

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P6 THINK

INTERNATIONAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION DAY

Soon after the Article 370 was abrogated on August 5th 2019, it was claimed that the constitutional provision under article 370 deprived people of J&K of the benefits of many central legislations. Especially in the context of the RTI law, it was said that...

P7

A NEW ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUG FOR COVID IS BEING TESTED IN HUMANS – CAN IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Despite the effectiveness of vaccines, we still need drugs to treat COVID. Even people who have been double vaccinated stand a small chance of getting COVID and ending up moderately or even severely...



P11 SPORTS

'CONTENT' MOEEN ALI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM TEST CRICKET

England all-rounder Moeen Ali has retired from test cricket and said he hopes his career can inspire other English Muslims to play the sport.



Quote!

Dreams don't work unless you do
– John C. Maxwell

NEWS DIGEST

BSF Recovers Arms, Cash Along IB

SRINAGAR: Border Security Forces on Monday claimed to have recovered arms, ammunition, narcotics besides counterfeit currency along the International Border in Akhnour sector of Jammu division. A BSF spokesperson said that a bag was found hidden in thick grass. "On opening, it (bag) was found containing four pistols. ● More On P10

Woman Injured In Bear Attack

SRINAGAR: A woman was attacked and critically injured on Monday by a black bear in central Kashmir's Budgam district. 45-year-old Shahzada, wife of Abdul Rashid Shah of Habber Lassipora Mohalla Khag was mauled by a bear, a few metres away from her home, on Monday afternoon. ● More On P10

Train Runs Over 42-Year-Old Man

JAMMU: A 42-year-old man died after being run over by a train on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday, an official said. Baldev Raj, a resident of Dewan village, was reportedly crossing the track at Ratnuchak around 8 am when he was run over by the train, the official said. He said the body of the deceased was shifted to the hospital. ● More On

Engineer Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

SRINAGAR: A junior engineer in the Power Development Department (PDD) died on Monday after suffering a cardiac arrest in Handwara tehsil of Kupwara district. The JE Anil Kumar suffered a cardiac arrest while discharging his duties at his office in Chotipora area of Handwara on ● More On P10

Do You Get Your Copy of
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Contact Circulation Incharge:
Ishad Ahmad: 7006276927

Cop Suspended For Abusing Bikers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A policeman on Monday was suspended and a departmental enquiry was ordered against him for allegedly violating Covid-19 guidelines and abusing motorcyclists at a checkpoint in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

According to reports, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Awantipora,

Mohammad Yousuf suspended a policeman and ordered a departmental enquiry against him for non-compliance of Covid-19 protocol and alleged use of abusive language against bike-borne youth at a checkpoint in Shaar Shaali area.

Quoting an unnamed official, a local news agency GNS reported that the bike-borne youth have maintained that they were asked to make a Red Cross donation by a police team at a ● More On P10

Infiltrator Killed, Three Soldiers Injured On LoC



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A militant was killed and three soldiers were injured as the Army foiled an infiltration bid

along the Line of Control in the North Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

The Army launched a counter-infiltration operation along the ● More On P10

Situation Along LoC Pretty Good: GoC 15 Corps



The people of Kashmir do not have to worry about the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) as the Army is fully geared up to deal with any eventuality, a senior Army officer said on Monday. "The situation (along the LoC) is pretty good. We are fully geared up with our deployment and control. We don't have to worry, the people of Kashmir ● More On P10

ONE INFILTRATOR HAS BEEN eliminated while three soldiers were injured in the exchange of firing with infiltrators from across the LoC in Uri."

Mehbooba Shoots Letter To PCI

Asks Media Watchdog To Send Fact Finding Teams To Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Urging Press Council of India (PCI) to send a fact finding team to Kashmir valley to verify alleged harassment of media persons by the government, former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said raids were conducted by police on several journalists and their personnel items were seized.

In a letter to chairman PCI, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said "I am sure you are aware that raids were conducted by police at homes of several journalists in Kashmir earlier this month. Personal items such as electronic gadgets, including phones and laptops, were ● More On P10

J&K Will Reap Benefits Of Aug 5 Move: MoS



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Monday said the abrogation of Article 370 by the BJP-led government was in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who would reap its benefits 'slowly and silently'. He also opposed any dialogue with the Taliban which took over

Afghanistan last month and said there is a need to remove them from power to provide justice to the people of that country.

Athawale, who is the national president of the Republican Party of India (A), reached here to address his party workers and taking stock of the implementation of the central schemes under his ministry.

"The abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A ● More On

J&K Logs 117 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 117 cases of novel coronavirus while no virus related death was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 62 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 55 from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 329125.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 33 cases, Budgam and Bandipora 8 each, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 3, Baramulla and Ganderbal two each and Anantnag one new case of virus. No fresh case was detected from the twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir. In the winter capital, ● More On P10

Sonamarg To Remain Open For Traffic This Winter

Press Trust Of India

SONAMARG: Work on the strategically important Z-Morh and Zojila tunnels on the Srinagar-Leh highway is going on at a fast pace and will be completed ahead of schedule, the NHIDCL said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters near the Z-Morh tunnel site here in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, NHIDCL executive director Brigadier Gurjeet Singh Kambo said the 14.15-km long



Zojila tunnel will be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.

Both projects are under the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation ● More On P10

Gadkari To Visit Zojila, Z-Morh Tunnels Today

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will review and inspect work on Zojila and Z – Morh tunnels on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. The minister is on a two day visit to the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. ● More On P10

Kashmir Will Be Connected To Kanyakumari By Train Next Year: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for liberal funding and special interest in the development of Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari by train by December next year.

"Four tunnels will be built on Chenani-Kishtwar highway at a cost of Rs 10,000 crores. To modernize Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, tunnels at a cost of Rs 4000 crores, besides 5 flyovers worth Rs 3000 crore will be built in J&K, reducing the travel time and traffic congestion substantially. By December 2022, Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari by train," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson on Monday.

The LG made these remarks after he and the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, laid the foundation stones for four National Highway projects worth Rs 3612 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, including commencement of the Srinagar Ring road project.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that these NH projects would catalyze overall socio-economic development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The projects, he said, include strengthening and upgradation of 43 km existing carriageway on Baramulla-Gulmarg Section of NH-701A, construction of new double



lane bypass from Donipawa via Ashajipora connecting NH-244 & NH-44, construction & upgradation of existing 28 km stretch from Vailoo to Donipawa on Khellani Khanabal section of NH-244, besides the construction of much-awaited ring road around Srinagar city.

The LG, he said, also claimed that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone tremendous changes in terms of infrastructure development during the last few years. "My sincere gratitude to PM Narendra Modi, who has brought qualitative change in people's lives since 2014. From national highways to rural roads, the infrastructure has become stronger than ever," Sinha said.

"Till 2014, there were only 7 national highways in the erstwhile Jammu Kashmir including Ladakh. In 2021, the number of national highways has increased to 11 in J&K alone. In 2015, PM had announced road

MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO PM NARENDRA MODI, who has brought qualitative change in people's lives since 2014. From national highways to rural roads, the infrastructure has become stronger than ever."

infra projects worth Rs 40,900 crores for J&K, out of which work on projects of about Rs 38,000 crores is already underway," he added.

Thanking Nitin Gadkari for the speedy execution of National Highway projects, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said that the Minister

has always been proactive and has created a record for the fastest road construction work in the country.

"Today roads are being built at a much faster pace than ever before. This year a target of 8000 km of macadamisation has been set by the UT Administration. And with this kind of approach, Jammu and Kashmir today has the distinction of being the third-best in terms of road construction," the LG said.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG enumerated the achievements during the last one year and said that under the guidance of Prime Minister, right from the development of health infrastructure to roads, education, and employment, industry, and handicrafts promotion, agriculture to food processing, Jammu and Kashmir has shown visible progress in every field and with huge potential, the ● More On P10

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Watch to know more in this episode of **Inkishaf** on **Kashmir Observer** YouTube Channel



<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

INKISHAF

by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Unbearable Toothache At Dental College

Why patients landing at Govt Dental College Srinagar complain about a painful procedure due to the campus administration's inability to repair the flood-ravaged oral health equipment?



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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

2

Tuesday | 28-09-2021

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Shri : Farooq Ahmad Bhat S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o: Kachwari Khansahib Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 1477 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Raithan. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement 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 .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3574
Dated 27-09-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost his/her Original Marks Card of Secondary School (Class 10th) issued by the board of school education with following particulars;

Name: Shobnum
Father Name: Manzoor Ahmad Wani
Mother Name: Shakeela Begum
Roll No: 3163232 | Year: 2015 | Session: Oct- Nov

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the Original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Incharge Officer
Branch Office Sopore



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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of D 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:- MOHD AYOUB SHEIKH
S/O :- AB MAJEED SHEIKH
R/O :- LISSER CHAWALGAM

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one Shri : Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o: Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o: Wadwan Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M-800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 8154. Chasis number 55880 Engine no. 08218 Model 2012. in favour of Shri.. Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat S/o. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Kaith Razgeer Khansahib Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Soibugh. 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 .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3581
Dated 27-09-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for fertilizer license .If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She May contact office of the Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag within the period of 7 days .After that no objection will be entertained.

NAME: TARIQ AHMAD RATHER
S/O :- ABDUL RASHID RATHER
R/O :- NANIL AUNG ANANTNAG

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME: TARIQ AHMAD RAHTER
S/O:- ABDUL RASHID RATHER
R/O:- NANIL AUNG ANANTNAG

RNA

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530 Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Select List for the posts of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease (GMC-Rajouri, Doda, Kathua) in Health & Medical Education Department.

Notification No. 72 - PSC (DR-S) of 2021

Dated: 25.09.2021

Whereas, Health & Medical Education Department vide letter No. ME/Gaz/149/2017, ME/Gaz/150/2017, ME/Gaz/151/2017, ME/Gaz/152/2017 and ME/Gaz/153/2017 dated 11.01.2018 referred 03 posts of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) (Ist Special Drive) in the discipline of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease under Open Merit Category, one each in GMC-Doda, GMC-Rajouri and GMC-Kathua respectively, for selection of suitable candidates; and

Whereas, J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No. 10-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 08.07.2019 advertised the said posts for selection of suitable candidates; and

Whereas, Commission received 10 applications [GMC-Doda:02, GMC-Rajouri:04, GMC-Kathua:04], which were scrutinized and 05 eligible candidates [GMC-Doda:01, GMC-Rajouri:02, GMC-Kathua:02] were called for interview; and

Whereas, the interview of the shortlisted candidates was conducted on 05.08.2021 with the assistance of experts; and

Whereas, one post under Open Merit Category in GMC-Doda has been left vacant due to non-availability of candidate.

Now, therefore, on the basis of the performance in the interview in pursuance of Rule 51 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980 as amended from time to time and other related parameters, the select list of the candidates against the available posts is given in Annexure-A to this Notification.

Note:-

- The Commission reserves the right to have certificates/documents of the candidate verified, if at any later stage found expedient to do so. The Selection of the candidate is purely provisional and is subject to the outcome of writ petition(s) pending before any competent Court of law.
- The select list is provisional and objection, if any, may be submitted to the Commission within five days for examination and disposal. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after five days from the date of issuance of Notification.

Sd/-

(R. K. Katoch) JKAS

Secretary

J&K Public Service Commission.

No. PSC/DR/AP/CD & TB/H&ME/2019

Dated: 25.09.2021

DIPK-9516 /21

Annexure- A (Select List)

SNO	BD NO	NAME	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	MERIT
SELECT LIST OF OPEN MERIT CATEGORY (GMC-RAJOURI)					
1	1	MOHAMMAD ZAEEM KHAN	MOHAMMAD SAYEED KHAN	ZERO LANE BEHIND AIRCEL CALL CENTER VIDHATA NAGAR BHATINDI	61.58
SELECT LIST OF OPEN MERIT CATEGORY (GMC-KATHUA)					
2	2	MANIK MAHAJAN	HARDEV GUPTA	WARD NO 4 KRISHNA MARG KRISHNA NAGAR KATHUA	57.76

E&OE

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NAME:- MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O :- MOHD AFZAL SHEIKH
R/O :- TAKIYA AHMADSHAH

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Shri : Mohammad Younis Dar S/o: Mohammad Akbar Dar R/o: Dangerpora Razwan Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 6806 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance Ser B/U Srinagar . Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement 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 .



No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3579
Dated 27-09-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

(e-mail: jkssainikschool@yahoo.com)

J&K SAINIK SCHOOL MANASBAL

(www.jksainikschool.in)

SELECTION LIST

Sub: Selection list for admission to class 6th & class 9th Session 2021-22.

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the candidates bearing following Roll No's have been provisionally selected for admission to class 6th and class 9th session 2021-22 subject to being medically fit. Class 6th.

100509	100338	100112	100447	100659	100750	100541	100749
100044	100376	100127	100318	100054	100099	100220	100299
100507	100516	100524	100591	100128	100402	100062	100186
100223	100224	100654	100016	100090	100106	100243	100281
100417	100445	100613	100527	100692	100411	100444	100478
100603	100727	100737	100156	100488	100742	100748	100004
100148	100204	100350	100427	100051	100265	100365	100596
100651	100287	100119	100200				

(TOTAL: 60 CANDIDATES)

Wait List class: 6th.

100295	100082	100404	100032	100326	100046
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(TOTAL : 06 CANDIDATES)

Class: 9th.

200366	200367	200013	200053	200042	200135	200204	200323
200342	200018	200087	200212	200116	200251	200187	200301

(Total: 16 candidates)

Wait List Class: 9th.

200092	200188	(Total: 02 candidates)
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The selected candidates of class 6th shall report at J&K Sainik School Manasbal on 30.09.2021 (Thursday) except students from Ladakh UT. All candidates of class 9th and selected candidates of class 6th from Ladakh UT shall report on 01.10.2021 (Friday) at 9.00 am for medical test along with admit card & identity proof.

(Sh. Nazir Ahmad Dar)

Principal,

J&K Sainik School,

Manasbal.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE ANANTNAG

Email Id:-dyeccang@gmail.com

Phone No:-01932222220

PUBLIC NOTICE

All the applicants under Mumkin Scheme who have not yet visited this Office with hard copies for document verification are directed to visit this Office within a week's time positively upto 30-09-2021 failing which their applications are deemed to be cancelled.

Further, the prospective new applicants are also directed to visit this Office within a week's time , from the date of their online submission of forms ,for document verification, failing which their application will be deemed to be cancelled.

No:- DECC/ANG/MUMK/2021-22 / 578-80

Dated:- 25 / 09 / 2021

DIPK-9490/21

Sd/

Assistant Director Employment

Anantnag.

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C. P Needs

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Mohammad Ishfaq - 6064850094
Wasta Aashiq- 606480982
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Div Com Conducts Physical Inspection Of Developmental Works At Lal Ded

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Following the directions of Chief Secretary, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Monday visited Church Lane and Lal Ded Maternity Hospital to conduct the physical inspection of the progress of developmental works on entrance cum security accommodation infrastructure and new buildings at respective places. While inspecting the infrastructure of entrance cum security accommodation of Church lane, Div Com directed concerned officers of Estates department to pace up work

and complete the project at the earliest. Further, he directed them to submit the complete details of the project including project cost, administrative approval, design, starting date of construction and reason of extended time taken. The officers of Estates department informed that the project involves the cost of Rs 72.90 lakh and will be completed in the month of November. At Lal Ded, Div Com inspected progress of work of under construction gate and additional gynecology block being executed under JTRFP project with a estimated cost of Rs. 13250 lakhs besides component of additional



200 bedded Block at Lal Ded hospital.

On the occasion, Div Com was briefed by General Manager JKPC about the physical status of work. The GM informed that piles, water sump tank and earth work of the main building has been completed and binding of steel is in progress for raft foundation. Div Com stressed on concerned officers to speed up the construction work and complete the project in a time bound manner. Also, Div Com took disciplinary action against the concerned officers for the slow progress of work on these projects.

ON THE OCCASION, DIV COM WAS BRIEFED BY GENERAL MANAGER JKPC ABOUT THE PHYSICAL STATUS OF work. The GM informed that piles, water sump tank and earth work of the main building has been completed and binding of steel is in progress for raft foundation.

PDP Stages Protest Against ‘Harassment Of Kashmiri People’, ‘Curbs’ On Media

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Monday held a protest in Kashmir capital Srinagar against what they say ‘harassment of Kashmiri people’, arrest spree, continued detention of political prisoners, dismissal of government employees and other issues. Eyewitnesses told a news agency that scores of leaders led by senior leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura assembled outside PDP’s headquarters in Srinagar. The leaders took out a march and proceeded towards Polo View, however, they were stopped by police that disallowed them to

proceed towards city centre Lal Chowk. The protesting leaders were carrying placards that read, ‘stop harassment’, ‘restore freedom of press’, ‘stop arbitrary detentions’, ‘release political prisoners’, ‘stop implementing new laws in Jammu and Kashmir’ and ‘reinstate Anganwari workers.’ While talking to the media, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said: “We are protesting against the unprecedented harassment of people from the BJP led government. Swords are kept hanging over our heads and a barrel is pointed towards our heads, as there is no space left to express our opinion,” he said.

