



P6 THINK
MYTHS OF MIDDLE EAST

"Victorious" is not a word one would use much today to describe the Taliban, Afghanistan's new rulers. The crippled economy, dependent on international aid, is now cut off, amid rising levels of poverty. One Taliban leader stays in Kandahar...

P7 THINK
RISING ESCALATIONS OF CHINA WITH TAIWAN AND BEYOND

In October 2021, China flew its military planes around one forty-nine times, trying to display its military might and thereby putting pressure on the self-governing island. In response, Taiwan scrambled its own warplanes, and this scenario looked like a...



P11 SPORTS
KKR IN WAY OF DC'S MAIDEN IPL TITLE ASPIRATIONS

Eyeing a maiden IPL title, the fancied Delhi Capitals will face another litmus test in the form of a Kolkata Knight Riders unit brimming with optimism when the two sides...



Quote!
Widom
Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave
- Frederick Douglass

Army Sounds High Alert In Pir Panjal After Fresh Firefight



File Photo

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Army on Tuesday sounded high alert around Pir Panjal range after a fresh firefight raged on between a group of militants and the joint team

of forces in Dera Ki Gali (DKG) forest area along the Rajouri-Poonch border.

According to officials, the exchange of fire between a heavily armed group of militants and the joint team ● [More On P10](#)

5 Militants Killed In Twin Shopian Encounters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Five militants were killed in two separate encounters in south Kashmir's Shopian district, police said Tuesday.

According to a police spokesperson, Lashkar-e-Taiba militant Mukhtar Shah and his two associates Danish Hussain Dar of Kapren and Yawar Hussain

Naikoo of Pahlipora were killed in an encounter with a joint team of police, army's 34RR and CRPF in an overnight gunfight in Tulran village of Shopian.

Shah, a resident of Sindbal, Ganderbal, he said, was involved in the targeted killing of non-local vendor at Lal Bazar area of Srinagar. The killed militant, he said, had shifted to ● [More On P10](#)

Those Who Killed Bindroo, Teachers Identified: Police

Security agencies Tuesday identified the militants they believed were behind the civilian killings in the city last week. The attackers included their 25-year-old kingpin Basit Ahmed Dar, a resident ● [More On P10](#)

Militants Were Present In Area For 2 To 3 Months

Jammu and Kashmir Police said on Tuesday that militants involved in the attack on security forces in Poonch district in which five army personnel including a JCO lost their lives were in the area for two to three months. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Rajouri-Poonch range Vivek Gupta told reporters that the militants have been confined to a particular area and asserted that the operation shall be taken "to a logical conclusion in the shortest time". Gupta said that a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces on Monday when militants attacked a party that was part of CASO, leaving five army personnel dead. The DIG said that later there was again contact with a group of militants at another location. "There was no further progress in the operation due to the topography of the ● [More On P10](#)

Domestic Flights To Operate Fully From Oct 18

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Airlines can operate domestic flights without any capacity restriction from October 18 onwards, the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced on Tuesday, keeping in mind the "passenger demand for air travel". The carriers have been operating 85 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic services since September 18, according to an order issued by the ministry. ● [More On P10](#)

Govt Urges KP Employees Not To Leave Valley Admin Directed To Post KP Employees In 'Safe, Secure Zones'

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday directed Kashmiri migrant employees not to leave the valley as security has been tightened for them, saying absence from duty will be dealt with as per service rules.

The authorities also impressed upon officers to preferably post these migrant employees in safe and secure zones for the time being.



File Photo

Fear psychosis was triggered among over 3,000 Kashmiri Hindu employees living in seven different transit camps

in the Valley due to selective and systematic killings of three Hindus and one Sikh teacher by terrorists in ● [More On P10](#)

No Need To Add, Lessen Troops At LoC: Army Commander

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There is no requirement for additional troops or lessening their numbers at the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Army is vigilant and will not allow any infiltration into the valley, a senior Army officer said here on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters

at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here after the send-off ceremony for 300 students from Jammu and Kashmir who will attend various courses in the Mewar University in Rajasthan under Operation Sadbhavana, General officer Commanding (GoC) of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt Gen. D.P. Pandey ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 80 New Cases, 136 Recoveries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 136 more coronavirus infected persons recovered in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while 80 new positive cases of virus were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 136 more patients recovered—47 from Jammu and 89 from Kashmir from the deadly infection on Tuesday. During the same time, they said, the UT reported 80 fresh cases—67 from Kashmir and 13 from Jammu, taking the overall number of people ● [More On P10](#)

NEWS DIGEST

Pakistani Militant Held In New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Police have arrested a 40-year-old Pakistani national, who allegedly has ISI links and is involved in a plot to carry out a "terror attack" here, from east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, officials said on Tuesday. Mohammad Ashraf alias Ali, ● [More On P10](#)

Teacher Shoots Self Dead In Kishtwar

JAMMU: In an apparent case of suicide, a 45-year-old teacher shot himself dead in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Majid Muzaffar Najar used his licensed 12-bore gun to kill himself at his residence, a police official said. The motive behind the extreme step ● [More On P10](#)

Rusty Shell Defused In Budgam

BUDGAM: The government forces on Tuesday recovered and defused an old shell in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Sources said that the government forces received information that an old rusty shell is lying in a field of Ichama village. They said that teams of police and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the spot and ● [More On P10](#)

Minor Girl Injured In Leopard Attack

SRINAGAR: A minor girl on Tuesday was attacked and injured by a leopard in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 5-year-old Nuzhat Fatima, daughter of Alijazz Hussain was outside her home when attacked by a leopard and dragged away several metres from her home. Soon after intimidated, a police team ● [More On P10](#)

1 Fresh Covid Case In Ladakh

LEH: The number of active cases in Ladakh went down to 46 Tuesday as the union territory recorded only one COVID-19 case in the last 24 hours, officials said. The new case took the virus tally to 20,853, they said. There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh on Monday, they said. Ladakh has registered 208 Covid-related ● [More On P10](#)

Youth Held For 'Drone-Dropped' AK-47

JAMMU: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested one youth from Anantnag in connection with recovery of one AK-47 rifle, a night vision and three magazines allegedly dropped by a drone at Phallian Mandal in Jammu on October 2. "Irfan Ahmed Bhat son of Farooq Ahmed Bhat of Anantnag has been arrested in connection with ● [More On P10](#)

Govt De-hires 14 Hotels, Protected Persons Stage Protest



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government has de-hired 14 hotels in Srinagar, where the protected persons were given accommodation. According to reports, at least 14 hotels where protected persons were accommodated, have

been de-hired and the District Commissioners (DCs), Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), SSP Security and SSP PCR, have been directed to explore the possibility to accommodate the persons who had accommodations in these hotels. In the recently held meeting, ● [More On P10](#)

NHRC Chief Praises HM's Peace Efforts In J&K, NE

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: NHRC chairperson and former Supreme Court judge justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra Tuesday praised Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying his "untiring efforts" have ushered in a "new era" of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast.

In his address at the 28th foundation day of the National Human Rights Commission here, the former judge also underlined that "external forces" levelling "false" allegations of human rights violations against India has become very common, "which should be opposed".

"I am pleased to greet Union Minister Amit Shah ji. Your untiring efforts have ushered in a new era of peace, and law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, and the

Northeast," the NHRC chief said. In early August 2019, the Union government had abrogated operative provisions of Article 370 that gave Jammu & Kashmir a special status, and divided the state into two UTs -- J&K and Ladakh.

After the abrogation, curfew was imposed and internet services were suspended for a long time, amid protests from several quarters, with a few human rights groups expressing apprehensions over the issue.

In his address, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been relentlessly working for the welfare of poor, backward and deprived sections of society, thus protecting their human rights.

On August 5, 2019, when Rajya Sabha had approved a resolution abrogating Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir and a ● [More On P10](#)

Enemies Of Humanity Will Not Be Spared: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his administration will take all necessary steps to ensure

the safety and security of the minority communities in the Union Territory and the enemies of humanity who perpetrated heinous crimes will not be spared. Sinha made these remarks during ● [More On P10](#)

Inputs On Target Killings 'Ignored': Mehbooba

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti claimed on Tuesday that the Jammu and Kashmir administration had prior information about attacks on minority community members but ignored the inputs to provide security to Union ministers, who came here to ● [More On P10](#)



Ousted LG's Advisor Faces CBI Heat In Arms License Case

Probe Agency Raids Residence Of Baseer Khan, 2 Other IAS Officers
Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR: A week after his unceremonious exit as the advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor, the CBI Tuesday searched the residence of Baseer Ahmed Khan, alongside those of two other serving IAS officers in a case related to arms licenses being issued in the erstwhile state on fake and forged documents.

A CBI spokesperson said the agency conducted searches at around 41 locations including in Srinagar, Anantnag, Banihal, Baramulla, Jammu, Doda, Rajouri, Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir), Leh, Delhi and Bhand (Madhya Pradesh). ● [More On P10](#)

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DIPK-NB-4027/21

Office of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla H.Q Sopore NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Manzoor Ahmad Gojri S/O Ghulam Hassan Gojri R/o Pattan (Transferor) and Abdul Zahid Paswal S/O Abdul Gafoor Paswal R/o Shahdra Jab-da Uri (Transferee) for transfer of --- carriage route Permit No / KP Covering Vehicle No .

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Baramulla H.Q Sopore. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.

NO: ARTOK /bla/1809
 Dated: 12/10/2021
 gms

Sd/-
 Regional Transport Office,
 Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Maqsood Ahmad S/o: Ghulam Mohammad R/o: Wathoor Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C 9399 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Nowgam .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3795
 Dated 12-10-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

MCB

GENESIS International School LARNOO ANANTNAG KASHMIR

Fee Structure For The Year 2021-22

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NURSERY TO 5TH	RS 550/-

RNA

Sd/-
 Principal

از نیابت ہاگ با اجلاس ایکریٹیکٹیشن دہر اول۔
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 بغرض حصول لیگل ہیر پرفٹ۔

اشعار برآء ہدایتی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیگل ہیر پرفٹ دفتر ہدایتی پیش کیا ہے جو کڈریکارڈی ہے۔ پڈاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیال سے کڈریکارڈ کا شوہر ہدایتی اتوسا کٹونہ غلام محمد اتوسا کٹونہ مونسو 16-09-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اسلورٹونی کے فراویہ ہڈیل ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ برآء ہدایتی	پیشہ	عمر
01	نذیر باویہ ہدایتی اتوسا کٹونہ	زید ہدایتی	گھریلو کام	55 سال
02	شہیر احمد ہدایتی اتوسا کٹونہ	پسر ہدایتی	زمینداری	35 سال
03	پڈیہ باویہ ہدایتی اتوسا کٹونہ	بھتیجی ہدایتی	گھریلو کام (شادی شدہ)	33 سال

اسکے علاوہ ادوار کوئی فراویہ ہڈیل موجود نہیں ہے۔ لہذا اسرٹیکٹ ڈکوریہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا دو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ مہیا ایڈز کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصدرا ایکریٹیکٹیشن دہر اول۔) RNA

Public Notice

I, Reyaz Ahmad Bhat S/O Late Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O House Number 07 Left Lane Khan Colony Chanapora, Srinagar Purchased The Second Hand Motor Vehicle (Scorpio) Bearing Registration Number JK0110044 From Mr. Manzoor Ahmad S/O Shri Kaka Gujjar On 19/09/2021. Anybody Having Any Objection In This Regard Can File It Within 07 Days From The Date Of Publication Of This Notice. After That No Objection Shall Be Entertained.

REYAZ AHMAD BHAT
 Contact number-7006308220

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Ali Mohammad Ganaie S/o: Abdul Ahad Ganaie R/o: Chowdari Bagh Sebdan Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 0951 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance Ser B/U Bemina.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3790
 Dated 12-10-2021

MCB

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Hanaan Nazeer
 S/O Nazeer Ahmad Beigh R/o Badran Magam

Details of Marks Certificate lost
 Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
 Roll No 120407253
 Session /Year Annual-Reg. 2020

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Sub Office Magam

bmg

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Sameer Ahmad S/o: Sona ullah Sheikh R/o: Kawoosa Khalisa Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7850 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Narbal .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3802
 Dated 12-10-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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 Contact:-9018381436/7006897503

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Zahid Hussain Wani S/o: Ghulam Hussain Wani R/o: Parisabad Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 9877. Chasis number 56984 Engine no. 404625 Model 2020. in favour of Shri.. Imtiyaz Hussain Wani S/o. Gh Hussain Wani R/o Paris Abad Budgam (Transferee) As well as HPA cancelation with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/u Sholipra also required.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3801
 Dated 12/10/2021

MCB

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o: Abdul Rashid Sheikh R/o: Kawoosa Khalisa Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7784 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Narbal .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3803
 Dated 12-10-2021

mcb

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Office of the Dean Academic Affairs Advertisement Notice

For Engagement of Contractual Lecturer for the Academic Arrangement-2021

Applications on the prescribed format, which can be downloaded from the University website www.kashmiruniversity.net are invited for the engagement of contractual lecturers in the below mentioned subjects on Academic Arrangements for the Session-2021 at Kupwara Campus purely on academic arrangement. Application form complete in all respects along with relevant documents should be submitted in the office of the concerned Dean of the Schools by or before 20.10.2021.

Subject	Eligibility
Physics	Candidates with Masters degree in Physics with a minimum of 55% marks at Post-graduate level and possessing NET/SET/Ph.D in concerned subject.
Chemistry	Candidates with Masters degree in Chemistry with a minimum of 55% marks at Post-graduate level and possessing NET/SET/Ph.D in any branch of Chemistry.
Mathematics	Candidates with Masters degree in Mathematics with a minimum of 55% marks at Post-graduate level and possessing NET/SET/Ph.D in any branch of Mathematics.
General English	Candidates with Masters degree in English with a minimum of 55% marks at Post-graduate level and possessing NET/SET/Ph.D in concerned subject.

NOTE:
 1. Candidates in their own interest are advised to be in touch with the Deans of the concerned Schools about the date, venue and time of the interview.
 2. Salary of the appointees shall be paid on the basis of their qualification.

No: F (Advt-Appt-CL-KC) DAA/KU/21
 Dated: 11.10.2021

DIPK-NB-4175/21

Sd/-
 Joint Registrar
 (Academic Affairs)

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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Zahid Hussain Wani S/o: Ghulam Hussain Wani R/o: Parisabad Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 9877. Chasis number 56984 Engine no. 404625 Model 2020. in favour of Shri.. Imtiyaz Hussain Wani S/o. Gh Hussain Wani R/o Paris Abad Budgam (Transferee) As well as HPA cancelation with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/u Sholipra also required.

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Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3797
 Dated 12/10/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

mcb

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Office of the Dean Academic Affairs Advertisement Notice

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No: F (Advt-Appt-CL-KC) DAA/KU/21
 Dated: 11.10.2021

DIPK-NB-4175/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir Message for Farmers

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch No's of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as MISBRANDED by the Central Insecticides Laboratory Faridabad. The details of MISBRANDED Pesticide products are as under:-

S. No.	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Manufactured By
1	Eraze Strong	(Bensulfuron Methyl 0.6 % + Pretilachor 6% GR)	EES2102034	M/S NACL Industries Ltd
2	ULKA-505	Chloropyrifos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	JUA211C001, JUA211C002	M/S Biostadt India Ltd.

