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**P6 THINK**

**A PROMETHEAN MOMENT**

Real life has a way of surprising theory. One of the most intensely discussed theoretical questions on the Left has been how to bring agricultural labourers and peasants, including well-to-do peasants, together in a common struggle against

**P7 THINK**

**LEADING LIFE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

In the wildly popular movie, Taare Zameen Par (2007), the child protagonist Ishaan Awasthi's struggle with dyslexia is captured with precision. We may have snippets from the movie still etched in our memory even now with visual recollections of



**P11 SPORTS**

**NEED TO TRACK UMRAN MALIK'S PROGRESS: KOHLI**

Mighty impressed with pace sensation Umrans Malik, who sent down the IPL's fastest delivery against his franchise, India captain Virat Kohli said the Jammu and



**Widom Quote!**  
Dream big and dare to fail  
- Norman Vaughan

**NEWS DIGEST**

**Rabi-ul-Awal Moon Sighted**

**ISLAMABAD:** The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee (CRHC) announced on Thursday that the crescent for the month of Rabi-ul-Awal was sighted in Pakistan, therefore, the Eid Milad-un-Nabi will be celebrated across the country on Tuesday, October 19 CRHC Chairman Maulana Abdul Khair Azam made the announcement after chairing a meeting of the **More On P10**

**Soldier Detained At Srinagar Airport**

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier was taken into custody at the Srinagar International Airport on Thursday after security personnel recovered a bullet from his baggage. Head Constable Sham Lal, who is currently posted at 79 Brigade Baramulla, was detained by the airport security personnel on Thursday after a live round **More On P10**

**Grenade Defused in Kulgam**

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces on Thursday recovered and defused a UBGL grenade in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Army's 1 RR and police received information about a UBGL grenade lying in a paddy field in the district on Thursday afternoon, official sources said. They said, the joint team instantly rushed **More On P10**

**Electric Shock Kills Woman**

**SRINAGAR:** A middle-aged woman died of electrocution on Thursday in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 54-year-old Aisha Begum suffered burn injuries after receiving shock from an electric heater. She was rushed to a hospital in Kokernag, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

## Srinagar In Shock After Two Teachers Shot Dead

7 Killings In 5 Days Rattle Security Establishment, Create Fear; Anger



Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** For the staffers of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Srinagar's Eidgah, it was just another normal day. The tea was already poured, the morning discussions were still going on and the struggles of online teachings were quite apparent.

But, before they could finish off with their daily morning routine and begin with their educational affair, three armed assailants barged into the school and asked the staff milling around in the corridor to move inside the principal's room. Taking control of their nerves, the

assailants then asked the staff to line up in a single row and demanded to know their identities.

"It was their when assailants asked the Muslim staff to step out of the room while they spoke with the two non-Muslim staffers." An eyewitness said "We don't know what they talked about, but the last thing that happened was that the assailants got them out of the room and shot them mercilessly."

The school Principal Supinder Kour, a resident of Rengipora Beerwah and Deepak Chand, a teacher from Jammu, collapsed in a pool of blood.

Heart wrenching **More On P10**

### LG Vows Befitting Reply

**J**ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the killing of two teachers belonging to minority communities on Thursday, saying a befitting reply will be given to the perpetrators of the attack.

He said the militants and their patrons will not succeed in disturbing peace in the Union Territory.

"I strongly condemn the barbaric killing of two of our teachers, Supinder Kour and Deepak Chand by terrorists. A befitting reply will be given to the perpetrators of the heinous terror attacks on innocent people," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

"The terrorists & their patrons will not succeed in disturbing peace, progress & prosperity of J&K UT. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family, friends and colleagues," he added. Meanwhile, in a statement issued here late evening, the LG said that "every region, every citizen has forgotten history and has become future-oriented."

"First of all, I salute the civilians who were martyred in the (militant) attack, and pay tribute to them. The condolences of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the entire country are with his family in this hour of grief," reads a statement issued by the government in Hindi. "I have a lot of pain and **More On P10**

### Attacks Aimed To Defame Kashmiri Muslims: DGP

**T**he targeted killing of civilians, particularly minorities, in Kashmir is aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear and damaging age-old communal harmony, Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Dilbag Singh said after two teachers were shot dead by militants on Thursday. The people who are targeting humanity, brotherhood and local ethos and values will be unmasked soon, Singh told reporters at the site of the latest militant attack -- the Government Boys Higher Secondary School at Sangam, Eidgah, here. "The incidents of targeting civilians in Kashmir since a few days are barbaric. Innocent people who are working for the society and have nothing to do with anyone are being targeted. This is an attempt to create an atmosphere of fear and to give it a communal colour so as to damage the communal harmony in Kashmir," the Director General **More On P10**

### Grenade Attack On CRPF In Safa Kadal

**SRINAGAR:** Militants on Thursday attacked CRPF personnel with a grenade in Safa Kadal area of Old City here.

According to reports, militants hurled a hand grenade towards the personnel of 161 battalion CRPF in Braripora locality of Safa Kadal on Thursday evening. The grenade, reports said, exploded with a bang. However, no reports of loss of life or injury were reported in the grenade attack.

According to the reports, panic gripped the area, as the loud explosion prompted the traders to down their shutters and run towards the safer places. Many passerby, reports said, **More On P10**

### CRPF Shoots Man Dead In Anantnag Police Says Paramilitary Men Fired In Self Defense

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Thursday shot dead a man in South Kashmir's Anantnag district after he allegedly jumped a checkpoint. Unconfirmed reports identified the deceased as Yasir Ali from Jhajar Kotli in Jammu division.

According to the reports, the personnel of CRPF 40 Battalion had erected a checkpoint at Monghall Bridge on Thursday evening, where vehicles were being screened. In the meantime, reports said, a silver colour Scorpio was approaching the checkpoint and



was signalled to stop.

However, the car allegedly ignored the signal and jumped the checkpoint following which CRPF men fired upon it. In the action, one person was killed.

In a statement issued late

night, a police spokesperson said that CRPF personnel fired in self defense leading to killing of a person in Anantnag district. "A Naka was established by 40 Bn CRPF at Monghall Bridge. A suspected **More On P10**

### Retired KP Employees Not Entitled To Retain Govt House: SC

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday held that a retired government employee who is a Kashmiri migrant would not be entitled to retain government accommodation for a period exceeding three years, in Delhi or in the National Capital Region or anywhere in the country.

The top court said the three-year period can also be considered as a cooling-off period for the officers who were in active intelligence work so that they can resume normal life but the excuse of once working for an intelligence agency is not

a valid ground to occupy the government accommodation for an indefinite period.

It noted the Centre's submission that with the abrogation of Article 370 from the Constitution of India, the Kashmiri migrants have started moving back to the Kashmir Valley and nearly 2000 of them are likely to return in the year 2021.

It noted 80 Kashmiri migrants who are retired employees are in possession of government accommodation in Delhi and three in Faridabad of Haryana.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and AS Bopanna dismissed three applications filed by retired **More On P10**

### BSF Seize Arms Cache Along IB

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday foiled a major bid by militants to smuggle in weapons from Pakistan along the International Border (IB) and seized a big cache of arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said.

"The BSF, Jammu today foiled a weapon smuggling attempt from across the International Border in Samba area and seized a big cache of arms and ammunition," BSF DIG S P S Sandhu said.

He further said the seizure by BSF troops included four pistols, **More On P10**

## Union Home Minister Reviews Kashmir Situation

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday in the wake of militants killing seven civilians in the last five days, officials said.

During the hour-long meeting, the home minister was given a presentation on the overall security situation in the Union Territory and the border areas by top officials.

He was briefed about the latest modus operandi of the militants in carrying out attacks on soft targets and the steps taken to tighten the security arrangements, an official said.



Shah is believed to have directed the officials to ensure that those involved in the killings are nabbed and to check further occurrence of such incidents.

Later, Director of Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar held a separate meeting, which was also attended **More On P10**

### MEA Worried Over 'Cross-Border Terrorism'

**C**ondemning "targeted killings" of innocent people in Jammu and Kashmir, the external affairs ministry on Thursday said these killings highlighted its concerns over cross-border terrorism. "We strongly condemn it. Innocent people are being killed. It is targeted killing. We are worried about cross border terrorism. We keep discussing the issue of cross border terrorism with our partners," **More On P10**

**WE STRONGLY CONDEMN IT.** Innocent people are being killed. It is targeted killing. We are worried about cross border terrorism. We keep discussing the issue of cross border terrorism with our partners."

### Omar Urges Minority Community Not To Leave Valley

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Thursday appealed to members of minority communities in Kashmir not to leave the valley, saying that the perpetrators of the recent civilian killings can't be allowed to succeed in their "evil designs". Taking to Twitter hours

after a woman principal and a teacher belonging to minority communities were shot dead by militants here, Abdullah said terror can't be allowed to dictate who will live in Kashmir and who won't.

"On my part, I am making a heartfelt appeal to all those who will be thinking of leaving the valley out of fear. Please don't. We can't let the perpetrators of **More On P10**

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### LG Seeks Action Plan On Winter Preparedness



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Ahead of the winter season, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the officials of various departments to pre-emptively plan for exigencies arising out of weather vagaries.

"Preemptively plan for exigencies arising out of weather

vagaries. Ensure that a robust mechanism is in place to minimize disruptions of essential services to general public," Sinha said, while chairing a high-level meeting on winter preparedness of different departments at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday. According to an official spokesperson, the LG took stock of department-wise **More On P10**

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## 20 Killed, Hundreds Injured As Quake Rattles Southern Pakistan

Agencies

Quetta: Around 20 people were killed and more than 200 injured when a shallow earthquake hit southern Pakistan in the early hours of Thursday as people slept, government officials said.

Many of the victims died when roofs and walls collapsed after the 5.7 magnitude quake struck in the Balochistan province, with a power cut forcing health workers to treat the injured using flashlights.

The worst-affected area was the remote mountainous city of Harnai, where a lack of paved roads, electricity and mobile phone coverage hampered rescuers.

Many of the victims died when roofs and walls collapsed after the 5.7 magnitude quake struck in the Balochistan province, with a power cut forcing health workers to treat the injured using flashlights.

injured," Hashmi said.

Naseer Nasar, the head of Balochistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authority, warned that the toll may rise.

The quake caused electricity to fail in the region, with health staff working until dawn without lights in a poorly equipped government hospital.

Before daybreak, "we were operating without electricity with the help of torches and mobile flashlights," Zahoor Tarin, a senior official at the government-run Harnai hospital told AFP.

"Most of the injured came with fractured limbs. Dozens of people were sent back after first aid," he said, adding that "at least 40 people were received with critical injuries".

"We have imposed an emergency in the hospital and are providing them medical treatment." Private individuals were helping rush the injured to hospitals.

The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 5.7 and struck around 3 am at a depth of around 20 kilometres (12 miles).

The earthquake was also felt in Balochistan's capital Quetta.

Pakistan straddles the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, making the country susceptible to earthquakes.

In October 2015, a 7.5-magnitude quake in Pakistan and Afghanistan killed almost 400 people across rugged terrain that impeded relief efforts.

The country was also hit by a 7.6-magnitude quake on October 8, 2005, that killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3.5 million homeless.

"We are receiving information that 20 people have been killed due to the earthquake," Balochistan home minister Mir Zia ullah Langgou added. A woman and six children were among 20 dead, Suhail Anwar Hashmi, a senior provincial government official, told AFP, adding that "more than 200 people have been injured".

"We are soon sending helicopters to the area to help support the rescue operation and to evacuate

## Tanzanian-Born Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah Gets Nobel Prize In Literature

Agencies

Stockholm: Tanzanian-born novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose work touches on colonialism and refugee life, on Thursday won the Nobel Literature Prize, the Swedish Academy said.

Gurnah, who grew up on the island of Zanzibar but came to England as a refugee at the end of the 1960s, was honoured "for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents," the Swedish Academy said.

Gurnah has published 10 novels and a number of short stories.

He is best known for his 1994 novel "Paradise", set in colonial East Africa during the First World War, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction.

The theme of the refugee's disruption runs throughout his work.

Born in 1948, Gurnah began writing as a 21-year-old in England. Although Swahili was his first language, English became his literary tool.

The Nobel Prize comes with a medal and a prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about 980,000 euros, \$1.1 million).

Last year, the award went to US poet Louise Glück.

Ahead of Thursday's announcement, Nobel watchers had suggested the Swedish Academy



could choose to give the nod to a writer from Asia or Africa, following a pledge to make the prize more diverse.

It has crowned mainly Westerners in its 120-year existence.

Of the 118 literature laureates since the first Nobel was awarded in 1901, 95 - or more than 80 per cent - have been Europeans or North Americans.

Gurnah would have normally received the Nobel from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled for the second straight year due to the pandemic and replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.



**Afghanistan could go dark as power bills remain unpaid**  
Afghanistan's state power company has appealed to a UN-led mission to give \$90 million to settle unpaid bills to Central Asian suppliers before electricity gets cut off for the country given that the three-month deadline for payments has passed.

## Paid Millions To Hide Trillions

Pandora Papers expose financial crime enablers, too

Agencies

Ottawa: The Pandora Papers investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), a non-profit newsroom and network of journalists based in Washington, D.C., has revealed there are still some go-to havens for those looking to hide illicit wealth.

The people who don't get mentioned as much in the media coverage of the Pandora Papers, however, are the enablers devoted to helping the richest people in the world get richer and to pass on their wealth while avoiding or evading taxes. These enablers help criminals and kleptocrats launder their ill-gotten gains.

They may not be as wealthy as their clients, but they are paid millions to hide trillions.

The wealth defence industry

For many years there has been a well-established "wealth defence industry" made up of a coalition of professionals - ranging from advisers and bankers to lawyers, accountants, notaries and estate agents - who use anonymous shell companies, family of-

fices, offshore accounts and trusts to help the world's richest people shield their wealth from tax collectors.

These highly compensated "enablers" are assisting oligarchs, dictators and criminals around the world.

There's been a lot of mainstream reporting on the actual crimes, abuses and financial misdeeds of malicious foreign states and wealthy individuals. But what about the intermediaries to the financial system who handle the details and provide the get-away mechanisms for the criminals?

Some elites pay respected professionals and businesses to open political doors, to lobby against sanctions, to fight legal battles and to launder money and reputations. In doing so, these institutions and individuals push the boundaries of the law and degrade the principles of our democracy.

According to the Deloitte Anti-Money Laundering Preparedness Survey Report 2020, the amount of money laundered in one year is estimated to be between two per cent and five per cent of global GDP, or from US\$800 billion to US\$2 trillion annually.

The ICIJ's FinCEN Files offer unprecedented insights into a secret world of international banking, anonymous clients and, in many cases, financial crime.

They show how banks blindly move cash through their accounts for people they can't identify, failing to report transactions with all the hallmarks of money laundering until years after the fact, and even do business with clients enmeshed in financial frauds and public corruption scandals.

The insidiousness of 'dark money'

Corruption and financial wrongdoing are by their nature secretive and often deeply complex. Dark money - essentially spending meant to sway political outcomes with no information about the source of the money - buys access to courts and politicians, consequently making society less fair and more inequitable.

What often distinguishes ordinary rich people from the oligarchy is that all oligarchs invest in wealth defence. They use their power and wealth to amass more power and wealth, to lobby and to rig the rules around them.

## Countries Like China, Pakistan Hunting Down CIA's Informants: Report

Press Trust of India

New York: US counterintelligence officials are warning CIA stations around the world about "troubling" numbers of informants recruited from other nations to spy for America being captured or killed, according to a media report which said in recent years "adversarial intelligence services" in countries such as Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan have hunted down the agency's sources and turned them into double agents in some cases.

The New York Times said in a report that "top American counterintelligence officials warned every CIA station and base around the world last week about troubling numbers of informants recruited from other countries to spy for the United States being

captured or killed."

The message was sent in an unusual top secret cable and said that "the CIA's counterintelligence mission center had looked at dozens of cases in the last several years involving foreign informants who had been killed, arrested or most likely compromised."

The cable also highlighted "the struggle the spy agency is having as it works to recruit spies around the world in difficult operating environments."

In recent years, adversarial intelligence services in countries such as Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan have been hunting down the CIA's sources and in some cases turning them into double agents," the NYT report said on Tuesday.

The report also said that sometimes, informants who are

discovered by adversarial intelligence services are not arrested, "but instead are turned into double agents who feed disinformation to the CIA, which can have devastating effects on intelligence collection and analysis. Pakistanis have been particularly effective in this sphere," the report quoted former officials as saying.