He said during PDP rule, the problems of people were addressed without any delay but the present BJP dispensation is adding to the hardships of the people. “Anganwari Helpers were terminated, government employees were being shown the door, the media was being pressurized and stopped from writing or showing the truth. There is unprecedented harassment. Political leaders are still languishing in jails and they are not released. Is this what they say normalcy,” Hanjura said. “We will continue to raise our voice collectively and won’t tolerate new laws that are being enforced upon us,” he said. (KNT)

Week-Long Online Workshop On Research Methodology In Social Sciences Concludes At KU

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: A week-long virtual workshop on ‘Research Methodology in Social Sciences’ concluded at the University of Kashmir. The workshop, organized by the Department of Sociology, was attended by 50 research scholars of various disciplines of social sciences from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir. According to a statement, during the proceedings of the workshop, eminent resource persons including Prof Vivek Kumar (JNU), Prof Noor Mohammad (AMU), Prof Ajaili Niumai (Hyderabad University), Prof Manindra Thakur (JNU), Prof Paramjit Singh Judge (President, Indian Sociological Society), Prof Shafique Ahmad (JMI) and Prof S K Sharma (Panjab University), Prof Indira Ramaroa (University of Mysore) and Prof Aabha Chauhan (University of Jammu) shared their knowledge and experiences with the budding research scholars. Head, Department of Sociology Prof Aneesa Shafi said the workshop was conducted to introduce participants to various research aspects and paradigms as well as to instill in them the ability to do independent research systematically. “The workshop focused on the theoretical and philosophical dimensions as well as the rationale upon which social research needs to be structured,” she said. During the week-long proceedings, the experts answered the practical aspects of research that a researcher encounters during various stages of conducting research while covering wide range of topics ranging from Understanding relationship between Ontology, Epistemology, Methodology and Methods in Social Sciences, Designing a Research Project and Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods, Ethnography to New trends in Social Research, Intra-disciplinary and Multidisciplinary Research, Discourse Analysis, Grounded Theory and Feminist Methodology. Prof Aneesa described the role of such workshops as fundamental in exploring varied dimensions and the epistemological paradigms of research. The Department is enthusiastic to organize such workshops in future also to ensure vibrancy among scholars and make the overall department run at par with the other reputed institutions of the country, she said.

NIT Srinagar Hosts Session On 'Corporate Diaries With Fariya Tahir'

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Department of Training and Placements, National Institute of Technology (NIT) on Monday in continuation with its special talk series organized a special session named, “Corporate Diaries with Fariya Tahir”. The session was attended by more than 150 students. In a statement, director NIT Srinagar, Prof Rakesh Sehgal said the session was aimed to provide in-depth practical knowledge about the market trends and aware the students about hiring processes in the corporate sector. He appreciated the department of placement and training for organizing sessions on relevant topics, which are the need of the hour. Registrar NIT, Prof Kaiser Bukhari said these events are need of the hour and they will be organizing such events in the future also. On the occasion, Fariya Tahir, Analyst, KPMG and former Inside Sales Representatives (Microsoft) at Majorel was the guest speaker for the session. The event consisted of a 30-minute long lecture followed by a question-answer session. She shared her experiences with the students and gave important insights and tips to the students on how to stand upon the recruiter’s expectations. Ms. Fariya also answered numerous queries and questions that the students asked in regard to corporate life, interviews, and much more. Head Training and Placement Officer and Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar was also present on the occasion. He briefed the guest and the participants about the recent success of the Department, with more than 150 students already being placed in well-reputed companies within three months of the starting of the placement drive. The event was attended by more than 150 B.Tech students. Dr. Tahir Wani, Dr. Muhamamd Rafiq, and Dr. Harkirat Singh were also present at the event. The event was hosted by Ms. Sanna Showkat and coordinated by the T&P Events team led by Mr. Syed Aga Hadi Riza. While a formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Muhammad Rafiq Tel. He thanked the guests and all the students for their participation and promised many more such events in the future—



CS Throws Open Refurbished Nun Kun Restaurant

Tourism Deptt. Celebrates World Tourism Day

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Department of Tourism celebrated the World Tourism Day today with events like adventure, culture, sanitation and awareness activities marking the day. In this regard the main event was held here where Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta flagged off several tourism promotional activities. The day also saw events at all the major destinations and even at the offices of the Tourism Department outside J&K. At the Royal Springs Golf Course, the Chief Secretary flagged off an all girls trekking expedition comprising some 30 girl students, Sky running expedition (running competition upwards hills) consisting of 30 members besides a cycle rally to Astanmarg, Harwan.

On the occasion, Dr. Mehta said that it is the continuous endeavor of the government to vaccinate the whole adult population of J&K. He expressed his satisfaction over the cooperation extended by the general public in curbing the coronavirus. Mehta further said that the government has decided to promote 75 lesser known tourist destinations while maintaining that the UT has tremendous potential in tourism and there are other locations that have equal appeal but need promotion and raising of tourism related infrastructure. He said that night flights at Srinagar and Jammu airports along with other measures would give tourism in J&K a major fillip. The Chief Secretary said that tourism trade has picked up during the past few months. He said that it is a good sign that people are visiting this place as both the appropriate behavior and vaccination of tourism stakeholders has been carried out beforehand.

On the occasion, Dr. Mehta also interacted with the members of all the adventure groups taking part in today’s rallies. He encouraged them to make trekking, cycling, hiking and other adventure related activities their zeal as these activities add color to life. Later the Chief Secretary also flagged off a shikara rally in the world famous Dal lake to celebrate the day. The day also marked the opening of the refurbished Nun Kun restaurant on the foothills of Zabarwan mountains on Dal banks by Dr. Mehta. The restaurant is famed for its specialised Chinese cuisine and with its refurbishment the ambience and facility at the restaurant has been scaled to new levels. He asked the tourism authorities to market the facilities available therein so that people get aware about it. He asked them to exploit both the location and infrastructure upto the maximum.

The Chief Secretary also e-launched the Covid safe tourism campaign to spread awareness about Covid-19 and the precautions to be followed while conducting business. He also e-launched 19 multilingual tourism promotional brochures in five major languages including English, Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Bengali. This was a major demand by the tourist community which has been met by the Department today. Later in the day, the Tourism Department hosted a group of tourists from Mudurai, Tamil Nad who were all praise for the comfortable stay here. In the evening a Cultural function was held at Kongposh restaurant, Rajbagh where artists enthralled the audience with their scintillating performances. A painting competition was also held on the occasion. Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, Director Tourism, GN Itoo and other officers and officials besides a number of tourists were present on the occasion. The day was also celebrated by the Department at many other places. At Srinagar International airport tourists arriving today were received in a traditional way by the staff of the Department posted there. At destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Doodpathri, Yousmarg, Verinag, Nigeen Club and other destinations cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, trekking expeditions and other activities were held by the Department to mark the occasion. People in large numbers including many tourists attended these functions. The offices of the Department situated outside including Kolkata and New Delhi also celebrated the World Tourism Day today.

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DC Srinagar Reviews Preparations For “Clean India” Programme

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In connection with “Clean India” Programme being held under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava from 1st to 31st October 2021, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday chaired an Officers meeting convened to review the preparations being made by different departments for smooth conduct of the Programme. On the occasion, the DDC directed all the Officers to prepare a Department wise comprehensive Action Plan/Calendar of Activities regarding “Clean India” Programme and submit it by September 28. He asked them to involve concerned DDC, BDC and PRI members besides other stakeholders with the programme for its successful implementation on ground. He further directed for utilizing services of the NSS, NYKs and other volunteers to mobilize the people with regard to the programme. The DDC stressed on adopting innovative ways with regard to programmes to give a new look to Srinagar district by cleaning the entire City. He also stressed on making best use of the latest technology by launching the IEC campaign for mass awareness regarding the programme. Highlighting the objectives of the “Clean India” programme, the DDC said that the basic purpose of the programme is to organize activities to clean waste throughout the country from 1st to 31st October 2021. He said the programme will be organized in all villages having the presence of NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs, in all districts of the country. The DDC said active involvement of all segments of society, Government organizations including PRIs and Non- Government Organizations is paramount to infuse awareness and feeling of pride among citizens to keep their surroundings clean and waste free. He said key activities of the programme will include collection and disposal of waste- through collection drives and door to door campaign, Village beautification, cleanliness and beautification of Historical Monuments, Heritage sites, Community centres, Youth Clubs, School buildings, Panchayat buildings, Religious places, Hospitals and Water Bodies/ Resources through Voluntary. The DDC added that Clean India Campaign comprises three phases including Preparatory Phase, Launching Phase and Collection of Waste and Disposal and on an average of 30 kgs waste per village/ward will be collected and disposed off per day. Chief Executive Officer, Wakaf Board Mufti Farid ud Din, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Gulzar Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Deputy Director, Nehru Yuwa Kendra, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, Secretary LAWDA, Deputy Chief Education Officer, District Panchayat Officer, all Block Development Officers and other concerned were present in the meeting.



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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

- 1906 - US troops reoccupy Cuba, stay until 1909
- 1914 - German forces move into Antwerp Belgium (WW I)
- 1915 - Battle of Kut-el-Amara: British defeat Turks in Mesopotamia
- 1923 - Abyssinia (Ethiopia) leaves League of Nations
- 1924 - French government names Gen Serrail governor-general of Syria
- 1926 - Russia & Latvia treaty of neutrality signed
- 1928 - Prussia forbids speech from Adolf Hitler
- 1928 - US acknowledge Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek
- 1939 - Estonia accepts Soviet military bases
- 1939 - German-Soviet Frontier Treaty is signed by Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov; redraws German and Soviet spheres of influence in central Europe and transfers most of Lithuania to the USSR
- 1944 - Battle of Arnhem, Germans defeat British airborne in Netherlands
- 1950 - Indonesia becomes 60th member of UN
- 1959 - Explorer VI reveals an intense radiation belt around Earth
- 1961 - Syria withdraws from United Arab Republic
- 1972 - Japan & Communist China agree to re-establish diplomatic relations.
- 1982 1st reports appear of death from cyanide-laced Tylenol capsules
- 1982 - NASA launches Intelsat V satellite, no. 505
- 1983 - STS-9 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1985 - NASA launches Intelsat VA F-12
- 1991 - UN weapons inspectors ends 5-day standoff with Iraq
- 1992 - Pakistani Airbus A-300 crashes into mountain at Kathmandu, 167 dies.
- 1994 - 909 people die when an Estonian ferry capsizes & sinks in Baltic sea
- 1995 - Yitzhak Rabin and Yasir Arafat sign accord to transfer West Bank to the PLO
- 2008 - SpaceX launches the first ever private spacecraft, the Falcon 1 into orbit
- 2015 - DNA controllers for the age women go into menopause announced in “Nature Genetics” by research team from Exeter and Cambridge universities
- 2015 - NASA scientists announce the discovery of flowing water on Mars
- 2016 - Hurricane Matthew forms near the Windward Islands, will go on to kill over 1000 in Haiti, the Caribbean and the US

From KO Archives

Beerwah Police, CRPF Taste RR Ire

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 Rash-triya Rifles (RR) led by Col T Shaahidharan 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 police-men of torching the police station alongwith 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 last 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 poll Residents told AP the RR personnel had allegedly made their life miserable. Viewed in light of the action against the police and CRPF, they said, one could easily guess what could be the extent of harassment they caused to the common people.

(Kashmir Observer, September 28, 2000)

Israeli PM Bennett Meets Bahrain, UAE Ministers in US



Agenceis

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with ministers from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, his first meetings with Gulf leaders since taking office in June.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

In the meeting Bennett expressed his support for the continuing relationship between the three countries on the anniversary of the Abraham Accords, signed by the leaders of Israel,

the UAE and Bahrain in the US last September.

"I want to tell you that I met the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, and they are of course delighted with the ensuing relationship between our countries, and I want to assure you of continuity. We are stable and we believe in this relationship, and we want to expand it as much as possible," Bennett said.

Bahrain and the UAE normalized relations with Israel last year. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who visited Dubai in June, is expected to travel to Bahrain soon.

Myanmar Air Strikes Reported In Battle, Internet Cut In More Areas



Agenceis

Myanmar's military launched air strikes at the weekend after clashes with fighters opposed to the junta in the Sagaing region, according to media and a militia member, as phone lines and the internet were also severed in some districts.

The Southeast Asian country has been in crisis since the army seized power on February 1, ending a decade of tentative steps towards democracy and triggering outrage at home and abroad and the setting up of People's Defence Forces (PDFs) to take on the military.

The DVB news portal reported the air strikes occurred as the army staged an offensive in the Pinlebu area of Sagaing in northwest Myanmar, citing residents who heard aircraft and explosions on Saturday night before phone lines and the internet went down.

A member of the Pinlebu PDF, speaking from outside the area, also confirmed by telephone that air strikes had taken place, but said there had been no casualties amongst his group.

"We cannot contact them due to the internet and phone lines blackout," the activist, who declined to be identified, said of his opposition colleagues.

Reuters could not independently verify any of the claims and a spokesman for the military did not answer calls

seeking comment.

The National Unity Government (NUG), a shadow administration set up by ousted lawmakers and others opposed to the junta, said an arms cache including a rocket propelled grenade, small arms and shells had been seized in the fighting. It said more than 25 government soldiers had been killed.

There has been an upsurge in bloodshed in areas like Sagaing after the underground NUG declared an uprising on September 7 and called on PDFs to target the junta and its assets.

Earlier in the conflict, the military had at times shut down the internet, particularly in cities, in a bid to curb demonstrations.

Since Thursday, the military had cut internet access in 11 conflict-hit districts in Chin State and in the Magway region, the Myanmar Now news portal reported, citing residents and members of PDFs. Last week, thousands fled from the town of Thantlang in Chin Stat, bordering India, after fighting in which a Christian pastor among those killed.

Some militia groups have also claimed responsibility for blowing up scores of telecommunication towers, a partly army-controlled company.

US-based democracy watchdog Freedom House said in a report published last week that internet freedom slumped by 14 points in Myanmar – the largest annual decline ever recorded on its 100-point scale – after the coup.

Over 14 Million Pilgrims Taking Part in Arbaeen Procession in Karbala



Agenceis

Jassim al-Fatlawi, deputy governor of Karbala, said more pilgrims are arriving in Karbala for the annual procession.

He added that estimates show the number of Arbaeen pilgrims this year will be higher than last year's.

The official also noted that a security plan has been launched in Karbala Province and providing the pilgrims with welfare and health services continues.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime

Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who has traveled to Karbala, held a meeting with provincial officials about security plans and services for the pilgrims.

He underlined the need for remaining vigilant to ensure security in Karbala and said serving Arbaeen pilgrims is a major human, moral and religious duty.

Arbaeen marks the 40th day that followed the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam, and his 72-strong companions in the Battle of Karbala,

in what is now southern Iraq, in 680 AD. The battle featured an unjust fight between Imam Hussein (AS) and his army and the hugely outnumbered army of the Umayyad caliph of the time, Yazid I.

Each year, millions of Muslim mourners set out on a symbolic 80-kilometer-long walk that begins from the holy city of Najaf in Iraq, where Imam Hussein's (AS) father Imam Ali (AS)'s shrine is located, to the holy city of Karbala that houses Imam Hussein's (AS) shrine.

Important To Incentivise Taliban So That They Fulfil Promises, Says Pakistan PM Imran Khan

Agenceis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said it was important to incentivise the Taliban so that the new rulers of Afghanistan fulfil the promises they made after they seized power in Kabul last month.

The Taliban are yet to get international recognition.

The heavily armed group have promised an inclusive government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than that of their previous regime from 1996 to 2001, including respecting women's rights.

However, their recent moves indicate that they are returning to their repressive policies, particularly toward women.

According to an official statement, Khan in an article published in US-based The Washington Post newspaper on Monday said the world desired an inclusive Afghan government, respect for the rights, and commitments that Afghan soil shall never again be used for terrorism.

"Taliban leaders will have greater reason and ability to stick to their promises if they are assured of the consistent humanitarian and development assistance they need to run the government effectively," he said.

Khan said providing incentives would also give the outside world additional leverage to continue persuading the Taliban to honour their commitments.

"If we do this right, we could achieve what the Doha peace process aimed at all along: an Afghanistan that is no longer a threat to the world, where Afghans can finally dream of peace after four decades of conflict," he said.



The prime minister said abandoning Afghanistan as tried before would lead to a meltdown.

"Chaos, mass migration and a revived threat of international terror will be natural corollaries. Avoiding this must surely be our global imperative," he said.

He said Pakistan must not be blamed for the outcome of war in Afghanistan and for the losses of the US and stressed on setting eyes on the future to avoid another conflict.

Khan recalled that since 2001, he repeatedly warned that the "Afghan war was unwinnable" and pointed out that given their history, Afghans would never accept a protracted foreign military presence.

He pointed out that after the defeat of the Soviets, the US abandoned Afghanistan and sanctioned Pakistan, leaving behind over five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and a bloody civil war in Afghanistan.

He said former Pakistan leader Pervez Musharraf offered logistics and air bases after 9/11, allowing a CIA footprint in Pakistan and even turned a blind eye to American drone attacks in Pakistan.

Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition after the 9/11 attacks for

harbouring al-Qaida.

The United States withdrew all its forces from Afghanistan last month in a chaotic airlift that ended America's "forever war" in the landlocked country.

Khan said for the Afghan people, the US was an "occupier" of their country just like the Soviets.

He said the Taliban declared war against Pakistan after its support to the US war on terror.

"Between 2006 and 2015,

nearly 50 militant groups declared jihad on the Pakistani state, conducting over 16,000 terrorist attacks on us."

In Afghanistan, Khan said, the lack of legitimacy for an outsider's protracted war was compounded by a corrupt and inept Afghan government, seen as a puppet regime without credibility, especially by rural Afghans.

The prime minister emphasised that a more realistic approach would have been "to negotiate with the Taliban much earlier", avoiding the embarrassment of the collapse of the Afghan army and the Ashraf Ghani government.

Khan urged the world to engage with the new Afghan government for the sake of peace and stability.

'Up To 90 Percent' of UK Petrol Pumps Dry Amid Panic Buying

Agenceis

Petrol pumps in English cities are running dry after panic buying worsened shortages caused by a lack of truckers.

Queues of cars snaked back from filling stations across the country on Sunday, swallowing up supplies and forcing many retailers to shut despite assurances from the government that the United Kingdom is not short of fuel.

"Some of our members, large groups with a portfolio of sites, report 50 percent are dry as of yesterday, some even report as many as 90 percent are dry as of yesterday," Brian Madderson, chairman of the Petrol Retailers Association (PRA), told UK broadcaster Sky News on Monday.