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize the stocks of the above said pesticide product and proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Sd/-
 Deputy Director Law Enforcement
 Kashmir.

DIPK-10441/21

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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

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No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3797
 Dated 12/10/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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No: F (Advt-Appt-CL-KC) DAA/KU/21
 Dated: 11.10.2021

DIPK-NB-4175/21

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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

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No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3797
 Dated 12/10/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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 Valley Plumbers - 7947130027
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 Electric & Plumbing - 7947130256
 Ajaz Plumber- 6008402994

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Dalgate, Srinagar
 Contact:-9419064835

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 Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
 Contact:-7889657769

Pleasure
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 Contact:-9622693484

Adnan Electronics
 Furniture Market Babodhem Srinagar
 Contact:-8493957698

Off Complus
 2nd floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar
 Contact:-9419069964/9797000252

Mobile Accessories
 2nd floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar
 Contact:-9622430737



'Water Surface Of Dal Lake Increased 18.21 Sq Kms To 20.21 Sq Kms In Past 114 Years'



Image by representation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Lakes and Water Development Authority (LAWDA) on Tuesday claimed that in the last one century, the water surface of the Dal Lake has been slightly increased from 18.21 square kilometres to 20.21 square kilometres in the past 114 years.

According to the official data available with the news agency, the data reveals that in the year 1895 the water surface of the Dal Lake was 18.21 square kilometres. As per the recent Electronic Total Station (ETS) survey carried out by the Revenue Author-

ities in 2009, the Water surface of the Dal Lake is 19.83 square kilometres (39226 Kanals) and in the same year satellite images show that the actual water surface covered by the Dal is 20.21 square kilometres. Top officials from the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) said that the area of Dal Lake has not been shrinking, on the contrary area has been slightly increased. "The Dal Lake has not been shrinking, from the past many years it is taking its own course and more area is adding up. At least more than two square kilometres

LAWDA Pressed 16 Pontoon Based Machines For Lily Extraction In Dal Lake

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr. GN Ittoo on Tuesday visited Dal Lake and participated in the ongoing de-weeding operation. The Director was accompanied by Vice-Chairman LAWDA, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st and other senior officials of the department. The Director also visited the area of Dal Lake where under a mega program lily extraction has been undertaken this year. Dr Ittoo hailed the efforts of LDA in cleaning of Dal Lake and hoped that in future more efforts will be put in by LDA to achieve the targets. Terming the famous Dal Lake "heritage", Dr. Ittoo said this Lake is having great importance with respect to our tourism, culture and other sectors. He praised the effort of LAWDA for extracting the unwanted weeds from the Dal and said, "I believe this is the biggest post-pandemic initiative taken up by LAWDA to ensure cleanliness in the Lake".

He said, "I am hopeful the drive shall continue in coming days" and appealed to all sections of society to play their role in maintaining the aesthetics of the Lake. Dr. Ittoo while lauding the efforts of LAWDA authorities said, "The officers of LAWDA are themselves monitoring the drive on a daily basis which shows their commitment and resolve towards making the Lake free from all pollutants". It is pertinent to mention that the LDA has pressed in 16 pontoon based machines for lily extraction in Dal Lake for the first time. With the deployment of these machines LDA has so far cleared approx an area of 1.00 sq km out of the total targeted area of 2.50 sq km. Further LDA is also employing 400 to 450 laborers on a daily basis for removal of weed from the Lake. The LDA is being provided support by various organizations, NGO's, students and others in cleaning the Dal Lake and have remained attached with LDA since October 2nd when Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha flagged off the drive from SKICC here.

THE DAL LAKE HAS NOT BEEN SHRINKING, FROM THE PAST many years it is taking its own course and more area is adding up. At least more than two square kilometres of the water surface area has been added, not decreased. Shrinking of Dal Lake is not true,"

DSEK Refutes "Shifting Minority Teachers To Safer Places"

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department of the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday refuted the news "DSEK Proposes Government to shift minority teachers to safer places" which is in circulation across many social media groups.

The news on the J&K administration planning to shift teachers from minority groups to safer areas started doing rounds in the wake of two school teachers-Satinder Kaur and Deepak Chand- were shot dead by the unidentified gunmen in Eidgah Sangam of Srinagar.

In a statement issued here by the education department, in possession of news agency, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir made it clear that they were "NOT" planning to shift teachers from the minority community to other locations. "School Education Department has not issued any order regarding mass leave, deployment or mass transfer of academic or non-academic staff for minority employees," the government said.(KINS)



Camp For Registration Of Handicraft Artisans Held In Nawakadal



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Handicrafts Service Centre, Srinagar, on the directions of office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India on Tuesday organised an Artisan camp for registration of Handicraft Artisans under Handicrafts comprehensive Welfare Scheme (PEHCHAN CARD) at Arampora, Nawakadal (old city), here. More than 300 Artisans application forms were received during the camp.

On the occasion, Assistant Directors, Raja Rahail Rashid and Rakesh Kumar besides other officials sensitised artisans about various schemes of Office of DC (Handicrafts) like registration of artisans with the office of DC (Handicrafts), Mudra Loan. The visiting officers and officials also raise awareness regarding various marketing events organised by the office and other initiatives being taken for the upliftment of handicraft artisans particularly in Downtown (old city) area of Srinagar.

ON THE OCCASION, Assistant Directors, Raja Rahail Rashid and Rakesh Kumar besides other officials sensitised artisans about various schemes of Office of DC (Handicrafts) like registration of artisans with the office of DC (Handicrafts), Mudra Loan.

Director NIT Inaugurates Torus- First Design Thinking Club Of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal on Tuesday inaugurated Torus- first design thinking club of Kashmir. The event was organized by Mechanical Department students (2019-23) batch and Director along with Registrar NIT Prof. Kaiser Bukhari were guests of honor on the occasion. The club was inaugurated in presence of the Regional head Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI), Virender

through its brochure also and it appears a great idea to involve UG and PG students in this kind of grand success to the club and great learning for all of it in the campus," he said. Prof. Sehgal said the club will act as a platform for those students who are interested in designing courses and they can showcase their talent and skills to be professionals. In his message, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said many students were interested in designing but there



Diman and Advisor ESSCI, Satyanarayan Moharana, Arun Kumar Singh - Director Sales Phytex Embedded Pvt Ltd. While Prof. GA Harmain (Dean R&C), Prof. Shamim A Lone (Dean Faculty Welfare), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh (HOD Mechanical Department), Prof. Ajaz Hussain Mir (HOD ECE Department), Dr. Saad Parveez (Head IIEDC), and Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar (Head T&P), Dr. Dinesh Kumar R (Faculty Incharge- Torus) was also present on the occasion.

was no platform but now Torus will help them in exploring their talent. In future, it will organise workshops, and seminars on various topics to help the students, he said. Prof. Bukhari also appreciated Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendra and his team for working hard in creating the design and thinking club on the NIT Srinagar. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendra said the idea of this club is to help students who have an interest in creative designing thinking. After the brainstorming exercise, a good team was formulated to manage the club. He also expressed his gratitude to Director NIT for approving the club on short-term notice, he said. Advisor ESSCI, Satyanarayan Moharana urged students that club should be inter-departmental in nature so that every student can be a member and it should be open to all.

On the occasion, Prof. Sehgal said it is a proud moment for all of us to inaugurate the Torus, which is the brainchild of Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendra from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, who has been working very hard and has taken this responsibility in a nice way. "The mandate of Torus is very nice and I have also gone

BJP Stages March Demanding 'Safe Accommodation' For 'Vulnerable' Sarpanchs, Panchs



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party workers Tuesday threatened to go for an indefinite hunger strike if the government doesn't provide security cover and accommodation to Sarpanchs and Panchs in Kashmir Valley. Scores of BJP workers assembled at Press Enclave Srinagar and marched towards the Civil Secretariat amid anti-administration slogans. They alleged that bureaucratic set-up has deprived the vulnerable lot of

the security and safe accommodation. BJP Spokesperson Altaf Thakur who was part of the protest told news agency Kashmir News Trust that if the government fails to provide security and accommodation to Sarpanchs and Panchs within 10 days, then they will go for indefinite hunger strike. While seeking the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Thakur said BJP workers, activists, Sarpanchs and Panchs are vulnerable and thus need to be protected.

Zainakadal Ward Tops SMC's Cleanliness And Sanitation Chart



SRINAGAR: Zainakadal Ward in Srinagar city has topped the civic body Srinagar Municipal Corporation's (SMC) cleanliness and sanitation chart. Magarmal Ward has been categorized as the 'poorest' one. In Ward wise cleanliness ranking, Zainakadal Ward (06) has obtained 277.5 marks out of 300. Parimpora and Hal-wal wards have been ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively. Zainakadal ward is being taken care of by ward officer Mukhtar Ahmed Khan. Sanitary Inspector of Zaina Kadal Ward Showkat Hussain told news agency Kashmir News Trust that they have started a drive to keep the ward neat and clean and this on-going drive will surely yield positive results. (KNT)

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1213 - Battle at Steppes-Bishop Pierreport & Louis II beat Henry I of Brabant
- 1501 - Maximilian of Austria & Louis XII sign Treaty of Trente
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin
- 1943 - Italy declares war on former Axis partner Germany
- 1944 - US 1st army begins battle of Aachen, first German city captured during WWII
- 1960 - Opponents of Fidel Castro executed in Cuba
- 1964 - Voskhod 1 crew returns
- 1966 - 173 US aircraft bomb North Vietnam
- 1969 - 1st time 7 people in space
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-62 crashes in large pond outside Moscow, 176 die
- 1973 - Jordan enters Yom Kippur war
- 1976 - A Bolivian Boeing 707 cargo jet crashes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia killing 100 (97, mostly children, killed on the ground).
- 1976 -First electron micrograph of an Ebola viral particle obtained by Dr. F.A. Murphy, working at the C.D.C.
- 1981 - Vice President Hosni Mubarak elected President of Egypt
- 1983 - Ameritech Mobile Communications (now Cingular) launched the first US cellular network in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1984 - STS 41-G mission; lands at Kennedy Space Center
- 1993 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Kary Mullis & Michael Smith
- 1993 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Russel Hulse & Joseph Taylor
- 2010 - The 2010 Copiapó mining accident in Copiapó, Chile comes to an end as all 33 miners arrive at the surface after surviving a record 69 days underground.
- 2012 - 15 people are killed by a market suicide bombing in Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan
- 2013 - 109 people are killed in a stampede on a bridge in Datia district, Madhya Pradesh, India



HIJRI CALENDAR

06

RABI-UL-AWWAL

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 5:11
ZUHR 12:17
ASR 4:22
MAGRIB 6:06
ISHA 7:23

From KO Archives

RSS Launches JK Trifurcation Campaign

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has formally launched its campaign for the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating Reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation (visualizes the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmiri problem).

According to a report earned by The Times of India today, the RSS has planned "mass action programme" and has floated an umbrella organisation - the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) - and was 'subtly' promoting groups to organise mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Buddhist Ladakh The Front held its first dharna in Jammu interestingly on Gandhi Jayanti.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate homeland for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslims majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as 'Kashmiri hegemony'.

Quoting M G Vaidya, an RSS spokesman in New Delhi, the report said, Trifurcation doesn't mean surrender to the Two-Nation theory. The reorganisation is basically an administrative measure." The Sangh Parivar believes that Kashmiri extremism can be dealt with only by separating the valley from rest of the state and focussing on the insurgency operations in the Muslim majority valley, the report said.

While the RBS-backed JKNF was gaining ground, the report said, the BJP had, curiously, kept itself away so far. The recent dharna in Jammu was joined by even the mainstream parties like the Janata Dal (U) and Bhin Singh's Panther's party. Explaining the reasons, the co-convenor of the JKNF, Yesh Bhasin, a former RSS Parcharak and state BJP leader, told the newspaper, "The BJP is not openly supporting us since they are bound by the NDA's policies."

(Kashmir Observer, October 13, 2000)

از ریاست لاداکھ ہا ایم ایس منظرہ برہہ ٹھیلو ر ایز کیلئے مجسٹریٹ دیو اول اارڈو
مضوں درنواسے نمونہ راجھ مارک ملک دلہنلام برسوں ملک ساک لہنہ قوب ملک گولنی
بزرگ اصولی و پڑھنی سرٹکیٹ -
اشٹیلہار ہیرا اد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام -
محکمہ مندرجہ عنوان انصرہ سرکل نے ایک درخواست بزرگ اصولی و پڑھنی سرٹکیٹ دیکھ کر
میں ٹیٹا ہے جو کہ لاداکھ سے پڑھنی علاقہ سے بڑھنی طلب کی گئی جن سے ہمیں ہے کہ
سائن کا پتہ نام رسول ملک موبو: 11/06/2021 کو نوٹ ہو چکا ہے۔ ایلو سٹوٹی کے
افراد کی ذیل ہے۔

نمبر وارڈ	نام و اولیہ پتہ	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ
01	سارہ بیگم بی بی صاحبہ رسول	54 سال	گھری کام	بیوی
02	نجمہ اولیہ صاحبہ رسول	27 سال	زیر تعلیم	پہرستی
03	جمہار ملک و دلہنلام رسول ملک	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	پہرستی

اسکے علاوہ ذیل افراد کی موجودگی ہے۔ لہذا سرٹکیٹ ڈور و وجہ حاصل کرے گا۔ اس کی کاپی
کوئی اعتراض ہو گا وہ وقت کے اندر درج ذیل ایڈریس ایڈریس ایڈریس ایڈریس کریں۔ معذرت
مذرت کیے بغیر کسی اعتراض حاصل نہیں ہوگا۔
(خواصہ لاداکھ کیلئے مجسٹریٹ دیو اولیہ)

RNA

Sadr Claims Largest Bloc, Promises Nationalist Govt

Dilan Sirwan | Rudaw

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region - Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Monday claimed victory in Iraq's parliamentary election and, striking a nationalist tone, warned foreign countries not to interfere in the process



of forming the government.

"Thank God who has blessed his largest bloc with reform, a bloc that is neither Eastern nor Western, but Iraqi," Sadr said in a televised address on Monday night.

Preliminary results showed Sadr's movement leading by a large margin, securing over 70 seats in the parliament. The election was marred by a record-low turnout as voters and parties boycotted, citing concerns of fraud and disillusionment with the political system and politicians seen as corrupt.

Sadr sent strong messages to the international community and Iranian-backed militias that operate outside of government control. "All embassies are welcomed as long as they do not interfere in Iraqi affairs and the formation of the government. If they interfere we will have a diplomatic response or even a popular response," he said.

The United States and Iran compete for strategic influence in Iraq. For years Sadr has been on the frontlines, calling on Western powers to leave Iraq. He has also now turned his eye towards Iranian-backed militias opposed to Western and especially American presence in the country.

"From now on, all arms should be in the hands of the state, and its use outside of that should be forbidden, even for those who call themselves the resistance," he said, referring to the militias.

The populist cleric, who earlier this year withdrew from the election, throwing the whole process into doubt until he was enticed back into the race, will now be the main force in the formation of the government and has started giving out promises to the people.