"The collapse of the American-backed government in Afghanistan means that learning more about Pakistan's ties to the Taliban government and extremist organisations in the region is going to become ever more important. As a result, the pressure is once again on the CIA to build and maintain networks of informants in Pakistan, a country with a record of discovering and breaking those networks," the NYT report said.

## Russia To Invite Taliban To Oct. 20 Int'l Talks In Moscow

Agencies

Moscow: Russia will invite the Taliban to international talks on Afghanistan scheduled for October 20 in Moscow, the Kremlin's envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, said Thursday.

In response to a question from Russian journalists on whether representatives of the headline group would be invited to negotiations involving China, India, Iran and Pakistan, Kabulov said: "Yes".

The talks will follow a G20 summit on Afghanistan on October 12 that will seek to help the country avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the Taliban takeover.

Kabulov was also asked whether Russia would deliver aid to Afghanistan, where the humanitarian crisis is growing worse, a top UN official warned Wednesday.

Russia would do, but the details were still being decided, Kabulov said.

"This is being worked out," he told journalists, saying "cargo" was being collected.

Moscow has moved to engage with the Taliban but stopped short of recognition of the group, which is banned as a terrorist organisation in Russia.

On Monday, Kabulov said Moscow would not "exclude" revising the UN sanctions regime against the Taliban.

"But at this stage we believe it is not expedient to rush," he said.

Russia has warned about members of extremist groups exploiting political turmoil in Afghanistan to cross into neighbouring countries as refugees.

Afghanistan shares a border with ex-Soviet Tajikistan where Russia maintains a key military base.

## Iran FM Offers Full Support to Sanctions Hit Lebanon

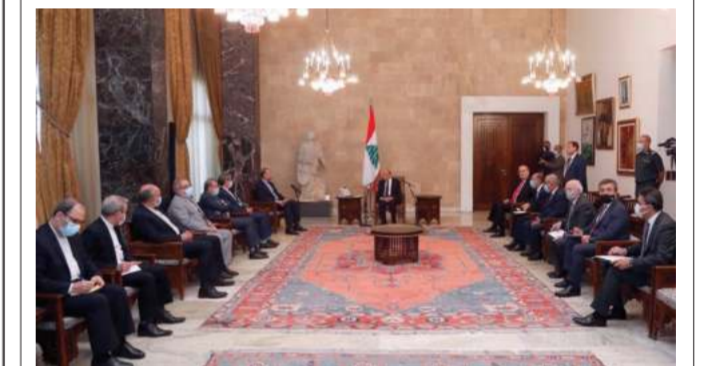
Agencies

Tehran: Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reaffirmed Iran's strong support for Lebanon, a sanctions-hit nation battered by an economic crisis, saying the Islamic Republic is ready to play an active role in promoting the Arab country's development projects.

During a trip to Beirut, Amir-Abdollahian held separate meetings with Lebanon's high-ranking officials, including President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. He is also scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Najib Mikati later in the day.

During talks with Aoun, the two sides exchanged views about mutual relations and the latest developments in the region.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran is ready to play an active role in development plans in Lebanon, particularly in power



plant projects, given the country's technical and engineering capabilities,

Aoun, for his part, said the Lebanese people and officials regard Iran as a friendly country and commended the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for his country.

The Lebanese president highlighted the significance of the ongoing negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying Beirut is pleased with Tehran's close ties with regional states which would help promote peace in the region.

Iraq has hosted several rounds of direct talks between Iranian and Saudi delegations since April with the aim of reviving relations severed five years ago over a host of issues.

Lebanon's al-Manar television network quoted the Lebanese president as saying that his country supports Iran's efforts to enhance rapprochement among countries in the region, especially relations with Arab states, through dialogue.

"Such dialog can bring the views on the disputed issues closer," Aoun said. He hailed the measures Iran has taken to help Lebanon overcome the crises it is facing and its assistance after the devastating port explosion that claimed more than 200 lives in Lebanon's capital Beirut last year.

Amir-Abdollahian also reiterated Iran's keenness to stand by Lebanon and conveyed Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi's greetings to his Lebanese counterpart.

He reiterated Tehran's steadfast support for Lebanon and its readiness to provide Beirut with full support in the areas it requires, especially in the difficult economic conditions it is going through.

The top Iranian diplomat briefed the Lebanese president on his country's position on regional and international developments, ways to improve the ongoing negotiations between Tehran and a number of Arab countries, and the Vienna talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

NEWS MAKERS

## You've Been Hacked: How Dubai Ruler Eavesdropped On Ex-Wife

London: Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum ordered the phones of his ex-wife and her lawyers to be hacked as part of a "sustained campaign of intimidation and threat" during the custody battle over their children, England's High Court has ruled.

Mohammed used the sophisticated "Pegasus" software, developed by Israeli firm NSO for states to counter national security risks, to hack the phones of Princess Haya bint al-Hussein, half-sister of Jordan's King Abdullah, and some of those closely connected to her, according to the rulings.

Those working for him also tried to buy a mansion next door to Haya's estate near the British capital, intimidating action that the court ruled had left her feel-

ing hunted, unsafe and like she "cannot breathe anymore".

The latest rulings come 19 months after the court concluded that Mohammed had abducted two of his daughters, mistreated them and held them against their will.

"The findings represent a total abuse of trust, and indeed an abuse of power to a significant extent," Judge Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division in England and Wales, said in his ruling.

"The sheikh rejected the court's conclusions, saying they were based on an incomplete picture.

"I have always denied the allegations made against me and I continue to do so," he said in a statement.

"In addition, the findings were based on evidence that was not disclosed to me or my advisers. I therefore maintain that they were made in a manner



which was unfair." Mohammed, 72, and Haya, 47, have been involved in a long, bitter and expensive custody battle since she fled to Britain with their two children, Jalila, 13, and Zayed, 9. She said she feared for her safety amid suspicions that she had had an affair with one of

her British bodyguards.

Among those targeted by the hacking was Haya's lawyer Fiona Shackleton, a member of Britain's House of Lords who represented British heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles in his divorce from his late first wife Princess Diana.

The activity came to light in August last year after Shackleton was urgently tipped off by Cherie Blair, the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, that she and Haya had been hacked, the court was told.

Blair is also a prominent lawyer who worked as an external adviser for NSO.

At the same time a cyber expert from the University of Toronto's internet watchdog Citizen Lab, which researches digital surveillance, also alerted Haya's lawyers after tracking the hacking, the court heard.

## 100-Year-Old Concentration Camp Guard Put On Trial In Germany For Nazi Crimes

Brandenburg an der Havel, Germany: A 100-year-old former concentration camp guard became the oldest person yet to be tried for Nazi-era crimes in Germany as he went before the court on Thursday charged with complicity in mass murder.

The suspect, Josef Schuetz, stands accused of "knowingly and willingly" assisting in the murder of 3,518 prisoners at the Sachsenhausen camp in Oranienburg, north of Berlin, between 1942 and 1945.

Allegations against him include aiding and abetting the "execution by firing squad of Soviet prisoners of war in 1942" and the murder of prisoners "using the poisonous gas Zyklon B".

More than seven decades after World War II, German prosecutors are racing to bring the



last surviving Nazi perpetrators to justice, and have in recent years increasingly focused attention on lower-ranking Nazi staff.

The case comes a week after a 96-year-old German woman, who was a secretary in a Nazi death camp, dramatically fled before the start of her trial, but was caught several hours later.

She, too, has been charged with complicity in murder. Her

trial resumes on October 19.

Despite his advanced age, a medical assessment in August found that Schuetz was fit to stand trial, although the Neurupin court will limit his hearings to a couple of hours a day.

Schuetz arrived with a walking aid for the proceedings, held in a sports hall given the huge interest in the case. The trial is scheduled to last until early January.

"He is not accused of having shot anyone in particular, but of having contributed to these acts through his work as a guard and of having been aware such killings were happening at the camp," a court spokeswoman said.

Thomas Walther, a lawyer representing several camp survivors and victims' relatives in the case, said that even 76 years on from the war, such trials were necessary.

# 40 Structures Damaged In Parimpora Blaze



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** At least forty structures, many of which were mainly built of wood, were damaged in a massive blaze that broke in Parimpora area in the city outskirts on Thursday afternoon.

A Fire and Emergency official told a news agency, that there were many wooden structures and some single storeyed houses in the area which got damaged in the fire mishap at Parimpora. The colony is highly congested which led to the fire to spread to other structures, the official said.

"Around sixteen fire tenders were pressed into services to bring the fire under control

**PRIMARILY AROUND FORTY** structures received damage in the incident, the official said, adding that the actual cause of fire could not be immediately ascertained; however, it is believed that the mishap was caused by an electric short circuit."

however the rescue operation was however hampered to a greater extent due to the unruly crowd gathered at the site, the official said adding some miscreants attacked the personnel with bricks during which few of the colleagues sustained injuries."

"Primarily around forty structures received damage in the incident, the official said, adding that the actual cause of fire could not be immediately ascertained; however, it is believed that the mishap was caused by an electric short circuit."

Multiple LPG cylinders blasts were also heard which aggravated the fire intensity, the official further said. (GNS)

# 'Massive' Dal Cleaning Operation Launched By Admin

NGOs, Civil Defence, Volunteers Joined

KO NEW SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Under the supervision of J&K LAWDA for de-weeding and solid waste management extraction, several organizations including SDRF, NDRF, house boat owners association, shikara association, NGO's on Thursday actively participated in cleaning operation of Dal Lake.

The cleaning operation is being carried out under the Swachhta Pakhwada programme launched on October 02 by the Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha from SKICC.

On Thursday, the cleaning process launched by LAWDA under "SwachhtaPakhwada" that commenced on 2nd October 2021, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign, the DDC Vice Chairman, Bilal Ahmad Bhat participated in de-weeding process.

The DDC, Vice Chairman also inspected the lily extraction ac-



tivity which is being done on a large scale by LAWDA. Besides, he also participated in the de-weeding process. He was accompanied by Executive Engineer Muhammad Ashraf Baba and officials of LAWDA. The volunteers from the home guard also participated today in the de-weeding process in Dal Lake. Various dignitaries have so far participated in the de-weeding process in Dal Lake in which LAWDA in collaboration with other organizations started de-weeding of Dal Lake on a

massive scale. Meanwhile, Vice Chairman LAWDA Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat urged the houseboat owners to clean the areas around the houseboats by de-weeding and collection of solid waste so as to keep the area clean in order to attract more tourists.

He also sought cooperation of all stakeholders for participation in cleaning of Dal Lake to upkeep the aesthetics of the lake.

The cleaning drive as per the officials shall continue for fifteen days.

# Admin Launches Anti-Encroachment Drive At Noorbagh



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** To ensure timely completion of Noor Jehan Bridge at Noorbagh Qamarwari over River Jehlum, a team of District Administration Srinagar today launched a massive anti encroachment drive here today.

The anti encroachment drive was launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

The special anti encroachment squad headed by Tehsil-dar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan demolished as many as 15 illegally constructed shops. These illegally constructed shops were a major bottleneck hindering the completion of the Bridge.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has stated that demolition drive will continue with more vigour in other areas also hindering developmental works in the district.

The DC said by the completion of Noor Jehan Bridge people of adjoining areas will be benefited besides improvement in regulation of Traffic in the area.

The DC has instructed the concerned executing agency to work in double shifts and ensure the Bridge is made operational for Traffic within the set timeline.

# Dr A G Ahangar To Retire On December 31 This Year: Govt

Online Application Process To Apply For Director SKIMS Post Ends Today

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government in an order said that Director SKIMS and ex-officio Secretary to government, Dr A G Ahangar will retire on December 31, 2021, who has been given an extension of 6th months earlier.

"It is hereby notified that Dr. A. G. Ahangar, Director, SKIMS & Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government, shall retire in the afternoon of 31.12.2021," read a government order, a copy of which lies with the news agency.

The government had extended the term of Dr Ahangar till December 31 this year "in view of the situation arising due to COVID-19 in June this year.

Pertinently, the government had already started the process of appointing new director SKIMS.

As per sources Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS, Dr Omar Javid Shah, Dr Salim Wani from Department of Urology are among the top contenders for the post.

Pertinently, Dr A G Ahangar whose term was extended for a period of six months in June had joined as direc-

tor in July 2016, however, he was removed in January 2018 but he got the top position again in September 2019 after court directions.

Ahangar was supposed to retire in June this year, however, he has now got an extension for a period of six months.

Notably, several doctors and HOD's had written to the government seeking immediate advertisement of the post of the director after reports were pouring in that Ahangar might get extension, however, in the same period around 46 doctors had demanded continuation in favour of Ahangar citing Covid-19 situation.

Applications for appointment of new director were sought from Indian Nationals and applicants were asked to submit forms online from 8th September.

Additional Director Administration SKIMS Riyaz Ahmad wani told KNO that today at 12 am the portal of submitting application forms for the post of Director SKIMS will be closed.

He, however, said that they don't have any information who and how many people have submitted forms for this post—(KNO)

# One Day Workshop On Forests, Biodiversity And Climate Change Inaugurates At SKICC



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Shri Bhupender Yadav on Thursday inaugurated a one day workshop on Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change-'Sharing Knowledge and Actions' at SKICC here.

Speaking during the inaugural session of the workshop, Shri Yadav said that biodiversity will be conserved only when we strengthen the local community. He added that conservation of forests and local community are deeply interconnected and therefore it is important to strengthen the local community for conservation of biodiversity.

The Union Minister said that the PRI institutions and other local community representatives should be involved in their respective areas for preservation of biodiversity.

The Minister appreciated the role of Forest and sister Departments and advised them to involve the last person in delivering mechanism so that the participation of the most deprived is ensured for the success of biodiversity conservation. He lauded the efforts of the Forest Department for constituting the

Biodiversity Management Committees and linking them with the Village Panchayats.

The Minister further said that MoEF&CC is working on getting the international recognition for 14 Tiger Reserves and sacrifices of Forest personnel in conservation of tiger shall also be recognized. He also lauded the efforts of Forest Department for taking initiatives towards strengthening the frontline forest force, and also appreciated the film "Jungle Ke Rakhwale" focusing on their sacrifices.

While referring to the workshop on Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change, Shri Yadav highlighted the achievements of India towards meeting her Nationally Determined Contributions, achievements in International Solar Alliance as well as in renewable energy. He also highlighted the National Hydrogen Mission launched by Hon'ble PM for substantially increasing the scope of alternative energy. He advised distinguished delegates of the workshop, experts as well as participants from research institutes and the field to work towards innovative solutions so that the balance between development and conservation is always maintained.

# Soldier Detained At Airport After Live Round Recovered From His Baggage

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier was detained at the Srinagar International Airport on Thursday after airport security recovered a live round from his baggage.

Official sources told the news agency that during screening at the drop gate of the Srinagar International Airport, one live round of INSAS rifle was recovered from the baggage of a soldier, who was immediately detained for questioning.

"The soldier has been identified as HC Sham Lal Son of Channi Lal, resident of Akhnoor, Jammu who is currently posted at 79 Brigade Baramulla," officials said.

A police official said that the trooper has been handed over to police post Humhama and further investigation has been launched in this regard. **Agencies**

# Truck Operators Stage Protest, Demands To Stop Unnecessary Charges

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir truck operators' welfare union held a protest at press colony Srinagar, demanding to stop loading and unloading charges from truck owners or drivers.

Talking with the news agency, the truck operators said "Loading/unloading charges throughout the country has been stopped but unfortunately in Jammu and Kashmir it has not been implemented yet." Protesters said that the fuel prices are already on peak and they can't afford loading/unloading charges on top of it.

"We all transporters park our trucks at home, if our demands will not be fulfilled," the protesters said—(KNO)

# Over 160 NIT Students Got Job Offers During 2021-22: Varsity

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Over 160 students of the National Institute of Srinagar (NIT) got job offers from 35 companies in the campus placement season of 2021-22, with an annual CTC (cost to the company) package of a minimum of 8.5 lac rupees per annum, officials said.

In a statement, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal extended his greetings to the students and stated that the institute is committed to serving society in all spheres.

"Despite covid19, the placements at the campus were done on a priority basis. Training and Placement Department played a vital role in placements during this session and also prepared students to get placed reputed companies," he said.

Prof. Sehgal said campus placements provide students best opportunities, enabling them to start off their careers right after they had completed their course curriculum. NIT Srinagar will continue to get its students placed in well-reputed institutions across the globe, he said.

