 months under the state-run Muziris Heritage Project (MHP).

Located at Kodungallur taluk in this central Kerala district, the heritage structure was recreated in tune with its original character and aesthetics, at a cost of 1.14 crore, PM Noushad, Managing Director of MHP, said.

Besides the renovation and conservation initiative, which started in May 2019, a two-storey Islamic Heritage Museum was also constructed in the mosque campus spending nearly one crore and its internal refurbishment is going on now, he noted.

After submitting the letter of completion to the government, the MHP authorities are now awaiting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's date to reopen the oldest mosque for visitors.

"It is expected to happen any day. We are waiting for a convenient day of the Chief Minister for the inaugural function. If the COVID-19 situation is completely under control, it may happen within the next two weeks," Mr Noushad told news agency PTI.

According to local tradition, Cheraman Perumal, as the king, went to Arabia where he met the Prophet and embraced Islam in the early 7th century. From there, he had sent letters, along with Malik Ibn Dinar, as a Persian scholar who travelled to India.

Dinar is believed to have built the masjid in 629 AD, five years after the king's death.

Mr Noushad said they focused more on conserving the existing portions of the old structure and recreate its appearance in the past based on the old photographs.

"We demolished the additional concrete structure added to the main building in 1974. We recreated the old structure of the mosque with a tile roof as seen in the old photographs," he said.

Luckily, several portions of the basic structure were found retained as such, he said, adding

that such portions had been renovated and conserved.

Besides the MHP's conservation effort, a multi-crore construction project is also underway at the mosque under the aegis of the mosque management.

An underground prayer hall, being constructed, is envisaged to accommodate at least 2000-3000 devotees. A total of 15-20 crore is expected for the same, the MD explained.

"It's structural work and internal plastering is over. Flooring and beautification work is pending and expected to be completed soon," he added.

The MHP, entrusted with the heritage management by the state government, had initiated discussions with the mosque committee and entered into an MoU with them for implementing the renovation and conservation initiatives. After the renovation, the MHP is now awaiting the nod to include the Cheraman Juma Masjid in the Union Ministry of Tourism's 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD).

A proposal for a 10 crore project has been submitted to the Centre in this regard, the official said adding that the construction of a facilitation centre and the rejuvenation of a pond in the mosque campus would be a reality if it is included in the PRASAD scheme.

"A large number of people from across the state are coming here now to have a glimpse of the renovated structure of the oldest mosque," Mr Noushad added.

The Cheraman Masjid occupies a pivotal place in the Muziris civilisation that enjoyed glory as the ancient world's greatest trading centre in the East, trading everything from spices to precious stones.

The land, also known as Mahodayapuram or Muyirikkode, was the capital of the Perumals as rulers in the line of Chera kings between 9th and 12th centuries AD.

In the early centuries, Kodungallur was a settlement of traders, standing as the doorway to India for varied cultures and races, thus emerging as a cradle of several civilisations.

It came to an abrupt end in 1341 owing to massive floods that submerged the region, according to MHP records.

SAARC Meet Cancelled As Pak Insists On Taliban Participation: Report

Agenceis

New Delhi: A meeting of foreign ministers of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, slated to be held on Saturday in New York, has been cancelled.

It is learnt from reliable sources that Pakistan wanted the Taliban to represent Afghanistan in the SAARC meet. India along with some other members objected to the proposal and due to lack of consensus or concurrence, the meeting was cancelled.

Nepal was the host of the meet, which is annually held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Taliban has not been recognised by India to date. The new regime in Kabul is still not recognised by the world and top cabinet ministers are blacklisted by the UN.

Amir Khan Muttaqi is the acting foreign minister of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan



and he is unlikely to attend any UN and affiliated meetings.

In fact, last week Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meet said that the Taliban is a non-inclusive government, the world must think before accepting or recognising the regime in Afghanistan.

He also pointed out that women, minorities have no representation in the government in Kabul.

The SAARC is the regional

intergovernmental organisation of eight countries of South Asia—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It is learnt that the majority of members in SAARC agreed that an empty chair can be kept for Afghanistan during the meet. However, Pakistan did not agree and the meeting was called off.

SAARC Secretariat told ANI that the meeting was cancelled due to the lack of concurrence from all member states as of today.

Chinese Hackers Targeted Aadhaar Database, Times Group: Report

Agenceis

Chinese state-sponsored hackers are believed to have infiltrated and stolen data from an Indian government agency responsible for a national identification database and one of that country's largest media conglomerates, according to a new report by cybersecurity firm Recorded Future Inc. Both the government agency and the media company dispute the claims.

The Unique Identification Authority of India, also known as the UIDAI, contains the private biometric information of more than 1 billion Indian citizens. The authority's networks were believed to have been breached during intrusions tracked between June and July this year, though it's not clear what data was taken, according to Recorded Future.

The government agency said it had no knowledge of such a breach and that its database was encrypted and only available to users with multifactor authentication. The agency had a "robust security system in place" that was constantly upgraded to maintain the "highest level of data security and integrity," an email from the agency said.

Bennett Coleman & Co., also known as the Times Group, which publishes the Times of India, also appeared to be targeted by the Chinese hackers, according to Recorded Future. Data was exfiltrated from the company between February and August, but it wasn't clear data was stolen, Recorded Future said.

The company dismissed the report, saying the "alleged exfiltration" was blocked by its cybersecurity defenses.

The chief information officer for the Times Group, Rajeev Batra, said an internal security report for the company



described the intrusions as "non-serious alerts and false alarms."

China's Foreign Ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment during a holiday period in the country.