"All corrupt people will be punished wherever they are," Sadr said.

Members of his bloc, however, have been linked to corruption and ineptitude. Former health minister Hassan al-Tamimi was forced to resign after deadly hospital fires in Baghdad and Nasiriyah earlier this year, blamed on the ministry's negligence.

Sadr also promised to fix some of Iraq's financial problems. "We will work on increasing the value of the Iraqi dinar against the value of international currencies," he said.

He had previously expressed his concern over the parliamentary decision in December to devalue the dinar. "The Central Bank and all other banks are prisoners of corruption and the corrupt. The government and parliament must seek specialized methods to end this and liberalize it immediately," he tweeted at the time.



Liberty Of Individual Sacrosanct, Bail Pleas Must Be Taken Up Expeditiously: SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The liberty of an individual is 'sacrosanct' and an application seeking bail must be taken up for hearing as expeditiously as possible, the Supreme Court has said.

No time limit can be fixed for applications seeking pre-arrest or post-arrest bail but the minimal which can be expected is that such pleas be heard at the earliest, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and A S Oka said this while hearing a plea filed by an accused, who was taken into custody in March this year in connection with a case registered at Patiala district in Punjab, urging the court that his application seeking bail which is pending before the Punjab

and Haryana High Court be heard expeditiously.

The bench noted that a sessions court had dismissed the bail application filed by the accused after which he had filed a plea seeking post-arrest bail before the high court on July 7.

The petitioner's counsel told the bench that the matter was listed before the court several times but it could not be heard.

"We are not going into the issue at the moment, but liberty of an individual is sacrosanct and we expect that if an application is filed either pre or post arrest, under sections 438/439 of the CrPC, it must be taken up as expeditiously as possible," the bench said in its order passed last week.

"Although, no time limit can be fixed, but that is the

minimal which can be expected to give an audience at the earliest," the top court said.

While Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) deals with grant of bail to person apprehending arrest, Section 439 relates to special powers of the high court or a sessions court regarding bail.

While disposing of the plea, the bench requested the high court to consider the bail application filed by the petitioner "as expeditiously as possible".

The petitioner was taken into custody in connection with the case registered on March 30 this year for the alleged offences under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

'Lawyers can't disrupt court proceedings, put clients interest in jeopardy'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: It is "unprofessional" and "unbecoming" for a lawyer to refuse to attend the court due to a strike or boycott by the Bar Associations as they cannot disrupt court proceedings and put the interest of their clients in jeopardy, the Supreme Court has said.

The top court further observed that an advocate is an officer of the court and enjoys a special status in the society.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna made the observation while hearing a case in which the advocates in the Rajasthan High Court went on strike on September 27, 2021.

"It is unprofessional as well as unbecoming for a lawyer to refuse to attend the court even in pursuance of a call for strike or boycott by the Bar Association or the Bar Council. It is further observed that an Advocate is an officer of the court and enjoys a special status in the society; Advocates have obligations and duties to ensure the smooth functioning of the court; they owe a duty to their clients and strikes interfere with the administration of justice," the bench said.

"They cannot thus disrupt court proceedings and put the interest of

their clients in jeopardy. Despite the law laid down by this Court in the aforesaid decisions and even the concern expressed by this Court against the strikes by the lawyers, things did not improve," it said.

The apex court took note of the submission of Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra that BCI has issued the notice to the Bar Association of the High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

The senior advocate stated that there was a call to boycott only one court. The apex court said even that also cannot be tolerated. "To boycott only one court will hamper the independence of the judiciary and there may be a pressure on the particular judge whose court is boycotted and it may lead to demoralization of the judiciary," the bench said.

The bench issued notice to the President, Secretary and the Office Bearers of the Bar Association of the High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur to show cause why contempt proceedings may not be initiated against them.

The matter is listed for next hearing on October 25. The apex court directed the Registry to serve notices through the Registrar General of the High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

Expert Panel Recommends Emergency Use Approval For Covaxin In 2 To 18 Age Group

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An expert panel of India's Central Drug Authority has recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children in the 2 to 18 years age group with certain conditions, sources said on Tuesday.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which completed the phase 2/3 trials of Covid vaccine Covaxin for use in children aged between 2 and 18 years, had submitted the data to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for its verification and subsequent approval for emergency use authorisation (EUA) for the job in the beginning of this month.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 examined the data and deliberated on the EUA application on Monday.

"After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended



grant of market authorisation of the vaccine for the age group of 2 to 18 years for restricted use in emergency situations subject to the certain conditions," a source quoted SEC as having stated in its recommendations.

The recommendations have been forwarded to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for final approval.

It said that in the last 24 hours, 65,86,092 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered. India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 95.89 crores, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday.

With Region On Edge, Iran Kicks Off Annual Air Defence Drill

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday kicked off a massive, two-day air defence drill in the country's sprawling central desert, state TV reported, the latest show of force by the Islamic Republic.

The report said both the army and the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard were taking part in the annual maneuvers dubbed "Velyat."

It said elite air force and air defence units as well as the Guard's airspace division would participate.

Iran regularly holds such drills and says they assess the troops' combat readiness and demonstrate the nation's military capabilities.

Earlier in October, Iran held a drill near its border with Azerbaijan, putting on a display of military capabilities near a neighbour it is increasingly skeptical of for its ties to the West and Israel.

Azerbaijan and Israel have strengthened their military alliance in recent months, with

Israeli-supplied high-tech drones helping Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh last year.

The region remains on edge over Iran's escalating nuclear programme.

Talks in Vienna to revive Tehran's now-tattered 2015 accord with world powers have stalled since June, with no date set for their resumption.

The 2015 nuclear deal saw Tehran drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord, raising tensions across the wider Middle East and sparking a series of attacks and incidents.

With Vienna talks stalled, Iran has breached limits set by the nuclear deal and is enriching small amounts of uranium to its closest-ever levels to weapons-grade purity as its stockpile continues to grow.

Iran says its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes.

Life on Mars Simulating Red Planet Base In Israeli Desert



Inside a huge crater in Israel's sun-baked Negev desert, a team wearing space suits ventures forth on a mission to simulate conditions on Mars.

The Austrian Space Forum has set up a pretend Martian base with the Israeli space agency at Makhtesh Ramon, a 1,600-foot deep, 40km wide crater.

The six so-called "analogue astronauts" will live in isolation in the virtual station until the end of the month.

"It's a dream come true," Israeli Alon Tenzer, 36, told AFP. "It's something we've been working on for years."

The participants -- from Austria, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain -- all had to pass gruelling physical and psychological tests.

During their mission, they will conduct tests including on a drone prototype that functions without GPS, and on automated wind- and solar-powered mapping vehicles.

The mission will also aim to study human behaviour and the effect of isolation on the astronauts.

"The group's cohesion and their ability to work together are crucial for surviving on Mars," said Gernot Groemer, the Austrian mission supervisor.

'Largest voyage ever'

The Austrian Space Forum, a private organisation made up of aerospace specialists, has already organized 12 missions, the most recent in Oman in 2018.

The Israel project is part of mission Amadee-20, which was expected to kick off last year but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

NEWSMAKERS

Elon Musk Is Richest By A Mile And Wants Jeff Bezos To Know It

Tesla Inc.'s co-founder responded to a tweet from Bezos early Monday with a silver medal emoji after the gap between the world's two richest people increased last week through the surging valuation of Musk's rocket company SpaceX. His net worth is now \$222 billion, while Amazon.com Inc.'s Bezos is at \$190.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The jab escalates the public spat between the two billionaires, who are both trying to revolutionize the space industry.

Bezos's Blue Origin is challenging a U.S. government contract with SpaceX to develop technology to land people on the moon again, while Musk has previously taken to Twitter to call Amazon's founder a "copy cat" for his e-commerce firm's space-focused ventures. In a recent filing with U.S. regulators, Amazon's satellite subsidiary also accused Musk



and his companies of flouting regulations with a general attitude that "rules are for other people."

In his tweet late Sunday, Bezos posted an image of a 1999 article from Barron's that criticized Amazon and described it as one of many stories that predicted his company's demise: "Listen and be open, but don't let anybody tell

you who you are. This was just one of the many stories telling us all the ways we were going to fail. Today, Amazon is one of the world's most successful companies and has revolutionized two entirely different industries."

Musk, 50, added about \$9 billion to his fortune Friday after an agreement with investors valued

SpaceX in excess of \$100 billion, more than quadruple the size of Blue Origin, according to Bloomberg's wealth index.

Musk still derives around three-quarters of his wealth from Tesla, which he co-founded in 2003 after making a fortune from the sale of e-commerce site PayPal to eBay Inc. for \$1.5 billion.

Listen and be open, but don't let anybody tell you who you are. This was just one of the many stories telling us all the ways we were going to fail. Today, Amazon is one of the world's most successful companies and has revolutionized two entirely different

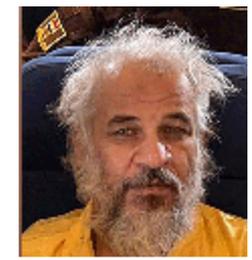
Iraq arrests IS finance chief wanted by US

Iraq has captured the alleged finance chief of the Islamic State group, Sami Jasim al-Jaburi, who was sought by the United States, in an operation abroad, Iraqi authorities said on Monday.

Jaburi, also the suspected former deputy to the late IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was arrested "in Turkey," a senior Iraqi military source told AFP without elaborating.

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi had earlier announced on Twitter that Jaburi was arrested by the intelligence services "outside the borders" of Iraq, in a "complex external operation," without naming the location.

It was not immediately clear if Turkish authorities were involved and there was no immediate reaction from Ankara.



The US had offered a reward of up to \$5 million for the capture of Jaburi.

The US Rewards for Justice program said Jaburi had "reportedly served as the equivalent of... finance minister (for IS), supervising the group's revenue-generating operations from illicit sales of oil, gas, antiquities and minerals."

In September 2015, the US

Treasury Department labelled Jaburi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

IS took over one third of Iraq in a lightning offensive in 2014, expanding their self-declared "caliphate" stretching across the Syrian border.

Iraq's government declared victory against the jihadists in late 2017 after a grinding military campaign backed by a US-led military coalition.

Baghdadi was killed in a raid by US special forces in north-western Syria in October 2019.

IS sleeper cells still periodically launch attacks in Iraq, against both the security forces and civilians.

According to an official from the US-led coalition who spoke on condition of anonymity, IS now "stretched" financially and its operations in Iraq are "very localized."

Union MoS C&I Concludes 2-Day Visit To Rajouri

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce, Anupriya Singh Patel on Tuesday concluded her two-day visit to district Rajouri. The visit is part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Programme in J&K.

On the second day of her tour, the Union MoS visited Panchayat Saranoo of Block Dhangri and interacted with the women PRI and general public. The PRIs and the locals raised several issues and demands about different sectors.

In her address, the MoS said that J&K is heading towards a new era of development and prosperity and witnessing a wave of positive change with the Government taking several reformative measures for socio-economic development, besides empowering the people of the UT.

"All efforts are being made to bring JK into mainstream development and several schemes have been launched in this regard", she said.

While enumerating the steps being taken to encourage investment and promote industrial development in the UT, she informed that in a major decision, the Government of India has approved a new Industrial Developmental Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir.

"To tap the export potential of agricultural and industrial products, the Government is engaging with states and union territories to implement the Districts as Export Hub (DEH) initiative in all districts of the country", she informed.

She further informed that under the DEH initiative, District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) have been constituted in most of the districts and products/services with export potential have been

identified in each district.

"The scheme will go a long way in ushering an era of socio-economic development of the region and for catering to the aspirations of people and it will also provide impetus to Micro, Small, Medium and larger enterprises", she informed.

She informed that an Industrial land bank has been established for Industrial Growth and 6000 acres of land has been acquired.

"Under this new Industrial policy, 4.50 lakh unemployed youth would be provided employment", the Minister informed.

Enlisting the measures taken for Ease of Doing Business, Smt. Patel apprised that necessary steps are being taken to make Jammu and Kashmir a point of attraction under industrial investment.

Regarding granting ST Status to the Pahari tribes, the Minister assured to put the demand before the Ministry of Home Affairs.

During her visit to the Gyan Public School, the Minister participated in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration where she paid rich tributes to all those who had made supreme sacrifice in the lines of duty.

Patel said that Jammu and Kashmir is the land of unlimited potential and opportunities and several steps are being taken to unleash the potential.

The Minister also handed over sanction letters under PMAY-G, Horticulture scheme, PMEGP and trout culture besides distributing Golden cards among the beneficiaries.

She also interacted with the DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, Sarpanchs, Panchs and the general public who apprised her about many issues and demands.

10, 12 Class Exams Next Month, Preparations Completed: DSEK

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Maintaining that the preparations for class 10 and 12 exams were complete, Director Education Tassaduq Hussain has said that the exams for the two classes would be held in succession in the upcoming month of November.

The Director Education told GNS that they are ready for exams as the disinfection activities including sanitation, fumigation have been carried out at the exam centres. "As such the exams for Class 10 would be or by before November 10 and for Class 12 the exams would be held around November 20."

Regarding the syllabus, he said that owing to the prevailing pandemic situation the director-



ate has decided to give a relaxation of thirty percent in the syllabus to facilitate the students.

Underlining that online classes could never be taken as an "alternative" to offline classes, Hussain said that government tried best by conducting online classes, Learning Management System (LMS), radio classes, tele-classes and started community classes as well.

"This blended mode of education was initiated to overcome

High Cost Keeping Flu Vaccine Out Of Reach For Poor: DAK

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said that high cost is keeping the flu vaccine out of reach for the poor, especially when it is vitally important this year in view of ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"One flu vaccine costs between Rs 1850 to Rs 1975," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement. "The price makes the flu vaccine unaffordable for poor people," he said.

Dr Hassan said people want to get vaccinated, but cost is the barrier. "Unaffordability is putting lives of people at serious risk," he said.

Seeking free vaccination against flu especially to high risk groups like young children, senior citizens, pregnant women and persons with medical conditions, Dr Hassan said government needs to make sure any treatment that has the potential to save lives is accessible and affordable to all those who need it.



"Free vaccination would increase vaccine uptake and protect these vulnerable individuals from contracting and dying from flu," he said.

"We must remove all obstacles to the widespread use of the vaccine which is the single best defense against flu," he added.

Dr Nisar said the benefits of the flu vaccine go beyond warding off respiratory-related problems.

"Flu vaccine reduces your risk for heart attack and stroke," he said adding "studies have shown that people who receive

flu shots are 55% less likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke."

"We have one more good reason to have the flu shot," said Dr Nisar. "We have a vaccine against heart attacks and strokes that are responsible for the majority of deaths in our community," he said.

"Ideally, people should get a vaccine by the end of October. However, getting vaccinated later can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season even into January or later," he informed.

Budgam Landowners Protest Against NHAI

Allege lowering of rates for land sold for ring road construction

AGENCIES

BUDGAM: The landowners of Gudsathoo in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday held a protest against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over lowering of rates for their land sold to authorities for construction of ring road.