The PRA represents inde-

"The government has found itself in a big mess over this," he said. "It has gotten out of control."

British oil giant BP said nearly a third of its stations nationwide had run out of the two main grades of fuel – unleaded petrol and diesel – as the spate of panic buying forced the government to suspend competition laws and allow companies to work together to ease shortages.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said the suspension would allow firms to share information and coordinate their response.

"This step will allow government to work constructively with fuel producers, suppliers, hauliers and retailers to ensure that disruption is minimised as far as possible," the business department said in a statement.



pendent fuel retailers, who account for 65 percent of all UK forecourts.

"So you can see it is quite acute," Madderson said. "Monday morning is going to start pretty dry."

Al Jazeera's Andrew Simmons, reporting from outside a petrol station in the capital, London, said people were attempting to stockpile fuel using jerry cans.

The Conservative government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson has also announced a plan to issue temporary visas for 5,000 foreign truck drivers to soften the crisis in the world's fifth-largest economy.

Post-Brexit immigration rules mean newly arrived European Union citizens can no longer work visa-free in Britain, as they could have when the UK was a member of the bloc.

Bahrain Authorities Jailed Hundreds Of Children: Report

At least 607 children were subjected to various forms of torture by Bahraini authorities while in detention over the past decade, a new Al Jazeera investigation reveals.

The findings of the programme were based on leaked judicial reports as well as testimonies from children who described being threatened and, in some cases, physically abused during interrogations.

These interrogation sessions were often carried out without the children's parents or their lawyers present, according to documents from the Bahraini public prosecution that were obtained by the programme.

Sources in the prosecution's office, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera there are more than 150 children currently detained in Bahraini prison facilities.

The investigation found that a handful of statements provided by children were changed to accept charges brought against them after initially denying any wrongdoing, supporting claims of having been verbally and physically abused by authorities to forcibly extract confessions.

In one recorded statement obtained by Al Jazeera, a young man who has been held inside a prison facility since he was 16 years old spoke about solitary confinement. He said those who are taken into solitary are often chained to the bed or have both their hands and feet cuffed.



"They often cannot shower or change their clothes," the detainee said in the recording.

The programme also reported at least 193 children received prison sentences between 2011 and 2021. Some were given life terms, according to the findings.

In response to the Al Jazeera investigation, Bahrain's interior ministry said there are no children imprisoned in Bahrain. However, it said some detainees aged between 15-18 years old are serving time in a special correctional centre.

In a statement, the ministry added that the children serving sentences were convicted in criminal and "terror" related cases, and had received fair trials.

Abdul Majeed Marari, Middle East director of the human rights group AFD International, said the findings of the investigation are powerful and could be used by international rights groups to highlight Bahrain's imprisonment of children.

NEWS MAKER

Taliban Ban Barbers From Trimming Beards In Afghan Province

Agenceis

The Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand province have forbidden hairdressers from shaving or trimming beards, claiming it violates their interpretation of Islamic law.

Taliban religious police said anyone who breaks the rule would be punished, reports the BBC.

Some barbers in the capital Kabul have said they also received similar orders.

Despite pledges of a more moderate government, the directives signal a return to the strict rulings of the group's past tenure in power.

The Taliban have carried out harsh punishments on opponents since taking control this month. Four purported kidnappers were shot dead by the group's fighters on Saturday, and their bodies were hung in the



streets of Herat province.

Taliban officers warned hairdressers in southern Helmand province that they must obey Sharia law for haircuts and beards

in a notice displayed at salons.

The notice read: "No one has a right to complain."

"The fighters keep coming and ordering us to stop trimming

beards," one barber in Kabul said. "One of them told me they can send undercover inspectors to catch us."

Another hairdresser, who owns one of the city's largest salons, claimed he received a call from a government official. They told him not to shave or trim anyone's beard and to "stop following American styles."

Hardline Islamists outlawed showy haircuts and required males to grow beards during the Taliban's first term in office, which lasted from 1996 to 2001.

However, since then, clean-shaven looks have become fashionable, and many Afghan men have visited salons to get trendy haircuts.

The barbers, who asked not to be identified for their own safety, claim that the new laws are making it difficult for them to make a living.

Macron Hit With Egg During Cafe Visit

Agenceis

Lyon, France: A man pelted French President Emmanuel Macron with an egg while he was visiting a restaurant and hotel trade fair in the southeastern city of Lyon on Monday.

The egg hit his shoulder but bounced off without breaking.

The assailant was quickly subdued and removed from the room, with Macron saying he would try to speak with him later.

Either @EmmanuelMacron is protected by an invisible shield or someone just threw a boiled egg. pic.twitter.com/JTf5tZsAMf

"If he has something to tell me, let him come," Macron said at the International Catering, Hotel and Food Trade Fair (SIRHA). "I'll go see him afterwards."



It was a startling disturbance of the warm welcome by fair attendees for the centrist president, not least after he announced that restaurant tips paid by credit card would no longer be taxed.

Eggs from irate protesters are a common occupational hazard for French politicians, and

Macron is no exception.

When he was still a candidate for the presidency in 2017, an egg exploded against his head during a crowd visit at the national agriculture fair in Paris.

More recently, a man slapped him across the face while he was shaking hands with well-wishers in the southern city of Valence in June.

The 28-year-old man, who told a court he sympathised with the anti-government "yellow vest" protests of 2018 and 2019, was sentenced to four months in prison.

Macron's security detail is expected to be on high alert in coming months as the centrist leader multiplies his public appearances ahead of a widely expected re-election campaign.

32 Students Found COVID Positive In Rajouri

Agencies

RAJOURI: At least 32 students studying in a private educational institution in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district have been tested positive for Covid-19, officials said here on Monday.

Official sources told KNO that the school was opened for the first day today after which a team of health department

visited the institution and conducted target sampling of the students.

Chief medical officer Rajouri, Dr Shamim told KNO that during sampling at least 32 students were found Covid-19 positive and they have been isolated.

She said that all the necessary measures as per standard operating procedures for containing the virus are being taken.

Locals Demand End To Illegal Mining In Anantnag & Pulwama

Agencies

ANANTNAG: The department of Geology and Mining has miserably failed to stop illegal extraction of minerals from various streams and rivers in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Pulwama districts, locals have alleged.

Locals told Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the department has miserably failed to check and stop illegal extraction of mineral particularly during night hours as hundreds of Tippers, Dumpers, Tractors and JCBs are involved in this illegal practice.

The locals alleged that this illegal trade worth crores is going on for some time now in many districts of south Kashmir, particularly Anantnag and Pulwama, however, the concerned department is watching as a mute spectator.

They said that the illegal extraction is going on at Nallahs of Larkipora and Sadoora in Anantnag during night hours with no employee of the department watching as mute spectators.

When contacted, in charge officer of Geology and Mining in Larkipora, he said they have submitted the report time and again to the

District office Anantnag, however, no action had been initiated as yet.

The locals alleged that the illegal mineral extraction is witness during day time as well, particularly on Sunday's and Friday's in River Jhelum in Dogripura, Sangam, Bijbehara, Larkipora and Akura.

They alleged that the field and supervisory staff of the concerned department has nexus with the dealers and which is why they fail to take any action.

Some mineral supervisors claimed that they initiated registering of FIRs against the persons involved in illegal mineral extraction, however, it yielded no results.

Meanwhile, environmental experts have expressed serious concern about the disastrous effects of this illegal trade by some vested interests and claimed that it will have serious consequences as it will disturb the natural ecological balance and Flora and Fauna.

Meanwhile, the locals appealed to the Lt. Governor and higher officials to look into the matter and stop this illegal trade to save the environment and natural ecology for future generations.

2-Day National Workshop Concludes At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: A 2-Day Online National Workshop on 'Modern Tools and Techniques in Chemical Sciences' organised by the Department of Chemistry concluded at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Saturday.

At least 170 participants representing various Universities of India, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia participated in this online workshop in which renowned Professors from different institutes and universities delivered lectures.

Prominent sessions on Day two included 'Tutorial Session on Computational Chemistry' by Dr. Mudit Dixit from Lovely Professional University, 'Application of Isothermal Titration Calorimetry in Bio molecular Drug System' by Prof. Riyazuddin from AMU, 'Analytical Monitoring of Compound bio target interactions' by Dr. Masood Rizvi from KU, 'Separation Techniques (HPLC, MS)' by Dr. Anish Pal from Institute of Nano Science and Technology Mohali.

Workshop Convenor and HOD Chemistry, Dr. Abid Shalla expressed his satisfaction over the successful completion of this workshop.

"It has been a significant program in which guest speakers delivered enriching and detailed lectures, which will go a long-way in creating expertise in the field of Chemical Sciences," said Dr. Shalla.

He further expressed his gratitude to Vice Chancellor IUST and Chief Patron of this Workshop, who has been envisioning a standard research-acumen and scholarship in researchers. Dr. Shalla also thanked Dean of Sciences and Patron Workshop, Prof. GM Rather and Media Advisor to VC IUST, Dr. Monisa Qadiri for their support.

Meanwhile, Assistant professor Department of Chemistry, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Dar moderated all the sessions. In their feedback, the participants appreciated the planning and management of the workshop and hoped for an offline follow-up workshop soon at the campus.

Two Houses Guttred In Kupwara Village

Agencies

KUPWARA: Two residential houses were gutted in an overnight blaze at Zurhama village of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, rendering three families homeless, locals said.

Locals informed KNO, that two residential houses were gutted in an overnight blaze, in which

three families were residing. The houses belonged to Asif Lone and Ikhlak Lone of Karnah sector, who had recently moved to Zurhama village, while the third owner was identified as Majeed Raina.

Meanwhile, locals appealed to the authorities to provide the affected owners with timely compensation so that they can resume their normal life.

Drug Peddler Arrested In Bandipora

Agencies

BANDIPORA: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband drugs from his possession in Bazipora area of Ajas in North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

In a statement, issued to the news agency KNO, a police spokesperson said that acting on a specific information regarding movement of a drug peddler a special naka was laid at Bazipora.

"During checking one suspicious person driving a car bearing registration No. JK15A-8320 was signalled to stop and on search 600 Capsules of

contraband drug Tramadol Hydrochloride were recovered."

The statement reads that the accused, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Rather son of Mohammad Maqbool Rather of Bazipora was arrested and his Car was also seized.

"During preliminary enquiry it was revealed that the accused is running a medical shop in Ajas and is involved in supplying drugs to the youth of the area to make them drug addicts."

It reads that accordingly a case FIR No.128/2021 under relevant sections of NDPS Act was registered in police station Sumbal and further investigation has been taken up.

...BHARAT BANDH

Rallies, Demos In Jammu To Demand Repeal Of Agri Laws



Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Demonstrations and rallies were held across Jammu district on Monday in support of the Bharat Bandh called by farmers to demand repeal of the Centre's three agricultural laws.

Led by CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami, hundreds of activists and farmers took out a rally and sat on a dharna on the main road here, leading to disruption of traffic.

Addressing the activists, Tarigami said these "anti-farmer" laws are bound to "destroy" the agriculture sector and threaten India's food security.

"Besides, these laws will lay the basis for abolishment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and mortgage the country's agriculture and markets to the corporate sector", he charged.

Tarigami said the issue of providing fair price for farmers' produce by ensuring a minimum support price has been a long pending demand of farmers.

"On the one hand, the farm-

ers are facing the brunt of increasing prices of diesel, petrol, fertilisers, other agricultural inputs and their daily necessities, and on the other hand, they are becoming poorer as their income is getting reduced," he said.

Noting that the "historic struggle" by farmers to demand repeal of the agri-laws and legal guarantee of MSP is still continuing, he charged that the Modi government has refused to engage with these struggling farmers through talks.

The government should immediately start negotiations with farmers to sort out the issue, he demanded.

In Jammu, the demonstrations were organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Kissan Tehreek.

Expressing solidarity with striking farmers, Om Prakash, General Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, said there was a need to strengthen worker-peasant unity to fight the neo-liberal policies and "attack" on the livelihood of

farmers and working class.

A similar demonstration was held in Srinagar where farmer leaders Abdul Rashid Pandit, Gh Qadir Hafroo and Abdul Rashid Itoo demanded minimum support price for farm produce.

They also said that the horticulture sector has totally been neglected by the government though a major chunk of the population is dependent on it.

The issue of fair price for their produce by ensuring a minimum support price for all crops has been a long pending demand. The government must include the horticulture industry in the MSP, they said.

Many non-NDA parties have extended support to the nationwide 10-hour strike on Monday called by farmers protesting against the three agri laws under the aegis of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM).

The government and farmer unions have held 11 rounds of talks so far, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers' protest.

Talks have not resumed following widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26.

The three laws -- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 -- were passed by Parliament in September last year.

BESIDES, THESE LAWS WILL LAY THE BASIS FOR abolishment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and mortgage the country's agriculture and markets to the corporate sector",

BJP Ended 70 Years Of Dynastic Rule In J&K: MoS Thakur

Agencies

BUDGAM: The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports, Anurag Thakur Monday said that 70 years of dynastic rule had made the youth of J&K incompetent and the BJP put an end to the dynastic rule.

As per KNS correspondent, addressing media persons at Budgam, Anurag Thakur said the difference of the 70 years of dynastic rule in J&K are now visible in the two years of BJP government.

He said the central Government is committed to work for the youth of Jammu as well as Kashmir for their participation and progress in every sector.

About the media policy in Kashmir, Thakur said that there is no place for unethical journalism in democracy. "The media policy in Kashmir has changed for the good of the people so that they can get accurate and truthful information."

He said that journalists should understand their responsibility of reporting the truth and presenting unbiased and accurate information to the people, and they



HE MAINTAINED THAT THE central government is committed to strengthen the existing sports infrastructure and facilities to the youth of J&K so that more youngsters can join sports and represent their UT at various national and international levels.

should do justice with their profession.

He maintained that the central government is committed to strengthen the existing sports infrastructure and facilities to the youth of J&K so that more youngsters can join sports and represent their UT at various national and international levels.

Thakur said that for the revival of artistic culture and to stop the propaganda from Pakistan, the central govern-

ment has launched high power transmitters of Doordarshan and All India Radio at Kargil.

On being asked about the cultivation sector and carpet business of UT, he said that various schemes for export of saffron, apricots, and carpets to every corner of the world are already in progress.

"This will ensure more progress and boost the farming sector and the carpet business in the UT.

CS Mehta Reviews Progress Of Mega Developmental Projects

Observer News Services

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of various mega developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Health & Medical Education, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Forest Ecology & Environment, Industries & Commerce, Higher Education, and Tourism, besides Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/Jammu and CEO, ERA along with concerned Heads of department participated in the meeting.

While reviewing the progress of various developmental projects relating to public health, Dr Mehta directed the completion of infrastructural works of government medical colleges at Kathua, Doda, Anantnag, Baramulla, and the State Cancer Institute, Jammu by December 2021.

He also urged the line department/executing agencies to expedite the completion of work of Bone and Joint Hospital, Bakshi Nagar Jammu, AIIMS Awantipora, and Gynecological Block at Lal Ded Hospital in line with the original completion schedules.

In the Higher Education sector, it was informed that works of Government Engineering College Safapora, IIT Jammu, and IIM Jammu will be completed in October 2021, April 2023, and October 2022, respectively.



In the tourism sector, the Chief Secretary directed the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society to complete the works related to landscaping, conservation, repairs and renovation, and installation of vertical lift between the cable car project and Mubarak Mandi complex within one year.

Dr Mehta directed both the Divisional Commissioners to develop 37/38 new tourist destinations in their respective jurisdictions having niche product/characteristics.

He also asked the Tourism department to expedite the development of the Jammu-Srinagar-Pahalgam-Anantnag-Salamabad Uri-Kargil-Leh circuit under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, besides developing ancillary facilities at the Hazratbal Shrine by December 2021.

The Chief Secretary also directed both the Divisional Commissioners to print brochures of the integrated tourist circuit of Bani-Basohli-Sarthal-Bhadrawah-Doda-Kishtwar for dissemination of the beautiful and pristine places in these areas amongst the potential tourists.

IUST Hosts VC's Employees Cricket Tournament 2021



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The 2nd Vice Chancellor's Employees Cricket Tournament 2021 organised by the Directorate of Physical Education, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commenced here on Monday.

The aim of the tournament is to rejuvenate the sporting culture within university amidst COVID-19 crisis. Eight Teams from various academic departments and university administration will be participating in the said tournament.

The inaugural match was played between School of Humanities & Social Sciences and Admin A, which was won by the team from School of Humanities & Social Sciences. Muzamil Ahmad Bhat from Admin A was awarded the 'Man of the Match' award.

Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo inaugurated the cricket tournament. While addressing the participants and spectators on the opening ceremony, Prof. Romshoo lauded the efforts of Directorate of Physi-

cal Education and Sports for conducting such tournaments for the University Employees and students.

"Such type of activities definitely reduce the psychological depression of employees during tough times like COVID-19 and definitely energises and restores their natural rhythm", he said.

Prof. Romshoo also added that such activities inculcate sports culture among the participants and the University will conduct such activities regularly for boosting the morale of employees.

Prof. Romshoo congratulated all the participants and encouraged them to participate in such activities and assured all the possible support to the sports department for conducting such tournaments in future also. He also thanked the media houses for media coverage of the said event.

Assistant Director Physical Education, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather welcomed the Vice Chancellor and thanked all the participants for their participation in the cricket tournament.

Mewat Girl Tops Jamia School Entrance Test

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Rounaq Afroz Adbar, a Muslim girl from Mewat region of Haryana has topped the Jamia Millia Islamia school entrance examination for the year 2021.

Some eleven thousand aspirants had appeared in the 11th standard examination at the prestigious school of Jamia Millia and Afroz secured first position in the Arts stream.

Hailing from Nuh district of impoverished and under-developed



Mewat region, Afroz is the only daughter of entrepreneur and social activist Arshad Hussain.