In his message, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari stated that despite Covid19 challenges, more than 410 students have been placed in the past 1 and half years and it is a welcome step. "NIT Srinagar will continue with an online placement season with more companies so that more students will be



**DESPITE COVID19, THE PLACEMENTS** at the campus were done on a priority basis. Training and Placement Department played a vital role in placements during this session and also prepared students to get placed reputed companies,"

placed during the prevailing campus drives," he said.

Head Training and Placement Officer and Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar said so far 160 students from NIT Srinagar have been placed from the present 7th-semester batch and still recruitment is going on.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic played spoilsport in the campus recruitment process last year after which most NIT's chose to conduct the placement process online.

"Our department started in the mid of July 2021 and during the placement drive, 35 companies held virtual interviews with the students, and 160 students were placed so far with an annual CTC of 8.5 LPA. Still, placements are going for this batch on the campus," Dr. Obbu Chandra said.

He said apart from these placements, in higher education of July passed out batch, around 50 students have joined for M.Tech, M. Sc, Ph.D. in reputed intuitions in India and abroad for higher studies.

Dr. Obbu Chandra informed that in 2020-21 sessions' July pass out batch, despite Covid19 more than 250 students were placed and over 135 companies conducted the interviews in virtual mode.

"Last year NIT Srinagar senate had approved six months internship and more than 45 students have utilized these opportunities. In the 8th semester, students are going for the internship program and during the same, they are getting salaries and later they get also recruited by PPO (Pre Placement Offers) the same companies, he said.

## 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- (Closed)

## This Day in History

- 1929 - Mohammed Nadir Khan occupies Kabul Afghanistan and drives out Habibullah Ghazi
- 1932 - The Indian Air Force is established.
- 1940 - German troops occupies Romania
- 1945 - US President Harry Truman announced atomic bomb secret shared with Britain and Canada
- 1945 - Microwave oven patented
- 1946 - Military plane crashes at Christian HBS, 24 die
- 1952 - Chinese offensive in Korea
- 1957 - Turkish & Syrian border guards exchange fire
- 1963 - Sultan of Zanzibar cedes his mainland possessions to Kenya
- 1967 - Guerrilla leader Che Guevara and his men are captured in Bolivia.
- 1970 - Soviet author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1970 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) propose that a system of Proportional Representation (PR) should be used in elections in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - OPEC meets with oil companies to discuss revision of 1971 Tehran agreement and oil prices; negotiations fail.
- 1993 - UN lifts remaining economic sanctions against South Africa
- 1998 - US House of Representatives votes to begin impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton on charges of lying about his affair with Monica Lewinsky
- 1998 - José Saramago is the first person from Portugal to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 2003 - Peter Agre and Roderick MacKinnon win the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discoveries concerning channels in cell membranes
- 2008 - Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology awarded jointly to Harald zur Hausen (cause of cervical cancer) and Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Luc Montagnier (discovery of HIV)
- 2012 - Hugo Chávez is re-elected as president of Venezuela for a fourth term
- 2016 - 140 people are killed in an air strike during a wake in Sanaa, Yemen



HIJRI CALENDAR

01

RABI-UL-AWWAL

1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 06

ZUHR 12: 19

ASR 4:29

MAGRIB 6:12

ISHA 7:31

## From KO Archives

# Berwah 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 siege to the police station at Berwah 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 or police, visited the police station this morning, primarily to mollify the visibly agitated police officials. They assured them of investigation into the matter and 'appropriate action' against those responsible.

Reports said the RR action has generated fear not only among the police and security forces, but among the local people as well. Residents told 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, October 08, 2000)

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K O V I E W

## Civilian Killings

Suddenly it seems yesterday once more in Kashmir. Killings of around six civilians, including that of the prominent chemist Makhan Lal Bindroo, in just 48 hours have put the situation back on edge. The air is again thick with the mounting uncertainty. The prospect for the weeks and months ahead again appears grim. The killing of Bindroo has particularly shaken Kashmir. He was not only popular but also respected across the Valley. His pharmacy was the go-to address for anyone looking for quality medicine. People visited the shop from far and wide. There was a relationship of trust that had been built over the decades and which transcended religion and the Valley's toxic politics. Bindroo had chosen to stay back in the Valley while almost all his community had fled in the early nineties. He was unfazed by the runaway conflict swirling around him. Bindroo ran his pharmacy smoothly during the most turbulent phases of the ongoing turmoil. He didn't need to fear anyone as he was the most apolitical person, devoted entirely to his business and to serving the ailing of the Valley. He loved Kashmir and his fellow Kashmiris and the people, in turn, loved him. But, in the end, the grinding conflict also consumed him and along with him five more civilians.

As has been the case in the last 30 years, the situation in Kashmir can take nasty, unpredictable turns and defy control. And that these killings are taking place at a time when there has been unprecedented security domination testifies to this fact. In Kashmir, it is the exception that passes off as normal. The reaction to these killings has been predictable. There have been routine condemnations. The sections of media have either played the killings up or ignored them. There has again been an attempt to deflect the attention from the real issue.

More tragically, the killings in Kashmir mean little beyond the Valley. Let alone in the rest of India where sections of media use killings in Kashmir to build their TRPs, even around the world. The administration also has its share of blame. Its exclusively law and order approach over the last some years has only created a spurious sense of normalcy. The simmering subterranean resentment is not only not being addressed but also not acknowledged. Let alone dialogue or a political engagement, even the leadership has largely been absent. If a turnaround is to be expected, the government needs to move beyond the security paradigm which has done little to stop the cycle of death and destruction. It is time that the government changes the tack and, for once, tries to reach out to alienated people in the Valley.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

## Objection

When the Supreme Court questions the continuing farmers' protests against the Centre's farm laws on grounds that the matter is sub judice, when it asks if the right to protest is an absolute right, it lets down the farmers, the citizenry and, also, itself. It is true that the right to protest is not a separate right in the Indian Constitution. And yet, it is there, shining through, clearly and unmistakably. It is implicit in Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees the freedom of speech and expression, and in Article 19(1)(b), the right to assemble peacefully. It is integral to the right to protection of life and personal liberty enshrined in Article 21. Surely, the court's argument cannot be that once a dispute enters its domain, there is a gag order on it. By that logic, the public sphere will fall silent and lifeless. The right to protest is not just necessary in and of itself — it is also inalienable from the articulation and assertion of other rights and freedoms. Of course, it is also true that all rights are subject to reasonable restrictions. But for the apex court to question if the right to protest is "absolute" in the context of the farmers' protest, even as the state puts hurdles in its path or seeks to delegitimise it, is ill-judged. Coming in the immediate aftermath of the incident in Lakhimpur Kheri where a minister's convoy ran over protesting farmers, killing four of them, and setting off retaliatory violence that killed four more, the court's intervention is insensitive — and deeply disturbing.

For, it seems not just to pass too lightly over Articles 19 and 21, it appears to see them in conflict with Article 32, the right to constitutional remedy. Protest, dialogue and debate, challenge before courts — these are not at odds or mutually exclusive. Taken together, they help to secure the citizen against an arbitrary or transgressing state. By framing the choice as one between the court and the road, the SC bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar takes a very constricted view of the rich and layered spaces that the Constitution affords to every citizen. The SC bench also goes against the apex court's own expansiveness in upholding and expanding citizens' liberties in the past. In Ram Lila Maidan Incident vs Home Secretary, Union of India and Others, 2012, the court had said: "The people... have a right to raise their voice against the decisions and actions of the government or even to express their resentment over the actions of the government... The government has to respect and in fact encourage exercise of such rights."

In the matter of the farmers' agitation, the court has stepped in before — in January, it constituted a committee, while suspending implementation of the farm laws. The committee submitted a report, but the SC has yet to take cognisance of it. Several other crucial issues — from the constitutionality of electoral bonds to the abrogation of Article 370 — are still waiting for their day in court. It cannot be the court's argument, can it, that plaintiffs and defendants in courtrooms across the country should give up their constitutional right to speak out? The right to protest in and on Lakhimpur Kheri needs to be protected, the legal quibble can come later.

The Indian Express

# A Promethean Moment

## The Farmers' Agitation Challenges Theoretical Wisdom



FARM LEADERS AND FARMERS STAGE A PROTEST over violence in Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday, in Patiala, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021. PTI

Prabhat Patnaik

### HOW IS IT THAT A CLASS OFTEN

dismissed as embodying the "idiocy of rural life" suddenly finds itself ahead of more 'progressive' social classes in defending democracy and constitutional values? A part of the answer lies no doubt in the changed circumstances in which this class finds itself. In the era of monopoly capitalism, there is an assault by monopoly capital on petty production, including peasant agriculture, so that the peasants have to fight not just landlordism as before but also the monopoly capitalists, the most 'advanced' section of society

Real life has a way of surprising theory. One of the most intensely discussed theoretical questions on the Left has been how to bring agricultural labourers and peasants, including well-to-do peasants, together in a common struggle against landlord domination in India's countryside. Numerous Marxist gatherings have for years discussed the contradiction between peasants and labourers holding up a decisive resolution of the contradiction between the landlords and the rest of the village. Whenever Left peasant organizations have participated in joint struggles with other, non-Left, peasant organizations, they have insisted on incorporating some demands of agricultural labourers to bring the latter into the fold; but it has not worked.

The contradiction between peasants and labourers is not just economic — with the labourers' desire for higher wages directly affecting the peasantry — it also has a caste dimension. The labourers belong mainly, though not exclusively, to the Dalit castes, while the peasants are typically non-Dalit; in fact, over large swathes of India, especially the North, Dalits were traditionally not allowed to own any land.

In the surroundings of Delhi, this contradiction took the form of an acute Jat-Dalit contradiction. In fact, a village called Kanjhawala near Delhi had witnessed in the 1970s a prolonged face-off between the Jat peasantry and the Dalit agricultural labourers organized by the Communist Party of India over wage demands. This confrontation had been an object lesson on the problems confronting the Indian revolution.

The current struggle of the peasants against the three farm laws enacted by the Narendra Modi government, however, has done the seemingly impossible; it has brought together peasants and agricultural labourers on a common platform. In fact, the organizers of the kisan mahapanchayat held in Muzaffarnagar on September 5 claimed with pride that the attendance at the venue showed the agitation enjoying the support of 'all classes', 'all castes' and 'all religions'. The Bharat Bandh on September 27 received support from the Bahujan Samaj Party despite that party's going-it-alone proclivity which indicates massive churning at the ground level. This churning is not confined only to relations be-

tween peasants and labourers, or Jats and Dalits. It is visible in at least two other ways. One is the mass participation of women in the struggle. Jat peasant women, though proverbially feisty individually, are also, traditionally, victims of patriarchal attitudes; their participating on a large-scale in mass gatherings and mass meetings constitutes a novel and unprecedented phenomenon.

The other is the relation between Jats and Muslims of the region. This had been relatively cordial in the past, but had soured allegedly at the behest of the current ruling party in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in 2014. A mahapanchayat had been held in Muzaffarnagar in August 2013 over some communal incident that had an unfortunate fallout in the form of large-scale riots. This polarized the population along communal lines and not only made the Bharatiya Janata Party the single largest party but also gave it an absolute majority. The peasant struggle has brought the two communities together, each promising not to repeat the mistake of the last seven years.

Quite apart from its effect on caste, community and gender relations, the peasant struggle has been remarkable for lending support to a range of pressing democratic issues not directly connected with the peasants' own demands. Thus, opposing the government's proposed 'monetization' drive, the privatization of public sector assets, the attack on civil liberties, the use of State agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation to intimidate opponents and critics and the continued incarceration without trial of a large number of people, including the Bhima-Koregaon accused, the kisan movement has broken completely new ground. No kisan struggle in the past had been as comprehensive as the current one as regards to the democratic issues it has taken up for the country as a whole.

This sort of Promethean role, according to Marxist theory, is supposed to be played by the working class, with the peasantry remaining, at best, an ally of the workers, but never by the peasantry on its own. It is often argued that when the peasantry leads the anti-colonial struggle, it lacks any clear idea of the society that should be built after the end of colonial rule; but here we have the peasantry defending secu-

larism, democracy and the Constitution against attempts to subvert them. In these attempts, segments of the urban middle class, whom John Maynard Keynes had called the "educated bourgeoisie" and placed great faith in as the element that would make the State an embodiment of reason, are ironically complicit.

How is it that a class often dismissed as embodying the "idiocy of rural life" suddenly finds itself ahead of more 'progressive' social classes in defending democracy and constitutional values? A part of the answer lies no doubt in the changed circumstances in which this class finds itself. In the era of monopoly capitalism, there is an assault by monopoly capital on petty production, including peasant agriculture, so that the peasants have to fight not just landlordism as before but also the monopoly capitalists, the most 'advanced' section of society.

In India, this exposure of peasant agriculture to encroachment by monopoly capital acquired momentum with the introduction of neoliberal policies. Earlier, under the dirigiste regime, the State had protected peasant agriculture from encroachment by monopoly capital. But this protection ended with neoliberalism: agricultural input subsidies were cut, price support withdrawn on cash crops, and institutional credit denied. The consequent decline in profitability and growth of indebtedness drove lakhs of peasants to suicide.

Whatever residual protection is still offered by the State, through price-support for foodgrains, is now being denied through the three farm laws. The peasants are forced to rise above themselves to fight their new, 'sophisticated' enemy, consisting of domestic monopolists and international agri-business.

The other part of the answer lies in the struggle itself, which revolutionizes peasants' attitudes, getting rid of old casteist, communal and patriarchal prejudices. And what a struggle it has been!

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

The author is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. The article was originally published by Telegraph India



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## Horrors In The Ways Of Women Commuters In Kashmir

I'm writing this with profound grief, but it was very important to put this issue in public domain, again. The most common issue "Sexual Harassment".

Not that we are not aware of this already but we have normalized this issue like it doesn't exist.

I am a local transport commuter and to be honest I experience a lot of sexual harassment in its diverse forms, just like all other girls do. But today when I left for

the office in the morning, I was waiting at the stop for the transport when a very traumatic incident happened.

While standing there, other than unnecessary honking and gazing that were making me uncomfortable, I saw an altogether different side of that man who initially honked to an extent where he made it noticeable for me to look up at him. The guy had the audacity to stop his car in front of my feet, rub off his fogged window and invited

me into his car while smirking at my miserable startled self. I got numb, couldn't even move my body to run, or even confront the man for his sheer shamelessness. Somehow I mugged up my courage and went past him. It was only after I boarded a vehicle that I could understand what had happened and an unmatchable anger rushed in my blood. But all I could do was convert every ounce of that anger into a tear.

People might say that my crying

showed my cowardliness or weakness but the truth is that I didn't cry for only this incident but for all other such incidents I experience on an everyday basis or other girls do, irrespective of their age, religion, clothing etc.

Being a girl was not made difficult by the Creator, but we humans have constructed a society where it becomes difficult for her to exist.

Samina Rehman

## Mindful Fridays

# Leading Life With Learning Disabilities

Despite Having A Healthy Home Atmosphere, Availability Of Competitive Teachers And Student Friendly Curriculum, If Your Child Still Has Issues With Learning In At Least One Subject, Then You Need To Get Your Child Assessed For The Presence Of A Learning Disability

Wasim Kakroo

In the wildly popular movie, Taare Zameen Par (2007), the child protagonist Ishaan Awasthi's struggle with dyslexia is captured with precision. We may have snippets from the movie still etched in our memory even now with visual recollections of his struggle with "d" and "b" and his encounter with reading disabilities in a conventional school setup. While movies may fall short of actually capturing issues in totality, they're often good wakeup calls for the general population which may have otherwise been in denial about certain childhood issues.

Learning disabilities is one such disorder that needs parents and society to stay vigilant and prepared to tackle it.

A learning disability is a neurological disorder that impairs the ability of the brain to send, receive, and process information. A young child with a learning disability may struggle with reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehending mathematical concepts, and general comprehension. Dyslexia, dyspraxia (inability to read), dysgraphia (inability to write) and dyscalculia (inability to calculate) are all examples of learning disabilities. Each of these conditions can coexist with another. Learning disabilities are not caused by physical or mental disease, economic circumstance, or cultural background; the presence of such conditions also does not suggest that the child is weak or lazy.

"A specific learning disability is defined as a disorder in one or more of the underlying psychological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language, which may present itself as an imperfect capacity to listen, talk, read, spell, or perform mathematical calculations."

### What learning disabilities are not?

Some children are slow learners at first, but they gradually learn and can deal with the issues in their studies and other activities. Some children may not be interested in certain sorts of learning (for example, learning a new language, a specialised activity or skill, or an academic subject), or in sports or other outside activities. These characteristics reflect the child's interests and do not indicate a learning disability.