Talking to KNS, one of the protesters said that 60% of the landowners of other villages in Budgam have got their payment in 2017. "They were given Rs. 17 lakhs as per 29 lakh estimates. Now after three and a half years, rest of the landowners are being informed that they will be given Rs. 14 lakhs for their apple orchards."

He said that Budgam district has 45 horticulture land villages and among them their village has the most fertile land in respect to others, but the landowners of Gudsathoo are being discriminated.

The protesters said that they are not against ring road construction but over unequal compensation for the land. "We don't

understand the background of this rule as only landowners of our village have been given 50% payment of the land, while rest 50% has been deducted. What is the reason behind this deduction," they asked.

They said they have submitted an application to the financial commissioner and after the directions of financial commissioner they took up the matter with DC Budgam, but nothing has been done so far.

They further said that their payment was halted in the year of 2017 due to non-availability of funds, and now after three years the administration has decided to cut down apple trees without their consent.

They also said that they should be paid as per the market value of the land, which is around 70- 80 lakhs. "We demand the authorities to grant us 1/4th the market price for our land."

The protesters urged the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to personally look into the matter and grant them justice.

Five Drug Peddlers Arrested In Pulwama, Bandipora

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The J&K Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested five drug peddlers in Pulwama and Bandipora districts of Kashmir division and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

Besides, a police spokesman told KNO that the officials also destroyed wild bung spread over a vast area in Shopian. He said that a police party led by SHO PS Pulwama at a traffic checking point near Khamray Crossing intercepted a Santro Car bearing registration number JK01G-4932 with two persons on board.

They have been identified as Mudasir Ahmad Thoker, son of Gh Hassan Thoker of Sonasamil and Yamin Rashid, son of Ab Rashid Malik of Malikpora Pulwama.

On checking, 370 grams of Charas, two digital weighing machines and cash Rs 10000 was recovered, he said, adding that they have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. The vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been sized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 288/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Pulwama and investigation has been taken up. Meanwhile, police in Bandipora acting on specific information regarding movement of drug peddlers in Sumbal area intensified patrolling in the area.

"The patrolling party led by SHO PS Sumbal intercepted three persons in suspicious condition. On their search, 17 bottles of Codeine were recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Majid Mushtaq Shangu, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Shangu of Osangrampora Sopore, Shafat Ahmad Shah, son of Muzafar Ahmad Shah of Shaalpora Sopore and Nazir Ahmad Sofi, son of Gh Ahmad Sofi of Dina Baramulla, A/P Sumbal. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody," police said.

CBK Chargesheets Kulgam Man For Fraudulent Use Of Govt Money

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) produced a chargesheet against an accused on Tuesday for fraudulently withdrawing and utilising government money for his personal use.

As per a statement, the Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) produced the chargesheet of Case FIR No: 07 of 2014 U/S 420 RPC of P/S CBK, against one Irshad Ahmad Lone son Ghulam Mohammad Lone of Damhal Hanjipora before the Court of JMJC DH Pora Kulgam.

"The Crime Branch had received a communication from JK Women's Development Corporation (WDC) alleging therein that an amount of Rs 3.50 lacs was sanctioned by JKWDC in favour of Yamberzal Self Help Group and the

same was released in favour of the said group through cheques on 15.04.2012," the statement reads.

It reads that the amount which was sanctioned in favour of the said Yamberzal group was fraudulently transferred to some other accounts instead of the beneficiaries.

"During the course of investigation it was established that the accused in a deceitful way induced the account holders of Yamberzal Self Help Group and fraudulently obtained their signatures on withdrawal slip, thus utilized the government money for his personal use," it reads.

'JJM To Constitute Paani Samiti In Every Village'

Ensure JJM is mass movement: Abid Rasheed to officials



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: To instil "sense of Ownership" for piped water supply infrastructure in the community, J&K Jal Shakti Department under the banner of Jal Jeevan Mission on Tuesday said that it has embarked on a mission to constitute Paani Samiti in every village.

The role of Paani Samitis is to implement the in-village piped water and related infrastructure development.

A centrally sponsored programme- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented in J&K to provide functional tap water connection to every rural home by 2022.

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Syed Abid Rasheed said JJM is ramping up its efforts to ensure decentralised approach; thus making it a mass movement by involving communities in planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of the in-village water supply systems.

"Communities facing various challenges together are joined by a common goal of development. For better outcomes communi-

ties learn to work as a collective and think together for the development of their village," he said.

To ensure transparency in budgets and expenditure, JJM funds and works are open to scrutiny of community from the conceptualization of the project till its community handover.

Recognizing the key role that women can play in mobilizing the village community and empowering them to ensure assured piped water supply in rural homes, provisions have been made in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission to enable their 50 Percent participation in Paani Samitis to make Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal, a 'Jan Andolan'.

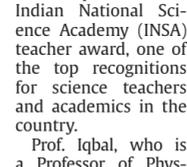
For ensuring water quality testing, the JJM is using FTKs (Field Test Kits), periodic testing at laboratories and disseminating the same among community and undertake sanitary inspection in which women play a key role. The JJM also holds capacity building programmes for youth, students, and women to carry out these activities.

Likewise, the JJM in liaison with Paani Samitis also conducts awareness programmes on water importance and judicious use of water.

IUST Registrar Naseer Iqbal Wins INSA Award

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

AWANTIPORA: Senior Physics Professor of the valley, Prof. Naseer Iqbal has won this year's



Indian National Science Academy (INSA) teacher award, one of the top recognitions for science teachers and academics in the country. Prof. Iqbal, who is a Professor of Physics in the University of Kashmir and currently on deputation to Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) as Registrar, has been chosen for the award in recognition of his contributions in motivating students coming from remote areas of J&K in joining research programmes. The award carries a scroll, citation, cash prize of Rs. 50,000 and a book grant of Rs. 20,000.

In its communication, INSA has recognised Prof. Iqbal's

achievements in widening the career horizons of students from J&K by arranging regular visits to The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA Pune), and other distinguished academic institutes in the country.

"This also involved counselling the students and sometimes their families. Professor Iqbal has set an example by teaching a variety of courses and actively pursuing research. Many of his students are faculty members in various reputed academic institutions in the country. The award is a recognition for an impact in a region full of challenges," INSA statement read.

The conferring of the award has been lauded by Vice Chancellor IUST, teaching and non-teaching staff members and students of IUST and members from the civil society.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of Location of the Travel unit under the name & style M/s Musaib Travels.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Ms. Shazia Amin Kak D/o Mr. Mohammad Amin Kak R/o Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar Kashmir has approached to this office for change of location of his Travel Unit running under the name and style "M/s Musaib Travels" from Aksa Mall, Sarai Bala, Srinagar to Muslimabad, Tengpora Chowk, Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas the unit is registered with this department under Registration No.:- Reg/553/DT/L-09/P-92 dated 11-10-2013 and is renewed upto 31-03-2021. The applicant has applied for renewal of his Registration certificate vide online mode.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Original Registration Certificate, Bank statement, Site Plan of new location, Rent Deed Registration, Photographs of new location in support of his claim.

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

No: Reg/T/1089/1259/DTK
Dated:- 12.10.2021.
DIPK-10488/21

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir)

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVT.GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

NO.-GHSRB/_____

DATED:-_____

NOTICE

It is hereby informed for the information of the following student who have not submitted their examination forms till date are once again informed by this notice to visit the institution for the submission of their examination forms by 13/09/2021 (i.e,Tuesday).Those students who fail to submit their forms will not be able to sit in the final examination being held in the 2nd week of Nov 2021.

Muskaan	D/o Gowhar Ahmad Dagga	Roll no.9
Tabish Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Kattu	Roll no.14
Sumaira Ashiq	D/o Mohammad Ashiq Mochi	Roll no.16
Sahira	D/o Ghulam Rasool Haroon	Roll no.20
Insha Amin	D/o Mohammad Amin Sheikh	Roll no.22
Muskaan Nafees	D/o Nafees Ahmad Salmani	Roll no.23
Suhana Maqbool	D/o Mohammad Maqbool Karnai	Roll no.29
Shahnaz Subhan	D/o Mohammad Subhan tarbagee	Roll no.30
Rabia Jan	D/o Mohammad sarfaraz Mattoo	Roll no.36

DIPK-10518

Principal

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Rising Graph Of Violence

Five security personnel including a junior commissioned officer lost his life in an encounter with militants in Rajouri on Monday. The gunfight started after a cordon-and-search operation was launched by the Indian Army on the basis of intelligence inputs in villages close to Dehra Ki Gali in the Surankote area of Poonch district. Security forces haven't suffered such a huge loss in the ongoing violence since May 2020 when around thirteen security personnel lost their lives in a couple of encounters in Handwara and Kupwara districts. The killings of the security personnel followed immediately after the successive killings of the civilians - including that of the prominent chemist Makhani Lal Bindroo - across the Valley which pushed the Valley to the brink.

This shows a steeply rising graph of violence in Kashmir and doesn't augur well for the near future. The administration, in response, has reportedly arrested over 700 people in the Valley as part of its investigation to identify the militants responsible for the killings and to deter more attacks on civilians.

The fresh violence has blown up in our face at a time when militancy in Kashmir had been giving all indications of being in retreat. According to a police estimate, there are around 200 active militants in Kashmir. Over a hundred militants have been killed this year in encounters with the security forces. Besides, recent months have also reportedly witnessed a drop in Kashmiri youth taking to arms that was expected to lead to a progressive dwindling of the number of militants.

But Handwara violence has turned these calculations on their head. It has made it clear that the militancy is here to stay as the infiltration remains an ongoing phenomenon, the hi-tech border fencing notwithstanding. And the militants that are crossing over are highly trained and battle-hardened. This should be of serious concern for the security agencies.

Import of rising violence, however, goes beyond the heavy toll it has taken in terms of the lives of civilians and security personnel. Its significance lies in that the militancy in the Valley is not a lost cause that it was expected to be in the wake of nullification of J&K autonomy - doing so, may have, on the contrary, enhanced the rationale for an armed struggle. That infiltration is taking place regardless should make the authorities take note. And if the influx of militants continues, as looks likely, it could confront New Delhi with a formidable challenge in the months to come.

One way for New Delhi to tackle the unfolding situation is to go down the predictable route: kill more militants and suffer intermittent losses of security personnel and occasionally strike Pakistan too. We have run this gamut many a time and eventually, it ends up nowhere. The time for the Centre is to think out of box and try political outreach instead, something that in the past has opened up possibilities of peace in the region.

OTHER OPINION

At This Rating

On Tuesday, Moody's Investors Service changed its outlook on India's sovereign ratings from negative to stable. This change is based on the rating agency's view that the "risks from negative feedback between the real economy and the financial system are receding". Moody's also noted that "with higher capital cushions and greater liquidity, banks and non-bank financial institutions posed much lesser risk to the sovereign than Moody's had previously anticipated." This implies that not only are the concerns over the financial sector slowly dissipating, but that the economic recovery that is underway is getting more deep-seated. The rating agency, though, has retained India's rating. In June last year, it had downgraded the country's sovereign rating to Baa3 - the lowest investment grade. It had kept the outlook at negative owing to the uncertainty surrounding the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the three big rating agencies, both S&P and Moody's have kept the ratings outlook at stable, while Fitch continues to maintain a negative view.

The rating agency has revised its growth forecast to 9.3 per cent for the ongoing fiscal year, and 7.9 per cent the year thereafter. Though the threat of a third wave of infections continues to loom, the severity of the economic disruption stemming from it is likely to be lower. Over the medium term, Moody's expects the growth to trend lower, averaging around 6 per cent. This, however, translates to a nominal GDP growth of 10-11 per cent, which will "allow for a gradual fiscal consolidation and stabilisation of the government's debt burden". India's general government debt has risen sharply to around 89 per cent of GDP in 2020, up from 74 per cent in 2019. A gradual reduction in the debt to GDP ratio was also projected by the 15th Finance Commission. Though its assessment was carried out prior to the second wave of the pandemic which would have affected growth projections, the commission had expected total liabilities of the Centre and the states to decline from 89.8 per cent of the GDP in 2020-21 to 85.7 per cent in 2025-26.

An upgrade in the ratings outlook, while positive, should not bring complacency. Two years have been lost. At the end of 2021-22, the Indian economy will be only marginally stronger than its pre-pandemic level of 2019-20. Moreover, parts of the economy, especially the informal sector, are unlikely to have recovered fully by then. Of the drivers of growth, both private consumption and investment are likely to remain subdued, while government spending will continue to be constrained by high debt levels. Exports, though, provide a ray of hope. Much depends on how the economy exits this phase. If growth disappoints in the medium term, it would worsen the debt dynamics, which, as Moody's says, "could weaken the sovereign's fiscal strength further and lead to a negative rating action".

Indian Express

Myths Of Middle East



A MEMBER OF THE POPULAR MOBILIZATION Units fighting Islamic State west of Mosul, Iraq, in August 2017: the western narrative is that victory was a US-dominated success (AFP)

David Hearst

EDITOR'S NOTE: David Hearst, editor-in-chief of Middle East Eye, will be discussing the western lens on global reporting with Dalia Fahmy, Associate Professor of Political Science at Long Island University, at the One World Media Reporting Summit on 12 and 13 October.

"Victorious" is not a word one would use much today to describe the Taliban, Afghanistan's new rulers. The crippled economy, dependent on international aid, is now cut off, amid rising levels of poverty. One Taliban leader stays in Kandahar, while another rival faction controls Kabul. All Taliban factions face an active bombing campaign by Islamic State.

But the Taliban has succeeded in gaining control of Afghanistan - and that has triggered a mudslide of myths in the West during the past few months. It has further buttressed the two decades of conflict in Central Asia and the Middle East, better known as the so-called "war on terror".

The myths relating to Afghanistan are manifold: Western allies were fighting a virtuous war; the Taliban represented Islamist medievalism; Afghans wanted the West there; the West was fighting for the rights of women; lethal force was used against targets only after state-of-the-art surveillance and deep soul searching.

Right up to, and even beyond, the grisly end of western involvement in Afghanistan in August, the assemblage of myths about this "liberal intervention" strived to submerge reality.

General Mark A Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was certain they hit the right target - allegedly an ISIS-K car packed with explosives and about to be driven to Kabul airport - when, on 29 August, US drones killed 10 members of one family, among them seven children.

Milley said that secondary blasts supported this conclusion. The drone strike was variously labelled "defensive" and "righteous". Note the use of "righteous" - a Biblical word. Subsequent military analysis quoted by the New York Times downgraded Milley's initial biblical certainty from "prob-

EVEN IF YOU DETACH YOURSELF FROM the moral and physical implications of these myths, including the deaths, destruction and displacement caused by perpetual war, and you look again at western policy in the Middle East, it is still dysfunctional

able" to "possible".

On 17 September, the Pentagon finally held their hands up to killing 10 members of an innocent family, when it was revealed that the "explosives" that the drone operators had seen being loaded into the car were actually cans of water.

Policy and projecting power

The "war on terror" started as a neo-conservative construct to find a new global enemy to replace the Soviet Union. But it soon became a bipartisan effort. The disaster in Afghanistan was the work of four US presidents.