Recorded Future, a cybersecurity firm based near Boston, said it used a combination of detection techniques and traffic analysis data to identify patterns of suspicious network traffic between servers the government agency and media company used and servers used to administer and control the hackers' malware.

In addition to data supposedly being siphoned away, Recorded Future said it was highly likely that malicious software was embedded inside the agency's and the media companies' computer networks, which would allow the hackers to remove data on demand.

Responding to the Times Group's comments, Jonathan Condra, the lead analyst on Recorded Future's report, said he was able to observe "sustained communications across a single session that lasted five days" from the media company's networks. He said there were also "strong indications" that the communications were coming from within the Times' computer networks and going out to malicious servers, "which suggests a successful implant communicating outwards."

The hackers used a type of

malware called Winnti, which Condra described as a "pretty old tool that is shared across a large number of Chinese APT groups over the years." APT stands for advanced persistent threat, a term commonly used to describe state-sponsored hacking groups.

The other tool deployed was Cobalt Strike, a piece of software typically used for network defense but that "has been adopted by threat actors, not just in China but elsewhere as a means of throwing ambiguity into attribution efforts," Mr Condra said. "If it's a commercially available tool it's a lot harder to say it's tied back to specific nations." A representative for Cobalt Strike didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Intrusions into Indian networks have escalated in the past year, Recorded Future said in its report. The alleged Chinese hacks follow a rapid deterioration in relations between the two countries. According to its data, Recorded Future said there was a 261% increase in the number of suspected state-sponsored Chinese cyber operations targeting Indian entities through August of this year, compared to 2020. The suspected intrusions track back to the start of a bloody skirmish between Indian and Chinese soldiers at a border post in the Himalayas, Mr Condra said.

Delhi High Court Seeks Centre's Stand On Framing Guidelines To Regulate Private Detectives

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's stand on a plea seeking framing of guidelines to regulate the activities of private detectives.

Justice Rekha Palli, who was hearing a plea by a woman aggrieved by an allegedly illegal investigation carried out by a private investigator, granted six weeks to the Centre to file its response and said that she was "inclined to examine the issue".

"If you (Centre) don't regulate today even after Puttaswamy (judgment on right to privacy). You have to take a balanced view. You have to take care," the judge observed.

Central government lawyer Amit Mahajan stated that the petitioner was free to take action under Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act which were applicable to any offence committed by private detectives.

"These are professionals. We can't have a guideline for everything... All (professionals) have to follow the law. There is IPC, IT Act. FIR or complaint can be filed," he stated.

The court clarified that it was not going to examine any other issues raised in the plea and the



petitioner was free to seek appropriate remedy in accordance with the law.

The counsel for the petitioner stated that a private detective shared certain personal information about his client with a foreign national after conducting an illegal investigation into life.

He claimed that there were several private detectives in the country operating without being subjected to any oversight.

He added that although a bill was introduced before the Rajya Sabha in 2007 on this aspect, no progress was made ultimately.

“ THESE ARE PROFESSIONALS. We can't have a guideline for everything... All (professionals) have to follow the law. There is IPC, IT Act. FIR or complaint can be filed,”

Woman, Daughter Arrested With Heroin Worth ₹25 Crore At Mumbai Airport



Agenceis

MUMBAI: Two foreign nationals, a woman and her daughter, were arrested by customs officials with nearly 5 kg of heroin worth ₹ 25 crore at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai, an official said on Wednesday.

The narcotics was concealed in the cavities of the trolley bags carried by the two women, who had travelled to Mumbai on Sunday from South Africa's Johannesburg via Doha in a Qatar Airlines flight, the official told news agency Press Trust of India.

Their nationality of the two women was not disclosed.

The women were caught with 4.95 kg of heroin worth ₹25

crore, the official said, adding that the accused had arrived in India on the pretext of seeking treatment for lung cancer.

A probe revealed the two women were supposed to deliver the consignment at a hotel room and was going to get a huge amount of money for carrying and delivering the contraband, the official said.

The customs department has started a search for the person who was supposed to receive the drug consignment, he said.

The two women, arrested under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, was produced in a court which remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days, the official added.

Turkish President Again Makes Reference To Kashmir In UN General Assembly

Agenceis

UNITED NATIONS: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has again referred to the issue of Kashmir in his address to world leaders at the high-level UN General Assembly session.

Last year also, Erdogan in his pre-recorded video statement to the General Debate had made a reference to Jammu and Kashmir. India at that time termed it as "completely unacceptable", saying Turkey should learn to respect the sovereignty of other nations and reflect on its own policies more deeply.

Erdogan in his address to the General Debate on Tuesday said: "We maintain our stance in favour of solving the ongoing problem in Kashmir for 74 years, through dialogue between the parties and within the framework of relevant United Nations resolutions."

The Turkish President, a close ally of Pakistan, had repeatedly raised the issue of Kashmir in his address to the high-level General Debate. He had also raised the Kashmir issue during his visit to Pakistan last year.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at that time has said Erdogan's remarks reflected neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of diplomacy and that they will have strong implications on India's ties with Turkey.

It said India rejected the repeated



attempts by Turkey to justify the cross-border terrorism "practised so blatantly" by Pakistan.

In his address on Tuesday, the Turkish President also referred to China's minority Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang and Myanmar's Rohingya during his address.

Erdogan said that "within China's territorial integrity perspective, we do believe that more efforts need to be displayed regarding the protection of the basic rights of the Muslim Uyghur Turks."

The US and the EU besides many other countries have accused China of committing genocide against the Uyghurs in resource-rich Xinjiang and called for an international probe by human rights groups.

"We also support ensuring the safe, voluntary, dignified return of Rohingya Muslims, who are living in difficult conditions in camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar, back to their motherland," Erdogan said.



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