### What factors contribute to learning disabilities?

According to experts, there is no single cause of learning disabilities. However, the following factors may contribute to a learning disability:

**HEREDITY:** It is noted that a child, whose parents have had a learning disability, is likely to inherit it from them.

**AT THIS LEVEL, THE CHILD MAY struggle with spelling similar words (e.g., sea/see, week/weak), use of prefixes and suffixes. The child may also avoid tasks involving reading aloud, writing activities, and math word problems. With respect to writing and handwriting a child may hold the pencil tightly. They will also struggle with memorizing or recalling information and interpreting body language and facial expressions**

**ILLNESS DURING AND AFTER BIRTH:** Learning disabilities may be caused by an illness or injury during or after birth. Other potential risk factors include drug or alcohol use by mother of such children during pregnancy, physical trauma, poor uterine growth, low birth weight, and early or prolonged labour.

**STRESS IN INFANCY:** A stressful event that occurs after delivery, such as a high fever, a head injury, or insufficient nourishment.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Increased contact with toxins such as lead (in paint, ceramics, toys, etc.)

**CO-MORBIDITY:** Children with learning disabilities are more prone than the general population to have attention problems or disruptive behavior disorders. E.g., up to 25% of children having a reading disorder also have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In contrast, it is estimated that between 15% and 30% of children diagnosed with ADHD have a learning disorder.

### What are the indications of learning disabilities?

The child is supposed to learn a certain set of basic cognition and motor skills during normal physiological development. Any major delay or gap in development may indicate the presence of learning disability. Before diagnosing this mental health condition, a set of well-researched and verified assessments must be performed.

The symptoms of LD may differ slightly at each stage of childhood.

**PRESCHOOL:** The child may experience difficulties in some of these areas in preschool: Speaking skills at a normal age (15-18 months), when children's speech normally develops. Issue with simple word pronunciations, identifying letters and words, learning numbers, rhymes, or songs. They also struggle with keeping focus on tasks, observing rules and directions and performing physical tasks by using fine/gross motor abilities.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL:** At this level The child may have difficulty in connecting letters with sounds, differentiating between words that sound or rhyme similar and accurately reading, spelling, and writing. They may also have problems and confuse 25 with 52, "b" with "d," "on" with "no," and "s" with "5.". They will also struggle with recognizing alphabetical letters, using the proper mathematical symbols while solving math problems and memorizing numbers or facts. The child may be slower than other children his or her age when learning new skills, remembering poems or responses and understanding the concept of time. Hand-to-eye coordination, inability to judge distance or speed, resulting in accidents are some likely fallouts of learning disabilities. Tasks involving fine motor skills such as holding a pencil, tying a shoelace, buttoning a shirt, and so on are also likely outcomes. Additionally, they may also find it difficult to keep track of personal belongings such as stationery.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** At this level, the child may struggle with spelling similar words (e.g., sea/see, week/weak),

use of prefixes and suffixes. The child may also avoid tasks involving reading aloud, writing activities, and math word problems. With respect to writing and handwriting a child may hold the pencil tightly. They will also struggle with memorizing or recalling information and interpreting body language and facial expressions.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** At this stage, a child may struggle with correctly spelling words.

For instance, in a single writing assignment, the child may write the same word with different spellings. They will also have difficulty reading, writing assignments, summarizing, paraphrasing, and responding to application questions in tests and will often have memory lapses. It is often also difficult for them to get used to unfamiliar surroundings and comprehending abstract ideas. The child may also struggle to concentrate on some tasks while being hyperfocused on some other tasks.

While children with learning disabilities may struggle in some areas of learning, they often possess exceptional ability, skill, and talent in some other areas such as sketching, drawing, poem writing etc. We often concentrate on the issue and overlook the child's strengths or abilities. Parents and instructors must help children to recognize this latent potential in their children and encourage them to pursue it so that they have a solid foundation for their sense of self esteem and self worth.

### How can we know if a child has a learning disability?

Finding out if a child has a learning handicap is a complex task. The first step is to rule out any vision, hearing, or developmental problems that could mask a learning disability. Following the completion of these tests, a learning disability is diagnosed utilising psycho educational assessment, which involves academic success testing as well as an assessment of intellectual quotient (IQ). This test determines whether there is a large gap between a child's potential and IQ and academic attainment (school performance).

### Can undetected and untreated learning disability lead to abuse and bullying experiences at home and/or at school?

Students with LD are at risk of poor academic performance and failure due to their academic deficits and thus such children are very vulnerable to physical and emotional abuse by parents as well by teachers at school. They are also more likely to be bullied by their peers. Bullying can have both distinct and additive impacts, significantly increasing such children's likelihood of developing social and emotional issues.

### What interventions are available for people with learning disabilities?

A learning disability is incurable. Children with learning difficulties, however, can be successful in school if they receive timely intervention and assistance. Parents and teachers are often the first to discover that the child is struggling to read, write, or learn. If you suspect your child has a learning disability, get assistance from a mental health professional or other qualified specialists for the necessary intervention programme or therapy.

Early diagnosis can help the child to get the treatment or therapy he or she needs and benefit from it. Neglecting the condition may have an impact on the child's ability to cope with it and may impact their sense of self esteem and self confidence and they may remain behind in their studies despite having potential to excel.

If your child has a learning disability, they may benefit from:

- **Additional assistance:** A reading expert or another trained professional can teach your child ways to help him or her enhance his or her academic skills. Tutors can also educate such a child study and organizational skills.
- **Individualized Education Program (IEP):** Your child's school or a special educator may create an IEP that explains how he or she can learn best in school.
- **Psychotherapy:** Some children

may benefit from psychotherapy, depending on the type of learning disorder they have. Speech therapy, for example, can benefit children with language disabilities. Occupational therapy can assist a child to improve his or her motor skills which may lead to resolution of writing problems.

- **Alternative therapy:** Alternative therapies such as music, art, and dance, have been found to help children with learning disabilities.

gram (IEP) through which they develop strategies about how he or she can learn best in school.

- **Counselors:** They assist in understanding behaviour and checking for any behavioural issues as well as any problems that may arise due to a poor home or school environment, or any emotional problems that may be the cause of the child's poor academic performance.
- **Pediatrician/Pediatric Neurolo-**



Image Credits: iStock

**THEY ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO BE bullied by their peers. Bullying can have both distinct and additive impacts, significantly increasing such children's likelihood of developing social and emotional issues**

### What specialists should you consult for the treatment of learning disabilities?

A team of mental health specialists conducts a battery of tests to determine if your child has LD. The specialists listed below may collaborate to assist identify and treat a child's LD.

- **Clinical Psychologist:** Ideally, a psychologist with an expertise in education or an experience of working in a child and adolescent mental health facility. To evaluate whether the child's intellectual functioning is normal, the Clinical Psychologist administers particular intelligence tests (such as the Malin's Intelligence Scale for Indian Children (MISIC) test). This helps to rule out borderline cognitive functioning and mild mental retardation, both of which may impact academic achievement. They may also formulate a psychotherapeutic plan to address self esteem and self confidence issues as well as comorbid conditions such as anxiety, depression etc.
- **Special educator:** This mental health professional assesses the child's academic achievement by administering standard educational tests (Wide Range Achievement Test, Peabody Individual Achievement Test, Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement, Schannel Attainment Test, Curriculum Based Test) to assess performance in areas such as reading, spelling, written language, and mathematics. If a child's academic achievement is two years behind his or her actual school grade or chronological age, it may indicate the presence of a specific learning disability. They use Individualized Education Pro-

**gist:** The Paediatrician should inquire about the child's academic achievement and advise parents to get their child's psycho-educational assessment done, if they suspect a learning disability in their child. The paediatrician may also advise the parents and teacher on the importance of remedial education. A paediatric neurologist takes a full clinical history and performs a an in-depth physical examination to rule out medical conditions such as hypothyroidism and chronic lead poisoning, as well as neurological problems such as cerebral palsy, Wilson's disease, and ADHD.

- **Child Psychiatrist:** Checks whether there are symptoms of ADHD, which can coexist with any form of learning disability. The psychiatrist also looks for other mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression that could be causing low academic performance.

In conclusion, learning disability needs to be understood as a serious mental health issue that affects child and adolescent population and can cause severe deficits in the academic, social and emotional abilities of an affected child. Educationists, mental health professionals as well as policy makers need to join their hands to develop effective strategies to help such children realize their true potential so that they are able to live a respectful and successful life.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and is currently working as a child and adolescent mental health therapist at Child Guidance and Well-Being Centre at Institute of Mental Health And Neurosciences-Kashmir (IMHANS). Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com

## Govt Takes Note Of Breach Of Protocol Of Grassroots Representatives

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Taking note of the breach of protocol of grassroots public representatives continuously, administration on Thursday issued a circular ordering all the concerned officers/officials working in various Government departments to attend these representatives on priority in public offices with appropriate regard to their protocol.

A circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Thursday, reads, "Implementation of the 73d and 74th Constitutional amendment pertaining to Rural and Urban Local Governments and the consequent devolution of functions and activities to the elected representatives of public has made it imperative that these representatives are attended appropriately in all government offices with due protocol."

"It is accordingly, enjoined upon all the concerned officers/officials working in various Government departments of Jammu and Kashmir that these representatives be attended on priority in public offices with appropriate regard to their protocol," states the circular.

The circular further reads, "The officers and officials have been asked to ensure that they are invited to all official functions and meetings organized in their jurisdiction, where these representatives are stakeholders. They shall also be invited in the event of official visit of any dignitary in their jurisdiction."

"In this direction many departments have already issued a number of instructions/advisories, however, instances of breach of protocol of these public representatives are continuously being reported," reads the circular.

## Union Power Secretary On 2-Day Visit To Kishtwar Inspects Kwar, Keru, Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Projects

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**KISHTWAR:** Union Secretary, Ministry of Power, Alok Kumar, who is on two day visit to Kishtwar, Thursday inspected pace of progress on Kwar, Keru and Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Projects coming up in the district.

Union Secretary, who was accompanied by CMD NHPC, Abhay Kumar Singh, Union Joint Secretary Power, Vishal Kapoor and others, issued directions to the concerned for further accelerating the pace of progress on these prestigious power projects for timely completion.

During the inspection, Union secretary also took stock of progress on implementation of Area Development plan in the adjoining areas of these projects.

Union Secretary visited 624 MW run-of-the-river Kiru HEP at Kiru village of Block Nagensin and reviewed status of construction work on the power house.

During his visit to 540 MW Kwar HEP, Union Secretary was apprised

about the status of the project by GM Kwar, S P Puri. He directed the CVPP authorities to ensure completion of all ongoing works in a stipulated time ensuring strict adherence to all COVID-19 SOPs.

Union Secretary inspected 390 MW Dul-Hasti Dam site and reviewed generation capacity of power project besides assessing related aspects of the venture. He was also briefed about the power scenario in the district.

Managing Director, CVPP, Rajat Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar Sharma; ACR Kishtwar Akhter Hussain Qazi, Head of Project, Narendra Kumar and other senior officers of CVPP besides district administration were present on the occasion.

Highlighting hydro-electric power potential of Kishtwar, Union Secretary said that the district would soon be a hub of HEPs in the country and Center government is committed to tap this potential judiciously to utilize the needs of electricity in the UT of J&K in particular and the nation in general.

## Sadhvi Jyoti Concludes 2-Day Tour At Batote

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN:** The 2-day visit of Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Smt Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti concluded on Thursday here.

On the second day of her tour, the Minister visited Patnitop. She launched Swachhta Abhiyan at the lush green meadows of Patnitop organized by the District Administration Ramban in collaboration with Patnitop Development Authority (PDA).

Large number of delegations of hoteliers and youth also met with the Minister.

Reviewing the pace of progress on NH-44, the Minister directed to moot the proposal for proper linkage of link roads with National Highway. She was apprised by the Project Director NHAI about the pace of progress stretch-wise. She was informed

that a realignment project of Ramban-Banihal stretch with more tunnels and flyovers has been approved and the tendering process is in progress.

The Minister also launched "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" at Batote. Extending greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Navratri, the Minister prayed, "May Maa Durga showers her blessings on all of us and give us the strength to work for the welfare and prosperity of the nation and the people."

Responding to the demand with regard to construction of an additional tunnel from Kud to Tringla to ease the pressure on Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, the Minister said that the issue would be taken up with the concerned Ministry. She assured that AWAS plus portal would be reopened for the registration of left out beneficiaries for a short period. She also gave suggestions to give fillip to tourism in Patnitop.



## Union Minister For Minority Affairs Visits Budgam

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** "The aim and objective of our visits to UT of J&K is to shorten the gap between public and administration. This is not election season, but we are here and our visits are aimed to give new and revolutionary dimension to the progress and development of the UT.

These remarks were made by Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday during an interaction with DDC's, BDC's and other PRI representatives representing many adjacent areas of Doodhpathri.

Earlier, the Minister on reaching Doodhpathri inaugurated T20 Hotel cum Restaurant constructed at a cost of Rs 5.48 Crore. The Hotel has fully comfortable 20 rooms where tourists/guests visiting this place can enjoy their stay. The Minister inspected the facilities available in the T20 Hotel.

The Minister also visited many Bakhs/Kothas existing in the vicinity where seasonal migrants are presently living. On the occasion, the Minister had a small interaction with the local habitants who apprised him about some of the problems they are facing with

regard to power and drinking water supply, installation of mobile connectivity and establishment of health facilities.

The Minister during the visit also inaugurated parking facility recently completed by the concerned executing agency. With the availability of this facility, unprecedented traffic mess and congestion problems always occurring during peak season will get addressed.

During the interaction, the Minister patiently listened to all delegations/individuals who had assembled on the occasion in order to appraise him about various issues and grievances pertaining to their areas. They highlighted the demands including beautification of Doodhpathri and installation of communication towers.

Chairperson All India Muslim Waqf Board, Dr. Darakshan Andrabhi, DDC & BDC Members, DC Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, SSP Budgam Tahir Saleem, Mission Director ICDS Shabnum Shah Kamili, ADDC, ADC, GM DIC and other concerned district and sectoral Officers were also present on occasion.

The Minister on his return also paid a visit to high density apple orchard at Yakbugh Khansahib where large gathering of progressive farmers

and concerned Horticulture Department officials welcomed the Minister. The Minister inspected the stalls installed at the venue by many local apple and walnut growers, demonstrating and presenting the high quality produces.

"I am highly impressed the way farmers demonstrated hard work and sustained efforts they had put in envisaging this quality of produce that can compete in any international market and competition," the Minister said.

The Minister during proceedings distributed subsidy cheques and machinery tools including tractors, power tillers, weeders, walnut thrashing machines among beneficiaries.

On reaching back to Budgam Headquarter, the Minister laid foundation stone for construction of District Veterinary (sheep) Hospital at Budgam coming up at an estimated Cost of Rs 135.07 lakhs.

Later, the Minister presided over a meeting of officers convened by District Administration at Conference Hall Budgam. The Deputy Commissioner through power point presentation in detail put forth the developmental scenario of the district.

## MoS Steel Visits Jammu For Public Outreach Programme

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Union Minister for Steel Ramchandra Prasad Singh visited Akhnoor area of Jammu district on Thursday. The visit is a part of the public outreach initiative of the Central Government.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated three recently completed projects amounting to Rs 581.88 lakhs which include Water Supply Scheme at Sungal Palyari, Block Akhnoor; Additional Block at Government Degree College Akhnoor and Panchayat Ghar at Sungal Lower-C Block Akhnoor.

The Minister also distributed assistance under various schemes to different beneficiaries which included vehicles under MUMKIN, scooter and wheelchairs to specially abled persons and tractors among other forms of assistance.

Addressing a public meeting at Government Higher Secondary School, Akhnoor, the



Minister said that the outreach programme is result of the Prime Minister's concern for the people of J&K. He said that the Government is focussed on identifying the pulse of the public and therefore developing policies and schemes for bringing development to the doorstep of the general public at grass root level.

Lauding the people's enthusiasm for the 3-tier PRI System, the Minister said that only by strengthening grass root democracy, the democracy can be truly empowered

and a novel start has been initiated in J&K under the leadership of the Prime Minister. "We are working towards establishing peace and order in Jammu & Kashmir and only with durable peace, prosperity and progress shall prevail," the Minister said.

Earlier the minister inspected stalls set up by various departments as part of "Block Diwas" highlighting various schemes being implemented in the district and showcasing the local heritage of handicraft and handloom products.

## Union Minister For Social Justice & Empowerment Visits Samba

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SAMBA:** Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, on Thursday, visited district Samba and inaugurated a Rural Haat at Swankha Vijaypur. He also held interaction with delegations besides paying obeisance at Baba Chamliyal Shrine at Zero line border in Ramgarh of District Samba. The visit is as a part of the J&K outreach programme of Government of India.