To judge by drone and air strikes alone, Barack Obama killed tens times more people in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen than George W Bush did. According to Mark Halperin and John Heilemann's book Double Down, the Nobel Peace Prize winner told aides in 2011: "Turns out I'm really good at killing people."

But for anyone at the receiving end of such a projection of power in the Middle East, the myth-making that sustains western policy is nothing new.

There is a long list of conflicts whose official account in the western media bears no relation to what happened on the ground - and it is not exhaustive.

Myth: The US-led coalition defeated Islamic State in Iraq.

Reality: It would not have been possible without Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Shia-trained Popular Mobilisation Forces, the Iraqi army and police.

Myth: The bloody conflict in Syria started as a battle between democrats and a dictator.

Reality: The situation is far more complex: as the conflict has evolved so anti-Assad forces have become dominated by forces allied to al Qaeda.

Myth: Lebanon is a country taken

hostage by a terrorist organisation called Hezbollah.

Reality: It has been brought to economic and financial collapse by kleptocrats aligned mainly to the US and Saudi Arabia.

Myth: The war in Yemen is an Iranian plot.

Reality: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have used it to assume control of an unruly country in its backyard.

Myth: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a battle between the only democracy in the Middle East and terrorism.

Reality: The region has sadly suffered from decades of occupation and, more recently, a fully fledged and organised system of apartheid rule.

No regrets

Even if you detach yourself from the moral and physical implications of these myths, including the deaths, destruction and displacement caused by perpetual war, and you look again at western policy in the Middle East, it is still dysfunctional.

Western generals underestimate the task in hand. People whose job it is to gather intelligence and analyse are in a semi-permanent state of surprise.

My friend and colleague Marco Carnelos, Italy's former ambassador to Iraq and special envoy for Syria, relates an intriguing private meeting between David Petraeus and Silvio Berlusconi, the then Italian prime minister. Petraeus told Berlusconi that he had "only recently become aware of how important Qassem Soleimani is on the dynamics of the Middle East".

This was in 2008, a decade after Qassem Soleimani had become leader of Iran's military intelligence Quds force - and Petraeus, the architect of the Iraqi surge, had only just learned about him?

If a plane drops out of the skies any-

where in the world, no matter how old or badly maintained it is, then the aviation industry reacts rationally. Even when large corporate commercial self-interest is involved, such as with the Boeing 737 Max scandal, air crash investigators still do not rest until they have established the precise cause of the disaster.

But the same principle is suspended when it comes to foreign policy or warfare.

I have yet to read a word of contrition or self-doubt uttered by Petraeus, or Stanley McChrystal, commander of Joint Special Operations Command, or any British general involved in attempts to pacify Helmand Province in Afghanistan or indeed then UK Prime Minister Tony Blair.

They all blame someone else for this disaster. They maintain that they made the right decisions at the time.

The same mistakes based on the same faulty assumptions are thus repeated ad infinitum. When one war ends, a new enemy is found, and seamlessly the whole industry takes off in a new direction.

It is not our competence as journalists to stop this disaster. But it is our job, aided by brave whistleblowers like Daniel Hale - who in 2014 leaked classified information about drone warfare - to examine, expose and puncture these myths and to give Middle East Eye's readers a taste of what it feels like to be at the receiving end of powers who claim to be promoting a rules-based world order.

Words matter, which is why so much effort is made to conceal the truth. Words change public opinion and policy.

The work of all journalists around the world, but particularly those brave enough to carry on reporting independently and fearlessly in conditions where they themselves are vulnerable and prey to the forces they are investigating, matters.

And never more so than today, when the gap between received opinion and reality has stretched to breaking point.

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

The author is the editor-in-chief of Middle East Eye. The article was originally published by Middle East Eye



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

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Reliable And Registered Courier-Services

The Union Government should frame guidelines for couriers. Since important documents like cheques and drafts are carried by this service, registration of courier-service with the Union Ministry of Communications should be compulsory with list of their offices recorded with the Ministry and displayed on the website of the ministry.

Courier-boys deliver documents any time during the day. Such a system is totally unsafe in residential areas especially for ladies and senior citizens. Mischievous persons can enter the

residence for malaise intention of loot, rape or murder in form of courier-boys. Otherwise also it is not fair to disturb the rest-hours of residents to deliver documents which many-a-times contain junk-mail like publicity-material. There should be fixed timings to deliver couriers especially in residential areas. It may be mentioned that mail by the Indian Posts Department is always delivered during some fixed timings only.

At times, couriers are delivered very late even after weeks. Addressee should be aware about despatch-date by making it compulsory for courier-agencies to print the date of receipt

by courier-agency together with the courier-number. Courier-services should leave a message-slip about the undelivered courier to enable the addressee to take delivery of documents in case of his/her unavailability at the address.

Best is to encourage reliable and economical Speed Post service by Department of Posts by having 'one nation, one tariff' policy with its tariff being uniformly fixed at rupees say twenty or thirty per 50 gms (inclusive of GST) for complete country instead of charging differently for local and non-local Speed post. This service

then can be still more popularised by initiating system of sponsored postal stamps whereby private bodies may be able to get postal-stamps of their designs (to be approved by postal-department) on payment of some fixed charge per stamp and on some minimum prescribed print-order, like is presently in case of not-much-used post-cards and inland-letter-cards with advertisements on these reducing heavy burden on postal-subsidy to some extent.

Madhu Agarwal
madhuguinness@subhashmadhu.com

Rising Escalations Of China With Taiwan And Beyond

Naveed Qazi

In October 2021, China flew its military planes around one forty-nine times, trying to display its military might and thereby putting pressure on the self-governing island. In response, Taiwan scrambled its own warplanes, and this scenario looked like a theater of war. Taiwanese defense ministry described the current situation as the most severe in forty years.

Taiwan had split from China since the civil war erupted in 1949. Domestically, the military pressure serves Chinese President Xi Jinping's propaganda and political agenda. Xi's defining political idea is promoting the 'China Dream' to his people, which entails becoming 'a strong nation with a strong army' in the future. China's nationalist Global Times newspaper even went so far as to call the flight incursions a form of National Day "military parade".

This escalation has come at a time, when the Chinese Communist Party is at a key period in terms of its leadership reshuffle. It will soon hold its Sixth Plenum, a crucial meeting where party heavyweights will discuss and build consensus on forming a de facto shortlist for the next generation of party leadership, which is likely to be installed in late 2022.

Wen-Ti Sung, in an Oped for The Conversation, commented: 'At this critical juncture, as Xi faced an internal dissent, a muscular show of force seems to be a natural instrument to generate pro-incumbent, rally-around-the-flag sentiment.'

Taiwanese people had not been very alarmed by the increasing number of Chinese warplanes simply because of the familiar impact it had on them over the course of time. People, in reality, have been used to this type of low-intensity Chinese military provocation. In fact, they have been living in the near-constant presence of Chinese military and diplomatic pressure for over a quarter century.

It was in the run-up to Taiwan's first direct presidential election in 1996, when China's People's Liberation Army conducted massive missile tests in the waters near Taiwan, which strongly hinted at a possible invasion.

Since then, China has frequently staged military exercises around Taiwan, including flying military jets into the island's vicinity. These exercises are meant to caution Taiwan against crossing Beijing's "red lines". To display this sense of aggression, Chinese state television, for example, once published a video of the Zhurihe training drills of 2015, which included footage of Chinese soldiers assaulting a building that bore a remarkable resemblance to Taiwan's presidential office. China is also expanding its 'grey zone warfare' against Taiwan, which includes cyberattacks, and diplomatic isolation to undermine Taiwan's ability to resist.

The resilient local politics in Taiwan is also another reason for Chinese escalations. When Tsai Ing-wen was first elect-



Image Credits: EPA_EFE/Ritchie B. Tongo

CHINA, HOWEVER, DOES NOT WANT WAR, AT LEAST NOT yet in the whole region, let alone Taiwan. It's playing the long game and its evident intentions have become more unnerving, despite controlling Taiwan's airspace and despite believing that it is provocative from the United States side to sell Taiwan weapons, and to navigate its ships near the Taiwan Strait

ed president back in 2016, her politics at home was viewed as largely maintaining the status quo in Taiwan's complex relationship with China. At abroad she is associated with a push for a unique Taiwanese identity that was separate from its historic ties to China. Her administration has also seen a push to revive Taiwan's domestic weapons manufacturing, including locally made submarines, armoured vehicles, and military aircraft.

Although China believes that Taiwan is part of its territory because of the 1992 Consensus which was reached between representatives of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Kuomintang (KMT) party that then ruled Taiwan. The two sides don't agree on the content of this so-called consensus, and it was never intended to address the question of Taiwan's legal status. In an Oped in Council for Foreign Relations, Lindsay Maizland wrote: 'For the PRC, as Chinese President Xi Jinping has stated, the 1992 Consensus

reflects an agreement that the two sides of the strait belong to one China and would work together to seek national reunification. For the KMT, it means a different thing, and not necessarily unification.'

For these reasons, according to General Qiao Liang, China needs to follow a plan of 'strategic patience', until the military balance shifts towards China. When that happens, China can use a military option by overwhelming Taiwan, and even deny any American intervention. Politically, it can even attract its youth leaders, by using the gravity of its economy. But economic incentives to replace soft power is something China lacks at the moment due to the public mood.

However, the law of attraction through economic incentives is in line with Marxist logic, which is fundamental to Chinese communism. In this line of thinking, connections built on infrastructure for economic common interests are longer-lasting than connections based on a

superstructure known as ideational or emotional alignment. This strategy affirms that Taiwanese can let their guard down, if there is increasing dependence on Chinese trade.

Hence, Taiwan needs to ensure that it protects itself from any military escalation, somehow. For protecting its economy, it, at the same time, has also ensured to tighten investment laws for Chinese companies, especially for sensitive technologies.

What's interesting is that Taiwan lacks allies other than the United States, but Japan is mindful of the consequences of a US failure to defend Taiwan. Its ocean surveillance and coastal defence capabilities would be exposed if China took Taiwan. But Japan's constitution forbids direct involvement in defending Taiwan, hinting more problems to Taiwan.

US and its allies are also left with a conundrum when it comes to Taiwan. It is a liberal open democracy and world's leading computer chip maker. It also sits

in the middle of what military strategists refer to as the 'first island chain' stretching from Japan in the north to the Philippines in the south. Its strategic significance is profound. But having adopted a 'One China Policy' since 1979, the US security guarantee is conditional and tenuous. Reflecting growing unease over China's actions, several polls show strong US support for defending Taiwan.

China, however, does not want war, at least not yet in the whole region, let alone Taiwan. It's playing the long game and its evident intentions have become more unnerving, despite controlling Taiwan's airspace and despite believing that it is provocative from the United States side to sell Taiwan weapons, and to navigate its ships near the Taiwan Strait.

For scholars like Brendan Taylor, they have identified three flash points for a possible conflict of China other than Taiwan. They are with Korea, in the East China Sea, and in the South China Sea, but conventional war is not likely at this stage.

Although, just south of Korea, in the East China Sea, China has intensified its military activities around the Japanese-claimed but uninhabited Senkaku Islands. China appears to be wearing down Japan's resolve to resist its claims over what it calls the Diaoyu Islands.

Similarly, China's industrial-scale island building in the South China Sea has resulted in extensive military hardware and infrastructure. This will enable the Chinese to consolidate their position militarily and assert control over the so-called nine dash line – its vast claim over most of the sea.

The US Navy, however, continues to conduct freedom of navigation operations (FONOPS) in the sea to challenge China's claims. With thousands of marked and unmarked Chinese vessels operating there, however, the risk of an accident triggering an escalation is real.

The proof for China to avoid 'outright war' is that it evidently reckons that it is better to operate a paramilitary force with white-painted ships and armed fishing vessels in the thousands to push its claims in the South China Sea and East China Sea and constrict Taiwan's freedom of action.

China's actions so far have avoided crossing the threshold into open warfare, and is refusing to present 'a nail to the US hammer'. This is for good reason. That's why, it even passed a new law, by allowing its coast guard to act more like a military body and enforce maritime law, but it is in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

If war did break out, China would be vulnerable. For starters, it shares a land border with fourteen countries, bringing the potential for heightened challenges, if not open attack on numerous fronts.

Naveed Qazi is an author of six books, and editor of *Globe Upfront*. For feedback, he can be mailed at naveedqazi@live.com. Views expressed are the author's own

Covid-19's Nudge Towards Authoritarianism?

Misha Ketchell

It is a little-known fact that humans have not one but two immune systems. The first, the biophysical immune system – the one we've all heard much about – responds to infections as they enter the body, detecting and eliminating intruders such as the coronavirus.

The second is the behavioural immune system, which adapts our behaviour to preemptively avoid potentially infectious people, places and things. The behavioural immune system is the first line of defence against infectious disease. It prompts people to socially conform with known traditions and to avoid foreign, dissimilar and potentially infectious groups.

In a recently published study, my colleagues and I at the University of Cambridge examined the impact of the behavioural immune system on our attitudes towards obedience and authority. We found that high rates of infectious diseases – and the disease-avoidance they promote – may fundamentally shape political opinions and social institutions.

Infection drives authoritarianism
We collected data from over 250,000 people across 47 countries and looked at the relationship between the (pre-COVID) infection risk where they lived and their authoritarian attitudes – the degree to which they endorsed conformity and obedience to authority.

We were curious as to whether high risk of infection would activate the behavioural immune system in ways that promoted authoritarian beliefs. We made sure to measure authoritarianism in a politically neutral way, to avoid our results reflecting people's religious beliefs or commitments to certain political parties.

We found a clear relationship between people's authoritarian attitudes and their

WE FOUND A CLEAR relationship between people's authoritarian attitudes and their region's levels of infectious diseases: areas with a higher prevalence of infectious diseases had more authoritarian citizens. Additionally, areas with high infection rates tended to vote conservatively and were governed by more authoritarian laws – laws that are imposed on some members of society but not all

region's levels of infectious diseases: areas with a higher prevalence of infectious diseases had more authoritarian citizens. Additionally, areas with high infection rates tended to vote conservatively and were governed by more authoritarian laws – laws that are imposed on some members of society but not all.

Strikingly, the pattern of results was consistent when comparing the 47 countries as well as US states and US metropolitan regions and cities. These effects persisted even after accounting for regional demographic variables such as educational attainment, wealth and inequalities, suggesting direct and significant relationships between infectious diseases and authoritarian beliefs and behaviours.



We further discovered that the relationship between infection rates and authoritarianism was specific to infections that can be acquired from other humans, such as measles or cholera. The effect was absent for infectious diseases that can only be acquired from nonhuman species, such as rabies or Lyme disease.

These results support the idea that there is a social and behavioural mechanism connecting infection risk and authoritarianism. A high prevalence of human-to-human infections appears to lead to conformist and obedient social arrangements that potentially reduce the risk of people being infected by those who do not conform or resemble the majority. Social diseases like COVID-19 may therefore sculpt social ideologies and institutions.

How to overcome COVID's influence
In the COVID-19 era, we have all been living with overactivated behavioural im-

mune systems. We have changed how we socialise and relate to other people; who we allow to enter our countries; and how we calculate the balance between personal freedom and collective safety.