Hina Rejected For Not Looking Kashmiri Enough

Hina Khan who is known for appearing in many Indian television series is popular for her role in the long-running serial 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' as Akshara and now will be appearing in a new music video. Hina has now

opened about her struggle with rejections in the industry due to her skin colour. Hina Khan revealed that she was rejected from a project where she had to play a Kashmiri girl because of her dusky skin complexion.

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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

K O V I E W

India, Pak At UN

The speeches at the United Nations General Assembly by India and Pakistan premiers is a major annual event that attracts a lot of media and public attention in South Asia. One major point of interest is the lingering India-Pakistan animosity, largely driven by their long-standing fight over Jammu and Kashmir. Since revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the speeches have assumed an even bigger news value. More so, in Kashmir, where people eagerly look forward to these speeches to see if there's anything in store for them.

In his speech Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again skirted Kashmir and instead chose to focus on climate change, poverty alleviation, developments in Afghanistan, and United Nations Security Council reform. He hailed India as "mother of all democracies," saying the country had democratic traditions for thousands of years. He termed his own rise from humble beginnings to prime ministership of India as reflective of Indian democracy's strength.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in his speech talked about Afghanistan and Kashmir and called for bold steps to pre-empt the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan saying "a destabilized, chaotic Afghanistan will again become a safe haven for international terrorists." Khan once again highlighted the oppression and human rights violations in Kashmir. He, however, said that Pakistan desires peace with India, as with all its neighbours", but a sustainable peace is "contingent upon resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute".

Later, it was left to the diplomats of the two countries to continue the bitter exchange. While Pakistani diplomat Saima Saleem rejected India's contention that Kashmir was its "internal matter," India's diplomat Sneha Dubey in her aggressive speech called Pakistan "an arsonist" who was behaving like a "firefighter."

India always brings up terrorism sponsored from across the border and Pakistan makes counter accusations and also seeks to highlight the situation in Kashmir. This acrimonious exchange is a routine spectacle at the United Nations where the mutually antagonistic positions are ritualistically rehearsed at various meetings.

If anything, it also underlines the lingering estrangement between the neighbours that has further deepened since New Delhi's withdrawal of Article 370. Situation can be expected to improve if the leaders of the two countries deem it in their core interest to engage.

And if not then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn't lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the two countries get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their longstanding issues for durable peace in the region.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The Future Of Global Tech

Following their first in-person summit in Washington, Quad countries – Australia, India, Japan and the United States (US) – announced a set of principles that will guide how they design, develop, govern and use technology. These broadly rest on three pillars – technologies should support democratic values; build trust, integrity and resilience; and foster competition and collaboration that drive advances in science and technology. The direction that Quad countries take will have a significant bearing on the future of technology. A key driver of Quad is balancing China's influence on global security and economy, and the future of technology sits at the heart of both.

In this context, the principles outlined reflect a significant commitment to a counter-China approach. Take, for example, the stress on values: Technology should be designed, governed and used to promote "shared values of autonomy, agency and dignity of individuals". This contradicts some of the principles China has embraced. It has a sprawling deployment of digital tools that help keep a strong check on the activities of its people. In 2019, the US blacklisted several Chinese companies for furthering China's "campaign of repression, mass arbitrary detention, and high-technology surveillance" in the Xinjiang region. In fact, the principles explicitly condemn the misuse of technology for "malicious activities such as authoritarian surveillance and oppression, for terrorist purposes or to disseminate disinformation". This is a message to autocracies, but it is also a message to democracies to live by their own ideals.

A second core area of focus relates to how the Quad countries envision the future of their tech industries. Technology ecosystems must be built with "trust, integrity and resilience". Again, the China backdrop is conspicuous. In recent years, all Quad partners have blacklisted Chinese hardware giants such as Huawei over concerns that they could open security backdoors for China. Quad also aims to reorient the semiconductor supply-chain dominated by Beijing. All four Quad partners are well positioned to make a meaningful pivot if they address this overreliance. Crucially, India will stand to gain as it attempts to become an alternative to the powerhouse of the tech industry that China has become. But for that to happen, India's commitment to the principles will be under close scrutiny. In the short-term, this could have a bearing on how India approaches regulation of big tech which, for a while now, appears to be on a collision course with the Global North's light touch policies.

Hindustan Times

International Access To
Information Day

Building Back Better With Access To Information



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Soon after the Article 370 was abrogated on August 5th 2019, it was claimed that the constitutional provision under article 370 deprived people of J&K of the benefits of many central legislations. Especially in the context of the RTI law, it was said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir were deprived of even the Right to Information Act (RTI).

During the last 1 year, not even a single appeal filed in CIC has been listed for hearing. Only the old appeals that were pending in J&K State Information Commission (JKSIC) are being listed for hearing. One of the complaints titled Dr Raja Muzaffar v/s PIO DC office Srinagar) was listed a few months back before the Central Information Commission for hearing. This appeal was filed by me in erstwhile JK SIC back in 2018 and it was after 3 years that the case was listed. In December last year,

mandated under section 26 of RTI Act 2005. Ironically, not even one awareness programme has been held during the last 1 year by the Government for the designated officers after they were asked and tasked to implement the new law. Training could have been given in virtual mode but no such initiatives have been taken.

Sec 26 of RTI Act 2005 reads :
"The appropriate Government may, to the extent of availability of financial and other resources, develop and organise educational programmes to advance the understanding of the public, in particular of disadvantaged communities as to how to exercise the rights contemplated under this Act. Encourage public authorities to participate in the development and organisation of programmes referred to in clause (a) and to undertake such programmes themselves. Promote timely and effective dissemination of accurate information by public authorities about their activities and train Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers, as the case may be of public authorities and produce relevant training materials for use by the public authorities themselves. The appropriate Government shall, within eighteen months from the commencement of this Act, compile in its official language a guide containing such information, in an easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by a person who wishes to exercise any right specified in this Act"

ON THE FACE OF it, this claim is not untrue. However, it is far from painting the true picture. While it is true that RTI Act 2005 (central law) was not applicable in J&K, but the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir had a better RTI law enacted in 2009 during Omar Abdullah led NC -Congress Government. The said law, known as the J&K RTI Act 2009 was more progressive and people friendly. After more than 2 years of its repeal , people intending to access information from public authorities have realized that J&K 's erstwhile RTI law had better provisions than the existing central law (RTI Act 2005).

THE AGGRIEVED WOULD GET JUSTICE from JK SIC within 2 to 4 months only as J&K State Information Commission (JKSIC) was supposed to dispose off RTI appeals within 60 to 120 days only. There was a legal provision in JK RTI Act 2009 for this. Under RTI Act 2005, there is no such legal binding

On the face of it, this claim is not untrue. However, it is far from painting the true picture. While it is true that RTI Act 2005 (central law) was not applicable in J&K, but the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir had a better RTI law enacted in 2009 during Omar Abdullah led NC -Congress Government. The said law, known as the J&K RTI Act 2009 was more progressive and people friendly. After more than 2 years of its repeal , people intending to access information from public authorities have realized that J&K 's erstwhile RTI law had better provisions than the existing central law (RTI Act 2005).

Is merely extending the Central laws to J&K going to address public grievances? Are these central laws beneficial to people of J&K?

Disempowerment of people
People of Jammu & Kashmir have been deprived of the State Information Commission (SIC) after Central RTI law (RTI Act 2005) was extended to J&K with effect from Oct 31st 2019. The Union Territories (UTs) are not entitled to have a separate Information Commission. The appeals under RTI Act 2005 (2nd appeals) are now filed before the Central Information Commission (CIC) New Delhi. All the pending appeals in erstwhile J&K State Information Commission (JKSIC) have also been transferred to CIC New Delhi.

I filed two fresh appeals in CIC but they are yet to be listed.

This was not the case in the past. The aggrieved would get justice from JK-SIC within 2 to 4 months only as J&K State Information Commission (JKSIC) was supposed to dispose off RTI appeals within 60 to 120 days only. There was a legal provision in JK RTI Act 2009 for this. Under RTI Act 2005, there is no such legal binding. It takes months and years to get justice from the Central and State Information Commissions in India.

A few months back, RTI activists in Maharashtra served a legal notice to their State Information Commission asking it to lay out a roadmap to ensure timely disposal of appeals. The time bound disposal of RTI appeals made erstwhile J&K RTI Act 2009 more progressive than Central RTI Act 2005. Infact such a provision is not seen in most of the RTI laws in Asian countries.

For the last 1 year, RTI Act 2005 (central law) is applicable in J&K but as a longtime RTI campaigner, I get regular calls and messages from aggrieved information seekers who complain that Govt departments are reluctant in providing information under RTI Act 2005.

Under RTI Act 2005, Govt has to create awareness for the citizens, disadvantaged communities as well as


the case in other districts as well.

By not creating awareness about the RTI Act, the government has not only violated legal provisions (section 26 of RTI Act 2005) but is also guilty of depriving people of their right to know.

Today (September 28th) is the International day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). This year's theme for the day is The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information. The theme aims at highlighting the fact that the public's need for accurate and reliable information has never been stronger than now, as countries struggle to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuild communities and institutions. The public servants in J&K and other states can display their leadership and build public by making voluntary disclosure of information as mandated under section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005. The Govt websites must be updated on a regular basis and public authorities be encouraged to be more active on social media to address public grievances. Govt must hold awareness camps and workshops for understanding of the RTI law as mandated under section 26 and the entire process from filing of RTI application to providing of info be digitized. Lastly, the State Information Commission should be set up in J&K as appeals from J&K are piling up at CIC with very weak disposal of appeals.

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

The author is an Acumen Fellow and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He is also an Anant fellow for Climate Action



OBSERVER MAIL

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KAS, JEE And NEET Obsession

Life in Jammu and Kashmir is narrowly conceived, particularly in the case of students and parents. Well, it is not their fault; when the main motive of life is to earn money by hook or by crook, parents deliberately and their children voluntarily or involuntarily choose that way that can give them money in heaps. KAS and NEET are two ways that have become the trademarks of learning. In fact, such is the impact of these two things that other professions and occupations have taken a back seat. Recently, social media, electronic media and print media were full of success stories, regarding KAS and NEET qualifiers. Yes, it is a moment of happiness that we produce good bureaucrats and doctors. But the main thing is that life is all about qualifying an examination or is it about knowing the world and yourselves?

IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT, THIS line of demarcation has blurred a lot. Those students who have no inclinations towards these professions are called useless. Those students who are called useless, follow their own whims.

In the present context, this line of demarcation has blurred a lot. Those students who have no inclinations towards these professions are

called useless. Those students who are called useless, follow their own whims. They want to do something adventurous that can pacify their nerves. They don't want to be in a race of cut throat competition. They live the way they find life.

Our educational system never takes individual differences into account. From the beginning, we are taught that we are all going to become doctors, engineers, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs, etc. We are never taught that the main aim of life is to know one's life. When a person knows their worth, he or she opts a profession or an occupation according to his or her liking and necessity. However, in the present world, it is seen that the majority of people engaged in different professions are misfits. If someone wants to opt any profession or occu-

pation, he or she is forced to prefer that profession that is not suitable to them. In this way, the menace of the educational system is to blame. It is this that produces narrow mindedness in our society.

In short, there should be a broad consensus on what the real meaning of life is. After knowing this, there should be pondering over different professions and their needs. Knowing all these things will enable us to respect every profession. We will be in a position not to give unnecessary hype to those things that are like others. William Bill Gates, Ellison, Jack Ma, Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, Warren Buffet, etc are some examples.

Syed Mustafa Ahmad
syedmustafaahmad9@gmail.com

Hit Or Miss?

A New Oral Antiviral Drug For Covid Is Being Tested In Humans – Can It Make A Difference?

Misha Ketchell

Despite the effectiveness of vaccines, we still need drugs to treat COVID. Even people who have been double vaccinated stand a small chance of getting COVID and ending up moderately or even severely ill. There are drugs to treat COVID, but they have to be given in hospital.

One promising drug that could improve things is molnupiravir, an antiviral that's moving into the final stages of testing in humans. Researchers are hoping it can be used both to treat and prevent COVID. Importantly, it can be taken as a pill – meaning people wouldn't need to be hospitalised to receive it.

This drug reduces the ability of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, to replicate. It works by mimicking one of the building blocks of the virus's genetic material. When the virus reproduces, it builds a new copy of its RNA, and the drug ends up being incorporated into it.

When the virus then reproduces, the molnupiravir causes mutations to accumulate in the virus's RNA, which increase every time it replicates. Eventually, this causes an "error catastrophe", where excessive mutations stop the virus from being able to reproduce altogether, and it dies off.

How well does it work?

So far, a small trial has looked at the effects of molnupiravir in 202 COVID patients (not in hospital) who had started having symptoms. Participants were randomly allocated to receive molnupiravir or a placebo, with different doses of the antiviral being tested.

The trial's results have been published as a preprint, meaning they are yet to be formally reviewed by other scientists. Still, the trial showed that after three days of treatment, infectious SARS-CoV-2 virus was found significantly less often in participants taking 800mg of molnupiravir (2%) compared to those taking a placebo (17%).

By day five, the virus was not detected in any participants receiving 400mg or 800mg of molnupiravir, but was still found in 11% of those taking a placebo. The trial, therefore, suggests that molnupiravir can reduce and eliminate infectious SARS-CoV-2 in patients with mild COVID. Indeed, it's the fact that molnupiravir speeds up the clearance of the virus that suggests it could be useful not just



IF IT PERFORMS WELL IN THESE TRIALS, MOLNUPIRAVIR'S IMPACT could be huge. Given the severity of illness that can be caused by SARS-CoV-2, an effective antiviral would be a valuable weapon to have in the clinical armoury – particularly if molnupiravir continues to be as fast acting as it has so far in testing. Patients suffering from COVID can become very sick very quickly

for treating COVID but also lessening the chance of it spreading.

But to know just how useful it will be, we need to see what happens in further trials. Molnupiravir is currently also being assessed in newly hospitalised patients with COVID, with this study aiming to find out if early molnupiravir treatment can reduce the time it takes for patients with severe COVID to clear the virus. No

results have been disclosed so far.

A larger trial, with 1,850 participants, is now looking to see if molnupiravir is better than a placebo at preventing serious disease and death in non-hospitalised adults with COVID. And a phase 3 trial (the final stage of human testing) is now recruiting participants – across 17 different countries – to see whether early molnupiravir treatment of COVID-positive

people prevents others living in the same household from getting infected. Previous research has already shown molnupiravir can stop SARS-CoV-2 spreading in this manner among ferrets.

If it performs well in these trials, molnupiravir's impact could be huge. Given the severity of illness that can be caused by SARS-CoV-2, an effective antiviral would be a valuable weapon to have in the clinical

cal armoury – particularly if molnupiravir continues to be as fast acting as it has so far in testing. Patients suffering from COVID can become very sick very quickly.

The fact that it is taken orally is also potentially very helpful, as this would make it easy to use in the early stages of infection, as it could be self-administered outside of hospital. Also, molnupiravir can be produced in large quantities and doesn't require cold transportation. Vaccines and physical measures to control the spread of the virus would still be the primary tactics for managing COVID, but this drug could complement both.

Where did it come from?

Developing antiviral drugs notoriously takes a long time. The fact that molnupiravir is available 18 months into the pandemic is because it wasn't developed specifically for COVID. It is a broad-spectrum antiviral – meaning it can act against a wide variety of viruses. Its development started back in 2013 at Emory University in the US.

The focus then was on finding an antiviral drug for the treatment of equine encephalitis virus infection, a major threat for human and animal public health in the Americas. The initial antiviral drug in development was known as EIDD-1931. Broad testing confirmed that it was able to inhibit several RNA viruses from replicating, including influenza virus, multiple coronaviruses and respiratory syncytial virus.

However, when EIDD-1931 was given orally to monkeys it was quickly metabolised, decreasing its antiviral activity. To address this, scientists created an inactive drug (known as a prodrug) that is then converted into the active drug in the body. EIDD-1931's prodrug is molnupiravir.

Initially, molnupiravir's developers applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for permission to test it in humans as a treatment for seasonal influenza. However, after COVID emerged, and it was shown to have an effect against SARS-CoV-2, a request was submitted to test it against this virus too. One day, it's possible that it could be used to treat a number of different diseases.

The authors are Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Infectious Diseases, Edinburgh Napier University and Professor of Immunology and Infection, Edinburgh Napier University. The article is being reproduced by arrangement with The Conversation

The mega-rich e-commerce tycoon Marc Lore has yet to announce a site for his futuristic, green, hi-tech metropolis, but with a radical social agenda alongside the flying taxis, he's clearly finding it hard to sell his dream.

There's nothing creepier than some odd-ball billionaire planning to build his own utopia where everything's eco-perfect, life's a breeze and everyone lives forever, like some 'Stepford Wives' meets 'The Truman Show' meets 'Citizen Kane' hell on Earth.

THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE AN alternative system within a system, and a little bit unnerving. No wonder they've not yet selected a site for turning the first sod; I'm not sure any national or regional government will ever buy into this weirdness. The more you read about Lore's Telosa utopia

For the truly weird mega-wealthy nerds, like Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, the dreams of civilisation as they imagine it stretch far beyond the boring blue planet we currently call home, with colonies of wealthy space-dwelling expats living the high life on Mars, while indentured AI robots mine red rocks and precious metals to send back to Earth to fund their lifestyles.

Elsewhere, however, there are dreamers whose ambitions might be more modest and worldly, but their egos are still definitely outsized. There's Saudi Arabia's leader, Mohammad bin Salman, who has hopes of starting work later this year on building Neom, a futuristic, high-tech city built in the arid northwest of his kingdom, full of pedestrian walkways, gardens, fountains and hi-tech wizardry. In the desert.

And now Marc Lore, the former Walmart executive and e-commerce billionaire from Diapers.com, has announced his scheme to build his ideal city of the future smack bang in the middle of Nowheresville, USA. The exact location, you see, is still to be confirmed although the new city does have a name – Telosa. Me nei-

ther (though apparently it derives from an ancient Greek word meaning 'highest purpose').

In a promotional video, Lore claims, "We are going to be the most open, the most fair and the most inclusive city in the world." Sounds like woke hell. Or maybe Santa Barbara, California.

The Telosa website is like a progressive town planner's wet dream, packed with references to sustainability, environmental impact and renewable resources, and full of words like open, fair and inclusive. When it uses up the daydreamer's lexicon, it invents words like 'equitism' to explain the concept that everyone shares their stuff with everybody else.

Lore – lucky his name doesn't end in a

d – is super excited about his project, and sounds like a hyperactive child constructing its first Lego building as he breathlessly tells Bloomberg: "If you went into the desert where the land was worth nothing, or very little, and you created a foundation that owned the land, and people moved there and tax dollars built infrastructure and we built one of the greatest cities in the world, the foundation could be worth a trillion dollars! And if the foundation's mission was to take the appreciation of the land and give it back to the citizens in the form of medicine, education, affordable housing, social services: Wow, that's it!... Let the people own the land! But in a capitalistic way!"

Yep, Telosa is gonna solve water scar-

city, it's gonna solve education problems, it's gonna improve the lot of the working man and woman, make them rich, and it's gonna make the world a safer place. This is starting to sound like an alternative system within a system, and a little bit unnerving. No wonder they've not yet selected a site for turning the first sod; I'm not sure any national or regional government will ever buy into this weirdness.

The more you read about Lore's Telosa utopia, the more it sounds like some futuristic cult where "everyone is an important and valued member of the community and their voice should be heard, contributing to new possibilities." This does not bode well, as it clearly discounts the inherent right to disagree that makes

Utopia Or Socialist Hell?

Damian Wilson



democracy the most popular system of government on the planet. It's pie in the sky, pass the doobie, trippy-hippy gobbledygook, straight outta Frisco.

Stage one of the project is reported to be scheduled for completion by 2030, when it will accommodate 50,000 residents across roughly 1,500 acres at a cost of \$25 billion and after that, the only way is up as projections estimate a population of five million living on 150,000 acres in 40 years. That might mean streets clogged with e-scooters and a long queue as you wait for your air taxi.

The expensive architects' renderings show a lush metropolis, glass towers with plenty of pedestrianised areas, people on e-scooters, a space-age style monorail, flying taxis, and plenty of sunshine.

Lore, whose home now is apparently a \$44-million apartment in New York, says the idea of building something from nothing is in his DNA and was first noticed when he was just four years old, when he told his grandma that he didn't want to be a doctor or a lawyer. He wanted to be a farmer "because they grow stuff from nothing," and that's what he still loves to do – although his premise is simply false.

To grow something you need to start with a seed and farmers have to buy that seed, which does not come free and can be expensive. It's hardly "nothing." Of course, Lore knows that, but he's selling a story here and he needs buy-in from future citizens if he's ever going to break ground.

Lore follows in a long tradition of very rich businessmen – and yes, I'm pretty sure this sort of thing only involves men – planning such schemes. King Gillette, the 19th century entrepreneur behind the razor blade firm, wanted to set up a model metropolis in the vicinity of Niagara Falls which would obliterate the evils of commercial strife, eliminate crime and create a super-socialist community. Just what is it with slightly bonkers billionaires fantasising about building futuristic, woke cities to save mankind – is this the rich man's equivalent of ordinary blokes sitting in their sheds plotting to take over the local parish council?

Gillette's dream didn't happen either. His legacy instead? A ruthless, cut-throat, profit-hungry corporation that rapaciously and audaciously comes up with overhyped marketing wheezes to milk money from its customers. Way to go, rich folks!

The article was originally published in RT

NOTICE

I Mohammad Burhaan Mantoo S/o Sajad Hussain Mantoo R/o Village Hiller, Tehsil Kokernag District Anantnag have applying for correction of my father's name which has been wrongly written as Late Mohammad Yousaf instead of correct name is Sajad Hussain Mantoo in my JKBOSE Qualification Certificates Bearing Registration Number :- N11401230059. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME:- MOHAMMAD BURHAAN MANTOO
S/o:- SAJAD HUSSAIN MANTOO

R/o:- VILLAGE:- HILLER TEHSIL:- KOKERNAG DISTRICT:- ANANTNAG.

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in school records as Jameel Ahmad Rather S/o Ab Salam Rather while my correct name is Jahangir Ahmad Rather S/o Ab Salam Rather R/o Nunwani Brakpora Anantnag. which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/hers objection in the office Govt Primary School Nunwani Brakpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

RNA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir**PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT****CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU**

Subject: Treating junior Engineer (Civil) Diploma Holder as Junior Engineer (Civil) Degree holder

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

Whereas, as per provisions of J&K Engineering (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules 1997, a Junior Enignee under the category of Diplma Holders after acquiring Degree in relevant branch of Engineering is to be treated as 'Degree Holder' for the purpose of seniority from the date of completions/ passing of Degree; and

Whereas the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department Kashmir has forwarded the case of Mr. Waseem Ahmad Laway, Junior Engineer (Civil) Diploma Holder for fixation of his seniority amongst the Junior Engineers (Civil) Degree Holder vide his Letter No. CE/RBK/ADM/8121-22 DATED 25-05-2019 with following details:

WHEREAS, certificates submitted by the said Junior Engineer were forwarded to the concerned Institution for verification and the concerned Institution i.e, Institute o* Engineers (India) Kolkata has verified the certificates vide their letter No. EEA/ EX/VRFC/204/485882 dated 15.09.2017; and

Name of the Candidate	Date of Birth	Date of appointment	Name of the University/Institution where from exam passed	Date of passing Degree	Whether permissions acquired For higher studies
Waseem Ahmad Laway	01.03.1978	16.04.2007	Institute of Engineers (India), Kolkata	18.03.2016	Not required

WHEREAS, certificates submitted by the said Junior Engineer were forwarded to the concerned Institution for verification and the concerned Institution i.e, Institute of Engineers (India) Kolkata has verified the certificates vide their letter No. EEA/EX/VRFC/204/485882 dated 15.09.2017; and

WHEREAS, case of the above named Junior Engineer has been examined in the department in light of relevant rules and it has been decided to treat him as Junior, Engineer- Degree Holder (Civil) and fix his seniority in the seniority list of Junior Engineers Degree Holders (Civil) at an appropriate place as and when the same is notified; and

WHEREAS, the said Junior Engineer has also given an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit attested by the Judicial Magistrate Ist class affirming therein as;

"that in case any information about his degree is found bogus at any time, his degree shall be deemed to be canceled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him in light of J&K Civil Services Rules, 1956"

Now, Therefore, before treating Mr. Waseem Ahmad Laway, S/o Mr. Qamar U Zaman Laway, Junior Engineer (Civil) as Degree Holder, Objections, if any are invited through the medium of this notice, from members of cadre who are likely to get affected by decision of the department to include Mr. Waseem Ahmad Laway in the seniority list of Junior Engineers (Civil) Degree Holders. The objection(s) should reach Principal/Secretary to Government, PW(R&B) Department through Chief Engineer concerned within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance / publication of this notice. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after the stipulated date.

No. PWD(R&B)/HRM/27/20119

Dated:27-02-2021

DIPK-9484/21

(Rajnish Kumar) KAS
Additional Secretary to the Government

**THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EAMINATIONS**

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: <http://www.jkbopegov.in>, Email: helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com

Subject:-

Admission Notification for M.Sc. Tech. Courses (SKIMS) Soura Srinagar, 2021.

Reference:

i) SRO SOS of 2019 dated 20-08-2019.

(ii) SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24-10-2019.

iii) SIMS/ACAD/M.Sc/21-8456 dated:-22-09-2021.

NOTIFICATION NO.96-BOPEE OF 2021

DATED: 25-09-2021

Applications are invited from the candidates belonging to UT's of J&K/Ladakh who are eligible and desirous for admission to M.Sc Tech Courses (SKIMS) 2021 through offline mode. The selection of the candidates shall be Governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, SRO 505 of 2019 dated 20-08-2019 read with SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24-10-2019 and the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O 249dated:-23-07-2021 and subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority/Govt.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CANDIDATES: ANY CANDIDATE APPLYING FOR THIS COURSE:-

a) Must be Domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh.

b) Should have the Minimum eligibility required for M.Sc. Tech. Degree Courses as under:-

SNo	Name of the course	Eligibility Criteria
1	M. Sc. Medical Lab. Technology	B.Sc. Medical Lab Technology
2	M.Sc. Medical Technology	B.Sc. Medical Technology
3	M.Sc. Operation Theater Technology	B.Sc. Operation Theater Technology
4	M.Sc. Neo Natal Science Technology	B.Sc Medical Technology
5	M.Sc Cardic Lab. Technology	B.Sc. Medical Lab Technology /B.Sc Medical Technology / B.Sc. O.T Technology / B.Sc Radiation Sciences Technology
6	M.Sc Dialysis. Technology	B.Sc. Medical Technology /B.Sc Medical Lab Technology
7	M.Sc. Radio Therapy	B.Sc. Radiation Sciences Technology with at least 55% marks Or B.Sc. with Physics as one of the subject with one year apprenticeship in radiotherapy or B.Sc with Physics as one of the subject with 5 year experience as a technician in Radiotherapy Or B.Sc with Physic as one of the subject with 2 year Diploma in Radiation Sciences.
8	M.Sc. Radio diagnosis	B.Sc. Radio -diagnoses with at least 55% marks in aggregate Or B.Sc. Radiation Sciences with at least 55% marks in aggregate Or B.Sc. with science subject with 2 year diploma in Radio-diagnosis.
9	M.Sc. Nuclear Medicine & DMRIT	B.Sc Nuclear Medicine with 60% marks Or B.Sc Radiation Science with 60% marks and above Or B.Sc with 60% marks and above having Physics, Chemistry, Electronics ,Bio-Physics or Biology as one of the subjects.

Note:- It is mentioned here that the candidates possessing B.Sc. in Radiology Imaging Technology (Radiology/CT/MRI), B.Sc. Medical Imaging Technology, B.Sc Radiation & Imaging Technology are eligible for all the three courses in M.Sc. Radiotherapy , M.Sc. Radio diagnosis, M.Sc. Nuclear Medicine.

Tentative Intake at SKIMS (Soura Srinagar)

Name of the course	Medical Lab. Tech. (seats)	M.Sc Medical Tech. (seats)	Operation Theater Tech. (seats)	Neo Natal Science Tech. (seats)	Cardic Lab. Tech. (seats)	Dialysis. Tech. (seats)	Radio Therapy (seats)	Radio diagnosis (seats)	Nuclear Medicine & DMRIT (seats)	DMRIT (seats)
M.SC Tech	14	6	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS:

The interested candidates have to submit Application form Physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar (on working days only) alongwith the following self attested certificates w.e.f. 27-09-2021 to 11-10-2021 (04.00 P.M):-

- domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (domicile Certificate , if not issued , at the time of submission of Registration cum Application Form, the candidate can submit an undertaking certifying that he /she shall submit / produce the same at the time of counselling/ admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.
- Desired qualifying marks card of the courses passed which are required by the candidate(s) to be eligible for these courses.
- Date of Birth (10th class Marks card/ Diploma issued by the Board) (iv) Experience/ work Certificate wherever required.
- Valid Reserved category certificate, if any &
- Fee of Rs 1200/= to be paid through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/ Srinagar through debit/ credit card.

The Application Form shall be available at BOPEE office Jammu/ Srinagar and also annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification which can be downloaded from official website www.jkbopee.gov.in.

However, it is for the information of all concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently. Note:-

The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University/competent Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned authority/University notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- No under process certificate will be accepted/entertained;
- Original Documents as mentioned above are required to be submitted in the concerned Institution at the time of Admission.

MODE OF SELECTION/ADMISSION:

The Board has decided to fill up these seats on the basis of %age of marks scored by the candidates in the qualifying examination as filled in by the candidates in the Application form and on the basis of preferences filled during the time of counselling. In case two or more candidates having same Marks in B.Sc. Technology Course , then their tie shall be resolved by considering their D.O B (elder in age shall be given 1st preference) & in case of further tie, 1st alphabet of the name of candidate shall be taken into the account for selection.

NOTE:-

- Mere filling of application form shall not confer any right on the candidate(s) for admission.
- The Board has right to reject any application form at any stage, if found false/fabricated, without issuing any notice to the candidate concerned.

E&OE

No: BOPEE/Exam- 21/2021

Dated: 25 -09-2021

DIPK-NB-3811/21

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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR SRINAGAR****SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

e-NIT No: 36 of 2021-22 Dated: 25.09.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate 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	Est. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major A/c Head.
1	2	3	4	6	7	8
01.	(A) Providing and fixing of Chain Link Fencing at Lidder View Park Pahalgam-2	2.20	200/-	25- days	DEE	M&U Capex (Plan)
	(B) Providing of Irrigation Facility by way of Sinking of bore well at Darashikua Park Bijbehara Anantnag.	2.78	200/-	25 - days	DEE	M&U Capex (Plan)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of funds : Available

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.	Period of downloading of bidding document	25/09/2021 from 03:30 PM to 06/10/2021 up to 04:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date.	25/09/2021 from 04:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	06/10/2021 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	07/10/2021 at 02:00 PM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan/copy of receipt from Treasury favouring of Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Kashmir (Tender inviting authority) indicating name of work by crediting the requisite charges to the MH: 0406-02-112-Public Gardens (Floriculture Department Kashmir) in favour of Executive Engineer (Tender inviting authority)
- All Bidders have to submit/upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest Money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure "A" below)
- The Ist. Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatical-ly through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir 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.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited , If:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Any bid received beyond 15% above the advertisement cost of the work will be rejected.
- 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 following necessary documents:-
 - Tender document fee in the shape of Treasury Challan,
 - Registration,
 - Renewal of Registration (Current financial year)
 - Copy of GST of Current financial year up to June,
 - PAN Card
 - Bid Security Declaration.

However, hard copy from the successful (first lowest) bidder shall be obtained on call. In case of clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

- Rectified in accordance with the technically checked estimate.
- The successful contractor shall pursue and seek the material carriage permission himself from the concerned competent authority after obtaining the permission letter from the Divisional office. (If applicable)
- Furthermore, the successful contractor shall also get the handover/takeover himself after completion of the desired work from the concerned Garden officer/F.O/A.F.O after obtaining handover/takeover letter from the AEE concerned.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: EE/FD/1720-25

Dated:25.09.2021

DIPK-9486/21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Deptt: of Floriculture, Kashmir.

Diesel price hiked for second consecutive day, no change in petrol rate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Diesel price on Monday was hiked by 25 paise per litre - the third time rates have increased since last week, negating more than half of the price decline that happened in recent weeks.

The price of diesel was hiked to Rs 89.32 per litre in Delhi and to Rs 96.94 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol price was not changed. It costs Rs 101.19 a litre in Delhi and Rs 107.26 in Mumbai.

This is the second straight day of increase in diesel prices and the third since September 24 when the state-owned oil firms ended a three-week hiatus in rates.

Overall, diesel prices have gone up by 70 paise a litre, negating more than half the Rs 1.25 a litre cut in prices that happened between July 18 and September 5.

Prices have been hiked following international oil prices

surging to their highest since 2018.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had on September 24 resumed daily price revision, ending the pause in rates hit since September 5.

When international oil rates fell in July and August, retail prices of petrol and diesel in the Delhi market were reduced by Rs 0.65 a litre and Rs 1.25 per litre.

Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

The price hike during this period pushed petrol prices above the Rs 100-a-litre mark in more than half of the country, while diesel crossed that level in at least three states.

India is dependent on imports to meet nearly 85 per cent of its oil needs and so benchmarks local fuel rates to international oil prices.

Ministerial panels set up to review GST exempt list, rate merger, identify evasion sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry has set up two committees of state finance ministers which would rework rate slabs, review GST exempt items and identify potential evasion sources.

Four years after the roll out of the national Goods and Services Tax (GST), which replaced the complex indirect tax structure, the centre and states have started work on moving towards a "simpler rate structure in GST" by reviewing the current rate slabs, including special rates and merger of rate slabs.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation would also review items under inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout, and review the supply of goods and services exempt under GST with an objective to expand the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit (ITC) chain.

The 7-member panel, which would submit a report in two months, would be headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and include West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, Kerala Finance Minister K

N Balagopal, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad.

Under GST a four-rate structure that exempts or imposes a low rate of tax 5 per cent on essential items and top rate of 28 per cent on cars is levied. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent. Besides, a cess is imposed on the highest slab of 28 per cent on luxury, demerit and sin goods.



There have been demands for merging the 12 and 18 per cent slab as also take out certain items from the exempt category to balance the impact of slab rationalisation on revenue.

With regard to inverted duty structure, the GST Council has already corrected the rate anomaly in case of mobile handset, footwear and textiles. The ministerial panel would now look at

representations of inverted duty structure and recommend suitable rates to eliminate any such cases where final goods attract a lower GST than the tax levied on its inputs.

The GoM on GST system reforms would identify potential sources of evasion and suggest changes in business processes and IT systems to plug revenue leakage.

The eight-member panel, headed by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, would include Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan and Chhattisgarh Finance Minister T S Singh Deo.

The panel, which would give its recommendation to the council from time to time, would review IT tools and interface available with taxmen and suggest ways to make them more effective, identify possible use of data analysis towards better tax compliance and suggest ways of better coordination between central and state tax officers.

The decision to set up these two GoMs was taken by the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on September 17.

Sensex, Nifty tick higher to fresh records; auto stocks in top gear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai- Equity indices pared most of their early gains but managed to close at fresh lifetime highs on Monday as robust buying in RIL and auto stocks offset profit booking in the IT pack.

Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 29.41 points or 0.05 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 60,077.88. Intra-day, it soared to an all-time high of 60,412.32.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.90 points or 0.01 per cent to end at its fresh lifetime high of 17,855.10.