Dr. Kumar, while inaugurating the Rural Haat in presence of Member Parliament Jugal Kishore, said the initiative of Rural Haat shall promote financial self reliance of rural population in the district by establishing a sustainable system of marketing of the local produce through rural markets.

Later, the Union Minister visited the Zero Line of Border tourist place Baba Chamliyal, a revered shrine of Dalip Manhas popularly

known as Baba Chamliyal.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with various delegations of local sarpanches, youth organizations, PRIs and Border Welfare Organization besides locals.

The Minister also interacted with District Administration Samba and exhorted to ensure 100% saturation of central sponsored schemes like Ayushman Bharat, PMAY, Jal Jeevan Missions, Scholarships and other social security schemes.

The Union Minister also visited forward posts and interacted with BSF troops stationed at the BOP Chamliyal.

The minister was accompanied by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Farooq Khan, Secretary Social Welfare Sheetal Nanda, DDC Chairman Keshav Dutt Sharma, DIG BSF Surjit Singh, Deputy Commissioner Samba Anuradha Gupta, Vice Chairperson DDC, and local BDC Chairperson besides other DDC members and district officers.

## Union MoS SY Naik On 2-Day Visit To Doda District



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**DODA:** As part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Programme, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, Waterways and Tourism Shripad Yesso Naik arrived at Baderwah of district Doda on Thursday for a two day visit. The visit is part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Programme.

During the first day of his visit, the Union Minister visited the Jai Valley where he interacted with representatives of various groups and listened to their issues.

The Union Minister administered Swachhta Pledge to the gathering, lead the cleanliness drive at the venue and also planted saplings of Chinar and Deodar. On way from Jai Valley to Baderwah, he also laid the foundation stone of Nagar Van forest enclosure at Sungli Baderwah.

While speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Central Government under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi is working tirelessly for the betterment of even the last person in the queue. He also said that collective efforts are imperative to achieve the idea of One Nation and India as a nation has all the capabilities to lead the world being the largest democratic setup at the global level.

He also said that after the abrogation of Article 370, the people of the UT are now receiving numerous benefits from various welfare schemes which were not given to them in the earlier set-up. He added that the Union Govern-

ment under PM Modi will leave no stone unturned to ensure the overall development of J&K.

With regard to the development of the tourism potential of the area, the Minister assured that under the various schemes, all the locations of the district especially of Baderwah area will be alleviated at par with the tourist locations of national repute so that unemployed youth shall be provided with the opportunities to earn their livelihood in dignified manner.

Earlier, DC Doda presented the welcome address in which he highlighted the tourism potential of the district especially of the Baderwah area.

The DDC Chairman Doda, representatives of PRI, BDC Chairperson, DDC members also spoke on the occasion and briefed about the issues and challenges of the area.

On arrival at Teligarh resort Baderwah the Union Minister also met with various deputations and listened to their demands. The Minister assured that the grievances and issues shall be forwarded to the concerned authorities and followed till they are resolved on merit.

Among others present during the program were DDC Chairperson Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal, Vice Chairperson DDC Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, Deputy Commissioner Doda Vikas Sharma, Director Tourism Jammu Vivekananda Rai, ADC Baderwah and ASP Baderwah, besides DDC members, BDC Chairperson and officers of civil and police administration.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Tral Accident: One Among Two Injured Youth Succumbs

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** One of the two persons injured in a collision between a bike and load carrier near Naibasti in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district succumbed to wounds on Thursday, officials said.

A police official told GNS Jasif Ahmad Beigh son of Bashir Ahmad Beigh, resident of Lurgam Tral, succumbed at a hospital.

He along with another person—Muneeb Muzaffar son of Muzaffar Ahmad Ganie of Lariyar Tral—were injured after a bike (JK01R 8397) and a load carrier collided at Hewa Ullar. They were immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital wherefrom both of them were referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

The police have already registered a case.

#### Mother-Daughter Die In Mysterious House Fire In Surankote

AGENCIES

**POONCH:** A 50-year-old woman and her 18-year-old daughter died when their house caught fire in Surankote area of Poonch district during intervening night of October 6 and 7, officials said.

They said the fire erupted around 0030 hours in a house of one Muzaffer Hussain Shah son of Sadiq Hussain Shah at Qazi Katha, Morah Bachai in Surankote. Shah's wife Sharifa Bi (50) and daughter Tahira Kouser (18) died on spot due to burn injuries, they said.

The blaze was later brought under control by fire tenders, they said. A police party reached the spot and have started investigations, they said. It has been learnt that the family has alleged that the fire was orchestrated. However, the officials said that investigations are underway as regards the reasons for the blaze.

SHO Surankote J S Sambyal while confirming the death of the mother-daughter duo, told GNS that an FIR has been lodged and investigation started.

#### Sharma Posted Secy GAD, Chib Director RD Jammu

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The government on Thursday ordered with immediate effect transfer of two JKAS officers in the interest of administration. According to an order issued here, Rahul Sharma, JKAS, Excise Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the General Administration Department.

Kishore Singh Chib, JKAS, Director, Rural Development, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Excise Commissioner, J&K.

#### ACC Approves Empanelment Of Rohit Kansal As AS At Centre

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the empanelment of senior IAS officer, Rohit Kansal for holding Additional Secretary (AS) level posts at the Centre. According to an order, the ACC has approved the empanelment of Kansal for holding additional secretary level post at the Centre.

#### Four Injured In Ganderbal Road Accident

AGENCIES

**GANDERBAL:** Four people including a girl sustained injuries after a personal vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Wayil village of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said on Thursday.

Officials told KNO that the incident happened when an Alto car bearing registration number JK16B 1916 skidded off the road and fell into a gorge, resulting in injuries to four people.

The officials said the injured were shifted to nearby hospital treatment where they were shifted to SKIMS Soura hospital for advance treatment. They identified the injured as Fayaz Ahmad Mochi son of Ghulam Mohammad Mochi, Farman Balti son of Mohd Hassan Balti, Umer Rashid Mir son of Abdul Rashid, Sheeba Shah daughter of Ghulam Ahmad Shah all the residents of Ganderbal. According to officials, the condition of one injured person (Umer Rashid Mir) is said to be critical.

#### 8 Tourists Injured In Accident On Tangmarg Road

AGENCIES

**BARAMULLA:** At least eight tourists were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in turned turtle on the Tangmarg-Gulmarg road in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Thursday evening. An official told news agency KNO that the vehicle was coming from Gulmarg to Srinagar when its driver lost control and fell into a Nallah, resulting in injuries to eight tourists.

#### Weapon Smuggling Bid Foiled In Samba: BSF

AGENCIES

**JAMMU:** Border Security Forces (BSF) on Thursday said that it has foiled a major weapon smuggling bid in Samba sector of Jammu and recovered a huge cache of arms. A BSF spokesman said that the BSF foiled a weapon smuggling attempt from across the International Border in Samba area and seized a big cache of arms and ammunition.



## Reliance Retail To Launch 7-Eleven Convenience Stores Across India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) on Thursday said it has entered into a Master Franchise agreement with 7-Eleven to run convenience stores in India.

The first 7-Eleven store is set to open on Saturday, in Andheri East, Mumbai, RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, said.

"RRVL, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, 7-India Convenience Retail Limited, has entered into a master franchise agreement with 7-Eleven, Inc (SEI) for the launch of 7-Eleven convenience stores in India," said a joint statement.

This will be followed by a rapid rollout in key neighbourhoods and commercial areas, across the Greater Mumbai cluster to start with, a Reliance statement said.

The development comes two days after Kishore Biyani-led Future Group firm Future Retail said that it has terminated its franchise agreement with the Dallas, US-based convenience stores operator brand 7-Eleven to operate the stores.

The Kishore-Biyani-led firm had entered into an agreement

with 7-Eleven for operating stores under the brand name in India on February 28, 2019.

With the launch of 7-Eleven stores, RRVL as the country's largest retailer takes a step further in its journey of offering a superior shopping experience and compelling value proposition for Indian customers.

"The 7-Eleven stores aim to provide shoppers with a unique style of convenience, offering a range of beverages, snacks and delicacies specifically curated to appeal to local tastes, along with refill of daily essentials, having affordability and hygiene at its very core," said RRVL.

A rapid expansion plan is on the anvil, and SEI will also support RRVL in implementing and localising the unique 7-Eleven convenience retail business model for India, including bringing best in class processes and practices.

Commenting on the development, RRVL Director Isha Ambani said: "At Reliance, we pride ourselves in offering the best to our customers and we are proud to bring 7-Eleven, the globally trusted convenience store, to India.

## Fitch Cuts India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast To 8.7%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Fitch Ratings has cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal but raised GDP growth projection for FY23 to 10 per cent, saying the second COVID-19 wave delayed rather than derail the economic recovery.

In its APAC Sovereign Credit Overview, Fitch Ratings said India's 'BBB-/Negative' sovereign rating "balances a still-strong medium-term growth outlook and external resilience from solid foreign-reserve buffers, against high public debt, a weak financial sector and some lagging structural factors".

The 'Negative' outlook, it said, reflects uncertainty over the debt trajectory following the sharp deterioration in India's public finances due to the pandemic shock.

Fitch said it has further lowered India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year ending March 2022 (FY22) to 8.7 per cent from 10 per cent in June as a result of the severe second virus wave.

It had in June cut the growth forecast from 12.8 per cent.

The projections for 2021-22 fiscal compares to a contraction of 7.3 per cent recorded in the last financial year and a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20.

"In our view, however, the impact of the second wave was to delay rather than derail India's economic recovery, reflected in an upward revision of our FY23 (April 2022-March 2023) GDP forecast to 10 per cent from 8.5 per cent in June," it said.

High-frequency indicators point to a strong rebound in the second quarter of the current fiscal (April 2021-March 2022), as business activity has again returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Fitch, however, saw a wider fiscal deficit.

"We forecast a 7.2 per cent of GDP (excluding disinvestment) central government deficit in FY



22," it said.

The government on June 28 this year announced a fiscal package worth about 2.7 per cent of GDP. Much of this consists of loan guarantees, with only 0.6 per cent of GDP in higher on budget spending.

"However, buoyant revenue performance largely offsets the higher spending and should help contain the fiscal deficit," it said.

"Wider fiscal deficits and government plans for only a gradual consolidation put greater onus on India's ability to return to high GDP growth over the medium term to lower the debt ratio."

Inflation has hovered around the upper end of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target inflation band of 2-6 per cent for the past several months, as commodity pressure raised prices.

The RBI has kept its repo rate at 4 per cent since March 2020, as it has focused on supporting the economy and regards the pressure as temporary.

"We expect inflation to moderate, which should allow the RBI to keep rates on hold until the next fiscal year," Fitch said.

Listing negative sensitivities, it said failure to reduce sufficiently the fiscal deficit to a level consistent with putting the general government debt/GDP ratio on a downward trajectory and a structurally weaker real GDP growth outlook due to continued financial sector weakness or reform

implementation that is lacking.

On the positive side, implementation of a credible medium-term fiscal strategy to bring general government debt down after the pandemic towards the levels of 'BBB' category peers.

Also, higher sustained investment and growth rates in the medium term without the creation of macroeconomic imbalances, such as from successful structural reform implementation and a healthier financial sector.

The RBI too in July cut India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal, from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier.

While S&P Global Ratings lowered its growth estimate to 9.5 per cent, another US-based rating agency Moody's has projected a 9.3 per cent growth in the current fiscal ending March 2022. For the 2021 calendar year, Moody's has cut the growth estimate sharply to 9.6 per cent.

In June, the World Bank slashed its GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 per cent, from 10.1 per cent estimated in April, saying the economic recovery is being hampered by the devastating second wave of coronavirus infections.

Domestic rating agency Icri last month had projected economic growth at 9 per cent for this financial year, while British brokerage firm Barclays had in May projected India's growth at 9.2 per cent.

## New Industrial Policy-2021 Will Change Face Of Industrial Development In J&K: Steel Min



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

job opportunities in the region.

**JAMMU:** Union Minister of Steel, Ramchandra Prasad Singh chaired a press meet at Jammu Thursday.

Acknowledging the existing steel industry of Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said that the Government is encouraging the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) owing to their potential to provide maximum job avenues in the country. Saying that the New Industrial Policy-2021, J&K will change the face of industrial development here, the Minister emphasized that the policy is going to generate numerous

The Minister further said that with the Government's scrap policy, secondary steel production would be boosted. The consumption of the steel is also going to increase due to the ongoing and upcoming developmental projects in the region thereby giving boost to the economy, the Minister added.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Puneet Kansal; Chairman and Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer among other senior officers were also present at the press meet.

## Dir Agri Inaugurates Valley Wide Campaign Of Oilseed Sowing

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal Thursday inaugurated the valley wide campaign of Oilseed crop sowing during his visit to Gulab Bagh and other adjacent areas of district Ganderbal.

While interacting with the farmers of the area, the Director said that Oilseed is one of the important crops of Kashmir Valley. He said that using quality seeds provided by the Department and doing its cultivation on modern scientific lines could fetch better returns to the farmers.

He asked the farmers to bring more land under the oilseed cultivation as it is an economically remunerative enterprise.

Iqbal said the Department is working to introduce new varieties of different crops including oilseeds which could be better performing in terms of production and productivity.

He asked the concerned field officers to offer latest technical interventions to the oilseed farmers so that the cultivation, harvesting and post harvesting management could be done on scientific lines.

The Director also had a session

with a group of apiarists at Hadroora Gulabbagh who brought their issues including the marketing of their produce to his notice. He assured them that the Department would provide them the multi-dimensional marketing platform wherein they could get maximum returns for their produce.

The Director was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture Extension Shahid Iqbal Sheikh, Deputy Director Planning Mohammad Younis Chowdhary, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal and other senior officers of the Department.

## Dip In Two-Wheeler, Tractor Dispatches Pull Down Overall Auto Retail Sales In Sept



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Automobile retail sales in the country witnessed a 5 per cent year-on-year drop last month amid a decline in two-wheeler and tractor dispatches during the period.

As per automobile dealers' body FADA, total retail sales last month stood at 12,96,257 units, down 5.27 per cent, from 13,68,307 units in September 2020.

While two-wheeler and tractor dispatches declined, other segments like passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and three-wheelers saw an increase in retail sales last month, as compared to the same period a year ago.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected the vehicle registration data from

1,357 out of the 1,562 regional transport offices (RTOs), two-wheeler sales stood at 9,14,621 units last month, down 11.54 per cent from 10,33,895 units in September 2020.

Similarly, tractor retail sales declined by 23.85 per cent to 52,896 units last month, as against 69,462 units in the month last year.

PV sales on the other hand stood at 2,33,308 units in September, up 16.32 per cent from 2,00,576 units in the same month last year.

Similarly, commercial vehicle retail sales increased by 46.64 per cent to 58,820 units, as compared to 40,112 units in September 2020.

Three-wheeler sales increased by 50.9 per cent to 36,612 units last month, as against 24,262 units in the year-ago period.

## DoT Slashes Bank Guarantee Demand For Telcos By 80%

**NEW DELHI:** The Department of Telecom (DoT) has slashed performance and financial bank guarantee requirement of telecom operators by 80%, according to a licence amendment note issued on Wednesday.

Under the amended norms, telecom operators will be required to provide a performance bank guarantee of up to Rs 44 crore for each service for the telecom licence compared to Rs 220 crore mandated under the old rule.

Similarly, telecom operators will need to provide a financial bank guarantee of maximum Rs 8.8 crore per circle now, against the previous requirement of Rs 44 crore.

The rule will not be applicable in cases where bank guarantees (BG) have been furnished

due to any court order or are subject to any litigation, the licence amendment note said.

The rules will not apply to telecom operators, who are currently going through the liquidation process. The move will unblock the cash of telecom operators that they keep with banks to furnish BGs.

**Amended norms**  
Telcos will be required to provide a performance bank guarantee of up to Rs44 crore for each service for the telecom licence compared to Rs220 crore mandated under the old rule.

Similarly, telecom operators will need to provide a financial bank guarantee of maximum Rs8.8 crore per circle now, against the previous requirement of Rs44 crore. (PTI)

### SHORT TAKES

#### Sensex Regains Footing Amid Global Rebound; Titan Zooms 11 Pc

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Equity indices resumed their climb on Thursday after a day's pause, in tandem with global markets as investors took heart from a dip in energy prices and progress over debt-ceiling negotiations in the US.