What does this mean for our political futures? Will the fear of COVID-19 push us towards living in more authoritarian societies? How do we restore a psychological balance – and a preference for political anti-authoritarianism – without endangering ourselves and others?

The first inevitable step is to decrease real infection risks. Without a reduction in real health risks through effective vaccination programmes and health policies, our all-too-human bodies will naturally tend towards defensiveness, conformity and an aversion to threat.

Indeed, COVID-19 has brought about a global wave of authoritarian policies that have justified the tightening of national borders and limitations of

everyday rights. In our study, we found that even historical infection rates from decades earlier predict what citizens believe, who they vote for and how they are governed today. Pandemics may have long-lasting and profound ramifications for politics.

However, while our instincts to avoid infection are inbuilt – the behavioural immune system has been documented in species as varied as mice, frogs and chimpanzees – humans are endowed with magnificent mental capacities to overcome biases and flexibly adapt to change. If it is our highly evolved imagination that facilitates the behavioural immune system, then it is also our rich and compassionate imagination that can pull us out of its toxic side-effects.

Safe contact with those who we are instructed to avoid – even imaginary, intellectual or virtual contact, through film or literature or news or friends – is a powerful antidote to the xenophobia that can emerge when we fear infection. These forms of nonphysical touch can remind us of all we have in common and all we can lose if we shun contact and care.

Perhaps the way forward lies in adopting anti-authoritarian stances that champion openness, inclusion and scientific reasoning rather than mythical, ideological or conspiratorial thinking. Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and the contagious divisions within our politics may thus be intertwined tasks. The health of society – the collective "body politic" – requires the health and resilience of our bodies and minds. Immunity is fundamentally political.

The author is a Research Fellow in the Psychology of Ideologies, University of Cambridge. The article is being reproduced here by arrangement with *The Conversation*

Department of Skill Development J&K,

Office of the Superintendent, Industrial Training Institute for Women, Seer Hamdan

Subject: Temporary Engagement of Guest Faculty for conducting of COPA Trade (Self Finance), Front Office Assistant Trade (Self Finance) & Teaching of Employability Skills in Women ITI, Seer Hamdan for the current academic Session 2021-22.

Ref.: Letter No. JSDK/Estt/2021/1916-42 Dt:28-09-2021

Advertisement Notice.

Applications are invited on plain paper from the desirous candidates from the permanent residents of J&K State, for temporary engagement of Guest Faculty for conducting of COPA Trade (Self Finance), Front Office Assistant Trade (Self Finance), & Teaching of Employability Skills in Women ITI, Seer Hamdan for current academic Session 2021-22. The Applications completed in all respect shall be submitted in Office of the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of this Notice along with the attested copies of the following Certificates.

- Academic/Technical Qualification Certificates/Marks Certificates
- D.O.B Certificates
- Permanent Residence Certificate
- Experience if any.

S. No.	Eligibility Criteria.	Remuneration	No. of positions
01	For COPA Trade : Degree in Computer Engineering/IT, MCA with One year of relevant experience OR Diploma In Computer Engineering/IT, BCA NIELT A Level with Two years of relevant experience OR NTC/NAC and National Craft Instructor Certificate in COPA Trade with Three years of relevant experience after NAC/NTC.	A) Rs.7500/-PM maximum for Degree Holder. B) Rs.7000/-PM maximum for Diploma Holder.	01 (Self Finance)
02	Front Office Assistant: Degree in Commerce / Hotel Management/ Catering Technology from recognized university with one year post qualification Experience in the relevant field. OR Diploma in Hotel Management/ Catering Technology/ Commercial Practice from a recognized board of education with two-year post Qualification experience in the relevant field. OR NTC/ NAC passed in the trade with three-year post qualification Experience in the relevant field. Essential Qualification: Craft Instructor Certificate in relevant trade under NCVT.	A) Rs.7500/-PM maximum for Degree Holder. B) Rs.7000/-PM maximum for Diploma Holder.	01 (Self Finance)
03	(For Teaching of E. Skills MBA/ BBA /any Graduate / Diploma in any discipline with Two years' experience with short term ToT course in Employability Skills from DGT institutes. (Must have studied English/ Communication Skills and Basic Computer at 12th / Diploma level and above). OR Existing Social Studies Instructors in ITIs with short term ToT course in Employability Skills from DGT institutes	A) Rs.7500/-PM maximum for Degree Holder. B) Rs.7000/-PM maximum for Diploma Holder.	01 (Normal)

The period of engagement will be for one academic Session viz 2021-22 only, and shall not be extended. The candidate engaged shall have no claim for permanent absorption or continuation beyond the stipulated period, even if the Department shall have to make a fresh arrangement again for next Session. The candidate engaged shall have maintained proper discipline and punctuality and shall have to work entire satisfaction of the students as well as the Superintendent concerned. The selected candidates have to produce an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate to work as Guest Faculty as mentioned in the notice and will not claim any continuation or permanent absorption.

No: ITI/Seer/Estt/51-III/2021/1169-73
Dated: 11-10-2021

DIPK-10450/21

Sd/
Muzaffar Ahmad Shah
Superintendent.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, (IRRIGATION & F C), DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119 | email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com

Notice inviting Short Term e-Tender e-NIT No: - IFCD/22 of 2021-22

Dated: 11/10/2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar,

S. No	Name of work.	Estt. Cost Rs. in lakh)	Cost of T/MH of Account (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of contract	
01.	Engagement of hydraulic excavator including tippers for removal of encroachment within jurisdiction of J&FC Sub-Division Sonwar.	5.00	200	2711-M&R	As and when required	DEE
02	Renovation/Painting of Chief Engineer's Office at Raj Bagh Srinagar.	0.47	200	4701 (CAPEX)	05 Days	DEE
04	Oiling/greasing of Jin Khon Sluice, Kandar sluice and Naikpora sluice.	1.24	200	2711 M&R	05 Days	DEE
05	Oiling/Greasing and repairs to window shutters for Pakhal Sluice	0.83	200	2711-M&R	05 Days	DEE

Position of TS : Sanctioned
Position of AAA : Accorded

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11/10/2021
2.	Date of start of downloading	12/10/2021 from 10:00 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/ Financial	12/10/2021 from 10:00 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission end date	23/10/2021 up to 16:30 Hrs.
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders (online)	25/10/2021 at 11:00 AM.

2. a). Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt (mentioning therein NIT No, S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department (Irrigation & F C) Division Srinagar & date on it must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice, and Bid Security declaration form duly self-attested instead of Bid Security (EMD) as per Finance Department J&K Civil Secretariat Jammu/ Srinagar Circular issued vide No. A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J. However, in case of compelling circumstances the same shall be obtained from the successful bidder by this department. (Refer Appendix-I). b). Performance upto 3% shall have to be furnished by the successful bidder at the time of issuance of Allotment/ LOI (refer Appendix I).

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

4. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

4.01 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.

4.02 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

4.03 The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

4.04 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at S. No. 1.

4.05 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

5. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of tender due to any reason/ reasons.

6. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form as per Appendix-I, cost of tender documents in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/ receipt pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar enlistment card duly renewed, G. S. Tin No., latest GST Return .

7. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

8. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.

9. Special Conditions: -

9.01 Price escalation and Taxes: The item wise cost / offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the cost quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work.

9.02 Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill of the contractor as per the rates prevailing at that time.

9.03 The bidder should upload the latest GST return (latest quarter) & the payments will also be made subject to the production of latest GST returns.

9.04 Bidders are advised to use "My Document" area in their uses on JK tenders e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

9.05 The bidder shall have the experience of having executed such nature of works i.e., water retaining structures.

9.06 Complete Bio Data of contractor/ agency as per Appendix (II).

9.07 Errors/omissions, if any shall be read with SOR 2020.

9.08 Nothing shall be paid on account of dewatering, diversion or construction of ring bund quantities executed in or under water, making of tracks, ramps & removal of the same after completion even if involved at site. The contractor shall quote their rates accordingly.

9.09 Drawl of Agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

9.10 Production of original documents necessary for verification on declaration of the lowest bidder by or before 07 days of the opening of Price Bid/ generation of comparative statement.

9.11 The successful bidder shall have to make arrangements of adequate men & machinery as and when asked for flood precautionary measures and removal of encroachments for the year 2021-22.

9.12 Departmental material shall be issued at the following rates, subject to the availability in the Divisional stores;

1. EC bags @4.50/bag.

2. Crate Mesh @22.00/Sft.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

Sd/-No. I&FCD/Sgr/CS/C-14/ 5833-45

Dated:- 11/10/2021

Er. Aajaz Ahmad Keen
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar.

DIPK-10486/21

Office of the Post Graduate Department Of Ophthalmology Government Medical College Srinagar

PRESS NOTE

On 22nd World Sight Day the Post Graduate Department of Ophthalmology GMC Srinagar is organizing a Multispecialty Clinic for awareness, Evaluation and treatment of various eye disorders at RIO (Regional Institute of Ophthalmology) Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar on 14th October 2021 from 10am onwards.

Prof. & Head
Department of Ophthalmology

DIPK-10495/21

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: - 152/Xen/Rew/Bla/2021-2022 Dated. 09/10/2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10
1	Construction of Anganwadi centre in W.NO. 06 at ZamboorPattan Under ADP (PRI) .Block Parenpeela	11.14	600	60 days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
2	Construction of Anganwadi centre in W.NO. 03 at ZamboorPattan Under ADP (PRI) .Block Parenpeela	11.15	600	60 days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
3	Construction of Anganwadi centre in W.NO. 6 Kalsan (Choolan) Under ADP (PRI) .Block Parenpeela	11.14	600	60 days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded	Allotted

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-10-2021 to 23-10-2021 up to 4:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	09-10-2021
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23-10-2021 up to 4:00 PM
5.	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 25-10-2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

2. The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. (Copy enclosed) in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.

5. All The Bidders has to submit Bid Security Form instead of Earnest Money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration form is as per Annexure "A" below)

6. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

1. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

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

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

g. The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.

h. The department will not be responsible for any damage/destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earth quake/theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch& ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.

2. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.

3. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No 11090-97

Dated 09-10-2021

DIPK-10408/21

Executive Engineer,
REW Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division,

HMT, Srinagar

Short term e-NIT

No.: PHE/QC&PD/17of 2021-22/ e-Tender

Dated: 09-10-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), e-tenders in two cover system are invited from registered and experienced Civil Contractors/Firms for execution of the following Works:

S. No	Name of the work	Tender document Fee (Rs)	Estimated cost	Time of Completion	Tender validity
1	Various repairs works to be executed in the Sub- Divisional office & Divisional office located at HMT Sgr. detailed as per Annexure "C".	200/-	155315.00	07 days	90 days

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below: Schedule of Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Date of Inviting Tender	09-10-2021.....02.00PM
2.	Clarification Period	09-10-2021 (06.00PM) to 10-10-2021 (02.00PM)
4.	Documents Downloading Period	09-04-2021 (06.00PM) to 16-10-2021 (01.00PM)
6.	On Line Document Submission Period	09-10-2021 (06.00PM) to 16-10-2021 (02.00PM)
8.	Date of opening of Cover Ist.	18-10-2021.....02.00PM
9.	Tender Document Receiving Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.
10.	Tender Inviting Office	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.
11.	Document Fee	In the shape of treasury/E-Challan favouring to Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
12.	Earnest Money	Shall Be Relaxed as per D.O. No: 9/4/2020-PPD dated: 12-11-2020 of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance Govt. of India, circulated vide circular of Govt. of J&K Finance department, Civil Secretariat Jammu/ Srinagar vide No: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated: 22-12-2020
13.	Bid Opening Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.

A. The Cover-I shall contain:

1. Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of Treasury receipt / e-Challan / e-Receipt (Head 0215 - Revenue & Miscellaneous)

2. Scanned Copy of GST Registration Certificate.

3. Contractors Registration Certificate.

4. Proof of having executed same/similar nature of job in Govt. / Semi-Govt. organizations during last three years.

5. Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", "B" duly accepted/signed.

B. Cover Second (2nd)

The cover-II shall contain Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. Financial bid will not be accepted in physical form.

NO: PHE/QC&PD/4073-77

Dated: 09-10-2021

DIPK-10416/21

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti
HMT Srinagar

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AA04

2 Bhk - 60 SY- Abul Fazl 4 No, IInd floor ₹30L

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AA06

2 Bhk - 85 SY - Shaheen Bagh, F Block , First floor ₹35 Lakhs

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5 Bhk, 200 SY -Jogabai Extn, 4th and 5th floor with lift & car park ₹60L

AA11

4 Bhk- 120 SY- Pehlwan Chowk, 4th and 5th floor (No lift) ₹ 38 L with only bike parking

AA12

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AA13

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Army Sounds High

of police and army started at 2pm Tuesday near Bhangai Top in the DKG area along the inter-district border. The fresh firefight, they said, took place after a gap of 16 hours.

On Monday morning, a fierce gun-battle broke out when army launched a search operation in DKG forest area to flush out militants. In the exchange of fire, five soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) were killed.

"The operation in DKG has been continuously going on since yesterday. As per inputs it is believed that 3-4 militants are holed up inside the area. These are the same militants who had earlier fired upon five soldiers in Poonch and had by evening fled to Rajouri," PRO Defence Jammu, Lt Col Devendra Anand, told Kashmir Observer Tuesday.

"There has been a fresh contact with the militants today at around 2pm. The exchange of fire has been reported from Bhangai Top near DKG and the operation is going on," he said.

The army spokesperson said that keeping in view this operation and encounter, a security high alert has been sounded in the entire Pir Panjal range with all the security personnel ordered to remain vigilant.

In the security high alert issued, it has been mentioned that a group of militants that is presently hiding in forest area near Dera Ki Gali can possibly manage to escape from the spot taking benefit of dense forest cover and bad weather conditions.

"In order to check any such escape, the security agencies have asked the security forces in the border hinterlands to maintain the highest mode of alertness. Surprise naks and patrols have also been started in the range," Anand said.

He further said that troops from Rashtriya Rifles and J&K Police have been deployed in the area to neutralise the militants.

"We're yet to ascertain the fact whether these militants are using any advanced weaponry or not," he said.

When asked about the origin of these militants, the army spokesperson said that we're yet to ascertain their identity and country of origin.

Notably, the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, leading to the killing of nine militants in separate encounters.

5 Militants Killed

Shopian after killing the non-local street vendor.

Divulging more details of the gunfight, the police spokesperson said that around 6pm Monday, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in Tulran on the basis of specific inputs suggesting presence of militants in the village.

He said the holed-up militants were given repeated opportunities to surrender when their presence got ascertained.

Instead they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter. However due to darkness the operation was suspended, while the cordon was kept intact," he said.

In the wee hours, he said, repeated announcements were again made to the hiding militants to surrender, but they again fired on joint search party and the fire was retaliated.

"In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. As per police records, the killed terrorists were linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and remained part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities," the police spokesperson said.

In a separate encounter in Feeripora, he said, two militants Ubaid Ahmad Dar of Ray Kapren and Khubaib Ahmad Nengroo of Braripora were killed in the encounter after the search operation was resumed in the wee hours of Tuesday.