Maruti Suzuki was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.53 per cent, followed by M&M, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, L&T, Nestle India and HUL were among the main laggards, shedding up to 4.58 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 17 of the 30 Sensex components ending in the red, while 13 mustered gains.

"Domestic equities traded range-bound amid positive cues from global equities. Heavy profit-booking in IT and pharma nullified the impact of sharp recovery in auto stocks," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Auto stocks witnessed strong

rebound as continued underperformance for last couple of months, expectations of improvement in demand scenario from October and positive commentary from select companies about semiconductor issue made investors buy quality names in OEMs, he noted.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "Due to profit booking in IT, Pharma and FMCG, domestic markets failed to uphold its winning streak to close flat in a volatile session."

"Realty stocks continued its rally on positive developments in the sector while the sentiments in the auto sector were lifted on expectation of better sales numbers for September. The market is also awaiting the release of August's core sector output data and September's manufacturing PMI data this week," he added.

Sectorally, BSE auto, realty, energy, oil and gas, bankex and utilities indices rallied as much as 3.11 per cent, while IT, tech, healthcare and FMCG indices closed lower.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended on a flat note.

Asian markets were mixed after China's central bank announced fresh liquidity measures amid the continuing debt crisis at real estate giant Evergrande. Bourses in Hong Kong and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai and Tokyo were in the red.

Banks in India to be closed for 21 days in October

AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Those who do bank transactions in the coming month of October should plan them in advance as banks are to remain closed for more than two-thirds of the month. There could be huge delay in processing as many workers will be availing their leaves as well.

As per the list of holidays issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks in India will remain closed for up to 21 days in October 2021, including second and fourth Saturdays, and Sundays. However, since most of these days are state-specific holidays, banks will not be closed for all 21 days in all the states.

The banks will be closed in the first

two days of the month—October 1 being Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts and October 2 being Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti.

Holidays declared by RBI go under three categories — Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act; Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act and Real-Time Gross Settlement Holiday; and Banks' Closing of Accounts.

Here's is the list of holidays notified by RBI.

1 October 2021 – Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts

2 October 2021 – Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti

6 October 2021 – Mahalaya Amavasya

7 October 2021 – Mera Chaoren Houba of Lainingthou Sanamahi

12 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Maha Saptami)

13 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Maha Ashtami)

14 October 2021 – Durga Puja/ Dussehra (Maha Navami)/Ayutha Pooja

15 October 2021 – Durga Puja/ Dasara/Dussehra (Vijaya Dashmi)

16 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Dasain)

18 October 2021 – Kati Bihu

19 October 2021 – Id-E-Milad/Eid-e-Miladunnabi/Milad-i-Sherif (Prophet Mohammad's Birthday)/Baravafat

20 October 2021 – Maharishi Valmiki's Birthday/Lakshmi Puja/Id-E-Milad

22 October 2021 – Friday following Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi

October 26 – Accession Day

Govt to borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in second half of current fiscal to fund revenue gap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government will borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to fund the revenue gap for reviving the pandemic-hit economy, the finance ministry said on Monday.

During the first half, the government has raised Rs 7.02 lakh crore by issuing bonds, the ministry said in a statement.

"Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 12.05 lakh crore projected for FY 2021-22 in the Union Budget, Rs 7.24 lakh crore (60 per cent) was planned to be borrowed in first half (H1)."

"The effective borrowing in H1 of FY 2021-22 was Rs 7.02 lakh crore. The Government now plans to borrow the balance Rs 5.03 lakh crore in second half year (H2) of FY 2021-22," it said.

The H2 projection also factors requirements for release of balance amount to states on account of back-to-back loan facility in-lieu of GST compensation during the year, it added.

According to the Budget for 2021-22, the government's gross borrowing was estimated at Rs 12.05 lakh crore, while net borrowing was pegged at Rs 9.37 lakh crore in the financial year beginning April 1.

Gross borrowing includes repayments of past loans. Repayment for past loans in the next financial year has been pegged at Rs 2.80 lakh crore.

The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills.

The Budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent for the next fiscal, down from 9.5 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year.

Gold jumps marginally; silver climbs Rs 383

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Monday rose marginally by Rs 35 to Rs 45,110 per 10 grams following healthy global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 45,075 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped Rs 383 to Rs 59,138 per kg from Rs 58,755 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,755 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.60 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher on Monday on worries over China's Evergrande debt crisis," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

Navneet Damani, VP Commodities Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, "Gold price edged higher after hovering below the USD 1,750 level in the previous week, as investors avoided riskier assets because of China's Evergrande concerns, but looming interest rate hikes and rise in yields marking the highest level since July, slowed bullion's advance." (PTI)

Rupee declines by 15 paise to 73.83 on strong dollar, rising crude prices

MUMBAI: The rupee dropped by 15 paise to close at 73.83 against the US dollar on Monday as a stronger greenback against key rivals and rising crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

Besides, multiple bouts of volatility on domestic equities front and mixed cues from global financial markets put the rupee under pressure, analysts observed.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.70 and slid to the day's lowest level at 73.84 a dollar towards the fag-end of the session. For a brief period, it ventured into positive territory and touched a high of 73.60 in the first half of the session.

2021 Yamaha YZF R15 V4

The iconic Yamaha R15 moves into its fourth generation. First launched in India in 2008, the R15 has been the go-to motorcycle for enthusiasts on a budget, looking for a motorcycle that offers a fun and an enjoyable ride experience. The prices of the new Yamaha R15 V4 start at ₹167,800 and go up to ₹177,800 (ex-showroom). Online bookings for the new R15 begin today onwards and deliveries of the new motorcycle will begin in a week from now.

The 2021 Yamaha R15 V4 comes a little over three years after the



launch of the V3, at the 2018 Auto Expo. The new model gets significant updates in terms of design and features. The design is inspired from the Yamaha YZF R7, which was revealed globally earlier this year in May. There's a new fairing, the windscreen is new too and bi-functional LED

UNITED TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING
ANANTNAG

e-Tender Notice No: 96 of 2020-21 Dated 24-09-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents	Class of Contract	Time for Completion	Major Head	Panchayat/ Gram Sabha
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	C/O Crossing at Gratlad reshpora Nanil Herpora Block Khoveripora	1.30	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Nanil Herpora
2.	C/O Bathroom at Tantaraypora Hapatnard B Block Khoveripora	2.10	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
3.	C/O Public Park of Hindu Shrine at Gogaldar Hapatnard B Block Khoveripora	2.40	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
4.	C/O Crossing near H/O Sadiq Bhat Dragdan Hapatnard B Block Khoveripora	2.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
5.	C/O Fencing/Ewall and other requirements at Ziyarat Shareef Gagadwani Hapatnard B Block Khoveripora	2.70	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
6.	C/O Bathroom near H/O Noor Hassan Hapatnard B Block Khoveripora	2.10	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
7.	C/O Fencing around Panchayat ghar Hapatnard A Block Khoveripora	2.60	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard A
8.	C/O Ghat at Masjid Jamia ward 3 Hangalpawa Block Khoveripora	2.40	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hangalpawa
9.	C/O Crossing with irrigation ladh from L/O B A tantray at Waguzarpora Akura Block Khoveripora	2.80	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
10.	C/O Link road from main road to Abdul Saleem Itto at Itto Mohalla Akura Block Khoveripora	1.90	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
11.	Development of Playfield at Ramhall Akura Block Khoveripora	2.84	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
12.	C/O Foot crossing on small canal near L/O Zahir Ahmad Padder Akura Block Khoveripora	1.44	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
13.	Development of Public crossing at Palpora Akura Block Khoveripora	2.90	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
14.	C/O Link road with crossing near L/O Haji Ghulam M Rather Akura Block Khoveripora	1.92	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Akura
15.	C/O Lanes at different spots Magraypora Nanil Herpora Block Khoveripora	0.99	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Nanil Herpora
16.	C/O Chain Link fencing with wall near L/O Abdul Rashid Khan Hapatnard B	1.90	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hapatnard B
17.	Repairment of Panchayat ghar and Panchayat park at Nowgam A Block Khoveripora	1.40	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Nowgam A
18.	Development and Construction of Irigation canal from L/O Bajja Singh to K.P.Road Hutmurah Block Khoveripora	2.70	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hutmurah
19.	Land Levelling of Public park at new Eidgah Hutmurah Block Khoveripora	2.40	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Hutmurah
20.	C/O Flush Point Laterine at Panchayat Ghar Shumgal Shumhall Block Khoveripora	1.20	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Shumhall
21.	C/O Fencing around Panchayat Ghar Shumhall Block Khoveripora	2.60	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Shumhall

Position of A/A: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-09-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	24-09-2021 from 4:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	15-10-2021 upto 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	17-10-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document Fee Receipt, Bid Security Self Declaration Form and other relevant documents in original shall be deposited before opening of online bids.	

SPECIAL CONDITION:

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

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

No. REW-A/WS/NIT/2021-22/6437-46
Dated: 24-09-2021
DIPK-9475/21

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing Anantnag

GVEI INVITATIONAL FOOTBALL CUP

Downtown Heroes FC Defeat Ali Jana FC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The first semi final of the ongoing GVEI Invitational Football Cup Monday on Sunday the 26th September in the school campus where DOWNTOWN HEROES FC clashed with ALI JANA FC.

The match was highly absorbing where both the teams exhibited their excellent skills. Both the teams had an brilliant defence ,however, FRANK from

DOWNTOWN HEROES FC finally managed to score a goal into the 27th minute. Even though the rest of the minutes of the match were highly adrenalin-charged, no more goals were scored by any of the two teams. DOWNTOWN HEROES FC emerged victorious by 1-0. Mr.FRANK from the team was declared Player of the Match for scoring the only goal of the match which led to their victory.



Hina Khan Reveals Getting Rejected From A Film For Not Looking Kashmiri Enough & Dusky Complexion

Hina Khan who is known for appearing in many Indian television series is popular for her role in the long-running serial ‘Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai’ as Akshara and now will be appearing in a new music video. Hina has now opened about her struggle with rejections in the industry due to her skin colour. The actress made everyone go crazy behind her with her new looks in the song ‘Main Bhi Barbaad’. Along with her Angad Bedi is also featured in the song a n d

fans are overjoyed with their chemistry in the music. The actress spoke with a media outlet recently where she talked about the song, facing denials in her career, her relationship with Rocky Jaiswal, her Bollywood journey, and more. During the interaction with ETimes, Hina Khan revealed that she was rejected from a project where she had to play a Kashmiri girl because of her dusky skin complexion. While talking about how she deals with her rejections she said, “There are times where I probably don’t like the story or I don’t want to do that kind of a character for the time being, but there also are times where you probably test for it, and you are very keen that it

works, but it doesn’t work out for various reasons. I can’t talk about the project, but I remember I could not crack a project because I didn’t look Kashmiri enough.” Hina Khan continued and added, “I am Kashmiri and I can fluently speak the language but I didn’t get cast because my complexion is dusky and I am not extremely fair. That’s what the team and character demanded. I really felt bad. When you know the language so well, probably you could have worked wonders in that character, but I didn’t get cast only because I don’t look Kashmiri (laughs). I never lose hope, I don’t give up. I keep trying!”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Infiltrator Killed,

LoC in the Uri sector in Baramulla district on Saturday after noticing suspicious movement, they said.

“One infiltrator has been eliminated while three soldiers were injured in the exchange of firing with infiltrators from across the LoC in Uri,” the officials said.

The infiltrators were challenged by the Army soldiers, leading to a gunfight, they said.

The officials said three soldiers were injured in the exchange of firing between the two sides over the past two days

Combing operations were in progress in the area to ensure that there were no remnants of the infiltrating terrorists on this side of the LoC, they said.

Situation Along LoC

don’t have to worry about what is happening on the LoC,” General Officer Commanding of the Army’s 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey told reporters at Boniyar in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district.

He said “small” incidents keep on happening but the overall situation in Kashmir is good.

“There is a heavy footfall of tourists, one can’t get a room. People of Kashmir are happy, they have understood the game of the separatists. Nobody is with them (separatists) now. We should pray that things remain peaceful,” Lt Gen. Pandey said.

Earlier, the corps commander inaugurated the digital classrooms in 10 Army Goodwill Schools in Kashmir.

“With the inception and impact of technology in all spheres of life, the Indian Army has also incorporated innovative changes in the existing learning and teaching techniques in Army Goodwill Schools.

“In one such endeavour, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), undertook a project to upgrade and digitise the classrooms in 10 Army Goodwill Schools of Kashmir Division in the districts of Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora and Anantnag,” officials at the function said.

They said the project included converting 128 classrooms into smart classes, which will revolutionise the teaching process.

The project, which cost Rs 3.1 crore, was funded by the PGCIL through their CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiative and was executed by iDreams Limited, Gurugram.

The work on the project commenced in March 2020. However, due to COVID-19, it was halted from April to September last year and the digitisation of all classrooms was finally completed by December.

The key aspects of classrooms 2.0 are an enjoyable learning process, improved student engagement, attractive graphics, better instructional materials and ability to cater to all learning styles.

“Sixteen Army Goodwill Schools out of a total of 28 have been digitised till date. We hope to digitise the remaining 12 also, so that all the children studying in these schools of the Kashmir valley can enjoy the benefits of the latest teaching techniques,” the officials said.

Kashmir Will

UT is emerging as a vibrant economy, ready to stand with the developed states.

“We have taken new strides in every field, with empowerment of people and an inclusive approach, we are treading the path of a new, developed, peaceful Jammu and Kashmir,” Sinha said.

Earlier in his address, the official spokesperson said that Gadkari termed road connectivity as a key driver of the socio-economic growth and development of any region.

“There is no dearth of funds in the ministry. I ensure you to bring in logistic support of every kind that is beneficial for the tourism and economy of J&K,” the Union Minister said.

“The new projects will further strengthen the road connectivity in J&K, thus opening up new livelihood avenues for the local population, enhancing tourism & business activities improving the quality of life of the people,” he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the Union Minister asserted that govt’s endeavour is to lessen the time travel between the cities of India tremendously.

“Be it Delhi-Jammu, or Jammu to Srinagar, the time to travel would get reduced to half by providing expressways and better road connectivity to the people. Mega Highway road and tunnel projects will reduce the travel time from Delhi to Kashmir to 8 hrs in coming years,” Gadkari said, adding that the long-pending prestigious Srinagar Ring Road project would be completed by the end of 2023.

“Besides, the work on Srinagar-Jammu

National Highway would be completed in the next 2-3 years bringing in much respite for the people of the UT,” he added.

Gadkari, the official spokesperson said, also advocated introducing eco-friendly measures in the transport sector.

General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, also spoke on the occasion and extended every possible support from the Union Ministry to strengthen the road connectivity in the UT.

Mehbooba Shoots

illegally seized along with ATM cards and passports of their spouses”.

This, she said, comes close on the heels of harrowing experiences that the journalist community in J&K have been subject to post the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian Government on August 5, 2019.

“In a democratic set up, a free and independent press is crucial and essential for the government institutions to function in a transparent manner with due accountability towards its citizens. We have witnessed the manner in which fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the Indian constitution have increasingly come under attack, especially in the last two years by a hostile and insecure dispensation”, he alleged.

Mehbooba further said “ People at large and the media, especially in J&K, has been at the receiving end of this policy. Unwarranted harassment of journalists has become a norm and this policy has been implemented by raiding their houses, summoning and interrogating them on frivolous grounds such as innocuous tweets, conducting background checks of journalists and their family members by CID, withdrawal of benefits, including accommodation of some senior journalists, seizure of mobile phones, laptops, passports, ATM cards”

Reportedly 23 journalists have been put on the exit control list (ECL), she alleged.” Even students who bag scholarships in prestigious universities of the world are not allowed to go and study there. Recently a student was de-boarded from a plane, arrested and subsequently released. In addition to this, a sizable number of journalists are either threatened or charged with sections under UPSA or sedition law, simply because their reporting on J&K doesn’t cater to the PR stunts of the ruling dispensation. Reporting truth is being criminalized with every passing day”, she alleged in the letter.

“I strongly believe that journalists working and reporting in J&K are among the bravest in the world, especially at a time when a large section of the Indian media has become a propaganda extension of the central government. The hostile environment that they operate in with frequent curfew, encounters, hartals and other adverse security situations has not weakened their determination to ensure truth does not become a casualty. There have always been issues and disagreements between state and media but never before has the freedom of expression been virtually guillotined in any part of the country as it has been done in J&K for the last three years.

She said questionnaires have been served to the journalists who are currently being investigated by the state. You will note that apart from asking very irrelevant and personal questions it is based on the assumption that their personal ties and loyalties lie with an anti national network.

“Unfortunately this is a diabolical method to perpetuate the communal mindset throughout the country in order to gain political mileage and relevance by demeaning and marginalizing an entire community”, the letter said.

She further said “One had hoped that the press council of India would take a suo moto note of these widely reported incidents but it seems that no established watchdog form, including the courts, has taken any interest in the painful circumstances created in the J&K not to speak of any intervention. It therefore becomes incumbent upon me to urge you to send a fact finding team to J&K to independently verify these claims and take remedial action”.

J&K Will Reap

was in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as it was the biggest hurdle for outside investors to buy land and set up their units in the Union Territory.

“After the government’s daring move, the people will invest in J&K and generate jobs for local youths who will stay away from the militancy which will soon meet its death,” the minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function.

He said the BJP-led government had no

benefit from the abrogation of Article 370 but for the people of J&K, it has paved the way for large scale development and the people would reap its benefits “slowly and silently” in coming times.

“The government stands with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is going to help the UT to reach new heights of development,” the minister said.

He added that his ministry would lend all its support to the Lt Governor-led J&K administration to ensure that all the centrally sponsored schemes reach the public.

Asked about National Conference president Farooq Abdullah’s suggestion to the Centre to hold dialogue with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, he said “he (Abdullah) is a respected senior leader of J&K who was also former chief minister and former Union minister but we do not support his statement.” “Taliban is a terrorist group which has forcibly taken over Afghanistan. I feel it is not good to support them and they should be removed from there as people are facing injustice and human rights violations under their rule,” the minister said.

On AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi reported remark that the political condition of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh is like that of a ‘band party’ at a wedding despite constituting 19 per cent of the state’s population, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is taking everyone along under the slogan of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas’ without any discrimination.” “He (Owaisi) is wrong in saying that Muslims do not have any leader in UP. Yogi Adityanath, who is the chief minister of UP, is there to take care of everyone including Muslims who should not pay heed to the provocative slogans and support the BJP and NDA for the overall welfare of the society,” he said.

Asked about his comment on the reported statement of senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh that divisive mentality is being taught in schools backed by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Athawale said he is a big leader and a former chief minister but his statement is far from the truth.

“RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is considering Muslims as their own, while the BJP has Muslim minority morcha’s across the country. We are all Indians and there is no difference among us,” he said.

Responding to another question about some congress leaders drawing a parallel between the Taliban and the BJP, he said such comparisons are completely wrong.

“The centrally sponsored schemes of the BJP-led government are meant for everyone, irrespective of their religion. The BJP government is taking care of the Muslim community which is evident from the statement of UP chief minister that not a single case of the communal riot was reported during his four-and-a-half-year rule.” He expressed faith in the trade union leader Tanveer Hussain who joined the party recently and said his party which follows the ideology of the Babasaheb (Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar) would grow under his leadership.

The minister assured all possible help to the daily wagers who are seeking regularisation of their services and labourers in getting jobs.

Cop Suspended

naka in Shaar Shaali area to which they refused saying that they had made the donation last Sunday.

The cop at the checkpoint, the official said, asked the duo to pay a fine for not wearing a helmet. And while alighting from the bike, the official on duty allegedly abused them to which the bike-borne duo objected, leading to an exchange of words.

The duo have recorded a video clip of the incident and shared it on social-media, wherein the official on duty can be himself seen without mask, the official said.

Taking a strong notice of the incident, SSP Pulwama immediately suspended the official for ‘not following Covid-19 protocol’.

“The SDPO Pampore has further been directed to conduct an enquiry following which action as warranted would follow as the alleged police was himself not following COVID protocol”, the official added.

Sonamarg To Remain

Limited (NHIDCL) and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will visit them on Tuesday to review the construction work.

“The work on both the tunnels is going on at a fast pace and we are confident that it will be completed ahead of the schedule, before the contracted time of completion,” Kambo said.

The project cost of the Z-Morh tunnel is Rs 2,300 crore and that of the Zojila tunnel is Rs

4,600 crore.

Giving details, he said work on the 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel recommenced last year and it has to be completed by 2023 according to the original target line.

“But, work has been done very very speedily. We are ahead of the schedule. The breakthrough on the escape tunnel had taken place in June, and for the main tunnel, connectivity was established 72 hours prior which was on September 24. That was a landmark day for Sonamarg,” Kambo said.

The Z-Morh tunnel between Gagangir and Sonmarg will provide connectivity in all weather conditions between Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Kargil in Ladakh.

Kambo said this year, the Sonamarg township will be kept open, selectively, for traffic for the first time in winter.

He said that Union minister Gadkari will be the first dignitary to cross the main tunnel. “We are sure that by the middle of next year, all work will be completed,” Kambo said.

For the Z-Morh tunnel, there is a five-km approach road and the tunnel is 6.5-km long and is bi-directional. It also has an escape tunnel for emergencies, he said. The Zojila tunnel, Kambo said, has an 18-km approach road, and state-of-the-art technology has been adopted from European nations in its construction.

“It also has two small tunnels one two-km-long and the other 500 metres --that have got two tubes one for the upcoming traffic and the other for the down going. With all the technology used, we are confident that we will keep the approach road open in all situations,” he said.

The executive director said the tunnel is through the Zojila Pass at a height of 11,500 feet which keeps the road cut off for about five to six months.

“The main tunnel is 14.15-km and it is being made at an altitude of 9,000-9,500 feet. It has three vertical shafts for ventilation and also for an access to speed up the work on the tunnel,” Kambo said.

“The work started in October 2020 and in about a year, the work on all fronts started, including on both sides of the tunnel, vertical shafts, road, bridges,” he said.

The target date for completion of the tunnel is 2026, but “we are confident that we will be able to do the work much earlier,” he said.

“We have already done nearly about 500 metres of the tunnel excavation and every day we are carrying out a large number of blasts and the excavation of 30-40 metres in the tunnel portion alone,” Kambo said.

With these tunnels coming through, tourists can more easily visit Sonamarg, and connectivity to Ladakh will be established on the Kashmir side, he added.

He said both the Apco the construction agency for Z-Morh tunnel -- and MEIL for Zojila tunnel -- have taken up the works of the two tunnels in a very diligent manner and they are doing a wonderful job for the nation.

He said in the past five to six years, Rs 6,500 crore worth of projects have been completed in J-K and Rs 22,500 crore worth of projects are presently ongoing.

Gadkari To Visit Zojila

During his visit, he said, the Minister will review the progress on Tunnel 1 and Tunnel 2

at Nilgrar site. Tunnel 1 is a twin tube tunnel of 435 metres in length each and tunnel 2 is of 1.95 km long each. These twin tunnels are the part of 18 km long approach road to Zojila west portal. The Minister will also visit the Zojila through east and west ends.

Prior to the Minister’s visit a Press briefing was held at Sonamarg.

Addressing the media persons Executive Director National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) Brigadier Gurjeet Singh Kambo gave the detailed information about the two tunnel projects.

Pertinent to mention that, once completed the Zojila tunnel will be India’s longest road tunnel and Asia’s longest bi-directional tunnel. Several bridges are being constructed along this route and a connecting tunnel from Z-Morh in the National Highway-1 to Zojila tunnel will be constructed in the Zojila Ghats between Sonamarg and Kargil. The entire work is divided into two divisions in the 33 km span.

The project site of Zojila tunnel is located at existing highway (NH-01) starting from Sonamarg and ending at Minimarg (Ladakh) at an elevation ranging from 2700m to 3300m. The present site location falls into seismic zone IV and all precautionary measures have been provisioned to safeguard the tunnels, he added.

J&K Logs 117

Rajouri reported a maximum of 40 cases, followed by five cases each in Jammu and Doda districts, Udhampur 2, and one new case each in Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban. The three districts of Kathua, Samba, and Reasi reported no new cases of coronavirus.

Also, the officials said that 118 more patients have recovered—14 from Jammu and 104 from Kashmir during the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, there was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4422 people have died—2173 in Jammu and 2249 in Kashmir.

BSF Recovers Arms,

eight magazines, 25 rounds, one packet filled with narcotics (likely Heroin) weighing about 01 kg along with FICN worth Rs.2,75,000/- was also found inside the bag,” the spokesperson said.

Searches have been intensified in and around the area following the recovery of the incriminating material, he further said. (GNS)

Woman Injured

reports said. Shahzada, who suffered serious injuries in the bear attack, was removed to primary health centre (PHC), Khag for treatment. However, the doctors referred her to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

Her condition, as per the reports, was life threatening.

Train Runs Over

for post-mortem and would be handed over to his family after completion of legal formalities.

Engineer Dies

Monday afternoon, reports said. The official was immediately evacuated to District Hospital Handwara by his subordinates for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead, reports said.

Condolence

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform our near and dear ones that our beloved mother Mtr. Halima Bano W/o Late Gh. Rasool Bhat R/o Doodh Ganga Colony Chanapora left for heavenly abode on 27-09-2021. May Almighty Allah (swt) grant her highest place in Jannah (Ameen)

Her congregational Fateha Khwani will be held on 30-09-2021 at 09:30 am at graveyard located at Khalid bin Waleed colony Natipora. Thereafter Dua Majlis will be held at our residence at Doodh Ganga colony old Chanapora through the day.

Grief stricken

1. Altaf Hussain Bhat (Son)
Tel.:- 9419010979, 706129853
2. Rais Hussain Bhat (Son)
Mobile No.:- 7889585899
3. Azhar Hussain Bhat (Son)
Mobile No.:- 9622806016



POSITIVE KASHMIR: AG's XI Defeat Kashmir Panthers FC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the 1st Edition Positive Kashmir Knockout Football Championship 2021, Accountant General's (AG's) XI defeated Kashmir Panthers FC 1-0 on Sunday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

This was the second match of the tournament which is being held under floodlights.

An evenly balanced contest, the match witnessed frequent attacking moves and goal-to-goal action. After the first half ended 0-0, the second half saw the only goal of the match in the

75th minute. With midfielder Shah Nawaz Bashir scoring the all important goal.

Kashmir Panther FC created attacking moves throughout the match and will be disappointed with the result.

The 1st Edition Positive Kashmir Knockout Championship is being organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association in collaboration with the NGO, Positive Kashmir.

In Tuesday, September 28 fixture, Downtown Heroes FC will take on Syed Tajuddin FC. The matches of the knockout tournament kick off at 6:30 PM.

Chief Secretary Mehta Flags Off Various Adventure Activities



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday flagged off several tourism promotional activities, as part of Department of Tourism's events marking World Tourism Day here.

At the Royal Springs Golf Course, the Chief Secretary flagged off an all girls trekking expedition comprising of 30 girl students, Sky running expedition (running competition

upwards hills) consisting of 30 members besides a cycle rally to Astanmarg, Harwan.

Dr. Mehta also interacted with the members of all the adventure groups taking part in the rallies. He encouraged them to make trekking, cycling, hiking and other adventure related activities their zeal as these activities add colour to life.

People in large numbers including many tourists attended these functions.

Eyeing Playoffs, DC Have Their Nose Ahead Against KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: A dominant Delhi Capitals will fancy their chances of securing a play-off berth when they face Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday. A cloud of uncertainty over KKR's injured all-rounder Andre Russell's participation gives Delhi more reasons to feel optimistic ahead of their afternoon match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Eyeing a maiden title triumph, DC are on a roll having dominated most of their opponents with an aggressive brand of cricket this season, and look pretty confident

of not just making the play-offs but also doing one better than last year when they lost to Mumbai Indians in the summit showdown.

DC are placed second in the pecking order with eight wins and 16 points from 10 outings, while two-time winners KKR find themselves in the fourth position with four wins and six defeats.

While the Delhi Capitals are coming off a crushing win over Rajasthan Royals in the previous outing, KKR will enter the game after having suffered a reversal at the hands of Chennai Super Kings, despite setting a stiff target of 172 on Abu Dhabi's big ground.

the possibility of boycotting it depending on what type of restrictions they have to live in.

Recently, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had raised the issue of a travel ban on the families of England cricketers for the Ashes with his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, on the sidelines of a diplomatic visit to Washington DC.

"I raised it (with Mr Morrison) and he said he was going to do his best for the families," Johnson had told reporters in the American capital.

"He totally got the point that for cricketers it is very tough to ask people to be away from their families over Christmas. He merely undertook to come back and see if he could find a solution."



DUBAI: Former England captain Kevin Pietersen on Monday said players have had enough of staying in bio-secure bubbles and called for lifting of the "ridiculous quarantine rules" in Australia before the Ashes.

The upcoming Ashes series in Australia has been in the news for a while now with several England players expressing their reservations against the strict COVID-19 protocols that are currently in place Down Under.

"There is NO WAY I would go to The Ashes this winter. ZERO chance! Unless, the ridiculous quarantine rules were squashed and my family could travel with zero restrictions.

Players are now done with bubbles! DONE!" Pietersen tweeted. The five-match Test series is scheduled to begin from December 8 and continue till January 18. But the fate of the tour remains unclear with several senior English players having considered

I-LEAGUE QUALIFIERS 2021

AIFF Disqualify Hyderya Sports FC Over Fake Bank Guarantee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation on Monday disqualified Kashmir's Hyderya Sports FC from the upcoming I-League Qualifiers for producing bank guarantee, which was "not genuine".

One of the top private clubs of Kashmir, Hyderya Sports had made the cut for the I-League Qualifiers after J&K Bank FC, the group toppers in the JKFA Professional League, could not apply for being an institutional team.

The national federation said that the Club's participation has been withdrawn after an enquiry revealed that the bank guarantee given by them was not genuine.

"AIFF would like to inform all the stakeholders of Hero I League Qualifiers 2021 (the League) that upon receiving several complaints regarding the genuineness of a bank guarantee submitted by Hyderya Sports Kashmir FC, the AIFF initiated an enquiry into the matter," the AIFF stated.

"The inquiry revealed that the bank guarantee so received was not genuine and that the bank guarantee was never officially issued by the bank named therein."

The bank guarantee was one of the mandatory requirements to be eligible to participate in the League, which was to be submitted within a specified timeline.

"The said timeline now stands elapsed and the mandatory requirement has not been fulfilled by the said club. In light of the same, Hyderya's participation in the League stands withdrawn with immediate effect.

The AIFF said it would not make any further statement on the matter.

"Furthermore, the AIFF reserves its rights to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the club," it added.

Hyderya were slated to kick-



start the I-League Qualifiers taking on Madan Maharaj FC in Bangalore on October 4.

Without the Kashmir outfit, the group A will now have four teams Rajasthan United FC, Rynth SC, Madan Maharaj FC and FC Bengaluru United.

Group B comprises Corbett FC, Kenkre Sports, ARA FC, Kerala United FC and Delhi FC.

Top two teams from each group will make the final round where they will face each other in a round-robin format to decide the toppers, who will be promoted to the I-League.

Hyderya were slated to kick-



Srinagar A-Division: Spartans, Yahaya Werse Win Matches

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two matches of the DFA Srinagar A-Division league were played at Gindun Ground Rajbagh and Synthetic Turf TRC, Srinagar on Monday.

The first match was played between Kashmir Star FC and Yahaya Werse FC in which Yahaya Werse FC defeated Kash-

mir Star FC by a solitary goal. Asif Bhat scored the important goal for Yahaya Werse FC in 8th minute of the game.

The second match was played between Spartans FC and Eleven Star FC. Spartans FC won the match 2-0. Amaan Farooq scored both the goals for Spartans FC.

In Baramulla A-Division

Soccer Old Town FC defeated Baba Athar FC by 5 goals to nil.

In Srinagar Super Division, two matches are scheduled for Tuesday, September 28.

Galaxy FC go head to head against Towheed FC, while Real Kashmir (U18) will take on FC Views. These will be the last of the 2nd Stage fixtures of the Super Division League.

'Content' Moeen Ali Announces Retirement From Test Cricket

AGENCIES

LONDON: England all-rounder Moeen Ali has retired from test cricket and said he hopes his career can inspire other English Muslims to play the sport.

Moeen made his test debut in 2014 against Sri Lanka and went on to represent England 64 times in the format. He took 195 wickets, including five five-wicket hauls and a hat trick against South Africa in 2017, and scored five centuries.

Moeen lost his central contract in 2019, which led him to focus on franchise cricket.

"I'm 34 now and I want to play for as long as I can and I just want to enjoy my cricket," he said on Monday. "Test cricket is amazing, when you're having a good day it's better than any other format by far, it's more rewarding and you feel like you've really earned it.

"I've enjoyed test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done."

Moeen said it would be great if he had been able to "open the door" to other Muslims wanting to play cricket.

"It always takes somebody to inspire you or takes somebody to think, 'If he can do it, I can,' and I hope there are a few peo-



ple out there who are thinking that," he said.

"I know he wasn't English but someone like (South Africa's) Hashim Amla, when I first saw him, I thought if he can do it I can do it. It does take that little spark. I'd love one day in 8-10 years' time to say Moeen made it easier for me. There have been guys before me who made it easier, so you hope to open the door for someone else."

Ali thanked his coaches, captains and all of his family for their support during his Test career.

"I have to thank Peter Moores and Chris Silverwood for being my coaches and Peter for giving me my debut. Cookie and Rooty as the captains who I've enjoyed playing under and I hope they are happy with how I played."

RCB Complete IPL 2021 Double Over MI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Glenn Maxwell justified his million-dollar contract with an all-round performance before Harshal Patel took a hat-trick to ensure a thumping 54-run victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore over Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League in Dubai on Sunday.

Maxwell (56 off 37 balls and 2/23) produced one of his better efforts in the IPL while Harshal (4/17 in 3.1 overs), the current Purple Cap holder removed Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Rahul Chahar off successive deliveries to defend a target of 165 without breaking much sweat.

MI were all-out for 111 in 18.1 overs, losing 10 wickets for 54 runs after being 57 for no loss at one stage.

Skipper Virat Kohli won the 'Battle of Bosses' against his national team deputy Rohit Sharma as RCB with 12 points are back in the play-off contention

while MI with three successive defeats are now in a real spot of bother at the seventh spot in the eight-team table.

Kohli would also happy with his second half-century and the form of his premier spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (3/11 in 4 overs).

Rohit teed off with three boundaries in a single over from Kyle Jamieson. MI looked in complete control during the Powerplay as Quinton de Kock also got a few boundaries.

However it was Chahal, who removed de Kock and then Ishan Kishan's full-blooded shot was just about parried away by Rohit, who was hit on the left wrist trying to avoid a body blow.

That must have affected his concentration as he tried to hit a second six off Maxwell having hit one in the earlier over but this time was pounced by Devdutt Padikkal at the long-on boundary much to the delight of rival skipper Kohli.

NEWS MAKERS

'No Way I Would Go To Ashes': Pietersen On COVID Restrictions In Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Former England captain Kevin Pietersen on Monday said players have had enough of staying in bio-secure bubbles and called for lifting of the "ridiculous quarantine rules" in Australia before the Ashes.

The upcoming Ashes series in Australia has been in the news for a while now with several England players expressing their reservations against the strict COVID-19 protocols that are currently in place Down Under.

"There is NO WAY I would go to The Ashes this winter. ZERO chance! Unless, the ridiculous quarantine rules were squashed and my family could travel with zero restrictions.

Players are now done with bubbles! DONE!" Pietersen tweeted. The five-match Test series is scheduled to begin from December 8 and continue till January 18. But the fate of the tour remains unclear with several senior English players having considered

Japanese Sumo Great Hakuho Retiring, Aged 36

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Sumo great Hakuho is retiring at the age of 36, marking the end of an era in Japanese traditional sport.

The Mongolian-born Yokozuna, or grand champion, Hakuho has won a record 45 tournaments, including 16 perfect victories, which is also a record. He has decided to retire because of a right knee injury, according to Japan's NHK national television. He achieved 1,187 wins, an all-time record in sumo.

Yokozuna Deliberation Council chairman Hironori Yano told a news conference that he learned of his intention to quit from his stable master. Hakuho is expected to submit a formal retirement document later.

Born Munkhbat Davajargal in 1985, he is the son of a silver-medal winner for Mongolia in freestyle wrestling at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. Hakuho came to Japan at the age of 15 to start his sumo career.

He debuted in 2001 and won his first title in the makuuchi top division five years later before reaching the highest rank of Yokozuna in July 2007, aged 22.

In the 2000s, Hakuho and rival Mongolian champion Asashoryu wooed fans with their respective good guy versus bad guy images.

Hakuho obtained Japanese citizenship in 2019, earning the right to set up and run his sumo stable after retirement to train wrestlers.

Hakuho had a knee operation in March. In July, he won the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament, the only one he competed in this year after missing all or part of the past six competitions.

Rashford Targets United Return After International Break

AGENCIES

MANCHESTER: Marcus Rashford is targeting a return to the Manchester United team following the upcoming international break, three months after his last competitive game — the European Championship final.

Rashford has been in recovery from a shoulder operation. He was last seen on a football field missing a penalty for England in the shootout loss to Italy at Wembley Stadium.

"I see the doctor on Friday for a consultation," Rashford said on Twitter. "All being well, I will get the green light to join in with contact training again."

He has been training since August, but it hasn't been full contact.

United plays Everton on Saturday before its players go away to play for their countries. United's first game after the international break will be away to Leicester in the Premier League on Oct. 16.

Rashford's return will add to the selection dilemmas facing



United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, with Mason Greenwood, Jadon Sancho, Edinson Cavani, Anthony Martial and often Paul Pogba competing for two places in United's four attacking spots alongside Cristiano Ronaldo and Bruno Fernandes.

United has lost its last two games, in the English League Cup and the Premier League, 1-0 at Old Trafford. The team plays Villarreal at home in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Kuldeep Yadav Returns From UAE After Knee Injury

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has sustained a serious knee injury and is likely to miss most of the domestic season, having already come back to India with his IPL campaign in the UAE cut short.

The out-of-favour India international, who was with Kolkata Knight Riders, is expected to go through a long rehabilitation process before attempting a comeback to competitive cricket.

"Yes, we got the information that Kuldeep sustained a nasty knee injury during a practice session in UAE. Apparently while fielding, he twisted his knee and it was really bad at that point."

"There was no chance that he could have taken any further part and was sent back to India," a senior BCCI official tracking developments of IPL teams told PTI on condition of anonymity.

It has been learnt that very recently, Kuldeep has undergone a surgery in Mumbai and it could take between four to six months before he can make a comeback.

"Knee injuries are generally bad. It's a very long process from starting to walk and then getting strength back through intense physiotherapy sessions at the NCA, followed by light intensity training and finally starting with net sessions."

Banks In India To Be Closed For 21 Days In October

Agenceis

Those who do bank transactions in the coming month of October should plan them in advance as banks are to remain closed for more than two-thirds of the month. There could be huge delay in processing as many workers will be availing their leaves as well.

As per the list of holidays issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks in India will remain closed for up to 21 days in October 2021, including second and fourth Saturdays, and Sundays. However, since most of these days are state-specific holidays, banks will not be closed for all 21 days in all the states.

The banks will be closed in the first two days of the month—October 1 being Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts and October 2 being Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti.

Holidays declared by RBI go under three categories — Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act; Holiday under Negotiable Instruments Act and Real-Time Gross Settlement Holiday; and Banks' Closing of

Accounts.

Here's is the list of holidays notified by RBI.

1 October 2021 – Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts

2 October 2021 – Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti

6 October 2021 – Mahalaya Amavasya

7 October 2021 – Mera Chaoren Houba of Lainingthou Sanamahi

12 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Maha Saptami)

13 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Maha Ashtami)

14 October 2021 – Durga Puja/Dussehra (Maha Navami)/Ayutha Pooja

15 October 2021 – Durga Puja/Dasara/Dusshera (Vijaya Dashmi)

16 October 2021 – Durga Puja (Dasain)

18 October 2021 – Kati Bihu

19 October 2021 – Id-E-Milad/Eid-e-Miladunnabi/Milad-i-Sherif (Prophet Mohammad's Birthday)/Baravafat

20 October 2021 – Maharishi Valmiki's Birthday/Lakshmi Puja/Id-E-Milad

22 October 2021 – Friday following Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi

October 26 – Accession Day

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Can Revolutionise Health Care: Modi

Agenceis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, under which a digital health ID will be provided to people that will contain their health records. Modi asserted that it has the potential to bring revolutionary changes in health care.

In his address after the launch, Modi said the mission marks a new phase in efforts of the last seven years to strengthen health facilities.

The pilot project of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was announced by the prime minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2020.

Currently, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is being implemented in a pilot phase in six Union territories.

Its nationwide rollout coincides with the National Health Authority celebrating the third anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

In his remarks, Modi said that the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has the potential to bring revolutionary changes to our health facilities.

The prime minister noted that India has nearly 130 crore Aadhaar users, 118 crore mobile subscribers, 43 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts, and such a connected infrastructure can be found nowhere else in the world.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will provide reliable data, leading to better treatment and ensuring savings for patients, he said. The prime minister said that under the mission, people of the country will now get a digital health ID.

Health records of every citizen will be digitally protected, he said, adding that the poor and the middle class will benefit the most from this mission.

Emphasising on the importance of technology, the prime minister pointed out that the Aarogya Setu app helped a lot in preventing the spread of the coronavirus infection. He also noted that India has been able to administer about 90 crore

vaccine doses, and the CoWIN application and its portal played a big role in it.

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

It will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent, the PMO said.

The key components of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission include a health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application, a Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Healthcare Facilities Registries (HFR) that will act as a repository of all health care providers across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.

This will ensure ease of doing business for doctors, hospitals and health care service providers.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Sandbox, created as a part of the mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organisations, including private players, intending to be a part of the National Digital Health Ecosystem become a health information provider or a health information user or efficiently link with building blocks of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, the PMO said.

This mission will create interoperability within the digital health ecosystem, similar to the role played by the Unified Payments Interface in revolutionising payments, it said. Citizens will only be a click away from accessing health care facilities, it added.

Bharat Bandh: Farmers Block Highways, Railway Tracks Across States



Press Trust of India

The Bharat bandh organised on Monday by farmers' groups protesting against the three contentious farm laws has disrupted rail and road travel in many places.

Punjab and Haryana

In Punjab and Haryana, the states considered the epicentre of the farmers' protests, protesters blocked highways and roads and squatted on railway tracks. The Congress, which rules Punjab, had announced its support for the bandh, leading to a near-total shutdown in the state, with transport services suspended during the bandh period, while shops and other commercial establishments remained shut at most places.

National and state highways in several districts, including Amritsar, Rupnagar, Jalandhar, Pathankot, Sangrur, Mohali, Ludhiana, Ferozepur and Bathinda were blocked by the protesters.

In neighbouring Haryana, the protesters blocked highways in Sirsa, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Hissar, Charkhi Dadri, Karnal, Kaithal, Rohtak, Jhajjar and Panchkula districts.

The protesting farmers squatted on railway tracks at many places in the two states.

Ferozepur's Divisional Railway Manager Seema Sharma told PTI that some passenger trains have been cancelled while some other services have been rescheduled. Farmers squatted on railway tracks at many places in the

two states, including at Shahbad near Kurukshetra, Sonapat, Bahadurgarh, Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Amritsar, Patiala, Barnala and Lalru near Derabassi.

Bihar

The opposition Congress and RJD had announced support for the Bharat bandh. While public transport remained largely unaffected, protesters had blocked highways, roads and rail tracks in several places.

RJD and Congress workers blocked roads in Patna, Bhojpur, Lakhisarai, Jahanabad, East Champaran, Begusarai, Madhepura and Nalanda districts, affecting the movement of the traffic. RJD and CPI members also blocked railway lines in Patna, Ara, Jahanabad and Madhepura. Markets were open, while government and private offices registered usual attendance.

West Bengal

Activists of the opposition Left Front blocked roads and railway tracks in many places, though normal life was largely unaffected. In Kolkata, CPI(M) members blocked roads at College Street, Jadavpur and Shyambazar Five-Point Crossing but were swiftly removed by the police.

Road blockades were held in most of the major towns and cities in the state, including in district headquarters of Jalpaiguri, West Midnapore, East Midnapore, Hooghly and Coochbehar.

The Left activists blocked railway tracks at Jadavpur in Eastern

Railway's Sealdah division. Reports of rail blockades from the Howrah division also came in.

Odisha

Markets were shut and public transport stayed off the roads as the Bharat bandh hit normal life in Odisha on Monday. Activists of the opposition Congress and Left parties blocked roads at different places in Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Rayagada and Subarnapur. The protesters also blocked the railway lines at Bhubaneswar station, affecting train services in the state capital.

Kerala

Public transport was hit in Kerala where the strike is supported by the ruling LDF and the opposition Congress-led UDF. KSRTC bus services were off the road with almost all trade unions in the state taking part. People who had to travel opted for private modes of transport while others stayed home.

Delhi-UP

In the national capital, autorickshaws and taxis piled normally and shops were open with unions and associations extending only "in-principle support" to the Bharat bandh called by farmers. However, there was chaos at the city's borders, including at Ghaziपुर in western Uttar Pradesh where farmers blocked the highway to prevent any movement of vehicles.

Harsh Ladakh Weather Affecting Chinese Troops? PLA Installs Modular Container-Based Accommodations At LAC

NEW DELHI: China has put in place new modular container-based accommodations for its troops in several high-altitude forward areas on its side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in response to Indian deployment in the region, people familiar with the developments said on Monday.

The shelters were installed in locations near Tashigong, Manza, Hot Springs and Churup among others, in reflection of simmering tensions between the two sides in the region, they said.

The people cited above said China's People Liberation Army has been feeling the heat of the Indian response to its "misadventure" in the region last year and that the Chinese military has been forced to go for long deployments and boost infrastructure in the region.

They said the Indian response to the Chinese actions last year, particularly after the Galwan Valley clashes, surprised the neighbouring country and that it deployed troops in areas where it never used to earlier.

"Our strategy is hurting them. They are reacting to our response. We have forced PLA to go for forward deployment and boost infrastructure," said one of the people.

They said the new deployments are appearing to be affecting the morale of the Chinese troops as they were not used to operate in such difficult terrain.

The new container-based accommodations were built in addition to the additional military camps that the Chinese military had set up following the escalation in tension between the two sides last year.

The people said India is also ramping up construction of tunnels, bridges roads and other critical infrastructure in eastern Ladakh and other areas along the nearly 3,500-km LAC.

They said China is also significantly enhancing its airbases and air defence units near the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area and both sides

gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The border row escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 last year.

Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in the clashes that marked the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

In February, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in the clashes with the Indian Army though it is widely believed that the death toll was higher.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in Gogra area last month.

In February, the two sides completed the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in line with an agreement on disengagement.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector.

Don't Treat Young Doctors As Football In Power Game, Says SC On Changes In Syllabus

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: "Don't treat young doctors as football in the game of power," the Supreme Court said on Monday, warning the Centre that it may pass strictures if it is not satisfied with justification for last minute changes to the NEET Super Speciality Examination 2021 syllabus.

The apex court said it "will not allow these young doctors to be placed in the hands of some insensitive bureaucrats", and asked the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE) to "put their house in order".

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to hold a

"Kindly give us one week, we will explain everything," he said.

The bench told the senior counsel, "We are ready to hear you but tell the authorities that we are unsatisfied with the way the last-minute changes were made. We are putting you on notice in advance that if we don't agree with your justification, we will pass strictures and we will deal with you".

It said, "Just because someone has the authority to wield power does not mean that he can wield power without application of mind. When you yourself issued notification for examination in July, then what was the need to rock the boat in August. Please talk to MoHFW and NMC and put your house in order."

Justice Chandrachud said that this examination is very important for their (doctors) career and



meeting with other two authorities within a week.

"Better come with some strong reasons as if we are not satisfied, we will pass strictures," it said.

"Don't treat these young doctors as footballs in the game of power. Hold the meeting and put your house in order. We will not allow the lives of these young doctors to be placed in the hands of some insensitive bureaucrats," it added.

The top court was hearing a plea of 41 Post Graduate doctors who have challenged the last minute changes made to the syllabus after the notification for examination was issued.

At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the young doctors, said that there is urgency in the matter and they have filed a written submission also in the matter.

Advocate Gaurav Sharma, appearing for NMC, said that they would like to file reply in the matter and sought adjournment of one week.

The bench said, "Mr Sharma, what is the NMC doing? We are dealing with the lives of young doctors who will pursue super speciality courses. You have issued the notification for examination on July 23 and then changed the syllabus on August 31. What is this? They are to sit for examinations on November 13 and 14."

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for NBE, said that they be given time to file the reply till next Monday, as there were suitable reasons for doing the changes and authorities were well aware of the difficulties of the students and was after approvals of the three authorities concerned.

The bench said, "Then why the notification for examination was issued Mr Singh? Why cannot it happen next year? You see, students start preparing for these critical medicine courses months and months in advance. What was the need for last-minute change?" Singh said that change in syllabus was in the offing for quite some time and preparation was on since 2018 and the authorities concerned have tried to take care of the difficulties.

merely because these doctors have already passed the MBBS exams doesn't mean that they can change the exam pattern last minute.

"You have to deal with these young doctors with sensitivity", he said.

Justice Nagarathna said that "Pattern of study for these young doctors will depend on the pattern of questions. If you make last-minute changes, they will be ruffled".

She said the young doctors might be put at risk due to the last minute changes.

Justice Chandrachud said that he agrees with his sister judge and added "We have an example of Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). I have heard that students need to study for two years to prepare for the exams. Here it takes months and months for these doctors who have to study critical medicines and to prepare for the examination and you cannot just make last-minute changes".

Singh said the court should hear the arguments first and then form any opinion in the matter.

The bench said that it is open to the arguments but if it does not accept the submissions then the authorities concerned should also be ready to accept the strictures passed by the court.

"These people who are doctors at NMC board have passed the stage which the young doctors are in at present but it does not mean that they will treat them like this. You better come up with strong reasons. List on Monday," it said.

The plea has said that as per the prevailing pattern of examination, 60 per cent marks are given on questions from super speciality courses while 40 per cent of the marks are given from other courses.

As per the notification issued on August 31 for modifying the pattern of examination, 100 per cent marks will be now given on questions from general medicines.

The young doctors have said in their plea that they have been preparing for the examination as per the earlier pattern which has been in existence for the last three years.

India Exam Cheats Caught With Bluetooth Flip-Flops

Agenceis

Ten people have been arrested in India for planning to cheat in fiercely competitive teaching exams using Bluetooth devices concealed in their flip-flops, police said.

Cribbing has long been a problem in India and, for Sunday's government exams involving 1.6 million students in Rajasthan state, police had permission to snap mobile internet access while the tests lasted.

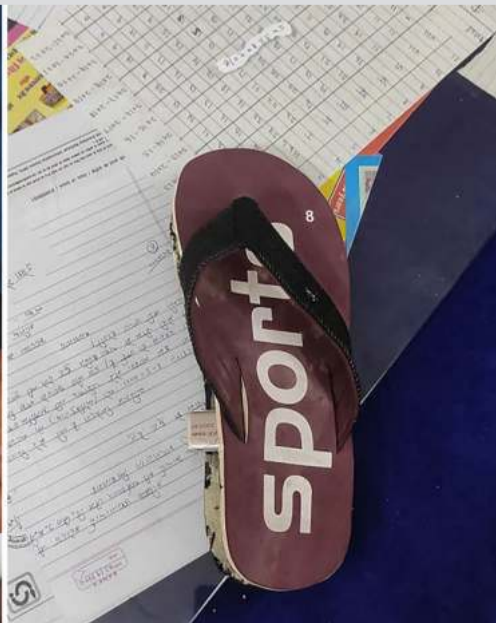
But one group planned to get around this with devices hidden in the soles of their flip-flops that could receive ordinary calls which would be transmitted wirelessly to tiny receivers hidden in their ears.

The plan was for accomplices outside to call the hidden contraptions and dictate the correct answers to the exams, said Priti Chandra, a police official in the western city of Bikaner.

But the group of would-be teachers were arrested acting suspiciously outside the examination hall on the evening before the exams and the devices in their footwear were discovered.

"We were aware of the possibility of cheating but we thought it would be a question paper leak or someone would use the internet, which is why it was restricted in many cities," Chandra told AFP.

"But this was a totally new modus operandi. (They) are



“IN ONE CASE WE CAUGHT a student after the exam and had to take him to a doctor to identify and remove the Bluetooth device from his ear.”

getting so tech savvy."

Investigations revealed that at least 25 students had bought these flip-flops from a gang for \$8,100 per pair.

The information was shared with several other districts in time for the exams and many centres asked the students to remove their footwear outside the examination hall.

"In one case we caught a student after the exam and had to take him to a doctor to identify and remove the Bluetooth

device from his ear," Chandra said.

Cheating is rife in India's highly competitive government, university and even school examinations and authorities have struggled with ever-more sophisticated methods to help people pass.

These include professionals who earn a living impersonating others and taking exams in their place, to gangs stealing or illegally procuring exam papers and then selling them.