A strengthening rupee, which snapped its three-session losing streak against the US dollar, also bolstered sentiment, traders said.

Banks, consumption and auto stocks saw robust buying ahead of RBI's policy decision on Friday. The IT pack also traded in the green on earnings optimism, with TCS scheduled to announce its results on Friday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 488.10 points or 0.82 per cent to finish at 59,677.83. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty spurted 144.35 points or 0.82 per cent to 17,790.35.

Titan was the star performer in the Sensex pack, soaring 10.69 per cent, after the company reported strong demand recovery in the July-September quarter.

M&M, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, HCL, TCS, Tech Mahindra and ICICI Bank were among the other winners, jumping as much as 5.32 per cent.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, HDFC, Nestle India, Bajaj Finserv, HUL and NTPC were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.31 per cent.

#### TVS Motor Company Launches TVS Jupiter 125

**NEW DELHI:** TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the world, Thursday announced the launch of TVS Jupiter 125.

The Zyada Se Bhi Zyada feature-rich 125 cc scooter is the new addition to the TVS Jupiter portfolio, bigger and more spacious with industry-first features such as the largest under-seat storage, segment-leading longest seat, progressive neo masculine styling and unrivalled mileage. Commenting on the launch, KN



#### Gold Marginally Higher; Silver Climbs Rs 490

**NEW DELHI:** Gold in the national capital on Thursday rose by Rs 65 to Rs 46,012 per 10 gram in line with a jump in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 45,947 per 10 gram.

Silver also gained Rs 490 to Rs 60,172 per kilogram from Rs 59,682 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold traded in the green at USD 1,766 per ounce and silver flat at USD 22.74 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading up at USD 1,766 per ounce on Thursday. Gold prices witnessed recovery with fall in the dollar index and weaker US bond yields," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

#### Rupee Recovers 19 Paise Against Dollar, Snaps 3-Day Losing Run

**MUMBAI:** The rupee snapped its three-session losing streak to settle 19 paise higher at 74.79 against the US currency on Thursday as crude oil prices cooled off and the dollar softened in the global markets.

Gains in the domestic equity markets and a recovery in riskier assets also helped the local unit to rebound from more than five-month lows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened higher at 74.77 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.70 and a low of 74.93. It finally ended at 74.79 against the American currency, registering a gain of just 19 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee suffered its biggest single-day drop in six months, losing 54 paise against the US dollar to end at more than five-month low of 74.98.

"The Indian rupee appreciated after falling for three days in row and touching more than five months low. Profit booking in crude oil prices and dollar index and recovery in riskier assets supported local currency to rebound from psychological level of 75," HDFC Securities Research Analyst Dilip Parmar said.

Market sentiment remains bearish for the rupee but short-term recovery cannot be ruled out after the sell-off in the last couple of days. In near term, spot USDINR is having support at 74.50 and resistance at 75, Parmar said. "There has been a cool-off in energy prices, US Dollar Index and bond yields and that has helped USDINR spot," said Anindya Banerjee, DVP, Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives at Kotak Securities Ltd.

Banerjee further noted that volatility can increase over Friday and Monday, as the RBI announces monetary policy and the US releases jobs data for the month of September. (PTI)

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR FINANCE DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

#### NOTICE

It is for the information of all candidates selected/recommended under the Hon'ble PM's Package for Kashmiri Migrants and Non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits for the post of Assistant Compiler and Sub-Inspector, in Finance Department for Divisional Cadre, Kashmir that they shall submit their verification rolls in triplicate form as per General Administration Department Order No.528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 21.06.2021 read with Order No. 1033-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 27.09.2021 for verification of their Character and Antecedent at the offices of J&K, Funds Organization and State Taxes Department respectively at Jammu/Srinagar.

Under Secretary to the Government Finance Department.

No. FD-Cord/147/2021  
Dated 06-10-2021  
DIPK-10168/21

SD/-Under secretary to the Government  
Finance Department.

## Hours After Tweets Against Farmer Deaths, Maneka, Varun Dropped From BJP Top Body

Varun Gandhi, who has been vocal in condemning the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, was dropped from BJP National Executive on Thursday. Both Varun, MP from Pilibhit constituency, and his mother and MP Maneka Gandhi were dropped from the party's National Executive.

In a series of tweets, Varun Gandhi condemned the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight people were crushed to death by a speeding car that belonged to MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son. "The video is crystal clear. Protestors cannot be silenced through murder. There has to be

accountability for the innocent blood of farmers that has been spilled and justice must be delivered before a message of arrogance and cruelty enters the minds of every farmer," the Pilibhit MP said in a tweet. The BJP MP demanded justice for the farmers who were killed in

the violence. A total of eight people including four farmers died in the violence that took place in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3. The BJP on Thursday announced the 80-member National Executive of the party, with the names of its top brass, ranging from Prime Minister

Narendra Modi to many Union ministers, several state leaders and veterans like L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi. Former Union ministers like Harsh Vardhan, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Prakash Javadekar also remain the members of the national executive.

## J&K Reports 134 Fresh Covid Cases

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 134 fresh coronavirus cases that pushed its infection tally to 3,30,252, officials said. The death toll remained unchanged at 4,426, they said. Of the 134 fresh cases, 59 were reported from the Jammu division and 75 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, the officials said. At 43, Srinagar district

recorded the highest number of cases, followed by 35 in Poonch. The number of active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 1,090. So far, 3,24,736 people have recovered from the disease, the officials said. There are 46 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

## Srinagar In Shock

videos surfaced on social media websites, including Facebook and Twitter showing the two teachers lying lifeless on the ground. Some videos also showed their colleagues mourning and weeping in silence.

Pertinently, the attack inside the school took place barely 36 hours after militants shot dead a prominent pharmacist and two others, including a non-local vendor in three back to back attacks within an hour in this capital city and north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday.

Prior to that, two people, including a gym trainer were shot dead by suspected militants in Srinagar's Karan Nagar and Batamalo on Saturday last.

J&K DGP Dilbag Singh said the 'Resistance Front' was responsible for the killings.

In a statement issued after the killings, a police spokesperson said that around 1130hrs, police received information about a "terror crime incident" at Sangam area of Eidgah Srinagar where terrorists had fired upon staff members of a Govt School.

The police spokesperson said that DGP Dilbag Singh along with IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, IG CRPF Ms. Charu Sinha and other senior officers of Police/CAPF reached the school.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists had fired upon the Principal & a teacher of the Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Sangam. They have been identified as Supinder Kour (Principal) resident of Rengipora Beerwah and Deepak Chand (Teacher) resident of Jammu. In this terror incident, both had received grievous gunshot injuries and were immediately evacuated to nearby hospital. However, both of them have succumbed to their injuries," the police spokesperson said.

He said that a case has been registered under relevant sections of law in this regard. "Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," the police spokesperson added.

According to locals, Supinder Kour was appointed Principal of the government school two years ago. Deepak Chand, a resident of Jammu's Bakshi Nagar, was working in the school since 2018.

This spree of what police describe as "targeted killings" comes at a time when the Government of India is pushing for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

"The Resistance Front", an off-shoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as per security establishment, has claimed recent killings, including that of Bindroo. The shadowy group leveled several allegations against the deceased.

As per official data, 25 civilians have been killed by suspected militants in Kashmir this year till date. As per the figures, 10 civilians have been killed in Srinagar, 4 each in Pulwama and Anantnag, 3 in Kulgam, 2 in Baramulla and 1 each in Budgam and Bandipora so far, this year.

While four of the victims were Kashmiri Pandits, three were non-locals from other Indian states, and 18 were local Muslims. As per another data from the Ministry of Home Affairs, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, this year's targeted killing of civilians in the Valley has reversed the in place trend of the past six years.

As per the data, in the last six years, this is for the first time that the Valley witnessed more civilian killings than security forces in various militancy related incidents.

The data further reveals that the number of civilians killed in 2020 stood at 33 whereas the number of security personnel killed in the same year stood at 46. In the year 2019, the data noted, 36 civilians and 78 security personnel were killed.

Meanwhile, politicians across the spectrum expressed their outrage. "Incidents of violence are increasing in Kashmir. Terrorism has neither stopped due to demonetisation nor after the abrogation of Article 370 - the central government has completely failed to provide security," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Shocking news coming in again from Srinagar. Another set of targeted killings, this time of two teachers in a Govt school in Idgah area of the city. Words of condemnation are not enough for this inhuman act of terror but I pray for the souls of the deceased to rest in peace, added National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Twitter.

Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti said it was disturbing to see the deteriorating situation in Kashmir where a minuscule minority is the latest target. "GOI's claims of building a Naya Kashmir has actually turned it into a hellhole. It's sole interest is to use Kashmir as a milch cow for its electoral interests, she wrote on Twitter.

Apni Party (JKAP) chief Altaf Bukhari said there is need to ponder whether ground and human intelligence had failed or had the enemy become sharper and more organised.

Any further delay in the revival of grassroots democracy will only lead us to mayhem, which we have started witnessing," Bukhari told PTI.

According to CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami, the spree of killings had shocked Kashmiri society. "Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs are part and parcel of the local shared history, and cultural ethos. Protecting the pluralistic visage of J&K must be the top agenda of

every Kashmiri," he said in a statement.

Peoples Conference chairperson Sajad Lone added that it is important to understand that terrorists have no religion.

"...This is a lunatic fringe which is a curse for Kashmir. May Allah rid us of this curse, Lone said in a tweet.

Bharatiya Janata Party's J&K spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the killing of unarmed teachers who have nothing to do with politics is purely an inhuman act.

He said the cowardly act deserves the highest form of condemnation.

Killing of unarmed civilians can never be justified as no religion allows to kill innocents, the BJP spokesperson added.

## LG Vows Befitting

anger in my heart. I assure all the family members, each and every tear of yours will be accounted for. 130 crore countrymen are standing shoulder to shoulder with all the families."

He said due to the "barbaric killings of innocents, there is anger in the entire country including Jammu and Kashmir, the land of universal harmony."

"Be it Srinagar, Bandipora, Jammu, Delhi, Madras, the blood of every Indian is boiling. I understand and trust your pain, your feelings," he said, adding, "We have given complete freedom to the security agencies and these (militants) who are enemies of humanity will have to pay the price soon. We will not rest in peace until every drop of innocent blood is taken into account."

Sinha said he also want to say to the supporters of militancy that their plans to "destabilize the journey of peace, development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir will never succeed".

"In the last two years, the new heights of progress in Jammu and Kashmir are not being tolerated by the neighboring country and its few (militant) supporters. Today the youth of Jammu and Kashmir wants development," he said.

"Decades later with new dreams, new role models are now before the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Every region, every citizen has forgotten history and has become future-oriented." He said 10.5 lakh tourists came to Jammu and Kashmir in July. In August, this figure increased to 11.28 lakhs in August and above 1.22 lakhs in September.

"Big industries are eager to invest here. This is not pleasing to the kingpin of (militants) sitting on the other side and some of his followers present here. They do not want peace and prosperity to come here," he said, adding, "Therefore, I would also like to request the intellectuals of Jammu and Kashmir. Together we can fight (terrorism), the biggest enemy of humanity."

He said the security of 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir was the responsibility of the security agencies.

"I want to assure everyone, no lowering of guard will be allowed in this account. The protection of every single life is our highest responsibility and we assure you of it," he said, adding, "I want to reassure the entire country and 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir that (militants) and their safe havens will not be spared. We will die only by uprooting the (militancy) from this land of saints and mystics."

He said that it was certain now that the "progress on which Jammu and Kashmir has started, that journey is not going to drop."

"We are committed to fulfill the dream of every single citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. Every moment of life, every moment, we will work with full dedication for that everyone can live life fearlessly," he said, adding, "I once again express my condolences to all the families."

## Attacks Aimed

of Police (DGP) said. The killing of the teachers took the number of civilians killed in the Kashmir Valley in the last five days to seven, including four from the valley's minority communities. Six of those were killed in the city.

"We regret the back-to-back attacks in which civilians have been killed. We are working on the previous cases and the Srinagar police has got many clues and we will soon get the people behind such terror and barbaric attacks.... I am sure the police will be able to unmask them soon, he said.

Asserting that the attacks were an attempt to defame the Muslim community of Kashmir, Singh said that the terrorists are "acting on the directions of Pakistan" to put hurdles in the way of peace in the valley.

"This is an attempt to defame local Muslims of Kashmir. It is a conspiracy to target those who have come here for earning bread and butter. It is a conspiracy to damage the age-old tradition of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir.

"Terrorists are terrorists and they are acting on the directions of the agencies across (the border) in Pakistan so that Kashmir is kept disturbed and hurdles are put in the way of peace in Kashmir. I am hopeful that people in Kashmir will not let this conspiracy succeed. We will work together and defeat their purpose," he said.

The militant attack on the teachers, including a woman, took place around 11.15 am.

## Union Home

by top officials of Jammu and Kashmir.

A female principal and a teacher were shot dead at point-blank range inside a government school in Srinagar on Thursday, taking the number of civilians killed by militants in the Kashmir valley to seven in the last five days.

Of the seven, four were from minority communities and six of the deaths were reported from Srinagar.

Supinder Kaur, the principal of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School at Eidgah in Srinagar, and Deepak Chand were gunned down at around 11.15 am on the school premises.

There were no students in the school. Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, was shot dead at his shop on Tuesday.

A "chaat" vendor, Virendra Paswan from Bihar, and another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, were also killed on Tuesday in Srinagar and Bandipora respectively.

On Saturday, militants shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri in Srinagar and Mohammad Shafi Dar at Batamalo.

According to official statistics, a total of 28 civilians have so far been killed by militants in 2021.

Of the 28 civilians killed, five belonged to local Hindu or Sikh communities while two were non-local Hindu labourers.

Officials said due to the killings of a large numbers of militants of all outfits, especially their leadership, and the destruction of their support systems, the Pakistan-based handlers of the militants have got frustrated and changed their strategy. They have started targeting unarmed policemen, politicians and innocent civilians from minority communities, including women.

In all such cases, the militants used pistols, which they can carry easily, the officials said.

Most of these crimes are committed by newly-recruited militants or those who are about to join "terrorist ranks", they added.

According to official data, 97 attacks have so far been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year -- 71 on security forces and 26 on civilians.

In 2020, a total of 105 such attacks were reported -- 80 on security forces and 25 on civilians.

## MEA Worried Over

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a number of killings of civilians in the last few days.

A woman principal and a teacher were shot dead at point blank range inside a government school on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit, was killed by terrorists in Srinagar.

## Omar Urges Minority

these terror attacks succeed in their evil designs by driving you out. The overwhelmingly majority of us don't want you to go," Abdullah tweeted.

He said the targeted attacks in Kashmir are designed to create fissures and widen the gap between communities.

"We cannot let terror dictate who lives here & who doesn't. It is imperative that all of us belonging to the majority community reach out to those who today fear for their lives," he added.

Abdullah further said, "The primary responsibility for security is & will always be the duty of the administration of the day. It can't be shifted to individuals & political parties to suit political convenience & misplaced loyalties. That said we all have the responsibility to do what we can to help."

Supinder Kaur, the principal of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Eidgah in downtown Srinagar, and Deepak Chand, were gunned down at point-blank range by militants around 11.15 am just when the school had settled down to another day of online classes. There were no students in the school.

Kaur was a Srinagar-based Sikh and Chand was a Hindu from Jammu.

Abdullah said that the majority of civilian deaths in Kashmir have been those of Muslims but that does not absolve the community of the responsibility to make the minorities feel safe.

"Yes it's true that the majority of civilian deaths in Kashmir have been Muslim but that doesn't absolve us of our responsibility to do everything in our power to help those who belong to religious minorities feel secure," he said.

Militants have killed four people from minority communities in Kashmir in the past three days.

Besides Kaur and Chand, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit who owned Srinagar's most famous pharmacy and a roadside vendor were among those killed.

## Grenade Attack

were also seen running helter skelter.

Earlier in the day, suspected militants shot dead two government employees, including a school Principal in the neighbouring Eidgah locality.

## CRPF Shoots

vehicle without number was tried to intercept by the Naka party," reads a police statement.

"However it rushed towards the Naka party. It was then challenged by the on duty troops.

Troops fired upon in self defence and one person died. But driver managed to escape," the handout read

Police said that the identity and credential of the deceased person is being verified.

## LG Seeks Action

initiatives and works to be undertaken by the UT administration for winter preparedness. The LG, he said, directed the concerned officers to make necessary arrangements well in advance and asked for Department-wise action plans by Tuesday.