"At about 1000hrs, contact was established with the hiding terrorists and they were given ample opportunities to surrender. However, they started firing indiscriminately at the search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter," the police spokesperson said. In the ensuing encounter two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter," he said.

Both the militants, as per police spokesperson, were associated with LeT and were involved in several "terror" crime cases.

"Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated," he added.

The police spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar congratulating the joint team working with great synergy and coordination on the ground for carrying out anti-militancy operations in professional manner without collateral damage.

"It is pertinent to mention that 2 cases out of 4 recent terror cases of target killings in Srinagar and Bandipora stands solved by the elimination of the involved terrorists," he added.

Those Who Killed

of Kulgam in South Kashmir, officials here said.

They said that Dar, who disappeared from his home in Redwani in Kulgam district in April, had been under the scanner earlier also as he worked with Abbas Sheikh, the chief of The Resistance Front (TRF), an organisation believed to be a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba.

According to officials, Dar and three others -- including Mehran Shalla, a youth in his early 20s and a resident of Nawa Kadal in downtown city, and another young man Adil -- were part of a four-member militant squad

that carried out the attacks on civilians in the city.

The officials said the group was involved in the killing of Kashmiri Pandit businessman Makhan Lal Bindroo, who owned a chain of medical shops known for genuine medicines, school principal Supinder Kaur and teacher Deepak Chand, both of whom taught in the same school located at Eidgah.

The officials said security agencies gathered CCTV footage from all the locations and joined the dots to zero in on the squad that was responsible for the killing of civilians, especially the minorities.

The officials said Basit has been moving around in the city and is accompanied by Mehran and others.

It is stated that Dar took over the TRF operations after the death of Abbas Sheikh, among the oldest face of militancy in the valley.

A resident of Kulgam's Rampur village, Sheikh had joined the banned Hizbul Mujahideen militant group in mid-90s and kept returning to the militancy fold after being arrested and released twice.

He was arrested for the first time in 2004 and released after a year. In 2007, he was arrested again and spent four years in jail. After his release, he was at home for three years, before going missing again in the spring of 2014.

He was killed in a swift operation by the army early this year.

Sheikh was behind the killing of jeweller Satpal Nischal, a non-Kashmiri, earlier this year leading the security forces to conclude that the same group could have been behind the killing of Virender Paswan, who earned her bread by selling 'golgappa' and 'chat pardi' in the valley.

Militants Were Present

area", he said.

Asked if the militants involved in the attack had recently infiltrated, he said that the "group was present in the area for two to three months. The area where contact took place and attack took place are in the same belt."

The police officer said that the joint parties have cordoned the area as part of the operation. "We are confident that it shall be taken to a logical conclusion in the shortest time", he said.

Asked about the number of militants suspected to be involved, he said they have made an estimation but will not divulge it in view of the ongoing operation.

He also denied that the "terrorists" were getting any local support.

He said that the operation is being conducted with a certain strategy and "in previous operations too in these belts, they took a certain time but we were successful in eliminating terrorists".

Enemies Of Humanity

an interaction with a delegation of United Kashmiri Sikhs Progressive Forum (UKSPF) at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the delegation led by its Chairman S. Baldev Singh Raina submitted a memorandum to the Lt Governor apprising him regarding the demands and issues pertaining to Sikh community.

"The Lt Governor while noting the concerns raised by the delegation said that the enemies of humanity who perpetrated these heinous crimes will not be spared," the official spokesperson said.

"The Lt Governor assured the delegation that UT government will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of the minority communities in J&K," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that Sohail Shahazad, Member DDC Poonch also met Lt Governor and apprised him about several prominent demands and public issues of his constituency.

"The Lt Governor assured the redressal of all genuine demands on merit. He said that the UT government is committed towards equitable development of all regions and ensuring welfare of all sections of the society," he added.

Inputs On Target

amplify the BJP's "fake narrative and propaganda" about normalcy in the Union Territory.

At least seven people have been killed by militants this month in the Kashmir valley. Of those killed, four belonged to minority communities and six of the deaths were reported from Srinagar.

Mufti also claimed that 700 civilians were arrested in the aftermath of the recent killings with the intention to "shift the blame and absolve themselves".

"J&K admin had prior information about attacks on minorities. Yet they chose to ignore these inputs. Instead they were busy providing security to Union Ministers who were brought to Kashmir to amplify BJP's fake narrative & propaganda of so called normalcy in J&K," she wrote on Twitter.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister is on a five-day tour of the Chenab valley region. During her visit, she has addressed PDP workers' conventions at different places since Sunday.

"Not taking responsibility & arresting 700 civilians shows their intention to shift blame & absolve themselves. Collective punishment & humiliation of an entire population has become the one size fits all approach to resolve problems caused due to GOI's punitive policies," Mufti said in another tweet.

Two teachers -- Supinder Kaur, a Srinagar-based Sikh, and Chand, a Hindu from Jammu -- were killed two days after The Resistance Force, a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the deaths of three people on October 5.

Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, was shot dead at his shop

that evening. Minutes later, a "chaat" vendor, Virender Paswan from Bihar, was gunned down elsewhere in the city. Around the same time, another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, was killed at Naidkhai in Bandipora.

On October 2, militants shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri at Srinagar's Karan Nagar locality and Mohammad Shafi Dar at the city's Batamalo area.

Ousted LG's Advisor

The searches included the officials and residential premises of around 14 serving and retired officials from the IAS and Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), who were posted as district magistrates.

The Tuesday searches also covered five private persons who allegedly acted as middlemen and agents, besides 10 gun houses or dealers, the spokesperson said.

It led to the recovery of "incriminating documents" including those related to the issuance of arms licenses, list of beneficiaries, documents related to investment in fixed deposit receipts and other sale proceeds.

The CBI also recovered property documents, bank account details, locker keys, diary comprising incriminating details, arms license registers, electronic gadgets and mobile phones and some cash including old currency.

The CBI had registered two cases on the request of the Jammu and Kashmir government which alleged bulk issuance of arms licenses in the erstwhile state during 2012 to 2016.

It was alleged that more than 2.78 lakh arms licenses were issued to the non-entitled persons. The CBI also collected documents that allegedly suggested such issuance of armed licences spread over 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the probe, the agency had come across evidences suggesting the role of Khan, who was made an advisor to the first Lt Governor G C Murumu and also served the incumbent Manoj Sinha.

Khan enjoyed the complete support of the Lt Governor's administration till very late in his stint. He had all important departments including tourism under him. However, he was unceremoniously removed from the post on October 5 on the orders of the Union home ministry.

Besides Khan, the house of Commissioner Secretary Jal Shakti M Raju, an IAS officer of the 2005-batch was also searched. He was the deputy commissioner of Kargil during the period being probed by the CBI.

The agency also raided Prasoon Ramaswamy G, an IAS officer of 2010 batch and at present posted as Director Census.

Promoted IAS officer Sajjad Ahmed Khan, now retired, was also searched as he was posted as the district magistrate of Poonch during the period.

KAS officer Nissar Ahmed Wani, M H Malik, Farooq Ahmed Khan (retired) and Bashir Ahmed were also searched by the CBI.

Sanjay Puri, who was the District Information officer at Rajouri, was also searched.

The CBI said that during investigation and scrutiny of documents, the role of certain gun-dealers was found who in connivance with the public servants and had allegedly issued such illegal arms licenses to the ineligible persons.

It was also alleged that the persons who got these licenses were not the residents of the places from where the arms licenses were issued.

It is alleged that then public servants in cahoots with other accused issued arms licenses to non-residents in violation of rules and received illegal gratification.

The Rajasthan ATS had unearthed the scandal in 2017 and had arrested over 50 people for their alleged involvement in the illegal issuance of arms licenses.

According to the ATS, over 3,000 permits were granted allegedly in the name of army personnel.

Based on ATS findings, the then Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra had handed over the matter to the CBI.

Govt Urges KP

Srinagar last week.

"The chair (divisional commissioner of Kashmir) directed that no migrant employee needs to leave the district/valley and whosoever will be absent (from duty) shall be dealt with as per service rules," an order issued by Assistant Commissioner (Central) Aziz Ahmad Rather said.

These directions were issued after a security review meeting of deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police of the Kashmir valley chaired by Divisional Commissioner Pandurang K Pole in Srinagar.

The divisional commissioner impressed upon the officers to preferably post these migrant employees in safe and secure zones instead of far-flung and vulnerable areas for the time being, the order said.

The authorities said strict vigil has been ensured and security measures for the migrant employees, Sikhs, Kashmiri Pandits and labourers have been tightened, it added.

Deputy commissioners and SSPs are continuously paying visits to migrant colonies and accommodations at Sheikhpura Budgam, Nutnusa Kupwara, Tulmulla Ganderbal, Hall Pulwama, Mattan and Vessu Anantnag, the order said.

Besides, security forces and the police are keeping a constant vigil, the officer said.

Domestic Flights

The capacity cap stood at 72.5 per cent between August 12 and September 18, 65 per cent between July 5 and August 12 and 50 per cent between June 1 and July 5.

On October 9, the Indian carriers operated 2,340 domestic flights, which is 71.5 per cent of their total pre-COVID capacity.

The ministry stated in its order that "it has been decided to restore the scheduled

domestic air operations with effect from October 18, 2021, without any capacity restriction".

The order noted that the decision was taken "after a review of the current status of scheduled domestic operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel".

When the government resumed the scheduled domestic flights on May 25 last year after a two-month break, the ministry had allowed the carriers to operate not more than 33 per cent of their pre-Covid services.

The cap was gradually increased to 80 per cent by December 2020.

The 80-per cent cap remained in place till June 1 this year.

The May 28 decision to bring down the cap from 80 to 50 per cent from June 1 onwards was taken "in view of the sudden surge in the number of active COVID-19 cases across the country, decrease in passenger traffic and the passenger load (occupancy rate) factor", the ministry had said.

Reacting to the announcement, India's largest carrier IndiGo stated: "It is a welcome move as we believe that with recent pent-up demand combined with the upcoming festive season, it will be great to operate flights on pre-pandemic levels. We are quite bullish about the overall growth and demand for domestic travel."

Another private carrier, Vistara, also welcomed the decision.

"Vistara welcomes the government's decision to remove the capacity cap. We believe that it will be helpful in accelerating recovery from the severe impacts of the pandemic as demand continues to grow, especially with the growing confidence in air travel and the much awaited festive season," a spokesperson of the airline said

No Need To Add,

said militants across the border will try to make last-ditch efforts to infiltrate into the Indian side before the onset of winter.

"This is a last-ditch opportunity for our inimical agents across (the LoC) to ensure that they can push terrorists and terrorist groups. We have been getting inputs. There have been two infiltration attempts in Uri and Rampur sectors, which were not only foiled, but they were neutralised and eliminated."

"The inputs will keep on coming and I can assure you that we are absolutely vigilant on the LoC. We will not allow any infiltrators to come through. One or two who will come through, will be eliminated with the help of the people of Kashmir inside the Kashmir valley," Lt Gen. Pandey said.

He said counter-infiltration measures are already in place along the LoC and there is no need for additional forces or lessening their numbers for keeping infiltration under check.

"I do not think that there is a requirement to push in more forces or take out any forces (from the LoC). I have got enough forces to ensure it (stop infiltration), the GoC said.

Referring to the recent encounters between government forces and militants, the senior Army officer said the operations going on for the last few days are standard ones based on intelligence and are not connected to the spike in civilian killings by militants of late.

"The operations here have been going on for the last few days. This is the standard process of operations based on intelligence. So I would not like to connect it to any events before or after," he said.

Lt Gen. Pandey said while there has not been an increase in the number of attacks, Pakistan is pulling the levers from across the LoC, in a bid to disturb the communal harmony in the valley.

"I do not think there has been an increase or something. But yes, there have been civilian killings. Each and every loss is important for the families, for the country. I can assure you that these levers are being driven from across the LoC and we have to be very careful to ensure that the communal harmony of the Kashmir valley is not disturbed by these brutal and condemnable killings," he added.

Based on ATS findings, the then Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra had handed over the matter to the CBI.

J&K Logs 80 New

infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 330666.

In Valley, the officials said, Srinagar reported maximum 37 new cases of Covid-19, followed by Anantnag with 8, Baramulla and Budgam 6 each, Ganderbal 5, Kupwara 4 and Pulwama one fresh case of virus. No fresh case of virus was reported from Bandipora, Kulgam and Shopian districts.

In the winter capital, officials said, Reasi reported highest 7 new cases, Jammu and Poonch two each and Doda and Kathua districts one each. Five districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Samba, Kishtwar and Ramban reported no new case of coronavirus.

Also, the officials said that no Covid-19 related fatality was reported during the last 24 hours. So far 4426-2174 in Jammu and 2252 in Kashmir--have died due to the virus.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here, an official spokesperson said that 13 districts in the UT-- Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Doda Samba, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal have achieved 100% first dose vaccine coverage.

Govt De-hires

chaired by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole, attended by the DC Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar along with SSPs through video conferencing, the concerned district administrations has been told that it shall be now solely responsible for the safe and secure accommodation in the district.

"In the wake of the de-hiring all accommodation in 14 hotels at Srinagar the chair remarked that concerned District admin shall be now solely responsible for the safe and secure accommodation in the district and whosoever has not yet reported in the

district shall be immediately called back by deputing security teams to Srinagar and in this regard SSP Srinagar shall be taken on board," the minutes of the meeting, held on 09-10-2021 reads

"Further, irrespective of the undertaking given by protected person with regard to refusal of security and secure accommodation, possibility shall be explored to accommodate them in safe and secure accommodation identified by District Administration," the DCs, SSPs of Kashmir division, SSP Security and SSP PCR have been directed by the chair.

NHRC Chief Praises

bill to bifurcate the state into two union territories, the minister had said, "Article 370 is biggest hurdle to normalcy in the state".

Allaying the Opposition's fears of a law and order situation after the move, Shah had then said, nothing will happen and the region wouldn't be allowed to turn into another battle-torn Kosovo.

Prime Minister Modi was the chief guest on the occasion and joined the ceremony held at the Vigyan Bhawan via a video-conference link.

Modi in his address slammed those who engage in "selective interpretation" of human rights with an eye on political gains and loss, saying such conduct harms human rights as well as democracy.

The NHRC chief in his address on Tuesday also asserted that India has emerged as a powerful entity on a global level, and it has got recognition as a new power, and it is to be "credited to people of India, the country's constitutional system and the leadership".

The former apex court judge had taken charge as the new chairperson of the NHRC on June 2 this year.

In February 2020, during his tenure as a judge of the Supreme Court, justice

Mishra had created a flutter after praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the International Judicial Conference 2020, he had termed Modi as an "internationally acclaimed visionary" and a "versatile genius, who thinks globally and acts locally".

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh alleged that the democratic space in India continued to "shrink".

"The PM & HM have made a mockery of human rights since their Gujarat days. Now they are joined in the jugalbandi by Chairman of NHRC no less, a judge who sat in judgment on his own earlier order and claimed no conflict of interest. The democratic space in India continues to shrink," he alleged in his tweet.

Pakistani Militant

a resident of Pakistan's Punjab province, came to India via Bangladesh and had been staying in the country for 10 years after obtaining Indian identity cards through forged documents, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwaha said.

He was posing as a "maulana" (religious preacher) and was arrested on Monday night, the DCP said.

Ashraf was recruited by the Pakistani spy agency ISI directly after he completed his schooling and was trained for six months, he added.

Officials said Ashraf was in contact with an ISI handler whom he identified as Nasir and was supposed to get information about the planned terror attack.

He has changed five-six locations in a span of 10 years, they said.

He never stayed at any specific location for long and to acquire documents, he also got married to a woman here, they said.

At his instance, an AK-47 and several other arms and ammunition have been recovered.

Ashraf has been arrested under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosives Act and Arms Act, the police said.

Police suspect that he is part of a terror module.

Further investigations are on including if a lone wolf attack had been planned, they said. (PTI)

Teacher Shoots

was not known immediately, the official said.

Police have sent the body for postmortem and started inquest proceedings to investigate the case, police said.

Rusty Shell

defused the shell.

An official said that police found a shell and destroyed it at the safer place--(KNO)

Minor Girl Injured

alongside locals rushed to the area to rescue the girl.

After efforts, the girl was barely rescued and rushed to SDH Uri for immediate treatment, officials said, adding the victim sustained a few wounds in the incident.

1 Fresh Covid

deaths 150 in Leh and 58 in Kargil since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Seven patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, thereby taking the number of recoveries to 20,599, they said.

A total of 638 sample reports in Ladakh 332 in Leh and 306 in Kargil were tested negative, they said.

Youth Held

the case," SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli said, as per news agency GNS. The youth was arrested from Anantnag.

He claimed that the youth was touch with "Pak handler" is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba militant outfit.

He said that a case was stands lodged in police station Satwari Jammu.

IPL 2021

KKR In Way Of DC's Maiden IPL Title Aspirations



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Eyeing a maiden IPL title, the fancied Delhi Capitals will face another litmus test in the form of a Kolkata Knight Riders unit brimming with optimism when the two sides lock horns in the second qualifier here on Wednesday.

Delhi Capitals failed in their first big test when they lost to Chennai Super Kings in the first qualifier and another defeat will mean there will be no more examination for the strong squad, led by India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Two-time winners KKR will no doubt take confidence from their victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Monday's eliminator that dashed Virat Kohli's hopes of winning an IPL title with his longstanding franchise.

If the emphasis is on momentum and peaking at the right time then KKR will definitely fancy their chances in their next outing, notwithstanding their opponents' resources and depth in lineup.

DC, who topped the league stage with as many as 10 wins for a total of 20 points, are well aware of the task that awaits them.

Since Australian great Ricky Ponting took over as their coach, Delhi Capitals have grown from strength to strength as they finished second runners up in the

2019 edition before reaching the summit clash last year.

This year there aim is to do one better and win the title.

They are one of the most balanced sides in the tournament with a formidable batting lineup and a potent pace attack that is aided by seasoned spinners including Ravichandran Ashwin. In Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw and Shreyas Iyer, Delhi boast of a solid top order. Pant, along with Shimron Hetmyer, look after the middle order, even as they missed the injured Marcus Stoinis' prowess.

On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (2020 purple cap winner) and Anrich Nortje has proved to be a dream pair, having scalped 52 wickets together in 2020.

Then there is speedster Avesh Khan, who has taken 23 wickets so far in this season of the tournament, and he will back himself to add to his tally against KKR.

DC have posted five wins in the UAE leg of the tournament but one of their defeats here has come against KKR, and what better opportunity for them to exact revenge than in the IPL playoffs.

Things changed for the better after the Kolkata-based side landed in the UAE and if their performance against RCB is any indication, KKR is raring to go and will want to do more than just end their campaign in the playoffs.

De Villiers To Kohli: The Way You Captained RCB Inspired Everyone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Virat Kohli will never be able to understand the kind of impact he has had on Royal Challengers Bangalore while leading the side, said AB de Villiers of his long-standing IPL teammate, in a rich tribute.



Kohli's nine-year stint as skipper of the RCB ended with a four-wicket defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders in the eliminator of the 2021 Indian Premier League at Sharjah on Monday.

Kohli had said before the start of the UAE leg of the IPL that he would be stepping down as RCB captain at the end of the season.

"I have been here through all the years with Virat as captain and I think the word that comes to mind is 'grateful'. We were very lucky to have had you at the front," de Villiers said in a video posted by the franchise.

"The way you captained this team has inspired everyone,

certainly inspired me to become better as a player and a person. You have had a much bigger impact than you will ever understand, it has gone miles. There are stories that you don't even hear of people's lives that you have touched."

Since taking over as RCB's captain in 2013, Kohli has led the team to the play-offs four times, including the last two seasons, and the final in 2016.

Kohli led RCB in 140 matches, winning 66 and losing 70. Four games did not produce any results. De Villiers said Kohli's contribution goes beyond his performance as a skipper or a batter.



Super League: Kashmir Maharaja Defeat J&K Forest

PDC vs J&K Bank in Positive Kashmir KO final

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: One match of the JKFA Khyber Super Division League 2021 was played on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The match between Kashmir Maharaja FC and J&K Forest XI ended in a 2-0 victory for the Maharajas. Expected to be a close encounter, Kashmir Maharaja FC managed to score two goals in either halves of the match to seal the hard-fought tie.

The first goal came in the 31st minute, scored by Rashid of Kashmir Maharaja. J&K Forest XI created opportunities to score but failed to convert any

of their chances.

The Maharajas then scored the second goal of the match in the second half through Adil Tariq and consolidated their lead till final whistle. Rashid of Kashmir Maharaja FC was named man of the match for his brilliant performance.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing A-Division League 2021, one match was played on Tuesday at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh in which Baghi Hamdan FC defeated Makhdoomya FC by a solitary goal.

Positive Kashmir KO Tournament: J&K PDC XI Defeat J&K Police XI

In the ongoing 1st Edition

Positive Kashmir Knockout Football Tournament, J&K PDC XI defeated J&K Police XI in a tie-breaker on Tuesday.

A high-voltage match, the game lived up to fan expectations as both teams played at brisk speed and involved intricate passing football. Both halves of the match, however, ended in 0-0 draws.

J&K PDC XI then managed to defeat J&K Police XI 4-3 in a tie-breaker, to book their place in the Positive Kashmir finals along side J&K Bank FC.

J&K Bank had earlier sealed their place in the finals by defeating Downtown Heroes FC in a tie-breaker.

Kashmir Division Players In JKCA Senior Team: Ins & Outs



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: After more than 40 senior cricketers of J&K were selected for the JKCA Senior Team selection camp, the number has almost been halved as the Association's selectors pick the best of the probables.

More than 20 Kashmir Division cricketers were in the probables and the list has been slashed after 10 cricketers failed to make the cut. 11 cricketers from Kashmir Division, how-

ever, have made it to the next round of selections, including J&K captain Parvez Rasool.

Here are the cricketers from Kashmir who made it to the final rounds of selection:

Parvez Rasool, Manzoor Dar, Waseem Raza, Qamran Iqbal, Umer Nazir, Mujteba Yousuf, Irfan Ul Haq, Rasikh Salam, Mudasir, Towqeer and Auqib Nabi.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Division players who have been sent back home:

Nasir Lone, Shabir Nengroo,

Mehjoor Sofi, Fasil Dar, Usman Pandith, Umar Nisar, Usman Pandith, Tahir Bhat, Ahmad Bhanday, Jiyad Magray and Zaid Mohammed Bhat.

While the social media is abuzz with fan opinions about the selections, it will be interesting to see what the JKCA senior men's team cut.

The men's team will start the Domestic Season 2021-22 with the Syed Mushtaq Ali Twenty20 Trophy, which is set to commence from October 27.

T20 World Cup

Avesh Khan, Venkatesh Iyer Set To Join India Squad

Umran Malik to make it to standby list: Sources



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Delhi Capitals speedster Avesh Khan has been asked by the BCCI to stay back in the UAE after the IPL to join India's T20 World Cup squad as a net bowler.

The 24-year-old is the second fast bowler, after J&K's pace sensation Umran Malik, who has been asked to join the team and if BCCI sources are to be believed, the lanky fast bowler could well make it to the standby list by the time World Cup starts on Sunday. India will open their campaign on October 24 against Pakistan.

"The national selectors have decided to also include Avesh in the mix. As of now, he will be a net bowler but if the team management feels, he can be upgraded," a BCCI source close to the selection committee told PTI on Tuesday.

Avesh bowls at an express pace and in this edition of the IPL, he has picked 23 wickets for the Capitals with DC still alive in the competition.

He is second in the list of wicket-takers with Harshal Patel leading the pack with 32 scalps.

"Avesh bowls at an average speed of 142 to 145 clicks, earns disconcerting bounce from the flattest of decks and has been on support staff's radar for some time," the source said.

Avesh was in England with the Test squad as a standby but a freak finger fracture during India's match against Combined Counties cut short his tour.

Many believe that Avesh had a good chance of playing had he got into the squad and all five Tests were held in England.

Hardik to stay back as batter, Venkatesh Iyer to join as cover

All-rounder Hardik Pandya will be staying with the Indian team but is expected to play purely as a batter in the T20 World Cup as his back is still not in a condition to take the stress of fast medium bowling.

It is learnt that KKR's rising opener-cum-seam bowler Venkatesh Iyer will be asked to stay in the bubble as cover.

Dhoni To Not Charge Any Fee For Mentoring Indian Team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not charge any fee for mentoring the Indian cricket team during this month's T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly told PTI on Tuesday. (More Cricket News)

The iconic former captain was brought in as mentor by the BCCI last month when it announced the squad for the mega-event, scheduled to start October 17.

"Dhoni will not charge anything to mentor the Indian team," Ganguly said.

The 40-year-old Dhoni retired from international cricket last year, his last India game being the 2019 World Cup semi-final, which the team lost to New Zealand.

It is believed that Dhoni was brought in for his experience in devising near-perfect white ball strategies. He led his franchise Chennai Super Kings into the IPL finals on Sunday.

One of the most successful captains in the history of Indian cricket, the enigmatic wicketkeeper-batter led India to two world titles -- the 2007 T20



World Cup in South Africa and the 2011 ODI World Cup in India.

The reticent player's retirement, announced by him through an Instagram post on August 15 last year, had taken the cricket world by surprise and he has not spoken even once about it after that.

The highly-respected player from Jharkhand played 90 Tests, 350 ODIs and 98 T20 Internationals amassing 4876, 10773 and 1617 runs respectively across formats.

He has largely kept a low profile after retiring internationally, focussing on his IPL engagements and organic farming at his home town Ranchi.

Germany Becomes First Team To Qualify For 2022 World Cup

AGENCIES

SKOPJE: Germany is the first country to qualify for the 2022 World Cup after booking its place on Monday with an error-strewn 4-0 win in North Macedonia.

Kai Havertz broke the deadlock in the 50th minute before Chelsea clubmate Timo Werner's quick-fire double helped Germany atone for its surprise 2-1 loss to North Macedonia in Duisburg in March -- the only blip in an otherwise perfect qualifying campaign with seven wins from eight games in Europe Group J.

Jamal Musiala got the fourth goal for Hansi Flick's team in the 83rd, set up by fellow substitute Karim Adeyemi.

Germany stretched its lead in the group to an unassailable eight points with two rounds of games remaining. Flick has overseen five wins since he took over from Joachim Löw after the summer's European Championship.

"We got what we wanted -- to



qualify as quickly as possible," Flick said.

Ionuț Mitriță's 26th-minute goal was enough for Romania to beat Armenia 1-0 in Bucharest.

Iceland defeated Liechtenstein 4-0 in the other group game.

Romania moved to second in the group on 13 points, one ahead of North Macedonia and Armenia on 12. Iceland has eight points and Liechtenstein one from a draw with Armenia in September.

In Skopje, Stole Dimitrievski was called into action earlier on to deny Joshua Kimmich from a

narrow angle. The Macedonian goalkeeper was to remain busy for the duration of the game with his own team relying on counter-attacks.

But Germany's lack of precision meant the game remained scoreless at the break despite 14 goal attempts in the first half.

Werner went closest before the break when he hit the left post. Havertz finally broke the deadlock in the 50th, when Serge Gnabry sent Thomas Müller through. Müller laid the ball off for the better-placed Havertz to shoot past Dimitrievski.

Maxwell, Christian Face Online Abuse After RCB's Exit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Glenn Maxwell, teammate Dan Christian and his pregnant partner Jorgia Dunn were subjected to online abuse after their IPL team Royal Challengers Bangalore's ouster from the ongoing edition of the lucrative league.

A fuming Maxwell slammed the online trolls, calling them "garbage" and "absolutely disgusting", even as Christian requested that his partner be kept out of it.

"Great season by RCB, unfortunately we fell well short of where we thought we should be. Doesn't take away from an amazing season. Some of the garbage that has been flowing on social media is absolutely disgusting," Maxwell wrote in a post on his Twitter handle.

"We are human beings who are giving out best each and every day. Try being a decent person maybe instead of spreading abuse," he added.

Maxwell's statement came after perennial underachievers RCB crashed out of the T20 league after

losing by four wickets to Kolkata Knight Riders in the eliminator here on Monday night.

The star Australian all-rounder thanked the "real fans" for their love and support during RCB's journey this season.

"Thank you to the REAL fans that shared love and appreciation for the players giving their all. Unfortunately, there is some horrible people out there that make social media a horrible place to be. It is unacceptable. Please don't be like them," he added.

Maxwell's Australian teammate Christian too alleged that his pregnant partner Jorgia Dunn was subjected to abuse on social media after he had an off day at work for RCB.

Christian scored only nine runs and went wicket-less with the ball, conceding 29 runs from 1.4 overs at an economy rate of 17.40.

"Check out the comments section of my partner's Instagram post. I didn't have a great game tonight, but that's sport. However please leave her out of it," Christian wrote on Instagram.

CGF Revamps CWG Roster With T20 Cricket In Core List

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Athletics and swimming will be the only compulsory sports in the Commonwealth Games from the 2026 edition as part of a "strategic roadmap" which will allow host cities greater freedom to include disciplines of their choice from a core list which also features T20 cricket and 3x3 basketball.

The roadmap was approved at the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly, which was held virtually. "...to increase hosting benefits and make the Games even more cost effective, whilst engaging new audiences, the Commonwealth Sport 2026-2030 Strategic Roadmap invites future hosts to explore innovative concepts, including co-hosting and mass participation events," read a statement from CGF.

"As part of an ongoing consultation with International Federations, there are ambitions for a revised Sport Programme to provide hosts with more flexibility to choose from a wider list of core sports," it added.

The new additions to the core disciplines, that have previously been listed as optional sports, are T20 Cricket, Beach Volleyball and 3x3 Basketball. Other disciplines in the 15-strong core list include badminton, shooting, table tennis, wrestling (freestyle) and hockey among others.

"This will allow hosts the ability to propose entirely new sports, relevant to their nation or culture, to enhance cultural showcasing and community engagement," the CGF stated.

The CGF recommended that approximately 15 sports feature at the Games. The event is still looking for a 2026 host, while the 2022 edition is set for Birmingham. While shooting has been dropped from the Birmingham Games, T20 cricket (women) has been added.

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