"The Lt Governor asked the Heads of Departments to pass necessary directions to the concerned officials to work in a synchronized manner to achieve the best possible results," the official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, the LG has set specific timelines for replacement of transformers in urban, rural, and far-flung/remote areas of the UT as 12 hours, 24 hours, and 48 hours respectively.

While enquiring about the buffer stock of transformers to be maintained by the Power Development Department, he said, the LG directed them for rationalization of transformers across all the districts especially the districts which receive heavy snowfall.

"The Lt Governor also enquired about the status of target given in previous meeting for reducing the AT&T losses by 10% and gave new targets," he added.

While reviewing the preparedness of PWD department, the LG, as per the official spokesperson laid emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted road connectivity and proper traffic management. Sinha, he said, also directed the concerned officers for deployment of snow clearing machinery and equipment for snow clearance on National Highways, and all the main and internal roads.

"The Principal Secretary PWD apprised the Lt Governor about the directions passed to the field staff for ensuring smooth road connectivity throughout winters," the official spokesperson said.

"Taking stock of the preparedness of Health sector, the Lt Governor was apprised that district-wise control rooms will be set up while ensuring stocks of medical supplies," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG directed to ensure availability of medicines and deployment of doctors in all snow-bound areas of the UT.

He said that the department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs was directed to maintain sufficient stock of the essential items including ration at its depots. The Lt Governor also directed to monitor the supplies of Petrol, Diesel, and LPG.

"Similarly, the PHE Department and SMC were directed to prepare men and machinery for tackling inclement weather conditions," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the Divisional Commissioners of both Jammu and Kashmir were asked to prepare a meticulous plan of the far-flung and snowbound remote areas of their respective divisions with respect to winter preparations.

## Retired KP Employees

government employees who are occupants of the government accommodation in Delhi and in the National Capital Region on the strength of an order passed by the Delhi High Court and said that The compassion could not be extended in perpetuity and has to end.

The top court also gave liberty to the Centre to file an application for modification of the order in respect of the 31 retirees as well who are covered by the 2009 verdict in the case of J.L. Koul and others versus Jammu and Kashmir and allotted government houses.

The bench said that the court found it reasonable if Kashmiri migrants are allowed government accommodation for a period of three years from the date of retirement, so as to make alternative arrangements within such period.

If the alternative accommodation is not available for them at their instance, they are at liberty to move to the transit accommodation or to avail cash amount in lieu of transit accommodation. Thus, a retired government employee who is a Kashmiri migrant would not be entitled to retain Government accommodation for a period exceeding three years, may be in Delhi or in the National Capital Region or for that matter anywhere in the country, it said.

The bench referred to the rehabilitation scheme issued by Centre on March 28, 2017, as an office memorandum pursuant to the direction of the High Court and said that Kashmiri Pandits were to be accommodated in Delhi for the first five years starting from the date of their retirement and thereafter to be shifted to National Capital Region.

To say that they would return to the Valley when the situation will improve is an open-ended statement capable of being interpreted in different ways. The satisfaction of improvement of situation would be widely different by the erstwhile Government employees and the State. But in no case it can be countenanced that the former Government employee may be a Kashmiri migrant, is entitled to stay in a government accommodation for an indefinite period. Thus, we are unable to uphold the Office Memorandum and strike it down as being totally arbitrary and discriminatory, it said.

The bench said that the Office Memorandum

allowing government accommodation to the retired government employees who are Kashmiri migrants cannot meet the touchstone of Article 14 of the Constitution.

It said that the government houses/flats are meant for serving government employees and post-retirement, the government employees including Kashmiri migrants are granted pensionary benefits including monthly pension.

The classification made in favour of Government employees who were Kashmiri migrants stands on the same footing as that of other Government employees or public figures. There cannot be any justification on the basis of social or economic criteria to allow the Kashmiri Migrants to stay in government accommodation for an indefinite long period, it held.

It said that the Office Memorandum issued on March 28, 2017, was in terms of the directions of the Delhi High Court and that order has not been approved by this Court on August 5, 2021.

Therefore, the entire basis of issuance of Office Memorandum falls flat as the very foundation of such Scheme stands knocked down, it said, adding that this Court had accepted the Rehabilitation Scheme produced on affidavit by the Chief Secretary of the State and thereafter expressed a pious hope.

This Court did not decide any question of law or fact but merely expressed a compassionate view to alleviate the difficulties being faced by Kashmiri migrants. The Rehabilitation Package approved by this Court itself contemplated that transit accommodations were being constructed at three sites but if such transit accommodation was not available, Rupees One Lakh per family towards rental and incidental expenses would be given to those who may not be accommodated in transit accommodation, it said.

The top court noted the Centre's submission that the Government has given various benefits to Kashmiri migrants including the grant of financial assistance, the financial package for repairs and renovation of the houses, jobs, ration, etc.

It noted that nearly 3800 persons have returned back to the Kashmir Valley in the last few years to take up the PM package jobs and 520 migrants have returned to Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 and another nearly 2000 migrants are also likely to return under the same policy in the year 2021.

## BSF Seize

eight pistol magazines and 232 rounds of ammunition.

The DIG said further details are expected to follow.

There have been several incidents of weapons and narcotic smuggling attempts done by cross-border militants to drop weapons on this side of the border through drones over the past six months.

It may be recalled that an arms consignment including one AK assault rifle, three magazines and 30 rounds believed to have been dropped by a drone from Pakistan had been recovered last Saturday by police near the International Border from Soujnana village of Phalain Mandal, about six km from the IB.

On September 27, BSF recovered four pistols, eight magazines, 100 rounds of ammunition, a packet of narcotics weighing about one kg along with fake Indian currency worth Rs 2,75,000, from the International Border in Akhnoor sector of Jammu district, officials said.

## Rabi-ul-Awal Moon

moon sighting committee.

The first Rabi-ul-Awwal will be on Friday, October 7 while 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, the birthday of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), will fall on Oct 19.

Earlier this week, the federal cabinet decided to grant remission in sentences of prisoners on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi.

Briefing media about the decisions taken in the federal cabinet, which met in Islamabad on Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that the cabinet also approved celebrating Eid Milad-un-Nabi with utmost reverence this year. He said Ashra-e-Rehmatul-il-Alimeen will be observed from 3rd of Rabi-ul-Awal.

## Soldier Detained

of INSAS rifle was recovered from his baggage at the screening counter near the drop gate, reports said. A resident of Akhnoor in Jammu, Lal was taken into custody for questioning.

According to the reports, the detained soldier was later handed over to the police post Humhama.

Pertinently, this is the second such incident at the airport in the last nine days.

On September 28, Hawaldar Pawan Singh of Army's 17 Raj Rifles was detained by the security personnel at the police post Humhama on Tuesday after one live round of Insas rifle was recovered from him during baggage screening.

## Grenade Defused

to the spot to assess the situation.

Later, the sources said, a bomb disposal squad was called to the spot. "The BDS defused the shell without causing damage to anyone or anything," sources said.

Pertinently a militant was killed in an encounter at the same spot on August 12 this year. (GNS)

## Premier League: AG's XI, J&K Forest XI Claim Victories

AG's XI beat RKFC (R) 2-1, Forest wins 5-3 against Bank Academy



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Thursday saw two matches of the JKFA mandated Khyber Premier Division League 2021 played at the Synthetic Turf TRC, here.

First match was played between Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) and J&K Accountant General's (AG's) XI, which was won by AG's XI by 2 goals to 1.

The match between the star-studded teams of AG's XI and Real Kashmir FC (R) was expected to be a high voltage match and it lived up to the expectations of the spectators. Players from both the teams displayed high quality and high speed football.

As the match started, forwards of both the teams started attacking each other's goalpost to seize an early initiative. Shah Nawaz Bashir of AG's XI gave his side the lead which they maintained till half time. Trailing by a goal, the Real Kashmir (R) players launched counter attacks in the second half and succeeded to level the score in 62nd minute.

However, in the 77th minute AG's XI was awarded a penalty kick, which was coolly dispatched by Khalid. J&K AG's XI then consolidated their position to defeat Real Kashmir (R) 2-1. Samuel of RKFC (R) was declared player of the match for his performance.

The second Premier Division League match was played

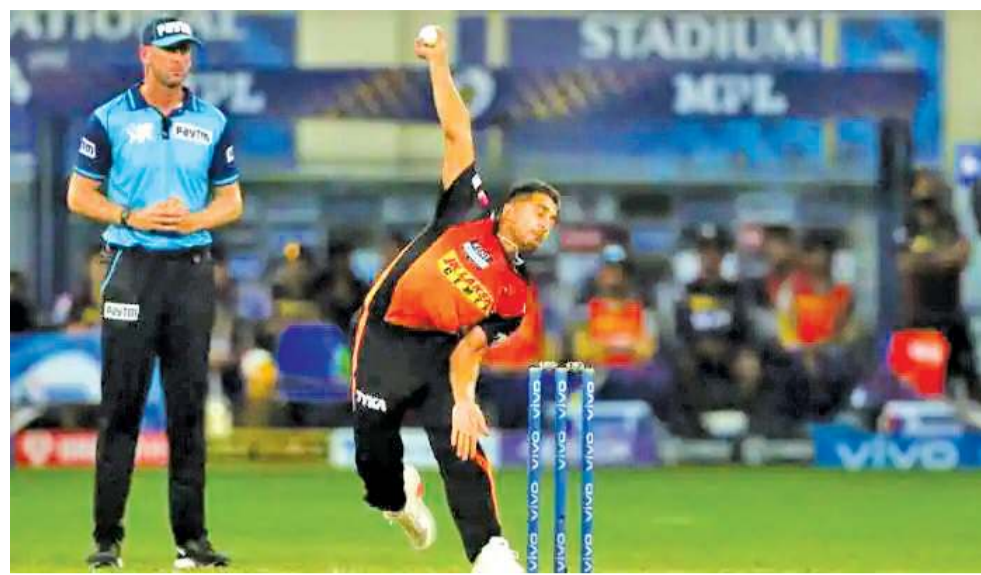
between J&K Forest XI and J&K Bank Academy. The young team of J&K Bank Academy and the seasoned campaigners of J&K forest XI, played aggressive football from the start of the game.

Huzair of J&K Bank Academy scored two goals in 3rd and 29th minute to shock the Forest side into action. J&K Forest XI created some good opportunities and Javed Ahmad scored the 1-1 leveller in the 41st minute. The first half ended with 2-1 in favour of J&K Bank Academy.

The second half of the match saw as Talib of J&K Bank Academy score the third goal for his team in the 44th minute. Trailing by two goals now, J&K Forest XI team regrouped and reposed themselves to script an epic comeback.

The Forest XI scored 4 back to back goals in the 61st, 77th, 82nd & 85th minutes of the match through Naseer, Rizwan, Zameer and Javed, respectively to blow the Bank Academy side out of the picture. At full time, J&K Forest XI won 5-3 against J&K Bank Academy.

In the ongoing A-Division League 2021, two matches were played at Gundun Ground Rajbagh. First match was played between Al-Ahram FC and Madina Sports. Al-Ahram FC won by a solitary goal. The second match was played between Al-Qudus FC and Young Boys Bahama which was won by Al-Qudus FC by a solitary goal.



## Need To Track Umran Malik's Progress: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Mighty impressed with pace sensation Umran Malik, who sent down the IPL's fastest delivery against his franchise, India captain Virat Kohli said the Jammu and Kashmir youngster's growth needs to be monitored to ensure his potential is maximised.

The 21-year-old from Jammu has got everyone excited with his pace and clocked 152.95 kph during the game against Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Wednesday. Kohli was paying attention and was quite excited by what he saw.

"This tournament throws up talent every year, good to see a guy bowling at 150 clicks. It is important to understand the progress of individuals from

here on," Kohli said in the post-match presentation after his team lost the game by four runs.

"The pool of fast bowlers being strong is always a good sign for Indian cricket and whenever you see talent like this, you are going to have your eyes on them and make sure you maximise their potential which is already being seen at the IPL level," he added.

Umran's IPL debut was against Kolkata Knight Riders and he clocked 151.03 kph, which was at that time the fastest delivery by an Indian this season. His 152.95 kph zinger last night made him the fastest in the IPL, surpassing Lockie Ferguson (152.75 kph).

SRH skipper Kane Williamson counted him as one of the positives of a largely disap-

pointing season for his team.

"Umran certainly is special. We've seen him in the nets for a couple of seasons. Special opportunity for him and it's not surprising to see him come and do well. (He has) Been a really valuable addition to the side," said Williamson.

"I try and keep it really simple with him but he's got a lot of mates in the team and they share the message and he takes the game on," he added.

The youngster has risen through the ranks despite humble beginnings. His father owns a small fruit shop in Jammu's Gujjar Nagar area.

On his T20 debut, he picked up 3/24 against Railways which included the wicket of former India player Karn Sharma, who was beaten for sheer pace.

**UMRAN CERTAINLY IS SPECIAL.** We've seen him in the nets for a couple of seasons. Special opportunity for him and it's not surprising to see him come and do well. (He has) Been a really valuable addition to the side," said Williamson.

## Mega Sports Event Held For Specially Abled Players



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A mega sports event for specially abled sports persons was organised by Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS) on Thursday in its premises at Bemina, here.

Players from almost all the districts participated in Athletics, Basketball, Badminton and Sitting Volleyball events. Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull presided over the

function as chief guest. During her interaction with players she complimented the players for their resilience and reducing their dependence by actively participating in sports and games.

She lauded the role of VMS for its tireless efforts to rehabilitate and lessen the sufferings of people with special abilities and providing a platform to them to showcase their talent and abilities.

She praised VMS for providing a conducive and favourable platform for such persons where from they can excel their talent and become valuable and responsible members of society.

Kifayat Ullah Rizvi, Honorary Secretary General Indian Red Cross Society, was the guest of honour on the occasion, and Muneer Alam, Volleyball Coach of Kashmir University, attended the function as special guest.

## ICC To Replace 'Batsman' With 'Batter' From T20 WC Onwards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** The International Cricket Council on Thursday decided to replace 'batsman' with gender-neutral term 'batter' in all its playing conditions starting with this month's men's T20 World Cup, describing the move as a "natural and overdue evolution" in the sport.

Last month, the Marylebone Cricket Club announced it would be replacing the word 'batsman' with 'batter' in the Laws of Cricket. That change will now be reflected across all ICC playing conditions going forward.

The ICC said over the past four years it has been moving away from the word 'batsman', with 'batter' implemented regularly in commentary and across the organisation's channels.

The body's acting CEO Geoff Allardice said the MCC's decision to move to 'batter' in the laws of the game was one they 'welcomed'.

"The ICC has been utilising the term batter for some time now across our channels and in commentary and we welcome the MCC's decision to implement it into the Laws of cricket and will follow suit with our playing conditions that are derived from the Laws," Allardice said in a statement.

"This is a natural and perhaps overdue evolution of our sport and now our batters are gender-neutral in the same way as bowlers, fielders and wicket keepers."

He said it's a small change but one that will have significant impact on cricket being viewed

as a more inclusive sport.

"Of course language changes alone will not grow the sport, we must ensure that girls and boys who are inspired to play cricket have a fantastic, fun first experience and are both able to progress as cricketers without barriers."

For ICC Hall of Famer and former Australia star Lisa Stalekar, the move to 'batter' is a simple but important one.

Unaware cricket was a sport played by women as a child, Stalekar went on to become one of the finest from Australia before making the step into commentary.

Having grown up using the term 'batter' as a player, she stuck to the word when she stepped behind the microphone and remembers being told by a co-commentator in one of her earliest gigs that batter was for fish.

"We don't say 'hey look at that fielder', we say 'look at the fielder'. We don't say 'bowlsman', we say 'bowler'," she said following the MCC decision.

"So if there is a similar term to describe someone with a piece of wood in their hands, why wouldn't we follow suit?"

The ICC said it's worth noting that up until this century, the phrase 'fielder' was an accepted term before the MCC stepped in back in 2000.

Stalekar is well aware even with the ICC and MCC both moving permanently to 'batter' that 'batsman' will still be heard on occasion in the media.

"It's like a habit, it takes forever to get rid of it."

## T20 WC: Erasmus & Gaffaney To Officiate India-Pakistan Match

Nitin Menon only Indian official named by ICC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** The International Cricket Council on Thursday announced the appointment of 20 match officials for round one and Super 12 phase of the upcoming men's T20 World Cup, with Nitin Menon being the lone Indian named among the umpires.

Seasoned South African umpire Marais Erasmus and England's Chris Gaffaney will be the two on-field umpires for the high-profile India versus Pakistan game on October 24 while Richard Illingworth will be the TV official. David Boon will be the match referee.

The 16 umpires and four match referees finalised for the 45-match tournament include three umpires who will be officiating in their sixth men's T20 World Cup -- Aleem Dar, Erasmus and Rod Tucker.

Former India pacer Javagal Srinath is one of the four match referees named for the tournament, being played in Muscat (Oman), Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai (UAE) from October 17 to November 14.

The match officials for the semi-finals and final of the tournament in the UAE and Oman will be named in due course. The ICC said a 20-strong group

of match officials meant that for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be neutral umpires for all matches of the tournament.

Dar and Erasmus have been selected for the Super 12 clash between England and the West Indies, a rematch of the last ICC Men's T20 World Cup final back in 2016.

Adrian Griffith, ICC Senior Manager Umpires and Referees, said: "We are delighted to be able to call on some of the world's top officials for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with a group of 16 umpires and four match referees.

"Our aim is always to appoint the best possible officials, and we have also been able to appoint neutral umpires and referees in all matches. We wish them all the very best, and we are confident they will ensure the smooth conduct of matches."

Match Referees: David Boon, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Javagal Srinath.

Umpires: Chris Brown, Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Ahsan Raza, Paul Rieffel, Langston Rusere, Rod Tucker, Joel Wilson, Paul Wilson.

## GDC Women Baramulla Conducts Cycle Race



Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The Physical Education and Sports Department of Government Degree College (GDC) for Women Baramulla on Thursday conducted a cycle race 'Pedal for peace' as part of week-long celebration of Gandhi Jayanti under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The race was flagged off by Principal of the College, (Dr) Prof Fahmeeda Hilal at 6:30 am in the morning from the Main Gate of GDC Women to GDC Boys Baramulla and back to college main gate.

"In this event, a good number of girl students of our college participated with enthusiasm and vigour," an official said.

"At the time of inauguration and kick starting of the event, principal of the college and members of the Sports Activities Committee were present who welcomed the students and encouraged them to participate in the sports event," an official handout said.

"Before starting the race, Naseeba Jan (Physical Training Instructor) of the college briefed the students about the basic rules.

"There was a cut-throat competition among the participants during the event. Snobar Hassan student of 1st sem, Fozia Maqsood student of 2nd sem and Masrat Rafiq student of 6th sem, got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively," it added.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Eyes On IPL Play-Offs, MI Face SRH In Must Win Game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Five-time champions Mumbai Indians will need to outclass bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad in the last league match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Friday, knowing fully well the tricky situation they have found themselves in their bid for a play-offs spot.

Courtesy their eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals, the defending champions are currently at the fifth spot, with 12 points from 13 games, with a net run rate of -0.048.

But, Kolkata Knight Riders, with a net run rate of +0.294, are sitting on the fourth spot with 12 points from 13 games and will play Rajasthan Royals on Thursday evening in Sharjah.

A win for KKR against RR will take them to 14 points and also improve their net run rate further. In that scenario, MI may find it very difficult to qualify for the play-offs even if they beat SRH as the gap in their NRR with KKR is not small.

Asked if it is an advantage to play a team like SRH on the last day, MI cap-



tain Rohit Sharma had said, "All eight teams are capable of beating each other. But the good thing is that KKR plays before us, so we will know what to do.

In case KKR lose, then a win will be enough for MI to seal the fourth play-offs spot as they then will have 14 points. The Sunrisers, who are already out of reckoning for a play-offs berth, will look to finish the tournament on a high.

Skipper Kane Williamson was back among the runs and would be keen to start from where he left on Wednesday.

But the Kiwi will need support from others like Jason Roy and relatively inexperienced guys like Abhishek Sharma, Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and aggressive Wriddhiman Saha.

## India Wins Gold In Women's 25m Pistol Team Event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LIMA:** The Indian women's team of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Naamya Kapoor struck gold in the 25m pistol event to continue the country's domination at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) Junior World Championship here.

The Indian team beat USA 16-4 in the gold medal match.

The country's 20th medal came in the men's trap team event in which the Indians secured a silver, going down to Italy 4-6.

The trio of Bakhtyaruddin Malek, Shardul Vihan and Vivaan Kapoor had qualified for the match after being placed second out of seven teams in qualification, with a combined score of 473 out of 525.

Italy was strong throughout the competition having topped qualification with a huge 486.

## Ben Stokes To Miss Ashes After 2nd Surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LONDON:** Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes has undergone a second surgery on his broken index finger that is likely to rule him out of the Ashes, according to a report here.

Stokes, who has been on indefinite leave since pulling out of the home Test series against India, initially underwent surgery four months ago after he picked up the injury on his left index finger while playing in the IPL for Rajasthan Royals.

"Leeds based consultant Doug Campbell, who also performed the first surgery back in April, took the screws out of Stokes' healed finger on Monday and resolved the scar tissue that had been causing the agonising pain around his tendons and ligaments," tabloid 'Daily Mirror' reported.

The report said that the broken finger will now be far better and Stokes may be able to play

without chronic pain in future. But 30-year-old is not expected to return anytime soon. The Ashes gets underway in December.

On Wednesday, Stokes posted a photo on his Instagram along with his wife Clare with his left index finger bandaged.

Stokes attempted a return to action this summer, playing for Durham in the T20 Blast in June and was also picked for the ODI series against Pakistan in July. The series was marred by England's first squad forced into isolation following a COVID-19 outbreak.

Stokes led a second-string side that featured nine uncapped players, and guided England to a 3-0 series win.

However, he required a pain-killing injection throughout the series. He has not played in any form of cricket since July 26.

Stokes was then unavailable for selection for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the UAE.

## Italy's Record Run Ended 2-1 By Spain

AGENCIES

**MILAN:** Spain ended Italy's record unbeaten run of 37 matches by beating the European champion 2-1 Wednesday in the Nations League semifinals after Roberto Mancini's team was reduced to 10 men.

Ferran Torres scored two goals in the first half for Spain, the second coming after Leonardo Bonucci was sent off for a second yellow card three minutes before the break.

"We've been playing good for a while now. We are a young team playing well and I think this victory is another step," said Torres, who came off four minutes into the second half after picking up a knock but said he would be fit to play Sunday's final against either world champion France or top-ranked Belgium. "Victory over Italy in Italy. Now we'll start thinking about the final."

Lorenzo Pellegrini pulled one back for Italy late on as the Azzurri threatened an improbable comeback. In the end though, Mancini's side fell to its first loss in more than three years, since being beaten by Portugal in September 2018. Its unbeaten streak was a world record in international soccer.

## India To Allow Foreign Tourists Travelling By Chartered Flights From Oct 15, Rest From Nov 15

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India has decided to allow foreign tourists into the country, beginning with granting tourist visas to those travelling by chartered flights from October 15 and those by regular planes from November 15.

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday announced that with this, the restrictions placed on visa and international travel since March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic stand further eased given the present overall pandemic situation.

After considering various inputs, the ministry has decided to begin granting of fresh tourist visas for foreigners coming to India through chartered flights with effect from October 15, 2021, a home ministry statement said.

foreign tourists, carriers bringing them to India and all other stakeholders at landing stations, the statement said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all visas granted to foreigners were suspended last year.

Various other restrictions were also imposed on international travel by the central government to arrest the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After considering the evolving COVID-19 situation, foreigners were later on allowed to avail any kind of Indian visa other than tourist visa for entry and stay in India.

However, the Home Ministry had been receiving representations from several state governments as well as various stakeholders in the tourism sector to start tourist visas also to allow



Foreign tourists entering into India by flights other than chartered aircraft would be able to do so only with effect from November 15, 2021 on fresh tourist visas.

All due protocols and norms relating to COVID-19 as notified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time shall be adhered to by the

foreign tourists to come to India.

Therefore, the Home Ministry consulted all major stakeholders like the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Tourism and various state governments where foreign tourists are expected to arrive and took the decision, the statement said. PTI

## Rs 2,000 Notes Used for Corruption, Remove Gandhi's Pic: Cong MLA

Agenceis

**KOTA (RAJASTHAN):** A Congress MLA has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that Mahatma Gandhi's portrait be removed from Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes as they are being used in cases of corruption and in bars.

Drawing attention to cases of corruption in Rajasthan, Bharat Singh Kundanpur, the MLA from the ruling party in the state, said a total 616 graft cases were registered between January 2019 and December 31, 2020, with an average of two cases registered per day.

In a letter sent to Modi on the 152nd birth anniversary of Gandhi on October 2, he urged the prime minister to replace Gandhi's portrait on high value currency notes with a picture of his iconic spectacles.

The Sangod MLA said Gandhi's portrait should be retained only on the notes in the denominations of Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 50, Rs 100 and Rs 200 as they are widely

used by the poor and Gandhi throughout his life worked for the destitute.

"It is my suggestion that a picture of Gandhi's spectacles can be used on Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes. Ashok Chakra can also work effectively for this purpose," Kundanpur said in the letter.

The Congress MLA said corruption has spread all over the country in the last seven-and-a-half decades.

"Mahatma Gandhi symbolises truth and Gandhi's picture is printed on Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 notes, which are generally used in practices of corruption and in exchange of bribes," he added.

He said the high value currency notes are used in bars, bringing "disgrace" to Gandhi.

"Gandhi's portrait should be removed from Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes and it should be used only on small currency notes which are used by the poor," the MLA said in the letter. -PTI

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

## SC Orders UP Govt To File Status Report; Hearing On Friday



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to file a status report in 24 hours on action taken by it, including arrest of accused named in FIRs for murder, with regard to Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight persons, including four farmers, were killed on Sunday.

A Bench led by CJI NV Ramana— which had on Wednesday taken suo motu cognisance of the matter on the basis of a letter written by two advocates from Uttar Pradesh—said the report should give details about arrest of accused in all murder case, including that of a journalist.

Terming the incident as "extremely unfortunate" the Bench— which also included Justice Surya Kant and Justice Hima Kohli—asked the state government to provide immediate medical treatment to the mother of deceased Lovepreet Singh who was in a critical condition.

"Get her admitted to the nearest government hospital," the Bench told UP Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad after advocate Amrit Pal Singh

Khalsa drew the court's attention to her medical condition caused due to shock of loss of her son.

"We direct the learned Additional Advocate General to look into the matter personally and provide best medical treatment to the mother of the deceased in a reputed Government Medical College/Hospital at UP," it ordered.

Prashad assured the court that the court's directions will be complied with immediately.

She told the top court that FIRs had already been registered in the matter and an SIT was investigating the matter. The state government has also set up a commission of inquiry headed by Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava (retd) of the Allahabad High Court, she added.

The Bench asked her to put everything, including information regarding some PILs on the issue pending in the Allahabad High Court, in the report to be filed by the state government and posted it for further hearing on Friday. When Prashad said the incident was "extremely unfortunate", the Bench said, "We feel the same way."

Earlier, the suo motu case initiated by the Supreme Court on the Lakhimpur Kheri violence could not

be taken at the first call as the two lawyers who wrote to the CJI in this regard failed to turn up for hearing.

Advocates Shiv Kumar Tripathi and CS Panda from Uttar Pradesh—who had written to the CJI on Tuesday demanding a CBI probe into the incident—however, showed up for the hearing at the second call. Tripathi—who could barely manage to address the Bench due to poor Internet connection—complained of violation of human rights of farmers in UP and said the matter should be investigated properly.

During the brief hearing in the first round, CJI Ramana clarified that it was supposed to be a PIL on the basis of the letter written by the two advocates seeking action in the matter. "Doesn't matter, we'll hear it nonetheless," the CJI said during the hearing. Later, the Bench directed the court's Registry "to convert this suo motu Writ Petition (Crl.) into a Public Interest Litigation (Writ Petition Crl.) immediately."

Senior advocate Harshvir Pratap Sharma, who appeared for an intervenor, raised the issue of the death of a local journalist—Raman Kashyap.

## Centre Has Completely Failed In Providing Security In J&K: Rahul Gandhi

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday condemned the incidents of violence in Kashmir and alleged that the central government has completely failed to provide security to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Incidents of violence are increasing in Kashmir. Terrorism has neither stopped due to demonetisation nor after the abrogation of Article 370 - the central government has

completely failed to provide security," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"We strongly condemn the attacks on our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and send our condolences to the families of the deceased," the former Congress president also said.

Mr Gandhi's remarks on Kashmir came after two government school teachers, including a woman, were shot dead by militants in Eidgah area of Srinagar.

The killing of the teachers,

which drew widespread condemnation, took the number of civilians shot dead in the last five days in Kashmir valley to seven, including four from among the minorities.

On Tuesday, the Kashmir Valley witnessed three targeted civilian killings in 90 minutes, which included a prominent Kashmiri Pandit businessman Makhani Lal Bindroo and the owner of the city's most famous pharmacy, and a "golgappa" and "bhelpuri" seller from Bihar.

## Rare Diamond, Emerald Spectacles From Mughal India To Be Auctioned In UK

Agenceis

**LONDON:** A pair of rare bejewelled spectacles from an unknown princely treasury from 17th-century Mughal era in India will be offered at auction for the first time, with estimates of GBP 1.5 million and GBP 2.5 million each, Sotheby's London announced on Thursday.

The diamond pair of glasses, named the Halo of Light, and the emerald pair, named the Gate of Paradise, will go on display at Sotheby's London from October 22 in the lead up to their auction at the Arts of the Islamic World & India sale on October 27.

"These extraordinary curiosities bring together myriad threads—from the technical mastery of the cutter and the genius of craftsmanship to the vision of a patron who chose to fashion two pairs of eyeglasses quite unlike anything ever seen before," said Edward Gibbs, Chairman, Sotheby's Middle East & India.

"They are undoubtedly a marvel for gemologists and historians alike, and it is a real thrill to be able to bring these treasures to light and to offer the world the opportunity to wonder at their brilliance and the mystery behind their creation," he said.

The story of the unique spectacles begins in 17th century Mughal India, at a time when imperial wealth, scientific knowledge and artistic endeavour all simultaneously reached their peak. Commissioned by an unknown prince, an artist shaped a diamond, weighing over 200 carats, and a brilliant emerald, weighing at least three hundred carats, into two masterpieces. Testament to the technical skill involved, no comparable example of either is known to exist. In 1890, the lenses were placed in new frames, decorated

with rose-cut diamonds.

The original patron for whom these extraordinary spectacles were commissioned remains unknown, but they stem from a rich period of artistic and architectural achievement during the Great Mughal reigns of emperors Akbar (1556-1605), Jahangir (1605-1627), Shah Jahan (1627-1658) and Aurangzeb (1658-1707).

"The quality and purity of the gemstones is itself extraordinary and stones of this size would no doubt have been the reserve of an emperor. The diamonds are flawless, thought to be from the mines of Golconda in Southern India," Sotheby's experts note.

"Cleared as a pair from a single natural diamond—possibly the largest ever found—they now together weigh 25 carats. The faceting around the edge displays extreme skill, arranged to hold transparency in the lenses while releasing light from the edges. The teardrop-shaped emeralds also originate from a single natural Colombian emerald, and now weigh twenty-seven carats. The bevelling of the emeralds has been precisely angled to hold the intensity of the colour in the stone," they add.

According to legends of the time, while ordinary lenses merely function to improve sight, these filters were aids for spiritual enlightenment—with diamonds thought to illuminate their peak. Commissioned by an unknown prince, an artist shaped a diamond, weighing over 200 carats, and a brilliant emerald, weighing at least three hundred carats, into two masterpieces. Testament to the technical skill involved, no comparable example of either is known to exist. In 1890, the lenses were placed in new frames, decorated

In India, legend has it that following the tragic death of Shah Jahan's beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal—in whose honour the Taj Mahal was built—the emperor is said to have cried so many tears that he needed to cure his ailing eyes with emerald stones. PTI

## Narendra Modi Completes 20 Years In Public Office, BJP Leaders Wish Him

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today completed 20 years as the head of a government, including over 13 years as Gujarat Chief Minister, with top BJP leaders lauding his leadership and crediting him for ushering in good governance and development.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who has been a close aide of PM Modi for over three decades, said the journey of good governance and development that started on this day in 2001 when Narendra Modi took oath for the first time as Chief Minister has continued uninterrupted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked day and night for the people and country's progress, Amit Shah said.

Narendra Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat between 2001 and 2014. BJP president JP Nadda said PM Modi pulled the country out of an atmosphere of



disappointment and put it on the path to progress and becoming "vishwa guru" (world leader).

The Prime Minister has worked like a "karma yogi" and infused people with self-confidence about making a new India, Mr Nadda said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also congratulated the Prime Minister, saying these 20 years have not only been dedicated to people's welfare but have also been untainted. May his popularity keep rising, he said.



24 year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN

