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P5 STATE

LOCALS, TOURISTS THROG DOODHPATHRI TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURISM FESTIVAL

The Department of Tourism in collaboration with District Administration Budgam Saturday organised a Tourism festival at famous tourist resort Doodhpathri...

THINK

WE THE WOMEN! ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day which is celebrated on the 8th of March every year has evolved over the years in different ways. Beyond the world of consumerism which tokenises on....



P11 SPORTS

INDIA THRASH ENGLAND ON DAY 3, WIN SERIES 3-1 AND BOOK WTC FINAL SPOT

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of an eternally confused English batting line-up as India cantered into the inaugural World Test...



Widom Quote!

If you want to be happy, be.
— Leo Tolstoy

NEWS DIGEST

One Death, 79 Covid Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday another death due to coronavirus even as eighteen travellers were among 79 new cases of Covid-19 detected in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The victim belonged to Jammu Division and the death took the toll to 1961—1234 in Kashmir and 727 in Jammu, officials said. About the new cases, they said, ● More On P10

Canines Kill Minor In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: A minor boy on Saturday was mauled to death by street dogs in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 8-year-old Azhar Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad was attacked by a pack of stray dogs near the family's Agricultural field in Pingelan area of the district, reports said Saturday. The locals, the reports said, tried to save the boy, but couldn't rescue him on time as he received severe injuries. ● More On P10

Two UP Residents Held With Pistol

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested two residents of Uttar Pradesh from Kulgam district after recovering a pistol from their possession. Police, army and the personnel of CRPF 24 battalion established a checkpoint near Jawahar Tunnel on the intervening night of March 5-6 after receiving specific information that illegal arms and ammunition was being transported ● More On P10

CASO Conducted In Shopian

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Saturday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Zainpora area on south Kashmir's Shopian district. According to the reports, special operations group (SOG) of police, army and CRPF cordoned off Chidipora village of Zainpora on early Saturday morning and launched a search operation. The joint team, reports said, sealed all entry and exit points leading to village ● More On P10

Man Found Dead In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Body of an unidentified person was on Saturday recovered under mysterious circumstances in north Kashmir district of Bandipora. Panic gripped village Pannar in Bandipora on Saturday morning, when some locals spotted the body of a man lying on the roadside, reports said. The locals, reports said, immediately informed the police. According to the reports, a ● More On P10

Govt Shifts 155 Rohingyas To 'Holding Centre' In Jammu



File Photo

Drive Launched To Collect Biometric, Other Details

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday shifted at least 155 Rohingyas to a 'holding centre' in Jammu and launched a drive to collect the biometric and other details of the persecuted community.

At least 155 illegal immigrant Rohingyas who escaped persecution in Myanmar and were

living in Jammu and Kashmir were on Saturday sent to a 'holding centre', under section 3(2) of the Foreigners Act, New Delhi based CNN-News18 reported.

Quoting unnamed officials, the report said that the immigrants were not holding valid travel documents required under section (3) of the Passports Act.

Meanwhile, the J&K administration on Saturday began a drive to collect biometric and other details of Rohingyas staying in Jammu, officials said.

The Rohingyas are a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in ● More On P10

Lower Primary Classes To Reopen From March 15

Schooling For 6th To 8th Resumes Monday

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir on Saturday postponed the proposed re-opening of schools in the valley for lower primary classes by a week even as it announced that students from 6th to 8th shall open from next week.

The schools resumed class work for classes 9-12 from March 1 while as standard 1st to 8 were scheduled to resume class work from March 8.

"It is hereby ordered that the educational institutions including recognised private schools shall open physically in a staggered ● More On P10

HC Quashes Budgam Youth's Detention Under PSA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities are guilty of committing infraction of a constitutional right by not informing a detainee about right to make representation to detaining authority, Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said.

"It can safely be stated that the respondents (authorities) by not informing the (detainee) about his right to make a representation to the detaining authority against the impugned order ● More On P10

ACB Files FIR In Rs 1000 Crore Loan Default Case

Probe Reveals Funds Diverted, State Land Encroached; Sold Illegally

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Saturday filed a case into a multi-million loan default case in which a large amount of funds were diverted and state land was encroached and sold illegally.

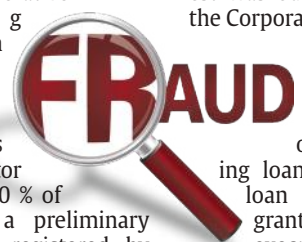
On the basis of a complaint received from the government's general administration department (GAD) to look into the allegations of defaulted in repayment of loan amount of Rs. 40.63

Crore raised from HUDCO by the J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation (JKCHC) in which the J&K government was the guarantor and owned 70 % of the capital, a preliminary Enquiry was registered by the anti-graft agency, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. The GAD complaint, he said, further revealed that on July 26, 2017, an amount of

Rs. 90 crores, including interest was outstanding against the Corporation.

"HUDCO had further blacklisted the government till liquidation of the outstanding loan and no further loan facilities were granted by HUDCO for execution of various projects in J&K," the ACB spokesperson said.

He further said that the investigations revealed that JKCHC availed ● More On P10



New IT Rules Can Undermine Media Freedom: Editors Guild

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Editors Guild of India on Saturday voiced concern over the government's new Information Technology rules, saying the guidelines will "fundamentally alter" and put "unreasonable restrictions" on digital media.

In a statement issued on Friday, the EGI expressed deep concern over the recent notification of the rules and asked the government to consult the stakeholders.

"The Rules, issued under the Information Technology



Editors Guild of India

Act, 2000, fundamentally alter how publishers of news operate over the Internet and have the potential to seriously undermine media freedom. They empower the Union government to block, delete or modify published news anywhere in the country without any judicial oversight and mandate all publishers ● More On P10

BJP For Hike In Monthly Relief To KPs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: JK BJP leader Ashwani Chhurgoo urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to enhance the monthly relief provided to Kashmiri migrants from Rs 13,000 to Rs 20,000.

"The price index has gone high a number of times over the last five years, and consequent price rise in almost all fields of public purchases has also touched new heights. This has disturbed the domestic budget of the displaced community of Kashmir. It has become very difficult for the relief holders among them to make both ends meet, he said.

Chhurgoo, in-charge, Department of Political Affairs and Feedback, Jammu and Kashmir, requested that the relief amount ● More On P10

PDP Slams Centre's 'Vindictive Politics'

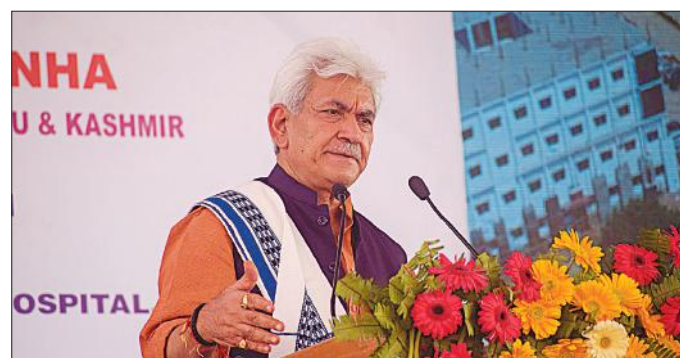
Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday said the Enforcement Directorate summons to its president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was part of the Centre's "vindictive" politics, and asserted that such tactics would not dampen the will of people of Jammu and Kashmir to struggle for restoration of their constitutional rights.

The party said "the ED summons is yet another ploy to try and arm-twist the people and leadership of Jammu & Kashmir, to kill dissent and disagreement across regions and to silence the genuine demand" for the restoration of statehood and special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Such tactics won't dampen our will to have our constitutional status restored. This is the price one ● More On P10

LG Hails Doctors Role In Pandemic Time



Inaugurates Netaji Subhas Medical College & Hospital In Patna

Observer News Service

PATNA: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday hailed the role of doctors and frontline medical professionals in fight against coronavirus saying that with the spirit of selfless service and working day and night to help and heal the patients, doctors have emerged as "real

heroes of our society".

Speaking here after inaugurating Netaji Subhas Medical College & Hospital, Amhara, Patna, and 1st Batch of 100 MBBS students of the college, Sinha called upon the youth to connect themselves with community service and understand their responsibility.

"If every person, whatever profession he or she may be associated with, has a duty towards upliftment of the society, only then the country can move forward," ● More On P10

J&K Admin Seek Clerics Help To Curb Drug Abuse

Drugs Use By Youth Has Reached Dangerous Level In Kashmir: Pole

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Seeking help of religious scholars in curbing drug abuse, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Saturday that the situation in Kashmir is as bad as in Punjab as the use of drugs by youth has reached a dangerous level here.

Chairing an awareness programme on drug abuse organized jointly by Muslim Waqf Board and Excise Department at Old Zero Bridge, here, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir,

Pandurang K Pole sought support and cooperation from scholars on sensitizing people in general and farmers in particular on growing poppy and cannabis and use of drugs by the youth as a dangerous trend in the Valley, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

Pole, he said, urged scholars to spread the message through Friday sermons that the practice of growing such plants is not only anti-religious but also has lasting effects on society.

"He said that using drugs both in powder and tablet form as addiction is posing a bigger threat to our future generation as the number of ● More On P10



'Govt Can't Force Us To Sell Mutton On Low Rates'

Auqib Javed

Despite a local trade body suggesting a way out in its "fact-finding report", the mutton deadlock is refusing to end in the valley, even as butchers have been directed to open their shops within two days or face action.

However, as a counter move, the butchers have sent legal notice to the concerned authorities, questioning which law permits them to seize the closed shops.

Terming the official stand rigid, the mutton dealers of Kashmir say the ball is in government's court as "they

have to listen to our grievances as well".

"We have already lost over Rs 400 Cr in last 4 months and we don't know when this deadlock will end," the Mutton Dealers Association Kashmir (MDAK) said.

In an interview with Kashmir Observer, Khazir Mohammad Riggo, President MDAK, said his tribe is ready to negotiate with terms and conditions.

Why the crisis about the rates suddenly?

The rate for the meat was fixed in the year 2016 at Rs 400 per kilogram. The rates have to be revised every year. But when the government failed

to do so, mutton traders raised the rates on their own.

However, four months ago, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, revised the rates and fixed it at Rs480per kilogram from Rs600.

This was unacceptable to us, as we wouldn't be able to earn anything out of it.

So we have decided not to sell the meat till the rates are fixed as per our demands.

What are your demands?

See, the government and people as well, have to understand the expenses we have to bear for bringing the livestock from the other states.

We have travel expenses,

slaughtering expenses, commercial tap water charges, labour expenses, shop rents, etc.

Then we have to pay animal protection NGOs at Madavpur in Punjab. They charge usRs10,000 per truck under the guise of torturing animals.

Its pity that such a huge business is in mess. The traders and the drivers who bring livestock from outside Mandis to Kashmir face mental torture from different agencies. Since nothing is organized, we are in loss.

The government has to look into our problems and try to address them, rather than forcing the rates upon us.

But the government maintains that the current rate is justified by a scientific report

INTERVIEW





To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Sunday | 07.03.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER 2

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Dr Farooq Iqbal Lone S/o Mohammad Ashraf Lone R/o Dawar Gurez Bandipora (Transferor) of Alto K-10 bearing registration No. JK01AD-4056 chasis No: 316230 Engine No: 2014304 Model 2016 in favour of Aquib Ayoub S/o Mohd Ayoub Rather R/o Rose Enclvae Shivpora Srinagar (Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 7434
Dated: 05/03/2021
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applying for a pesticides licence under name and style, "Lone Agro chemicals" at Tujar Sharief Sopore , in this regard if anybody have any Kind of objection may file the same to plant protection officer at agriculture department Lal mandi Srinagar with in the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Aadil Mohammad lone
S/o: Gh. Mohammad lone
R/o: Harwan Zaingair Sopore

GMS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applying for a pesticides licence under name and style, "Makhdoomi pesticides" at Tujar Sharief Sopore , in this regard if anybody have any Kind of objection may file the same to plant protection officer at agriculture department Lal mandi Srinagar with in the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Tahleel Ahad
W/o: Showkat Mohammad Mir
R/o:Tujar Sharief Sopore

GMS

Public Notice

I have lost all documents of my vehicle bearing redg no: JK05D-7241 from Srinagar to Sopore . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Javid Ahmad Dar
S/o Gh Ahamd Dar R/o Reban Sopore

ams

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of fertilizer licence for my business unit located at Srigufwara in District Anantnag. If Any one having any objection in this regard he/she can file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Towheeda Jan D/o Mohd Ashraf Shah
R/o Lalpora Tral.

mp

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER, SHOPIAN NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received by this office from Salman Ishaq Mir S/O Mohammad Ishaq Mir R/O Tak Mohalla Addhandar Shopian For Duplicate DL , Bearing DL No JK2220130007761

Now therefore it is notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed D/L , Shall be filled in the office of the Asstt. Regional Transport Officer, Shopian within the period of 7 days of publication of the notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer
No : ARTO/Spn/2021-231
Dated 06-03-2021



AST

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate Havign the following description:-

Roll No:- 374417

Class :- 10th

Year & Session 2013/ Bi-annual

Registration No:- N1441650006

Name:- Gulam Jeelani Tantray

Father's Riyaz Ahamd Tantray

Mother's Name Mamooda Beigum

DOB 26-12-1996

R/o Gund Brath Sopore

Now the candidate has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate , so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing Serial No: 138I-KAM-20030be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/19

Dated 06-03-2021

AMS

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.



The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate Havign the following description:-

Roll No:- 358248

Class :- 10th

Year & Session 2013 Regular

Registration No:- N12441650111

Name:- Mohamd Asif Mir

Father's Gull Mir

Mother's Name Naseema Begum

DOB 10/06/1999

R/o Gund Brath Sopore

Now the candidate has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate , so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing Serial No: 13ARKAM-1012B11 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/19

Dated 06-03-2021

AMS

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL NIT NO 136 OF R&B/Khanabal/2020-21 /E-TENDERING/11225-35 DATED 04 -03 -2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement of Divisional Office at PWD Complex Khanabal.(Phase-II)	5.00	200	07 Days	NFB	DEE Class Only
2.	Restoration of damages to 1 x15mtr span bridge Fohar Sakhras	2.18	200	10 Days	3054- M&R	DEE Class Only

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Available

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-03-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 04-03-2021 (03:00PM) To 09-03-2021 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 04-03-2021 (03:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 09-03-2021 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	09-03-2021 (04:15 PM)

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority)).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

3. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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 in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

6. Instruction 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.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

(Er Qazi Javeed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-14568/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Joint Director Fisheries Kashmir (South)

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Availability of fish on the eve of Maha-Shivratri.

On the occasion of Mahashivratri which is going to be celebrated on 11th of March 2021, the Department of Fisheries has made elaborate arrangements of availability of the Fish throughout Kashmir Division. The Fish shall be made available at all existing sale outlets / Rearing Units of the Department in Kashmir Division. The Departmental mobile Refrigerated van shall also be deployed at various Pandit dominated areas in Srinagar city on 9th & 10th of March 2021.

No: JDF/K/S/ 246-54

Dated. 04-03-2021

Sd/

Joint Director Fisheries,
Kashmir South.

DIPK-14567/20

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER ICPS KULGAM

Address: Mini Secretariat DC Office Kulgam Room No. 175,176. Contact No: 01931295345, 9622296000, 7889354824, 9596369007, Email id:dcpcuicpskulgam@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir U.T, the District Child Protection Officer Kulgam invites sealed Quotations affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamp from registered dealers for Supply of below mentioned Items.

S.No.	Item Description	Cost of the item
01.	Rice Basmati	Rate per Plate
02.	Mutton (1 Piece/Plate}	Rate per Piece
03.	Chicken (1 Piece/ Plate)	Rate per Piece
04.	Raj ma Dal	Rate per Plate
05.	Mixed Veg.	Rate per Plate
06.	Mattar Mashroom	Rate per Plate
07.	Palak Paneer	Rate per Plate
07.	water	Rate per Bottle
08.	Tea with Biscuits	Rate per Cup

The quotations shall reach to the office of District Child Protection Officer by or before 10th of March 2021 upto 2.00 pm and will be opened on the same date or some other date convenient to the undersigned,

The quotationer shall quote the rate including Vat and all other taxes. Octroi charges loads and lift carriages to deliver in the District office of District Child Protection Officer. The successful quotationer has to supply the items to the dates of the training which will be communicated separately.

The items should be standard and the undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept the quotation without assigning any reasons.

The 1st lowest quotationer has to produce an amount of rupees 5000/= as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within Two (02) days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

In case of the last date of receipt of the quotation to be a holiday, the same shall be received on the next working day upto 2.00 pm.

Note.The Quantity of the above mentioned items required per day is 50 to 60 and the dates of supply will be shared as per schedule of the programme.

No. DCPUK/2020-21/323-27

Date:- 04-03-2021

DIPK-14539/20

DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION
OFFICER ICPS KULGAM

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,

Hema Complex, Adjacent to Gauri Shanker Mandir

Channi Himmat, Sect 03, Jammu.

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTICE

Subject- Revised/Final Answer Key of Aptitude Test for the post of Assistant Information Officer conducted on 20th of December, 2020 (Sunday), after disposal of the representations- regarding

1. Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board conducted Aptitude Test for the posts of Assistant Information Officers, Divisional Cadre Jammu/Kashmir, Advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2006 dated 28-12-2006, State Cadre, Advertised vide Notification No 03 of 2008 dated 05-05-2008, District Cadre Bandipora, Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda, and Bandipora, Advertised vide Notification No 06 of 2008 dated 28-05-2008, and State Cadre, Advertised vide Notification No 08 of 2010 dated 24-12-2010 on 20th of December, 2020 (Sunday); and

2. Whereas, a link was activated on the official website of the JKSSB, for sharing the Answer Keys of different sets along with the provision of submitting representations, if any, against the keys, regarding their correctness relating; and

3. Whereas, a total of 5 representations pertaining to 3 unique questions were received within the stipulated time in respect of the above mentioned exam.

4. Whereas, the representations were examined by the experts, and it was found that there is no change in the tentative/declared Answer Key.

5. No therefore, in view of the above, it is notified that the declared Answer Key is final and there is no change in the declared answer key.

Controller of Examination
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu

No. SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/2656-61

Dated:- 05.03.2021

DIPK-14553/20

‘Disengaged’ 10+2 Lecturers Demand Comprehensive Job Policy

Srinagar: Castigating the government for disengaging them after the stripping of Kashmir of its “Special Status”, 10+2 contractual lecturers Saturday staged a protest in Srinagar demanding continuation of service and comprehensive job policy.

The lecturers assembled in Press Enclave Srinagar alleging the government was adopting “use and throw” policy.

“There were 1700 contractual lecturers prior to August 2019. In Kashmir Division there were 900 and 800 from Jammu. All were disengaged without issuing any formal order,” the protesting lecturers.

They said the government has done injustice to them. “We are suffering

badly and all our pleas and requests are being ignored.”

“We have spent our prime age in serving the Education Department. We have grown old, and lack the energy to follow dictatorial commands anymore,” they said.

They said the government discontinued their services in 2019 and has not released their salaries till date thus impacting their social life. They further alleged that government “exploits the educated youth of Kashmir through ‘use and throw’ policy.”

They appealed the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and other higher-ups of Education department to resolve their issues without making them suffer anymore. (Agencies)

Quarry Holders Demand Lifting Of Ban On Quarrying Operations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The quarry holders and stone crusher owners Saturday appealed the Government to lift ban on quarrying and operations of stone crushers.

Scores of people under the banner of Himalayan Quarry & Tipper Association, Stone Crushers Association and All Quarry Association assembled in Press Enclave Srinagar to register their protest.

“Geology & Mining Department has cancelled our permits and has cut power supply to our crushing sites. The work season has started but we are jobless and forced to stay at homes. We are not allowed to utilise our own resources,” the protestors said.

The protestors said they fail to understand the motive behind banning quarry and stone crusher operations. “We are ready to pay royalty to the Geology & Mining Department, yet we are denying

our right to earn a living,” said Nazir Ahmed adding that they are unable to support their families or the education of their children.”

They said it isn’t just those directly involved in the quarrying businesses that have been affected. “The ban has caused distress to an entire economic network built around the quarries, stone crushers – machine and truck spare part dealers, workshops involved in the maintenance of equipment, even tea stalls and restaurants near the sites of quarrying and stone crushing.

“Government claims it wants to develop Srinagar as smart city. Our simple question is that where from it will get raw material if it won’t allow us to work,” they questioned.

“The quarries keep construction contractors in business. They supply stones to stone crusher units that in turn provide crushed stones to hot-mix plants for the macadamisation of roads.”

Factory Gutted In Midnight Blaze

Srinagar: A fire broke out at a woodwork factory in Parimpora area of Srinagar destroying machinery worth lakhs.

Reports said that fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the fire, but the fire had already consumed the factory.

The factory is owned by

Mir Muhammad Asif who said the wooden work including paneling worth over 30 lakhs was destroyed in the fire incident.

Meanwhile, police said that a case has been registered and investigations taken up to ascertain the cause of fire.

Student Volunteerism Key To Address Social, Environmental Problems: VC KU

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad on Saturday called upon academics to work towards inculcating in students a sense of volunteerism to enable them to serve the society with passion in times of need.

Addressing as chief guest the valedictory session of a week-long training for programme officers of National Service Scheme (NSS), Prof Talat said academic institutions have to be on the forefront of societal volunteerism to help tackle a host of social and environmental issues, including mental health problems, drug abuse, pollution, climate change and risks related to natural disasters.

The training-cum-orientation programme was organised by the varsity’s NSS under the aegis of Empanelled Training Institute, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

“Teachers who have been trained about the objectives of NSS must pass on the learning amongst their colleagues and students to widen the ambit of

volunteerism in academic institutions and beyond. They must pass on the learning at the community-levels too so that we all work towards addressing the major concerns that our society is faced up with,” Prof Talat said, congratulating the varsity’s NSS team for organising the training programme that had participation from colleges across the J&K UT, including Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Jammu, Kupwara and Budgam.

Prof Talat said the NSS initiatives must motivate its volunteers to live a disciplined life based on the values of mutual respect, compassion and empathy.

Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Shabir A Bhat, who was a guest of honour, said such community-level programmes can go a long way in creating awareness amongst students and teachers about their role and responsibility towards the society.

“We owe a lot to the society that we come from. The volunteerism, like the one promoted by NSS, enables us to introspect and understand why we all need to get actively involved in com-

bating a host of societal problems for our better today and tomorrow,” he said.

He said the National Education Policy-2020 advocates for overall personality development of students and such training programmes can help achieve that goal with a sense of seriousness at grassroots.

KU’s NSS Coordinator Dr Mussavir Ahmad said the week-long training programme included expert lectures on issues of critical importance, including drug de-addiction, mental health and disaster management.

He said such training programmes are aimed at raising awareness about social responsibilities of teachers and students.

Dr Ishtiyaz from GDC Ganderbal and Dr Maale from Jammu, two NSS programme officers, spoke on the occasion and appreciated KU’s NSS team for organising the training programme in a professional manner and ensuring quality hospitality for the outstation participants.

Dr Wakar Amin, NSS Programme Officer KU, conducted proceedings of the valedictory session.

KPC Organises ‘Data Boot Camp’

Srinagar: The Kashmir Press Club Saturday organised a ‘Data Boot Camp’ for its members.

The workshop was organised by the KPC in collaboration with Data Leads and Google News Initiative (India Training Network), in which around 40 journalists representing different organisations and newsrooms participated.

The ‘Data Boot Camp’ comprised of two sessions with data journalist Anuja Venkatachalam delivering a talk on ‘flourish’ and ‘Pinpoint’, two important tools to help better visualise the data stories and help in the transcription of long audio/video interviews/files.

Venkatachalam acquainted journalists with the use of the ‘Flourish’ app and how it can be used for better and aesthetic visualisation of info graphics and other data.

Sanjit Oberoi, Data Trainer acquainted the journalists with the common mistakes in visualising the data.

The participants of the workshop while thanking the organisers for this basic data workshop urged the organisers, particu-




larly the Press Club to organise more such kind of workshops to help journalists and equip them with tools for fact-checking.

“The data workshop helped in honing the skills which is very important for a journalist to operate in the present-day world. We need to have more such workshops which as it will add not only to the quality of reportage but also give a new dimension to the journalism”, a senior journalist who attended

the workshop said.

The Press Club management-President Shuja-ul-Haq and General Secretary Ishfaq Tantry, who were present during the workshop- while thanking the Data Lead particularly Syed Nazakat and Google News Initiative and the trainers for this wonderful workshop promised to organise more such events in future to help in capacity building of the club members and local media persons.

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 - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



PRAYERS

FAJR

5: 30

ZUHR

12: 43

ASR

4: 51

Magrib

6: 35

ISHA

7: 55

This Day In History

- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 - A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 - Al-Fatah-leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 - Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum
- 1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins operation (USSR).
- 1977 - Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts
- 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 - Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 - Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 - Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 - Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalistic demonstrators
- 1990 - USSR Communist party agrees to allow opposition political parties
- 1991 - The IRA launches a mortar attack on 10 Downing Street during a cabinet meeting.
- 1992 - European Union becomes official under Maastricht treaties.
- 1994 - Jim Nabors undergoes a liver transplant.
- 1997 - US & Russia announce summit set for Helsinki, March 20-21
- 1999 - Crown Prince Abdullah becomes the King of Jordan on the death of his father, King Hussein.
- 2000 - Bahria University is established through Presidential Ordinance No. V of 2000 by the Government of Pakistan.
- 2005 - Haiti's Ellen MacArthur becomes the fastest person to sail solo around the world
- 2006 - Uma Thurman is named a knight of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France for outstanding achievement in the field of art and literature
- 2008 - 58th Berlin International Film Festival: "Elite Squad" wins the Golden Bear
- 2009 - Bushfires in Victoria left 173 dead in the worst natural disaster in Australia's history.
- 2013 - Eugène Delacroix's painting Liberty Leading the People is vandalized at the Louvre-Lens museum
- 2013 - Azerbaijan launches its first satellite, Azerspace-1
- 2014 - German treasurer Helmut Linsen resigns amid a scandal involving offshore banking accounts in the Bahamas and Panama
- 2014 - 22nd Winter Olympic Games open at Sochi, Russia

From KO Archives

People line up for historic bus travel

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Hundreds of enthusiastic people lined up at Regional Passport Office in Srinagar on Friday for application forms for travel on the first bus in 57 years to other part of Kashmir separated by a military Control Line.

New Delhi and Islamabad agreed in February to start (lie bus service between two capitals of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on either side of the divide.

Significantly both rivals dropped their rigid stances and agreed demands by Kashmiris to use simple permits instead of passports of either country for traveling from one part to another of the divided state which people here regard as a single entity.

Kashmiris will use special permits, issued by both sides, to cross the Line of Control, instead of passports and visas. On the first day the Passport Office, designated as issuing authority, provided 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on April 7 and 14.

"We have issued 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus on April 7 and 14," said passport officer John Silshi. Sixty people will be allowed to make the trip on those dates after security and intelligence agencies check their applications.

"It's a great day. I heard an announcement on radio and came rushing. Thank God I got the form! Now I hope that I will get a permit as well," said Mohammad Shafi as he clutched the document. However, many others were disappointed. Omar Imtiyaz from Baramulla said he could not apply for the permit. It wasn't immediately clear why.

"They should have issued more application forms," he said. "I have been waiting for this day since the service was announced. I am sad." The 105-mile bus route culling through the scenic Kashmir valley along the river Jehlum was a major all-weather trade route till 1948.

Recent heavy snowfall which blocked Kashmir's only road link with India created severe shortages of essentials in the Kashmir valley besides stranding thousands for the weeks together leading to deaths of scores of passengers. The road has been since come to be known as a killer highway. The reopening of new road is being viewed as a major development ever since Kashmir conflict began nearly six decades ago.

(Kashmir Observer, 07March, 2005)

از نیات واگورہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست ریخس احمد - عمر فاروق و نیلوفر فاروق اولادان فاروق احمد گنئی ساکنہ موضع ماگام برادر عطا گئی RBA تحت SRO294 اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رہبریت قبول مطلوب تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع ماگام کاسکونڈ دار ہے کسبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ 42000 روپے تک ہے کسبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے فاروق احمد گنئی ولد ستار گنئی سرکاری ملازم 41 سال فہرہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد گنہیلہ کام 40 زیر تعلیم 21 عاقر احمد گنئی پسر 20 عمر فاروق گنئی پسر 19 نیلوفر فاروق دختر 18 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کسبہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

SUTL

تایب تحصیلدار

از نیات ماگام با اجلاس چناب تایب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام

عنوان: مضمون درخواست تاجدین ولد کریم دین گوہر ساکنہ موضع مناگام برادر عطا گئی ST سرٹیفکیٹ تحت SRO294 اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست برادر ST سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے کسبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے تاجدین ولد کریم گوہر عمر رسیدہ 70 سال مذکر احمد ولد تاجدین مزدوری 39 نگیلہ بیگم زوجہ تاجدین احمد زکریا کام 35 راجہ اختر دختر 18 شبنم اختر دختر 16 شیراز احمد پسر 14 مسکان دختر 12 عادل احمد پسر 10 انشاء دختر 07 اسکے علاوہ عہدہ کی مہمان آمدنی دلچ و غیر دلچ 7500 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

sult

تایب تحصیلدار ماگام

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar

Tender Notice Inviting Tenders

Single Cover System

e-NIT No. 18 SKICC of 2021

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State, e-tender (In single cover system) is invited from Registered/Reputed Dealer/Supplier on item rate basis registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway and other State Central Governments for the below mentioned job

Dated: 04.03.2021

Technical Sanction:- Obtained

Position of AA:- Accorded vide No. 36 SKICC of 2021 dated 21/12/2020

Position of funds:- Available

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (Rs. In Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of contractor
1.	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for supply of skilled labours for the year 2021-22 (eight months) for maintenance of the Landscape area, roads, Pathways, Nursery, Ally Garden along with maintenance of walkways landscape structure electric fixtures, Lilly Pond de-silting/clearance of open water channel & annual seedlings, pruning of standing trees and other garden related works complete job per directions of Engineer incharge for the year 2021 (w.e.f 15 th March, 2021 to 15 th Nov, 2021)	17.52 lacs	2000/-	52560/-	08 months	Registration from Department of Labour

Note: The successful contractor/bidder i.e. LI is bound to deposit the original CDR or FDR and DD.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of the Executive engineer SKICC, Srinagar (Tender inviting/Receiving Authority). The date of the DD should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date.

2. All the bidder have to submit bid Security Declaration form instead of earnest money as per circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

3. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3%of the contract value (Advertise Cost) as performance security in the shape of FDR/CDR within three days before fixation of the contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website 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 on line on same web site by the Executive Engineer SKICC.

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information technology Act 2000, bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bids will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened on line as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

6.6 The rates quoted by the supplier shall involve all taxes prevailing including carriages & other

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

8. All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

DIPK-NB-6210/20

S/d Executive Engineer SKICC

No: SKICC/EE/21/279-74

Dated 04 /03/2021

Second Lawsuit Filed Against Trump Over US Capitol Attack

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: A Democratic congressman filed a lawsuit on Friday against former president Donald Trump, his son Donald Jr, his lawyer Rudy Giuliani and a Republican lawmaker for allegedly inciting the January 6 attack on the US Capitol.

Trump, 74, and the other defendants waged a "campaign of lies and incendiary rhetoric" which led to the assault on Congress, Representative Eric Swalwell of California charged in the civil suit lodged in a US District Court in Washington.

Another Democratic congressman, Representative Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, filed a similar suit against Trump last month.

Both cite a little used law, the Ku Klux Klan Act, to make the case against the former president.



The 1871 Act was designed to prevent the white supremacist KKK from intimidating elected officials.

Trump, Donald Jr, Giuliani and Rep. Mo Brooks, a congressman from Alabama, all spoke at a rally which preceded the January 6 attack on Congress by Trump supporters seeking to block the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory.

"Unable to accept defeat, Donald Trump waged an all out war on a peaceful transition of power," Swalwell said in a statement announcing the lawsuit.

"He lied to his followers again and again claiming the election was stolen," the congressman said, "and finally called upon his supporters to descend on Washington DC to 'stop the steal.'"

"The defendants assembled,

inflamed and incited the mob, and as such are wholly responsible for the injury and destruction that followed," Swalwell said.

The suit demanded unspecified monetary and punitive damages to be determined at a jury trial. Swalwell was one of the impeachment managers for Trump's trial in the Senate on the charge of inciting insurrection.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-majority House of Representatives for his role in inciting the attack on the Capitol but acquitted by the Senate.

Thompson and the NAACP, a civil rights organization, filed suit against Trump, Giuliani and two right-wing groups, the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, last month.

Jason Miller, a Trump spokesman, responded to the latest lawsuit in a statement to The Washington Post. "Eric Swalwell is a low-life with no credibility," Miller said. Trump State Dept appointee arrested.

More than 300 people have been arrested so far for their role in the storming of the Capitol, which left at least five people dead.

Among the latest arrests was Federico Guillermo Klein, 42, a Trump appointee to a low-level State Department job.

Klein, who resigned from the State Department on January 19, a day before Trump left office, was arrested by the FBI on Thursday after a review of video of the Capitol attack.

In a criminal complaint obtained by The New York Times, an FBI special agent said Klein, wearing a red "Make America Great Again" hat, is seen assaulting police officers with a riot shield.

According to the complaint, Klein worked at the State Department since 2017 on Brazilian and other Latin American affairs and had a Top Secret clearance.

He is believed to be the first member of the former Trump administration to directly charged in connection with the ransacking of the Capitol.

Klein faces multiple charges including assaulting police officers, obstructing an official proceeding and disorderly conduct.

China To Build Important "Passageway" To South Asia Through Tibet: Report

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: China has included building of an important "passageway" connecting Tibet with South Asia in the 14th Five Year plan which is due to commence from this year, the official media reported on Friday.

China will support Tibet in building the passageway to South Asia, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting the 14th Plan document which was submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament.

The annual session of the NPC began in Beijing on Friday.

"China's Tibet Autonomous Region will be supported to build an important passageway opening to South Asia," state-run Xinhua news agency reported briefly.

The draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for national economic and social development and the long-range objectives through the year 2035, which were cleared by the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) have been submitted to the NPC for formal approval.

Though the Xinhua report has not mentioned, China has been planning for a long time to build the Trans-Himalayan Multi-Di-

mensional Connectivity Network through Tibet and Nepal.

It was regarded as a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation between China and Nepal.

Nepal under the present government of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has moved closer to China, firming up especially the trans-Himalayan connectivity network.

In 2019, China and Nepal signed a protocol to operationalise their 2016 Transit Transport Treaty which provided access for the landlocked Himalayan country to use Chinese ports for its foreign trade, reducing the dependence on Indian ports. Besides the road network, the two countries are considering the extension of the rail network from Tibet to Nepal.

Last year, state-run China Daily here reported that preparatory work is underway for a cross-border railway connecting Tibet and Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

Meanwhile, work will start on the China-Nepal Friendship Industrial Park in Jhapa, eastern Nepal, early next year. The park is the first of its kind launched with Chinese investment.

These two projects form part of the Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, the report said.



HISTORY IN MAKING

Pope Meets Grand Ayatollah, Prays at Birthplace of Prophet Ibrahim

Agenceis

NAJAF: Pope Francis, head of the Roman Catholic Church, Saturday met spiritual leader of the worlds Shia Muslims, the Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali al-Sistani in an historic encounter to encourage coexistence.

The meeting took place at Ayatollah Sistani's modest home in the holy city of Najaf on Saturday morning.

The Vatican said Francis thanked Grand Ayatollah Sistani and the Shia people for having "raised his voice in defence of the weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history.

He said Grand Ayatollah's message of peace affirmed "the sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people".

Sayed Sistani is a deeply revered figure in Iraq and and his opinions on religious matters are sought by Shia worldwide.

On the few occasions where he has made his opinion known Sistani has shifted the course of Iraq's modern history. In the years after the 2003 US-led invasion he repeatedly preached calm as the Shia majority came under attack by al-Qaida and Daesh extremists.

The office of Ayatollah Sistani said in a statement that he highlighted challenges facing mankind and stressed the role of belief in God and commitment to high moral values in overcoming them.

Ayatollah Sistani cited injustice, oppression, poverty, religious persecution, repression of fundamental freedoms, wars, violence, economic siege and displacement of many people in the region, especially the Palestinians in the occupied territories as some of the major problems which afflict the world.

He touched on the role which religious and spiritual leaders can play in tackling some of these problems.

Ayatollah Sistani said religious leaders have to encourage parties involved in conflicts, particularly the world powers, to give primacy

to rationality over confrontation.

He also stressed the importance of efforts to strengthen peaceful coexistence and solidarity based on mutual respect among the followers of different religions and intellectual groups.

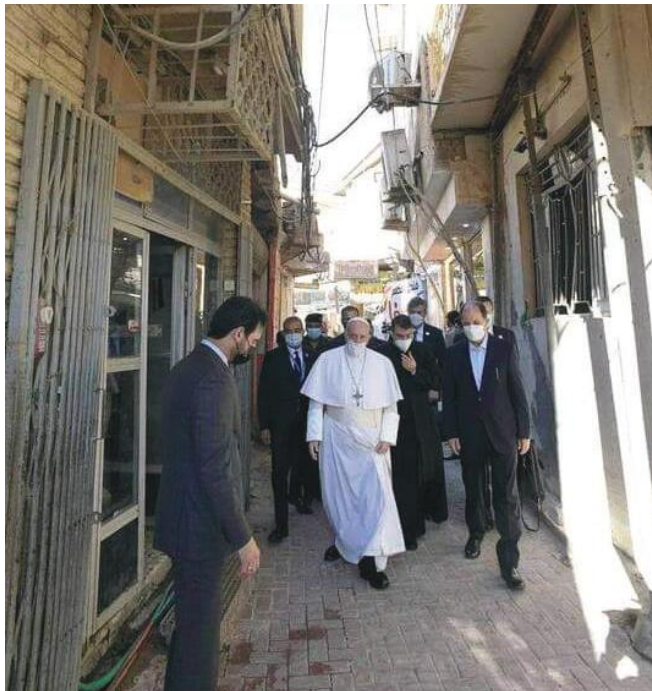
Ayatollah Sistani emphasized that the Christian citizens of Iraq, like all other Iraqis, should live in security and peace and enjoy all their fundamental rights.

He referred to the role played by the religious authority in protecting Christians and all those who have

side. As a masked Francis entered the doorway, a few white doves were released in a sign of peace.

The visit was being carried live on Iraqi television, and people cheered the meeting of two respected faith leaders across the region.

The Pope, in a video message ahead of his trip to Iraq, said, "I am coming among you also as a pilgrim of peace.. seeking fraternity and prompted by the desire to pray together and to walk together, also with our brothers and sisters of other



suffered from the criminal acts of terrorists over the past years.

The 84-year-old pontiff's convoy, led by a bullet-proof vehicle, had pulled up for the meeting along Najaf's narrow and column-lined Rasool Street, which culminates at the golden-domed Imam Ali Shrine, one of the most revered sites in the world for Shia Muslims. He then walked the few metres to Sayed Sistani's modest home, which the spiritual leader has rented for decades.

A group of Iraqis wearing traditional clothes welcomed him out-

religious traditions, in the steps of Father Abraham, who joins in one family Muslims, Jews and Christians."

After the one-hour meeting, Pope Francis travelled to the Iraqi city of Ur, which is believed to be the birthplace of Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him).

The pontiff arrived in Iraq on Friday for a three-day trip amid concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to Ayatollah Sistani, Pope Francis has so far met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi and President Barham Salih.

Pak PM Imran Khan Wins Trust Vote Amidst Opposition Protest, Boycott

Agenceis

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday won a trust vote in the National Assembly amid a boycott call by the Opposition parties, strengthening his government's legitimacy after an embarrassing defeat of the finance minister in the hotly-contested Senate elections.

Prime Minister Khan secured 178 votes in the 342-member lower house of Parliament during a special session convened on the directives of President Arif Alvi. A total of 172 votes was needed for a simple majority.

The floor test took place without the Opposition as the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) – an alliance of 11 parties – boycotted the voting.

The 68-year-old cricketer-turned politician had decided to take a vote of confidence in the lower house of Parliament after his finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was defeated in the closely-fought Senate election on Wednesday. The Opposition demanded the Prime Minister's resignation after the debacle.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi tabled a single-point resolution in the House.

"That this House reposes confidence in the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr Imran Khan, as required under clause (7) of Article 91 of the Constitution Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the resolution said.

A total of 172 votes in the 342-member House was needed for a simple majority. The ruling coalition had 181 members but after the resignation of one of its lawmakers, Faisal Vowda, its strength was reduced to 180. The Opposition coalition has 160 members in the House. One seat was vacant.

Biden Asked Not To Accept India-Led Proposal At World Trade Body On Covid Vaccine Patents

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Four top Republicans Senator on Friday urged US President Joe Biden not to accept a proposal by India and South Africa to the World Trade Organisation to waive anti-Covid vaccine patents to boost its supply.

"India, South Africa and other countries are presenting a proposal at the World Trade Organisation to waive all intellectual property rights for any innovation related to COVID-19," the group of four Republican Senators wrote in a letter to Biden.

"The proponents of this scheme argue that if we just destroy the intellectual property developed by American companies, we will suddenly have more manufacturers producing COVID-19 vaccines," they said.

In the letter, Senators Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, Joni Ernst and Todd Young urged Biden to reject the upcoming proposal at the WTO.

"But the opposite is true. By destroying the intellectual property of every American company that has worked on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, we would be ending the progress -- started under Operation Warp Speed -- that led to the fastest development of life-saving vaccines in history," the Senators wrote.

They alleged that some countries believe that they would benefit from seizing America's intellectual property.

"But this is a mistake," they said.

"Waiving all rights to intellectual property would end the innovation pipeline and stop the development of new vaccines or boosters to address variants in the virus. It also wouldn't increase the supply of vaccines because of the tremendous time and resources needed to build new manufacturing plants and acquire the knowhow to produce these complex medicines," they said.

"Even if the waiver may temporarily result in a few copycats attempting to produce what American companies developed, it would introduce major quality control problems," the Senators said.

"As a global leader and a force for good, we can do a lot to help other countries overcome the vi-

rus. But destroying our rights to intellectual property wouldn't advance our mission of fighting the virus -- it would make the problem worse, for America and for the world," they wrote.

"The end of this pandemic is in sight. More than 50 million Americans have been vaccinated, and cases have declined by more than 75 percent from their recent high. We stand ready to work with you to bring an end to this deadly crisis and urge you to take a strong stand against this scheme that would halt our progress," the Senators said.

In a statement, the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) senior Vice president Patrick Kilbride said the proposals to waive intellectual property rights are misguided and a distraction from the real work of reinforcing supply chains and assisting countries to procure, distribute and administer vaccines to billions of the world's citizens.

"Diminishing intellectual property rights would make it more difficult to quickly develop and distribute vaccines or treatments in the future pandemics the world will face," he said.

Early this week, hundreds of American civil society organizations and three top Congressmen urged Biden not to block the waiver to COVID-19 vaccines at World Trade Organisation, a move they said would boost the treatment of coronavirus patients worldwide.

"The COVID-19 pandemic knows no borders and the need for vaccine development and dissemination across the globe is critically important. The TRIPS waiver raised by India and South Africa at the WTO would help the global community move forward in defeating the scourge of COVID-19 by making diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines available in developing countries," Congressman Rosa DeLauro, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee told reporters at a news conference.

The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) requires countries to provide lengthy monopoly protections for medicines, tests and technologies used to produce them.

Sri Lanka Buries First Covid Victims After Long Standoff



Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka ended its forced cremation policy by allowing the burial of two persons who died due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Army Chief General Shavendra Silva said on Friday.

Amidst mounting international criticism, Sri Lanka revised a controversial mandatory order to cremate the bodies of COVID-19 victims, which denied minority communities, including Muslims, their religious rights.

The government last month revised a gazette notification issued in April last year. The new notification allowed both burials and cremations.

"Today we buried two of them and there will be five more to be buried," Mr Silva told reporters.

He said the burials were allowed as per the guidelines for burials issued by the Director General Health Services on Thursday.

The government did not allow burials for almost a year despite protests from the country's Muslim and Christian religious minorities.

The policy was also condemned by international rights groups who urged the government to follow the guidelines on COVID-19 dead bodies issued by the WHO, which recommended both cremations and burials.

The government allowed burials late last month. However, the implementation was held back until the health authorities issued guidelines. The government's designated burial site at Iranathivu islet in the north eastern region faced opposition from the residents. On Friday, two Muslim-dominated local councils in the eastern region had come forward to provide a burial site and accordingly the two bodies were buried in the Ottamavadi area in the eastern Batticaloa district.

When the Iranathivu residents protested against burying the COVID-19 dead there, the government said they were also looking for alternative sites.

The Muslim and Tamil minority political parties had decried the government's forced cremation policy against the Muslim religious funeral rites as racist.

NEWSMAKERS

Software Icon John McAfee Charged In Cryptocurrency Scam

Agenceis

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES: The creator of McAfee computer security software was facing charges Friday that he cashed in on a "pump-and-dump" scheme, by promoting cryptocurrencies on Twitter to drive up their value.

John McAfee, founder of the antivirus firm that bears his name, and Jimmy Watson face charges of conspiracy, fraud, and money laundering in connection with schemes to trick cryptocurrency investors, according to an indictment unsealed by the US Department of Justice.

"McAfee and Watson exploited a widely used social media platform and enthusiasm among investors in

the emerging cryptocurrency market to make millions through lies and deception," US attorney Audrey Strauss said in a release.

McAfee, Watson, and other members of their "cryptocurrency team" allegedly "raked in more than \$13 million from investors they victimized with their fraudulent schemes," according to Strauss.

Pump-and-dump schemes typically involve over-hyping the value of stocks or, in this case cryptocurrency, by holders so that they can be sold at artificially high prices.

"McAfee and Watson used social media to perpetrate an age-old pump-and-dump scheme," FBI assistant director William Sweeney said.

"When engaging in illegal activity, simply finding new ways to carry out old tricks won't produce different results."

McAfee and Watson also used Twitter to promote digital tokens on behalf of initial coin offerings without disclosing they were being paid for their efforts by the start-ups, according to the indictment.

McAfee, 75, is in custody in Spain pending a decision on his extradition to the United States where he is wanted for tax evasion.

He has been held at a prison near Barcelona since he was arrested in the Spanish city in October just as he was about to board a flight to Istanbul.

The arrest followed his indict-

ment in June in the United States for tax evasion and willful failure to file tax returns between 2014 and 2018, despite earning millions from consulting work, cryptocurrencies and selling the rights to his life story.

Since making a fortune with his eponymous antivirus software in the 1980s, McAfee has become a self-styled cryptocurrency guru.

He has one million followers on Twitter, where he describes himself as a "lover of women, adventure and mystery."

McAfee made headlines after he moved to Belize and his neighbor in the Central American country was mysteriously murdered in 2012, a crime that remains unsolved.

Jack Dorsey's First Tweet, 15-Year-Old, Is Up For Sale

Agenceis

"just setting up my twttr" - the first ever tweet on the platform is up for sale after Twitter boss Jack Dorsey listed his famous post as a unique digital signature on a website for selling tweets as non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

The post, sent from Dorsey's account in March of 2006, received offers on Friday that went as high as \$88,888.88 within minutes of the Twitter co-founder tweeting a link to the listing on "Valuables by Cent" - a tweets marketplace.

Old offers for the tweet suggest that it was put for sale in December, but the listing gained more attention after Dorsey's tweet on Friday.

NFTs are digital files that serve as



digital signatures to certify who owns photos, videos and other online media.

Dorsey's 15-year old tweet is one of the most famous tweets ever on the platform and could attract bidders to pay a high price for the digital memorabilia. The highest bid for the tweet stood at

\$100,000 at 0125 GMT on Saturday. Launched three months ago, Valuables compares the buying of tweets with buying an autographed baseball card. "There is only one unique signed version of the tweet, and if the creator agrees to sell, you can own it forever."

Operations Of 36 Erring Medical Stores Suspended



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Drugs Control Organisation has suspended operations of 36 Retail Sale Establishments across Jammu Province for violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

As per DCO, surprise inspections of Retail Sale Outlets particularly, situated in far flung/remote areas were carried out by the concerned Drugs Control Officers under the supervision of respective Assistant Drugs Controller in Jammu Province under the overall the authority of State Drugs Controller, Lotika Khajuria to ensure availability of quality drugs to the end users.

The operation of 6 units were disallowed in Jammu, 6 in Samba, 2 in Kathua, 6 in Kishtwar, 4 in Udhampur and 12 in Ramban district. The reasons for suspension ranged from Non maintenance of Sales records, Impersonation, Unhygienic/Insanitary Conditions, Improper storage conditions etc. The Licenses were warned of severe action in case the deficiencies are not removed within stipulated period of time.

Statutory Drug samples of more than 450 drug formulations viz Antibiotics, PPI, Steroid, NSAIDs etc were also lifted from private firms particularly situated in far flung areas and government institutions for determination of strength and purity.

These samples were referred to Drug Testing Laboratories located within the State for framing legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

During the said drive, 2 unlicensed establishments were found in operations in Marheen Tehsil of Kathua district, action against the defaulters was initiated on spot. Action under relevant provisions of the Act has been initiated against the culprits.

Stocks of Drugs worth Rs 9191 that were found to be contravening the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act have also been confiscated from the supply chain by the Regulatory Officers of the organisation under the relevant provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. The State Drug Controller has said that the Department shall initiate severe punitive actions against

CH Workers Demand Implementation Of Minimum Wages Act

Agenceis

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement along with consolidated health workers Saturday held a candle light protest in press enclave Srinagar demanding implementation of Minimum Wages Act in J&K Health Department.

Scores of activists of RTI Movement and health workers which included consolidated and part time sweepers, helpers, drivers assembled in press enclave Srinagar and held a protest holding candles in their hands and wearing shrouds. The protestors led by Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar were raising slogans for implementation of Minimum Wages Act in the health department.

Dr Muzaffar while talking to

reporters said that government enacts laws like Minimum Wages Act and violates the same. He said that consolidated workers in the health department like sweepers, helpers and drivers who risked their lives during COVID 19 pandemic were being paid as less as Rs 100 or Rs 500 per month.

"If some private institution would be involved in violating the minimum wages act, the institution would be exposed and raised by government but who will make government accountable when they are paying mere Rs 100 or Rs 500 to its workers some of whom are working in the department for the last 20 to 30 years. This is simply an act of Bonded Labour," said Gulzar Ahmad Patron of Consolidated Health Workers.

Cultivation Along Zero Line To Be Allowed In Phased Manner

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Days after Indian and Pakistani armies agreed to strictly observe all their ceasefire agreements, the Deputy Commissioner of Samba in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday said that cultivation of land at zero line will be allowed in a phased manner.

On the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Deputy Commissioner of Samba Rohit Khajuria toured the border villages in Ramgarh tehsil on Friday and was appraised about the issues faced by the locals, a spokesperson said.

He held detailed discussions with the BDC chairman, village heads and people about a host of

issues, including cultivation on zero line, electricity and drinking water supply scenario, he said.

Khajuria informed the people that cultivation of land at zero line shall be allowed in a phased manner.

"In the first phase, cultivation will be allowed over 1,600 kanal land in villages from Kangrial post to Nanga post, Patijal Kurd, Chak Salaria and others. The farmers will be issued identity cards for cultivating crops at zero line and adequate security shall also be provided," he said.

The deputy commissioner also directed agencies concerned to immediately provide respite to the people in the power supply, drinking water and connectivity issues.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Locals, Tourists Throng Doodhpathri To Participate In Tourism Festival

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Tourism in collaboration with District Administration Budgam Saturday organised a Tourism festival at famous tourist resort Doodhpathri.

A government statement said that the aim and objective of the event was to project and promote Doodhpathri as an attractive tourist destination, and the event was organised well in advance of the beginning of annual tourism season, to provide ample opportunities and ambience to local as well as outside visitors to have an adventurous visit to the tourist venue.

The event witnessed a huge gathering of visitors, locals, tourists who thronged the place with great enthusiasm.

During the event many activities were performed including various cultural programmes presented and performed by prominent artists from cultural academy, besides Bande pather and many skits demonstrating and depicting beauty and attraction of this place.

On the occasion, various departments of district administration had installed their stalls to showcase their skills and exhibit produces and the activities they are scheduled to take in hand in ensuing period for the socio economic upliftment of privileged



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

section of the society.

The festival was first of its kind to be organised at Doodhpathri taking advantage of scenery of snow clad pastures.

The audience and the locals in general hailed the initiatives and efforts jointly undertaken by District Administration and Tourism Department and observed that this step will emerge as a strong boost for heavy tourist footfall.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza reiterated his commitment that Tourism department will always find district administration on fore front when an initiative relating to boosting tourist footfall is concerned.

He appreciated the efforts of

Tourism department vis a vis ensuring the successful conduct of this event. He said that he was thrilled to see the overwhelming response from locals and the people from adjacent areas as well as tourists who despite cold conditions attended the event enthusiastically.

The DDC urged upon Director Tourism to organise events on this pattern at other tourist resorts falling in district Budgam.

Director Tourism, Dr. GN Itoo while thanking all participants, stakeholders, sponsors, departments and other collaborators in making this event a mega success said that the success of this event on this scale has inspired us to conduct such events at other health resorts being more eventful and attractive.

Three Booked For Duping Man Of Rs 1.92 Cr In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Three persons, including a woman, were on Saturday booked by the Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police for allegedly duping a man of Rs 1.92 crore on the pretext of selling him a house in a posh area here, officials said.

The crime branch registered a criminal case against Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Ravinder Gupta and Champa Devi for their involvement in duping the man of Rs 1.92 crore by hatching a criminal conspiracy and inducing him for entering into a false agreement to sell a residential house constructed in one kanal plot of land in the posh Gandhi Nagar area, they said.

A written complaint lodged by Sardari Lal Gupta alleged that two

persons — Rakesh and Ravinder — introduced him to Champa Devi who intended to sell her house, the officials said.

The complainant expressed his willingness to purchase the house for Rs 1,92,00,000 and the accused assured Lal that the sale deed would be executed after getting the full payment, they said.

The accused persons received token money of Rs 45 lakh, which is mentioned on the agreement to sell the house, and also the balance money Rs 1,47,00,000, the officials said.

In the meantime, Lal fell ill and remained admitted to a hospital for a long period of time. When he recovered and asked the accused to execute the sale deed of the house, they made excuses on one pretext or

other, the officials said.

Further, the complainant came to know that the accused persons have transferred the said property to other persons in order to deprive the complainant of the ownership of the said house. Thus, the accused persons in league with another person have cheated the complainant, they said.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated by the crime branch Jammu and allegations levelled against the accused have been substantiated, the officials said.

Thus the omissions and commissions, on the part of the accused, prima facie constitute offences and a formal case was registered by the crime branch against them for in-depth investigation, they said.

Justice Magrey Emphasises On Holding Legal Services Camps

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Judge and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey Saturday emphasised that access to justice is essential for rule of law and for this to happen,

institutions will reach the far flung areas to provide legal aid to the weak and needy.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Anshul Garg, in his address highlighted various Govt. Schemes launched by the Govt. and apprised the Chief Guest about the achievements made so far.



new model of holding legal services camp is required which would not only make people aware about their entitlements and procedural aspects relating to the same but also connect them to the welfare schemes meant for them.

He was speaking after he inaugurated Mega Legal Services Camp and Awareness Programme at Anantnag.

Magrey who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion was accompanied by Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of J&K. The program was organized by District Legal Services Authority Anantnag in collaboration with District Administration Anantnag.

He further stressed that earlier we were focusing on creating awareness and now there is a need to effect paradigm shift from awareness to empowerment.

Justice Koul in his address complemented the DLSA for organising such a mega event and expressed hope that legal services

Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag who is also Chairman of DLSA Anantnag delivered the welcome address, whereas, Rafia Hassan, Secretary DLSA Anantnag proposed the vote of thanks.

Hundreds of people were present in the event and were informed about various central and state welfare schemes along with prospects of legal aspect. Later, the Chief Guest distributed certificates and assistance under various schemes to the beneficiaries present there. About One Thousand (1000) people were provided with benefits under various schemes on spot.

24 stalls by different departments like Legal Services, Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, Municipality, Revenue, Labor Department, Social Welfare, Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Handicrafts and Handlooms, Rural Development, ICDS, ICPS, Motor Vehicles and Health etc. were installed.

25 Passengers Airlifted Between Srinagar And Kargil

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 25 passengers were airlifted between Srinagar and border town of Kargil in Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh which remained cut off due to closure of the national highway, connecting the region with Kashmir valley.

Officials told UNI this evening that today, 5 passengers, including 1 patient were airlifted from Kargil

to Srinagar, in Mi-172 Pawan Hans Helicopter.

Similarly, 20 passengers, including one infant, from Srinagar to Kargil today, they said.

Hundreds of passengers were airlifted between Kargil, Leh, Srinagar, Jammu and Chandigarh since the Srinagar-Leh national highway was closed from January 1st, this year due to accumulation of snow and avalanches. (UNI)

Midnight Blaze Guts Residential House

Observer News Service

KARNAH: A residential house was completely gutted in a massive midnight blaze in Sadhpura village of Karnah in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Reports said that a massive fire mysteriously broke out in the double-storey residential house of two brothers Muhammad Amjad Bhat and Kafeel-ur-Rehman, son's of Late Abdul Rehman Bhat during intervening night of Friday — Saturday completely gutting the residential house and damaging property worth lakhs.

A police official confirmed the incident and said that the timely action of locals and fire and emergency service managed to douse the flames thereby saving other residential houses.

Meanwhile, the locals urged the administration to rehabilitate and provide compensation to the affected families. (KNS)

AAC Grieved Over Demise Of Salam-ud-Din Kamili

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Action committee Saturday expressed grief over the demise of Peerzada Salam-ud-Din Kamili, who worked as Public Relations Officer to late Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq.

In a condolence message AAC paid rich tributes to Kamili for his five-decade-long services and his deep association with the Mirwaiz family, saying that the deceased stood firm with late Mirwaiz through thick and thin.

"Kamili was a pious soul and a person of noble character who assisted late Mirwaiz in his religious, social and political works all through his life," the statement said.

AAC and it's president Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who could not visit the family in their grief due to his continued house detention expressed their condolences and solidarity with the bereaved family especially the deceased's sons Fayaz Ahmad Kamili and Rafaqat Ahmad Kamili, the statement said.

AAC prayed for highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

ED Summon To Mehbooba Political Vendetta: Tarigami

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The summoning of PDP President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is another glaring example of how the BJP government is trying to muzzle the voices of dissent by using probe agencies against political opponents, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M Yusuf Tarigami said on Saturday. In a statement Tarigami said that this is nothing but political vendetta and part of vindictive politics practiced by the central government.

He said that the government should hold dialogue with stakeholders and restore special status which remains the only option to address the deepening uncertainty in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kansal Directs Officers For Enhancing Working Capacity To Meet Deadlines

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal Saturday chaired a high level meeting to review summer preparedness of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) and Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL) to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply during summer months.

The meeting was attended by Chairman JPDC, Chairman JKPTCL, Chairman KPDC, Managing Directors of JPDC and JKPTCL, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of allied corporations of Jammu division.

The meeting held in depth deliberations on various short term and medium term measures initiated by the corporations of the department for smooth and uninterrupted power supply during the summer months besides several ongoing projects delayed on account of legal, arbitration and other issues were also discussed



in detail during the meeting.

The Principal Secretary asked the officers to enhance their working capacity to meet the required deadlines. He stressed on making the system robust so that every project created gives appropriate result.

Kansal asked the officers to integrate every new asset fully into the system so that outcome is on expected lines. He directed the companies to work in synergy and full coordination so that desired results are achieved on the ground.

Regarding the several ongoing transmission projects, the Principal Secretary was informed that massive capacity addition works have been taken up well in advance on Fast Track basis and the Transformation Capacities of 160MVA at 220/132KV Level at Grid Station Barn, 20MVA at 132/33kV Level at Grid Station Gladni & 20MVA at 132/33kV Level at Grid Station Canal shall be accomplished before the required deadline which will largely address the overloading is-

sue in Jammu district.

Likewise the Principal Secretary was further informed that two major transmission Projects at Kathua and Samba with transformation capacity of 320MVA at 220/66KV level are expected to be added by ending March this year and they will alleviate overloading issues at 220KV Grids and improve the reliability and quality of power supply.

The Principal Secretary also reviewed the progress on new Transmission Line between Grid Sub

Stations Jatwal and Bishnah and commissioning of 132KV Draba-Chandak Transmission Line. He was informed that the projects will be completed by April and May this year respectively.

Rohit Kansal directed the concerned officers that while executing these projects, safety and welfare of ground level workers is paramount. He stressed on them that personal and systematic safety should be given importance while carrying out works at these projects.

The meeting also held deliberations in respect of medium-term Capacity Addition Transmission Projects taken up at Gladni, Bari-Brahma-I, Ramban and other areas which are also to be executed on Fast Track basis. The Principal Secretary directed the officers to expedite the pace of works on these projects so that they can be completed within the fixed time frames. Rohit Kansal further impressed upon the officers to monitor the projects on regular basis so that quality of work is maintained and desired results are achieved on the ground.

Meme-o-crazy and Citizen Diplomacy

DANIA SHEIKH

The existence of social networking sites has made it possible for us to get a glimpse into the lives of people inhabiting different parts of the world. We are now more aware of the culture and traditions of different communities. Exposure to such information about the "other" has enabled us to dismiss the stereotypical notions about the other communities. Previously, the non-existence of this forum solidified our preconceived notions about the other

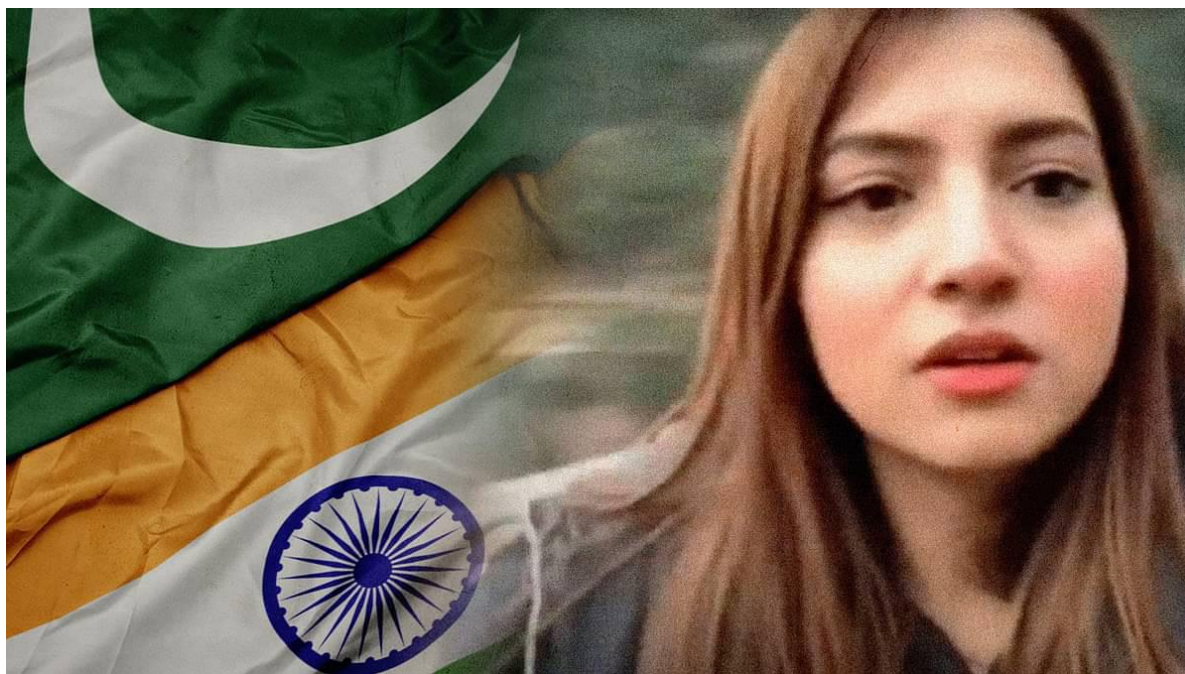
While Indian and Pakistani forces were engaged at the LOC and the diplomats of both the countries were embroiled in a verbal spat at the UNHCR, the citizens of both the countries were laughing their hearts out over shared memes. The 'wadda kutta Tommy, Sadda kutta kutta' dialogue by Shehnaz Gill, an ex-big boss contestant and famous Punjabi singer has gone viral and received love and appreciation from across the border as well. Similarly, the 'Pawri ho rahi hae' meme by Pakistani content creator Dana-neer became an instant hit and was trending in both Pakistan and India.

Social media was inundated with the recreations of these dialogues. Even famous Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh joined the bandwagon and posted his version of 'Pawri ho rahi hae'.

The people-to-people interaction between India and Pakistan has been halted time and again due to the hostility between the two countries. The Indian government banned Pakistani artists to work in Bollywood films post the Pulwama attack in February 2019 and Pakistan has also banned the screening of Bollywood films in their theatres and cinemas several times.

However, the rampant integration of the world as a result of Globalisation defeats the purpose of these bans. The new Global networks of communication have made it possible for strangers from around the world to connect and interact and engage in conversations. In contemporary times, it has become a matter of a few seconds to gather information about anything that intrigues us.

The existence of social networking sites has made it possible for us to get a glimpse into the lives of people inhabiting different parts of the world. We are now more aware of the culture and traditions of different communities. Exposure to such information about the "other" has



enabled us to dismiss the stereotypical notions about the other communities. Previously, the non-existence of this forum solidified our preconceived notions about the other communities. An absence of interaction bolsters the stereotypes about the other communities. Social media has played a huge role in exposing the artificially created binaries of us and them, it has facilitated in establishing amicable relations between countries.

As the world has become more globalized, cultural exchange is also advancing, state control is waning away. Countries might be at loggerheads with each other but citizens can have harmonious relations. People do not care where the memes, reels, tik toks, TV shows, and movies are created as long as they are entertained. Citizen diplomacy has the potential of forging peaceful relations between nations and public opinion against hostility is necessary for any peace dialogue to pro-

ceed. Heads of states are compelled to take aggressive and tough measures against other countries because of public opinion, this is especially true for democracies where people's mandate is supreme, and going against it would be political suicide.

The friendly exchange over social media is a testimony that people-to-people interaction and citizen diplomacy can play a huge role in mitigating the tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours and foster ties of friendship and peace.

It is sad to see politicking over this long-standing conflict which has upended our lives and devastated millions of families, political parties are fuelling the conflict just to garner votes, many of these contemporary political parties with a massive mandate would lose their relevance if this issue is resolved.

The competition among political parties today revolves around who can arouse more hate for the people belonging to the other community,

religion, or ethnicity, a solution to the conflict seems next to impossible considering the benefits its prevalence generates for those in power, they will covertly continue to thwart any peace process.

The state power today is not as overarching as it used to be in the years bygone, the unprecedented levels of globalisation have tamed the state control and authority, a democratic state cannot control what content people view, what music they listen to, or the stuff they read online. Thankfully, viewing content created in a country other than our own doesn't amount to a seditious act as of yet and this offers some hope for a more tolerant world.

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

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The Social Returns of Ending Son Bias

M. NIAZ ASADULLAH
NAZIA MANSOOR
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KUALA LUMPUR/LONDON/ VENICE/CANTERBURY – In much of emerging Asia, persistent bias in favor of sons remains a barrier to girls' life prospects – and often to life itself. Pre- and postnatal sex selection, including abortion and infanticide, have led to significant demographic imbalances.

Son preference also perpetuates large-scale social problems. Because a majority of the population still values sons more highly than daughters – a preference reinforced by cultural traditions in which sons play an important role (like performing funeral rituals in Hinduism) – South Asia is rife with domestic violence, child marriage, and deaths due to dowry disputes. And parents' cultural preference for sons can create additional human-development challenges.

Nowhere is this more evident than in India. Educational and economic opportunities for boys and girls remain deeply unequal, as the country's rapid economic growth since the 1990s was not accompanied by large-scale changes in gender attitudes and traditional social values. And, owing to sex selection, the country's ratio of males to females is imbalanced, with millions of girls and women missing from schools and the labor market.

The problem is getting worse. Most deaths among girls under five are due to postnatal sex selection, and the spread of ultrasound technology has aggravated the imbalance. Consequently, the number of "missing" women in India has doubled over the last 50 years. According to the United Nations Population Fund's State of the World Population 2020 report, India alone now accounts for 46 million missing girls, nearly a third of the global total of 142 million.

Understanding sex bias in fertility is



important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 5 (gender equality), because it helps to explain parents' unequal treatment of daughters, particularly in rural or poverty-stricken areas. The large gender disparities in South Asian educational outcomes must be addressed at the root.

Traditional gender norms – men as breadwinners and women as homemakers – could explain the higher value placed on male children, as could the perceived economic benefits of having sons (who, for example, will receive a dowry rather than costing his parents one). These traditional views underpin gender inequality in educational attainment, with the gap perpetuating further inequalities in the next generation. In contrast, more educated women tend to

Educational and economic opportunities for boys and girls remain deeply unequal, as the country's rapid economic growth since the 1990s was not accompanied by large-scale changes in gender attitudes and traditional social values. And, owing to sex selection, the country's ratio of males to females is imbalanced, with millions of girls and women missing from schools and the labor market

have smaller families, with healthier and better-educated children.

Ending son bias in desired fertility, curbing the preferential treatment of boys, and addressing parents' underinvestment in daughters requires increased spending on public education for girls. Bangladesh offers an example of the long-term social returns of such an approach.

In a recently published paper, we analyzed the desired and actual fertility choices of thousands of Bangladeshi women of childbearing age. Although fertility decisions are still influenced by son preference, our results confirm a decline in the desire for sons. Moreover, women with secondary schooling are more likely to desire gender balance in fertility. This finding contrasts with a 1994 study, which suggested the opposite relation-

ship between Bangladeshi mothers' secondary education and son preference. What has changed?

Three decades ago, educated Bangladeshi women had limited income-earning opportunities, and their economic status remained low. There simply were not enough educated women to shift son preference in favor of daughters. Since then, however, girls' education has benefited from the nationwide Female Secondary School Assistance Project, which was introduced in the early 1990s. The program provided financial aid for girls, and encouraged them to delay marriage in favor of education. Bangladesh has since leapfrogged neighboring India in girls' secondary education.

Moreover, Bangladesh is closing the large gender gap in school enrollment that prevails throughout South Asia, aided by changes in the labor market. Improved access to schooling coincided with a boom in the ready-made garment export sector, which now employs millions of young Bangladeshi women. We found that the desire for gender balance in fertility was stronger among women living in areas with more opportunities for paid work.

Thus, as a consequence of increased female education and employment, son preference is giving way to a desire for gender balance. This is reflected in improvement in Bangladesh's sex ratio. Excess female deaths as a share of overall under-five mortality rate is now around 3%, indicating a decline in pre- and postnatal sex selection.

In 1992, former World Bank chief economist Lawrence H. Summers famously identified women's education as the single most influential investment that can be made in the developing world. Our research confirms this finding. The policy lesson from Bangladesh is that investment in girls' schooling and the creation of economic opportunities can have important intergenerational effects at birth, in education, and beyond.

Project Syndicate



We the Women!

On International Women's Day

International Women's Day which is celebrated on the 8th of March every year has evolved over the years in different ways. Beyond the world of consumerism which tokenises on this day in forms of discount coupons, hallmark cards and many freebies; there are still issues that permeate the lives of women across the world.

Here, in Kashmir, women are at the intersection of different identities and each of these brings new challenges to women everyday. All women in Kashmir navigate through the challenges thrown at them by conflict in innumerable ways. Similarly, our class and caste positions also put hurdles in our way to live fulfilled lives. A majority of women in Kashmir are muslim, which is in itself a challenge in the times of global islamophobia. Sisters from other faiths go through the challenges that come with their matrix of identities as well.

In our society, women face many stigmas and challenges. These are both private as well political. However, despite all odds, Kashmiri women exemplify grit and grace.

They're torch bearers of all that Kashmir stands for and are always marching with excellence in every field they embark on. The mothers and grandmothers of Kashmir have played a cardinal role in all the good that our land has been blessed with and have proven to be strong pillars of support. Their daughters have aced all odds and are the best Home Makers, Entrepreneurs, Farmers, Fisherwomen, Domestic Helps, Journalists, Academicians, Doctors, Engineers, Activists, Religious Guides, Teachers, Bankers, Pilots, Influencers, Radio Jockeys and Entertainers.

Today, we celebrate all our women. The daughters, the wives, the mothers, the working women but also the single women, single mothers, divorced women, home makers and everyone else who is struggling but not without giving a tough fight

On the event of International Women's Day, we asked our readers to answer two of our questions. Here, we have reproduced some of the responses from them:

As a Kashmiri Woman, what positive changes would you like to see in our society related to women?

How well a society treats its women is one of the strongest indicators of the success and health of that society. Obviously, the rights of individual women and girls to enjoy equal social status with men and boys needs no further justification: population activists everywhere should support improving the status of women and girls as a stand-alone, non-negotiable ethical imperative for human development

Tweet by @MemoirofKashmir

Women should be seen without the myopic lense of gender and that women be respected as people first

Tweet by @Gulelaala

Property distribution. Women should get their due share as per sharia laws which is not the case most of the times

Tweet by @Aubaid_

As a society, we are very patriarchal and for changing it, we could start the transformation right from our homes by raising both boys and girls in a similar manner. This is the inception of change that would empower not only women but eradicate the evil social practices too.

Tweet by @zeenishimroz

That conversations (however uncomfortable) about demanding domestic labour, in which women toil away, alone, and all their lives, should start in our homes

Tweet by @Ceema_b

Treat your patients with respect esp in OB-

groom's family for 7 days straight!

Tweet by @Binti_Zia

To listen to our opinions, see us as an equal when it comes to business and not think of us as someone who can only do household chores

Tweet by @fordkalypso

More female entrepreneurs who'd eventually generate jobs and empower more women with a safe environment to work in kashmir

Tweet by @Zeyan Shafiq

Stop those gold exchanges and kokar majme etc . Women don't need to wear a lot of gold at their wedding, they don't need to change the way of dressing after marriage, it should be her choice at what time she wants to have a baby. Elderly women should stop interfering in ones personal life

Tweet by @Umaima

Opening the discussion to Kashmiri men
What positive changes would you like to see in our society related to women?

They should be given their share of liberation and freedom which has been systematically

escape abusive marriages without thinking that they'd be viewed as 'damaged goods'

Tweet by @Gowhar

We need to recognise the systematic abuse that women have been subjected to historically. we need to acknowledge all of it without any strings ,that's a stepping stone . This is how we can start our conversation without it all efforts are meaningless.

Opening up public spaces for women particularly Masajids. There must be women entry from the front door not back door to make a deep psychological point.

Knowing our history how the greatest Islamic scholars were taught by women. Giving up casual sexism ,misogyny because that's a reflection of what's inside of us. Don't be a mute spectator if you witness abuse of any shape or form be it on campuses,public transport,spaces or at home. Speak up!

Tweet by @Rasik Parrray

Acknowledgement of the fact that patriarchy exists and must be smashed. Subsequently, women must have equal and significant say in religious and socio-political domains. Lesser mans-

How well a society treats its women is one of the strongest indicators of the success and health of that society. Obviously, the rights of individual women and girls to enjoy equal social status with men and boys needs no further justification: population activists everywhere should support improving the status of women and girls as a stand-alone, non-negotiable ethical imperative for human development

Tweet by @MemoirofKashmir

GYN. Women have not sinned to show up at the hosp with heavy periods or heavily pregnant. Leave judgements and bias outside the examination room.

Stop mourning the birth of daughters. Shame the family that does this. Don't normalise the boom/misery that befalls a family on a second or third girl child.

Make getting sanitary supplies look less Criminal than acquiring drugs on the street. The brown paper wrap is a shame.

On a general note push more girls into STEM fields. Teach them that financial independence is more important than centring crucial decades of adulthood on finding a match. Being a subservient wife is ideal & all but there is more to life than ending up as just a glorified maid

Understand that patriarchy is self perpetuating. Educate yourself. Refrain from using language and swear words deeply misogynistic. Be conscious of internalised misogyny. Women in Kashmir suffer ways unique to our state.

Lastly, if you claim To be feminist but bring down each other publicly, on SM, maybe even fairly, you are just encouraging the ill-taught men that it is okay. Be kinder to each other. Fight your fights in private. Practice solidarity,build a safe sisterhood

Tweet by @Blacksabbttt

Stop expecting women to behave a certain way during the wedding and after it, just as we advocate the same for marriages. Kashmiri women may and do want simple, private weddings and do not want to dress up and put up a show for the

snatched from them from times immemorial

Tweet by @raatemugul

Freedom to travel in local transport without the fear of getting harassed and freedom to walk alone on the road without the fear of facing the wrath of predatory cars slowing down every time they say a women walking alone

Tweet by @EjazAyoub

Treating divorced people as normal human beings capable of remarrying. It'll help people

Treating divorced people as normal human beings capable of remarrying. It'll help people escape abusive marriages without thinking that they'd be viewed as 'damaged goods'

Tweet by @Gowhar

plaining. Avoiding sexist language

Tweet by @tabakhmaaz_stan

Don't put the burden of sacrifice for respect and honor on the shoulders of females

Tweet by @Kabwrits

Periods are normal so normalise periods. even today, certain women have to pretend they're fasting during ramadan when they're not

Tweet by @raeeskashmir_

We should all follow sunnah

Tweet by @Muhammad Arif

Say No to dowry - It's a blot on our society where we demand dowry without any hesitation, especially in rural communities. An old social evil in our society which is only increasing by leaps and bounds & saddest part is that most of us willingly participate in this race

Tweet by @XShooter0

Men should stop believing that they are superior to women. Treating women as human, overcome the bias of centuries, equal pay for equal work, the prejudice that women are weak(physically/mentally) has to be discarded

Tweet by @sameem

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

Sick Days Don't Look So Good Now That You Can Work From Home

Sarah Green Carmichael, Bloomberg

A few months back, it seemed as if the coronavirus pandemic would kill off presenteeism -- you know, showing up at work with a sniffle or cough to prove your value or ensure you get your paycheck. Companies that didn't offer paid sick leave were sure to wise up, realizing it was madness to create incentives for workers to spread germs on the job, and Type A workaholics would see that putting the entire office at risk of infection is more selfish than selfless. As it turns out, presenteeism just got a new address: the kitchen table. "You're expected to be always accessible, because where else could you be?" says Harvard Business School professor Leslie Perlow. "There's nowhere to go, nowhere to hide."

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, remote work had started to chip away at sick days. Slack messages saying "I've got a cold brewing, so I'll work from home today" were already replacing "Hey, boss [cough, cough], I need



a sick day" phone calls. A 2014 Stanford University study found that call center employees who worked from home put in more days, because they stayed on the job at times they would have been too ill to come to the office. And the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last year found that people with flu symptoms were more likely to work if they had the option to do so from home. "When everything happens in the same place, you no longer have that geographic boundary" between work and home, says Barbara Larson, a business professor at Northeastern University.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says 1 in 4 companies adopted

more generous sick leave policies last spring as the coronavirus spread. But instead of taking advantage of those rules, many ailing employees simply continued to toil away at a zombie pace from the couch: A survey conducted by OnePoll on behalf of a cold remedy, Cold-Calm, found that half of the 2,000 respondents had quietly taken partial sick days during the pandemic -- without telling their boss -- and 7 in 10 said they'd worked while feeling under the weather.

Remote work means people are less exposed to the germs that cause colds. That, plus social distancing, hand-washing, and mask-wearing, has sent flu infections plummeting this

winter. And some of the current hesitation to ask for time off may be because the seriousness of Covid-19 has shifted the definition of what it means to be sick. With images of people dying on ventilators making sore throats seem trivial, many workers fear bosses would disapprove of a sick day for anything less than Covid. "If you actually call in sick, of course everybody's first question is, 'Is it Covid?'" Larson says. "People are reluctant to self-identify as sick right now."

But it's not only contagious illnesses that might require a sick day: Including ailments such as back pain, allergies, or depression, "95% of us suffer from something," says Ron Goetzel, director of the Institute for Health and Productivity Studies at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He estimates that lower productivity from workers who show up when sick costs employers twice as much as treating those conditions would. Migraines alone led to losses of \$45 billion a year in the U.S. and Europe, according to the Harvard Business Review, and almost 90% of that stems from presenteeism.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir



Scholarship Name 1: HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECS Scholarship 2021-22

Description: HDFC Bank invites applications from students studying in Class 6 to post-graduate level. The scholarship supports meritorious and needy students belonging to underprivileged sections of the society. It will be given either on the basis of merit-cum-means or family/personal crisis.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be studying in any of the standards between Class 6 to 12, Diploma, Undergraduate or Postgraduate (including professional and non-professional courses) level. For merit-cum-means based scholarship, the students must have passed their previous qualifying examination with at least 55% marks and their annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 lakh. However, for a need-based scholarship, the students must be facing a personal or family crisis that has occurred during the past three years, due to which they are unable to continue

bearing the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000
Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/HEC9

Scholarship Name 2: IIM Bangalore Doctoral Research Fellowship 2021

Description: The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore invites applications for IIM Bangalore Doctoral Research Fellowship 2021 from PhD degree holders. The goal of the Post-Doctoral researcher will be to undertake a joint research project with the supervising faculty on a topic of mutual interest.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 45 years of age who have finished or are close to finishing their PhD in either finance, banking, economics, statistics, econometrics, or related areas. The candidate is expected to work under the supervision of the faculty.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 90,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: 21-03-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MBP7

Scholarship Name 3: Mi Scholarship for Class 11 and 12 Students 2020-21

Description: Xiaomi India invites applications from students studying in Class 11/12 and undergraduate level. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students who belong to underprivileged sections of the society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The applicants must be studying in Class 11/12 or undergraduate (any stream) level. They must have secured at least 70% marks in their previous qualifying examination.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 5,800
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MISCI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION QAZIGUND

E-mail : qazigundphedivision@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01931-295040
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No: 43/EE/PHED/Qazigund/4658-71 of 2020-21 Dated 05/03/2021.

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders in single cover system are invited on item rate basis from registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following work:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv't. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document
1	Renovation of existing Pump Operator Quarter at Gassipora W.S.S. OHT Gasipora (balance work under Languishing Programme)	1.20	"DEE"	25 days	200/=
2	Construction of Approach Path within OHT premises at Chirhama and other Misscalenous Items Water Supply Scheme Chirhama Bongam (under Languishing Programme.)	1.20	"DEE"	25 days	200/=

Position of funds : Available Position of AA : Accorded

1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-

i	Download start date	06/03/2021 from 12.15 PM
ii	Download end date	13/03/2021 from 03.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	06/03/2021 from 12.15 PM
iv	Bid submission end date	13/03/2021 from 03.00 PM
v	Bid opening date	13/03/2021 at 03.10 PM

2. Bids must be accompanied by bid security Declaration Form on affidavit duly attested and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan as shown against the each item advertised which should be credited to MH-0215-PHE Government Account as per the format devised / attached with this NIT. Besides, the NIT No. & item No. of the work/ name of work should be clearly written on the Treasury Challan.

3. It is mandatory upon the bidder to upload "Bidders Address Format" duly filled in under his seal and signature for future correspondence, which is attached with this NIT.

4. The bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund on above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.

5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like Bid Security Declaration/Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan/PAN/GST Registration with latest return/Bidders Address Format /Registration card duly renewed/Affidavit for correctness of bid. The technical hard copies of bidding documents are not necessary to deposit in the Divisional office as per standing Govt. instructions.

6. Instructions to Bidders (ITB):

All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids in soft form:-

a) Scanned copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of business with registered active e-mail address and Mobile No. of the bidder.

b) Scanned copy of original Valid PAN

c) Scanned copy of original GST Registration/GST acknowledgement receipt along with latest GST (3B) and GST (R1)

d) Affidavit on E- Stamp Paper to this effect that:-

i) The documents/certificates etc. enclosed with the technical bid are genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.

ii) I have not been debarred or blacklisted by any Government/Semi Government (including Central and State) department.

iii) I have not fallen into litigation with any Govt. or Semi-Govt. Department.

iv) My tender /bid shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of bid.

v) I accept if I withdraw or modify the bids during the period of bid validity, I shall be suspended for further tendering for the time deemed fit by the department.

vi) The information submitted with the tender is correct and nothing has been concealed and for any misrepresentation of facts, I shall be personally responsible and liable for action.

vii) The financial & technical documents required for the qualification viz. ITRs/Turn Over/ copy of allotments & Experience certificates are genuine.

viii) I submit/upload documents for NIT SL.No._____ endorsed under No:_____ dated _____ for the work namely _____

NOTE: (Failure to produce/upload the above mentioned documents/affidavit format herein above shall make the bid non-responsive)

6. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

7. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.

8. As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non-drawl of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.

9. Departmental material like pipe & pipe specials shall be supplied departmentally. However, cement & steel of sorts shall be issued as per the stock issue rates at the time of issuance of material.

10. Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.

11. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25 double/Tender document.

No:PHQ/4658-71

Dtd: 05/03/2020

DIPK-14606/20

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KASHMIR, J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Short Term Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 90 of 2020-21 DATE D: 05.03.2021.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender documents	Technical Vetted/ Sanction No. & date	Administrative Approval No. & date	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Development of Indoor Sports Hall at Bijbehara Anantnag by way of Chain Link Fencing and Filling / Turfing.	18.00	BEE / CEE Class	Rs. 800/-	46/Esstt of 2021 Dt: 23.01.2021	Sports Council Order No: 80 of 2021 dt: 12.02.2021	45 days
2	Development of play field at Kadapora Achabal Anantnag.	65.00	AAY Class	Rs.1600/-	05/TV/2020-21 dt: 27.02.2021.	Sports Council Order No: 80 of 2021 dt: 12.02.2021	45 days
3	Development of play field at Dangi wacha Sopore, by way of earth work in cutting / filling, providing chain link fencing and construction of seating tier with roofing (District Baramulla).	74.27	AAY Class	Rs. 1600/-	01/TV/2020-21 dt: 09.02.2021.	Sports Council Order No: 38 of 2021 dt: 15.01.2021	45 days
4	Development of Gindun Park by way of Grill Fencing, Curb Stone, Car Parking, Earth filling, Restoration of Cafeteria Building and Landscaping.	54.41	AAY Class	Rs. 1600/-	04/TV/2020-21 dt: 22.02.2021.	Sports Council Order No: 80 of 2021 dt: 12.02.2021	45 days

Position of AAA = Accorded

Position of funds = Under Capex 2020-21

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, 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 schedule of dates given below:-

Critical Dates Table	
1. Date of issue of Tender Notice.	05.03.2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents.	05.03.2021 from 4.00 PM to 13.03.2021 up 4.00 PM.
3. Bid Submission Start Date.	06.03.2021 from 02.00 PM
4. Bid Submission End Date.	13.03.2021 upto 04.00 PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	15.03.2021 at 11.30 AM. in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder.

(No Demand Draft shall be entertained).
1) Name of Bank = J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title = Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
3) Account No = CDG-0365010200000842
4) Branch = Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code = JAKA08BOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.

Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of financial bids.

DIPK-NB-6182/20

Sd/-
Ex. Engineer, CDK
J&K Sports Council Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension No.04.

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.13 of 2020 dated 12.12.2020 for Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Mughal Garden Nishat, Shalimar & Cheshmashahi is hereby extended as per the details given below: -

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	06/03/2021 from 11:00 AM to 20/03/2021 up to 2:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	08/03/2021 from 10:00 AM
3.	Bid submission End Date	20/03/2021 up to 2:00 PM
4.	Date & time of Opening of Tenders	23/03/2021 at 2:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

By Order

Sd/-
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary)

No:-DFK/GS-519/5310-11 Dated:- 06/03/2021.

DIPK-14590/20

Ready For Talks, But Mere Modifications In Farm Laws Not Acceptable: Rajewal

Agencies

NEW DELHI: On completion of 100 days of the farmers' stir, Punjab's Balbir Singh Rajewal on Saturday said the farmers are ready for the next round of dialogue with the Central government, but they will not accept the three contentious farm laws with modifications.

Speaking from the Western Peripheral Expressway in Kundli in Haryana, where the farmers organised a blockade from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in a bid to intensify their protest, Rajewal said this protest is just a "symbolic" one against the government on these farm laws and it will become "bigger".

"This is a symbolic protest. It will become bigger... We are ready for talks if government invites us (farmer leaders). But our demand is the same. We want withdrawal of the three farm laws. We will not accept the modification in these laws," Rajewal said.

The 77-year-old farmer leader, who has been leading the current agitation against the Narendra Modi government's farm laws along with other key farmer leaders, said that the farmers' strategy is to add more states in the demonstration which completed 100 days on Saturday.

Rajewal, the leader of his own BKU faction, is credited with having drafted the constitution of the



BKU. His vast experience and in-depth knowledge of agriculture in Punjab has made him the 'think tank' of this agitation.

Hundreds of vehicles were stopped as protesting farmers blocked the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway to mark the completion of 100 days of their agitation at the Delhi borders.

The call for blocking the KMP Expressway was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of protesting farmer unions spearheading the agitation against the agriculture-related legislations. The 136-km KMP Expressway is also known as the Western Peripheral Expressway.

Thousands of farmers are sitting on the Delhi borders since November 26 last year against the three farm laws enacted in September 2020 during the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The farmers say they are "black laws" and "anti-farmer".

Reliance To Cover COVID-19 vaccination Costs For Employees, Families

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd will bear the cost of vaccinating its employees and their immediate family, totaling an estimated 12.2 lakh, as the oil-to-telecom conglomerate looks to safeguard them against the COVID-19 virus.

India's largest private company joins the likes of IT giants Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Accenture, and public sector lender State Bank of India among others who are bearing the cost of vaccination of their employees and their dependents.

"As per our earlier commitment, Reliance will bear the full cost of vaccination for you, your spouse, your parents, and vaccine-eligible children. You and your family's safety and well-being is our responsibility," said Nita Ambani, non-executive director, Reliance Industries and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, in an internal communication to all employees.

The firm has tied-up with specific hospitals to roll out the vaccination drive for employees at the places where they are stationed.

The vaccination drive will cover all employees of the company's oil and chemical division, retail unit and telecom venture Jio, their as-

sociates, and their registered dependents.

"Mukesh and I truly believe that cherishing the health and happiness of our loved ones is what it means to be part of a family - the Reliance Family," she wrote.

She further urged all those employees eligible to get vaccinated under the government's COVID-19 vaccination programme to register quickly.

The government has in the Phase-II of the inoculation drive, allowing people older than 60 years and those above 45 years with chronic health disorders to be vaccinated.

It has asked private hospitals serving as vaccination centres to charge 250 per dose of a vaccine. For Reliance employees and their dependents, this cost will be borne by the company.

Ms. Nita, who is wife of Reliance chairman and richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, urged employees to not let their guard down against the scourge of the coronavirus yet. "Continue to maintain utmost safety and hygiene precautions. We are in the last stages of this collective battle. Together, we must win and we will win!" She said the government has launched the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination programme across the country.

Amid Tussle Over Mutton Rates, Butchers 'Asked To Open Shops Within 2 Days'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid tussle over the Mutton rates, the butchers have been directed to open their shops within two days and that any shops found closed will be seized. However, the butchers have sent legal notice to the concerned authorities, questioning which law permits them to seize the closed shops.

According to the news agency, President Butchers Union, Khazir Muhammad Regoo said that they have been directed to open up their shops within two days.

He said after receiving the government directives, they have sent a legal notice through their Counsel Advocate Imran Ahmad wherein they have mentioned the Director's recent statement in which he stated that those who are not willing to sell mutton at the government fixed rates can't be forced to open shops.

"We have categorically stated that we are not on strike to leave people to suffer. But, we want the government to fix reasonable rates so that we can resume our business," Ragoo said, adding that "let the government address our concerns, we will open up our shops tomorrow."

However, he also said that those who are found selling the meat at their homes should be dealt with



strictly. "We will not oppose the government action against those who are selling the meat at exorbitant rates at their homes," he said, adding that they have been facing tremendous hardships as they have conducted their businesses from the last four successive months.

General Secretary of All Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Association (AKWMDA), Mehraj-ud-Din said that they are not on strike at all, adding that the rates finalized between the mutton wholesalers and the government is almost agreed

from both the sides.

However, he said, the issue is about the retailers and butchers. "We are waiting to see any positive development in this regard so that the business will be resumed again," he said.

He also demanded strict action against the people involved in black-marketing, saying that anyone found selling meat in black should be dealt with strictly and the association will appreciate the action. Meanwhile, repeated attempts to reach out to Director Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution didn't fructify— (KNO)

Anurag Thakur: Govt Open To Evaluate, Explore Cryptocurrencies

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Union minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the government is open to evaluate and explore new technologies, including cryptocurrencies, for improving governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is a strong advocate of embracing technology in various aspects of governance, the Minister of State for Finance said while addressing an event organised by Entrepreneurs' Organisation – EO Punjab.

"Let me say that we welcome innovation and new technology... blockchain is a new emerging technology. Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency. I firmly believe that we must always evaluate, explore and encourage new ideas with an open mind," he said.

A High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary on digital currencies and it has submitted its report.

The government would take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due process, he said while inviting suggestions and views



on this issue. Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of their units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the government is still formulating its opinion on cryptocurrencies and will take a calibrated position.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das had last week said the apex bank has certain "major concerns" over the impact cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed

the same to the government.

The RBI had virtually banned cryptocurrency trading in 2018 and had directed all entities regulated by the central bank to cease dealing in virtual currencies. The Supreme Court had also asked the Centre in 2019 to frame policies for crypto, and in 2020, struck down the curbs imposed by the RBI.

The Reserve Bank had through various public notices on December 24, 2013, February 1, 2017 and December 5, 2017, cautioned users, holders and traders of virtual currencies, including bitcoins, regarding various risks associated in dealing with such virtual currencies.

Petrol, Diesel Prices Steady Even As Crude Boils



Agencies

NEW DELHI: Oil marketing companies have spared consumers of yet another petrol and diesel price hike even though the global oil market is on the boil with crude reaching within touching distance of year-high-level of \$70 a barrel.

Petrol continues to be priced at Rs 91.17 a litre and diesel Rs 81.47 a litre in the capital on Saturday. Across the country too, the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged.

This is seventh consecutive day when pump prices of auto fuels have remains unchanged.

After a spike in global oil prices seen over last two weeks with crude price jumping close to \$67 a barrel, prices had fallen to around \$63 a barrel but it rose again to cross \$69 a barrel mark now after the OPEC+ deci-

sion to continue with crude production cut in April.

Petrol and diesel prices have been rising continuously since February 9. In the 14 increases since then, price have gone up by Rs 4.22 per litre for petrol while diesel rate has risen by Rs 4.34 a litre in Delhi.

The increase in the previous weeks has taken petrol to cross historic high levels of Rs 100 a litre in several cities across the country.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre, respectively so far this year.

Oil companies executives said that petrol and diesel prices may increase further in coming days as retail prices may have to be balanced in line with global developments to prevent OMCs from making loss on sale of auto fuels.

M.G. George, Muthoot Finance Chairman, Passes Away

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: M.G. George Muthoot, chairman of the Muthoot Group and former lay secretary of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, died in New Delhi on Friday. He was 71.

He was listed as the 26th richest person in India by the Forbes Magazine in 2020. He also served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the FICCI.

He is survived by wife, Sara George Muthoot, and two sons, George M. George and Alexander George.

The 71-year-old Muthoot was for long based in the National Capital even though his diversified group that runs over 20 businesses from gold loans to securities, realty estate to infrastructure, hospitals to hospitality and education, is headquartered in Kochi making it one of the largest business houses in the State.

Mathai George George Muthoot was born in November 1949 in Kozhencherry in the present day Pathanamthitta district of Kerala as the son of M. George Muthoot, who began the finance business and as the grandson of Muthoot Ninan Mathai, the group founder.

After graduating from the Manipal Institute of Technology with a degree in mechanical engineering, Muthoot joined the family business as an office assistant and



in 1979 he became the managing director and group chairman in February 1993.

In the early 1980s, the large family broke up and the family empire was divided between the cousin brothers and this led to the creation of Muthoot Pappachen Group, another diversified group in the state which runs rival gold loan company Muthoot Fincorp.

The Muthoot Group's flagship Muthoot Finance had a loan book of close to 56,000 crore in the December 2020 quarter.

The group has grown manifold under him — when he took over it had just 31 branches but has over 5,550 branches across the country and outside today and the group.

While eldest son George M. George is the executive director of the group, the youngest son Alexander George is the director of the group and the second son Paul Muthoot George was murdered in 2009.

NEWS MAKERS



THE URBAN MODE IS THE ONE WHERE ENGINE power delivery is tuned to deliver optimum power and control to tame the urban jungle with the ABS optimised for a quick response. The Rain mode, meanwhile, primes the ABS to deliver the maximum response.



TVS Motor Launches New APACHE RTR Model With Rs 1.28 Lakh Price Tag

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Chennai-based automaker TVS Motor on Friday launched the new Apache RTR 200 4V with a single-channel anti-lock braking system with a price tag of Rs 1.28 lakh. According to the com-

pany, the model among the most unique features of the motorcycle is that it comes in three ride modes sports, urban, and rain.

According to TVS Motor Company, the bike comes with many other segment firsts such as an adjustable front suspension, adjustable

brake and clutch levers, and a race-tuned slipper clutch. In the Indian two-wheeler market, the Apache RTR 200 faces direct competition from Bajaj Pulsar NS200, KTM 200 Duke and Honda Hornet 2.0.

TVS says that the Urban mode is the one where

engine power delivery is tuned to deliver optimum power and control to tame the urban jungle with the ABS optimised for a quick response. The Rain mode, meanwhile, primes the ABS to deliver the maximum response.

The Sports mode allows for maximum power

and sharp acceleration. The ABS is mapped for the least intervention and highest permissible slip percentage for faster lap times, TVS added. The new Apache is fitted with a 197.75cc, 4-stroke, 4-valve, oil-cooled engine with race-tuned fuel injection technology.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Shifts 155

their country, many of them entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and other parts of India.

The verification process of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar was carried out at the MAM Stadium here amid high security, they said.

Under the drive, their biometric and other details, such as place of stay, were collected, the officials said.

“We filled up forms after conducting COVID-19 test. Our fingerprints were taken,” Abdul Hanan, a Myanmar national, told reporters here.

He said after the screening process he left the stadium.

Certain political parties and social organisations, had urged the Centre to take immediate steps for the deportation of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis alleging that their presence is a “conspiracy to alter the demographic character” of the region and “a threat to the peace in the region”.

More than 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshis nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016, according to government data. (With PTI inputs)

Lower Primary

manner for academic activities as per following schedule: class 6th to 8th from 8th March and K.G to class 5th to with effect from March 15,” reads an order by DSEK.

Last Monday, students from 9th to 12th standard attended schools in Kashmir Valley amid COVID-19 protocol.

The schools are opening in staggered manner and many schools have applied an odd-even formula which entails having only 50% of students on campus on any given day.

Teachers of the elementary classes (up to class 8) have been asked to attend the schools from March 1 for preparation while students shall physically attend the classes from March 8.

Earlier, colleges opened in Kashmir more than 11 months after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic that had prompted closure of educational institutions across the valley.

Even before the covid-19 forced their closure, the educational institutes remained closed for nearly a year on account of the security and communication clampdown following the revocation of the Article 370 on 5 August 2019.

The educational institutions reopened in summer zone areas of Jammu last month. While the educational institutes for 9 to 12th had started from February 1, the class work for the students of classes 1 to 8 resumed a week later.

In the revised guidelines on COVID containment measures issued in January this year, the administration had allowed schools, colleges, higher educational institutions, technical or skill development institutions to reopen from February 1.

The government has time and again stressed that the notified Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guidelines shall remain unaltered and shall be followed in “letter and spirit”. (GNS)

ACB Files FIR

around 27 loan facilities from HUDCO from the year 1991 to 2001 for acquisition and development of lands for constructing housing colonies in J&K.

Among the prominent colonies were Kud Housing Colony, Davik Housing, Kalu Chak, Swarn Vihar, Tawi Vihar Housing Colony, Swarn Vihar, Peer Bagh Housing Colony etc.

“JKCHCL defaulted in payment in the loan and as on 31.11.2020 an amount of Rs. 10,06,06,80,678/-(Rs 1006 crore approximately) is outstanding for repayment to HUDCO,” the bureau spokesperson said.

The investigations carried out by the ACB, he said, also revealed that the Chairman, Managing Directors and other officials who were at the helm affairs in JKCHCL had diverted and misappropriated the loan amounts to the tune of Rs 23.12 crores for various other purposes.

“It indicated that the Management of JKCHCL in conspiracy with each other and other unknown officials had deliberately defaulted in the repayment of the loans due to which the accounts became NPA and the outstanding amount created,” he said.

“The enquiry has revealed that there has been illegal modification in the norms and by laws of JKCHCL and encroachment upon Govt. land and community land for development of housing schemes which were later sold off for a profit. Even the OTS amount arrived at with the intervention of the Govt. was not repaid by the JKCHCL,” he added.

Following the startling revelations during the probe, the ACB spokespersons aid that an FIR was registered against the then Chairman, MD Brij Bhushan Sharma and other officials of the Management of the JKCHCL and unknown officials of the Govt. u/s 5(1) (c), 5(1)(d) read with sections 5(2) of JK PC Act Vt 2006 and Ss. 409, 120-B RPC.

He further after obtaining warrants from the court, searches were conducted at the residence and office of the then MD JKCHCL. “Incriminating documents and articles have been recovered in the searches conducted. Further investigation of the case is going on,” the ACB spokesperson added.\

HC Quashes

of detention, are guilty of committing infraction of a Constitutional right guaranteed to the (detainee) under Article 22(5) of the Constitution and the statutory right guaranteed to him under Section 13 of the J&K Public Safety Act,” a Bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said and quashed detention order under PSA passed by the deputy commissioner Budgam against one Aijaz Ahmad Dar of Nasrullapora as being “unsustainable in the

eyes of law.”

In his petition Dar had stated that without any justification and cause, he was implicated in FIR No.53/2020 and while in custody in the case, came to be shifted to preventive custody in terms of the impugned order.

His counsel said that the authorities violated the procedural safeguards inasmuch as Dar was not informed about his right to make a representation against the order of detention before the detaining authority.

The counsel also contended that the Dar was not furnished the material relied upon by the detaining authority in passing the PSA order dated 9 April 2020, thereby depriving him of his Constitutional and Statutory rights.

Allowing his petition, the court directed that Dar be released from the preventive custody forthwith “provided he is not required in connection with any other case.”

The court also quashed order dated 7 July 2020, passed by District Magistrate Anantnag against one Mushtaq Ahmad Wani alias Channa of Kokernag.

“Direction is issued to the respondents (officials) to release (Wani) from the preventive custody forthwith, provided he is not required in connection with any other case.” (GNS)

New IT Rules Can

to establish a grievance redressal mechanism,” the EGI said.

It said some provisions of the rules could put unreasonable restrictions on digital news media.

“The EGI is concerned that the government did not consult stakeholders before notifying these far-reaching rules. The Guild urges the government to put the rules in abeyance and conduct meaningful consultation with all stakeholders. The government must take note of the fact that in the name of reining an unfettered social media it cannot overwhelm constitutional safeguards for free media that has been the cornerstone of our democracy,” the EGI said.

BJP For Hike

per family per month be enhanced to Rs 20,000.

“There are less than 22,000 relief holders who are dependent on the monthly relief. It would be a great gesture on behalf of the government to provide this sort of help to the relief holders on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, he said in a letter to the Union home minister.

The BJP leader said overage youth who could not be accommodated under the prime minister’s employment package need monetary assistance from the government to ensure their economic subsistence.

“It can be done by means of monetary compensation, interest free loans and one-time working capital for creating new working business units that can earn profits in due course of time, he said.

“I also make an earnest request to announce a package of reservation of 4,000 jobs for the youth of the displaced community in the central government employment for posting in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

PcK Candidates

mentioned wrong information in the FORM-6 for enrolling themselves as voters.

The SEC, in its order, said the nomination secured by two candidates to contest the election by making false declarations about the citizenship of India, a fundamental requirement under electoral laws, was illegal, improper, and liable for automatic rejection ab-initio.

It said the polling process undertaken in these segments has been totally vitiated.

The re-poll, according to SEC, shall be held by redrawing the list of candidates and election must be conducted under the applicable election rules/ guidelines, on a date to be notified by the Election Authority, through a separate order.

Kupwara

The Election Authority maintained that Soomia Sadaf failed to provide any valid document to justify her citizenship in India part and had entered wrong information regarding her “place of birth” in Election Commission of India FORM-6, required for registration as an elector.

Soomia Sadaf was contesting polls from Drugmulla DDC seat of Kupwara.

The State Election Commission had received a complaint regarding the status of citizenship of Soomia, wherein it was alleged, among other things, that, she had entered India through an illegal route and she suppressed vital facts regarding her citizenship.

Bandipora

The Election Authority maintained that it was found that Shazia Begum, contesting candidate of Hajin-A in Bandipora couldn’t substantially prove her citizenship of India and has therefore entered wrong information in the declaration regarding being a citizen of India during the inclusion of FORM-6 deemed to be included in panchayat electoral roll before 2019—(KNO)

LG Hails Doctors

he said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also congratulated the young aspiring doctors for embarking on their new journey and advised them to dedicatedly and selflessly serve the people and constantly strive for a healthy society.

Lauding the role of doctors and frontline medical professionals in a fight against covid pandemic, the LG said that with the spirit of selfless service and working day and night to help and heal the patients, doctors have emerged as real heroes of our society.

“There is an old saying that the presence of a doctor is the beginning of treatment. It has to be specially kept in mind that medicine can cure only the disease, but only a doctor can treat the patient completely,” the LG

said, as per official spokesperson.

“If there is a feeling of love, sacrifice, peace, and service behind a work, then that work can fill new consciousness, new energy in the whole society,” he added.

Speaking on technological revolution in the healthcare sector, the LG, as per the official spokesperson emphasized on optimum utilization of technological interventions and reaching out to the people living in rural and far flung areas with medical facilities through tele-medicine and other such services.

“With the changing dynamics of the technology, not only students, but teachers also need to adapt themselves to meet the requirements of modern times,” Sinha said.

He also expressed his pleasure on being informed that out of 100 students, 52 are girls and said that that number of girls joining the medical profession is a tremendous example of women empowerment and termed their contribution as significant towards creating a new society and a new India.

“He also mentioned the recently inaugurated 1st MBBS batch of Government Medical College Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, which also had an equal number of boys and girls in 100 seats,” the official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, also praised Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s continuous efforts to address the issue of shortage of doctors with new medical colleges being established across the country.

“The Lt Governor observed that making the country AatmaNirbhar in every field is the vision of the Prime Minister and the efforts of every stakeholder would bring far-reaching results in achieving the goals of self-reliant and healthy India,” the official spokesperson said.

“Citing the example of Bharat Ratna Doctor Bhidhan Chandra Roy whose birth anniversary is celebrated as Doctors’ Day, the Lt Governor observed that he was born in Bihar, studied abroad, but returned to India and made a tremendous contribution to the freedom movement apart from medical education,” he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG asked the youth to follow the ideals of great leaders and reformers like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Dr. Rajendra Prasad and dedicate themselves towards the service of humankind.

He praised the Netaji Subhas Medical Hospital for serving the people during Covid pandemic and hoped that NSMCH would acquire new dimensions in the field of medical education and continue to provide quality treatment affordable to all.

Prominent among others who attended the inaugural ceremony were Vijay Kumar Sinha, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly; Ramkripal Yadav, Member Parliament; MM Singh, Chancellor, Netaji Subhash University; Krishna Murari, Managing Director, Netaji Subhas Medical College, and Hospital; Dr. Sahajanand Prasad, National President, IMA; Dr. Arvind Prasad, Principal NSMCH; faculty members of NSMCH and prominent persons from all walks of life.

J&K Admin Seek

drug addicts is increasing in Kashmir,” he added.

The programme, among others was attended by CEO Waqf Board, Secretary Waqf Board, DC Excise department, Imams and Khateeb of Dargah Hazratbal, Naqashband Sahab, Jamia Masjid Munawarabad, Syed Yaqoob Sahab Sonwar, Masjid Zero Bridge, Sheikh Noor ud din Noorani Char-I- Sharief Shrine, scholars, preachers from various districts and officers and officials from Excise department and Muslim Waqf Board.

As per the official spokesperson, the Div Com said that there were some incidents where it has been found that some “vested interests across the border” are also involved in spreading the drug abuse in Kashmir with supplying cocaine and heroin and other drug like substances through various illegal means.

“He said all forms of drug addiction are harmful and can become a cause of destruction to the entire family of a drug addict. He said though the efforts by the government are afoot to control the drug abuse, however, both scholars and parents have to play their role to cooperate and support the administration in curbing the menace,” he added.

Pole, as per the official spokesperson urged people to volunteer in joining the administration in destroying the cannabis growing usually on barren land particularly on both sides of the river Jhelum from North Kashmir to South Kashmir.

On the occasion, he said, scholars warned of the worst consequences of drug addiction in the youth and extended their support to ensure curbing of the abuse in Kashmir.

“The Div Com reiterated that scholars need to support the administration as positively as they did during the Covid pandemic to get the fruitful results in war against drug abuse. Besides, urged them to extend cooperation in conducting similar awareness programmes at district and tehsil level too across Kashmir,” the official spokesperson said.

PDP Slams

pays when we oppose the BJP’s ideology and divisive politics, PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said in a statement.

Hanjura accused the BJP of employing coercive measures through various agencies to target opposition leaders.

“Recent events are witness to how the BJP has been employing coercive measures through various agencies to target opposition leaders across the country and the government is resorting to a game of witch-hunt and suppressions in Jammu & Kashmir as well, he added.

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday summoned Mufti for questioning on March 15 in a money laundering case, officials said.

The 60-year-old PDP leader, who was

released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

Jammu and Kashmir’s special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by the Centre in August 2019 and the state was bifurcated into union territories.

‘Govt Can’t Force

submitted by a two-member committee after visiting livestock Mandis outside the valley.

See, the thing is, the government is itself responsible for the mess.

For example, cattle trade is such a huge industry in J&K, but the government has failed to organise it.

They claim that they have 80,000 sheep breeding units in Jammu and Kashmir, but where is the production? Why do we have to get the cattle from other states?

Every day we get over 50 trucks of cattle from different states. Each truck carries over 140 sheep. That means we daily do a business of over Rs5 crore with other states.

Why can’t we have the livestock here in Kashmir when the government claims to have set-up breeding units? Wouldn’t that benefit the region only?

But are you satisfied with Kashmir Economic Alliance’s ‘fact-finding committee’ report?

Yes, we are satisfied with the report. They have suggested mutton at Rs 518 per kilogram, with Rs 70 profit. We are even ready to negotiate on our profit. But the Govt is up-ante on Rs 515 per kilogram, without profit.

The KEA committee has proposed that the

According to the reports, the injured boy was rushed to District Hospital Pulwama where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

“The minor’s neck and head had critical injuries. We tried level best to save him, however, due to heavy loss of blood, couldn’t,” a doctor from the hospital told news agency KNO

Two UP Residents

in a Santro car (JK04-9750) which was coming from Banihal towards Qazigund, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

The joint team, he said, intercepted the car and during checking recovered 1 Pistol and 20 rounds of ammunition from the possession of Mohammad Danish and Nawshad, both residents of Bijnoor Uttar Pradesh.

“Both the accused persons were arrested besides the vehicle they were travelling by was also seized. In this regard, a case FIR No. 40/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Qazigund and further investigation is in progress,” he added.

CASO Conducted

before carrying out house-to-house searches.

However, no arrests were made during the search operation when the last reports came in.

Man Found

police team reached the spot and took the body in custody. “The deceased was reportedly mentally unsound and was roaming in the area since late last night,” reports said.

Meanwhile, police has registered a case and initiated investigation to ascertain the cause of the death and identity of the deceased.

از نیابت کھر ہامہ با اجلاس انگیزکیوٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول

مضمون کاغذات درخواست غلام محمد میر ولد عبد الغفار میر ساکنہ پوتوٹھے۔ ضلع کپوارہ مرادعطا سنگی RBA تحت

SRO 294

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل موضع پوتوٹھے میں رہائش پذیر اور کبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام ولد بیت	پیشہ	عمر	سکونت
غلام محمد میر ولد عبد الغفار میر	زمینداری	49 سال	پوتوٹھے
دلشاد بیگم زوجہ غلام محمد میر	گھریلو کام	48 سال	
عادل احمد پیر۔۔۔	زیر تعلیم	26 سال	
خالد احمد پیر۔۔۔	زیر تعلیم	26 سال	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کبہ نہیں ہے اور کبہ ہذا کی ماہوار آمدنی مبلغ =/5000 تک ہے اور سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کھر ہامہ fnt

از نیابت کھر ہامہ

مضمون کاغذات درخواست الطاف احمد گوجر کٹاری ولد جلال الدین گوجر کٹاری ساکنہ

کولیکام ضلع کپوارہ مرادعطا سنگی۔ST

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل موضع کولیکام میں رہائش پذیر اور کبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام سربراہ کنبدو تفصیل افراد کنبدو	پیشہ	عمر	سکونت
جلال الدین ولد گامہ کٹاری	زمینداری	46 سال	کولیکام
زرینہ زوجہ جلال الدین	گھریلو کام	43 سال	
الطاف احمد پیر۔۔۔	زیر تعلیم	15 سال	
شوات احمد پیر۔۔۔	زیر تعلیم	12 سال	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کبہ نہیں ہے اور کبہ ہذا کی ماہوار آمدنی مبلغ =/..... تک ہے اور سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کھر ہامہ fnt

از نیابت کھر ہامہ

مضمون کاغذات درخواست غلام محمد گوجر ولد فقیر محمد گوجر صودر ساکنہ پوتوٹھے ضلع کپوارہ

مرادعطا سنگی۔ST

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل موضع پوتوٹھے میں رہائش پذیر اور کبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام سربراہ کنبدو تفصیل افراد کنبدو	پیشہ	عمر	سکونت
غلام محمد ولد فقیر محمد گوجر صودر	زمینداری	40 سال	پوتوٹھے
نسیر بیگم زوجہ غلام محمد گوجر صودر	گھریلو کام	35 سال	
انصرت بانو دختر۔۔۔	زیر تعلیم	11 سال	
زیر احمد پیر۔۔۔	---	09 سال	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کبہ نہیں ہے اور کبہ ہذا کی ماہوار آمدنی مبلغ =/..... تک ہے اور سرٹفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کھر ہامہ fnt

Who Will Complain Against A Track Like This, It Was Fantastic Entertainment,' Says Ravi Shastri

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: There is no reason to cry over the nature of the Motera track, India Head coach Ravi Shastri asserted on Saturday, saying the curator prepared pitches that produced "fantastic entertainment" in the last two matches here.

The pitch for the third Test came in for sharp criticism from a few former England players after the visitors were bowled out for 112 and 81 in the day/night match.

While England struggled on the spin-friendly track, India claimed victories in the third and fourth Test here to qualify for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in June.

"Why should I hold back? I attribute it to the groundsmen," Shastri said after India dismissed England for 135 to register an innings and 25 run win in the final Test here.

"I think Ashish Bhowmick is

when we were not even playing but never mind all that, we have got 520 points, we deserve to be on top of the table and playing that final," Ravi Shastri said.

With several bilateral series hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICC had made percentage of points earned as the criteria to determine the World Test Championship's standings. Shastri blamed fatigue for the team's loss in the first Test in Chennai.

"It could have been different if we had a few more days off but no excuse. Boys were like zombies, they were tired and there was no crowd to cheer them on. Because everything was flat and so was the performance," he said.

"But then a kick on the back side to reignite the pride in the system can make a lot of difference and that showed in the last three Tests," he added. The 58-year-old said it was very satisfying to see the youngsters perform.



an outstanding groundsman, he knows his job. He has learnt it the hard way. He worked with Daljit Singh, who was a master curator. Who will complain against a track like this? It is fantastic entertainment, for both teams and the game and the result 3-1 doesn't really suggest how close the series was," the Indian coach said.

Shastri lauded the team for making it to the WTC final despite the ICC changing the qualification criteria last year.

"For us to be on the top of the table in World Test championship is two-and-a-half years of work, and for those years to be successful, it's been six years prior to that," he said.

"The boys took one series at a time. They were not really bothered about the World Test Championship because the goal post gets shifted every time. We were heading the table and some rule change came of percentage system

Gavaskar Felicitated On 50th Anniversary Of Test Debut

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar was on Saturday felicitated by the BCCI on the 50th anniversary of his Test debut with Board president Sourav Ganguly, saying that the batting legend and his then teammates played a key role in making "the game as strong as it is today".

The 71-year-old former skipper received a commemorative Test cap from BCCI Secretary Jay Shah during the lunch break on day three of the fourth and final Test between India and England at the Narendra Modi Stadium here. Gavaskar is doing commentary for the match.

"Celebrating 50 glorious years of the legendary former #TeamIndia Captain Mr Sunil Gavaskar's Test debut today," the BCCI tweeted.

Shah also posted pictures of the brief ceremony on his official Twitter handle with the BCCI president.

"Join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Shri Sunil Gavaskar Ji's Test debut for India. It is indeed a momentous occasion for all Indians and we are getting to celebrate it at the world's largest cricket facility Narendra Modi Stadium," Shah wrote.

Ganguly, also a former skipper, paid his tribute via twitter.

"This day marks the 50th Anniv of Mr Gavaskar in international cricket and the team of 1971. It is time today to once again congratulate them for what they have for Indian cricket. The game is as strong as it is today because they made a start then against all odds. @BCCI," Ganguly tweeted.

The BCCI also compiled a video of several of Gavaskar's contemporaries and former and current cricketers sending him their best wishes.

Head coach Ravi Shastri said apart from being a world-class opener, Gavaskar also serves as a great ambassador of the sport.

"Many congratulations on 50 years in the games that takes an awful lot of time. No one will ever forget those heady days of 1971 when you announced yourself on to the world scene as a world-class opening batsman," Shastri said.

World Cup-winning skipper Kapil Dev said he felt privileged to

"... when you see youngsters coming through the ranks and performing in such situation which are really tough. Not one individual calling the shots. We've given opportunities for youngsters and they have grabbed those and delivered," he said.

"They have been in a corner but they have fought from there. This side refuses to give up. We were irrepressible in Australia and we are the same here too. What Pant and Sundar pulled off yesterday was unreal because the pressure was on us and we were trailing by 50 and from there to get 360 was an outstanding achievement," Shastri said.

The Indian players have been in the bio-bubble since the pre-IPL days in August last year and Shastri said they are desperate to get out of it soon.

"Six months in the bubble, seeing the same faces day in day out, it is time for the bubble to burst (smiles). I know it's still three weeks to go but the bubble will burst," he concluded.

have played alongside him.

"My hero, I am proud, lucky and happy to play with him and learned a lot, true professional," Kapil said.

A veteran of the game, Gavaskar featured in 125 Tests and 108 ODIs between 1971-1987. He many milestones in his career, including becoming the first to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket.

"India's victory in the 1971 West Indies series was a watershed moment in Indian sport. It was an incredible victory by a fantastic team, led by our young Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar. In 50 years he has continued to inspire so many of us by his feats on and off the field," former skipper Rahul Dravid said.

Sri Lankan batting great Kumar Sangakkara also lauded Gavaskar's achievements, saying the 71-year-old epitomises courage and technique.

"Mr Sunil Gavaskar, the living legend. 50 years of cricket. The man who epitomises courage, technique, wearing what you always told be a plastic shell of a flower vase on your head against the might of the greatest fast bowlers of the world. What more can I say? Your record speaks for itself. Your ability on the field and greatness speaks for itself. I wish all youngsters continue to learn from you," said Sangakkara.

Former England cricketer Allan Lamb recalled an incident which saw the 'Little Master' being taken off the field with a broken shin.

"I can't believe it was 50 years ago you made your debut for India and you are still going, it's incredible. I can remember the debut I made against you in the 1980s and you were a very brave man, fielding at silly point to Ian Botham and you got carried off with a broken shin. To me, that shows what courage you had playing all these quick bowlers. And your unbelievable record is just incredible," Lamb said.

Former Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas said: "Congratulations on celebrating 50 years of your debut and oh what a debut. Master has been my favourite batsman and a friend. He was a treat to watch."

A part of India's World Cup winning side in 1983, Gavaskar held the record for scoring most tons in Test cricket until Sachin Tendulkar surpassed his tally in 2005.

IND VS ENG 4TH TEST



India Thrash England On Day 3, Win Series 3-1 And Book WTC Final Spot

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of an eternally confused England batting line-up as India cantered into the inaugural World Test Championship final with a resounding innings and 25 run victory on the third afternoon of the fourth and final Test here on Saturday.

All India needed was a draw to book a Lord's date in June with Kane Williamson's New Zealand but Patel (24-6-48-5), in company of Ashwin (22.5-4-47-5), literally blew England away in a session and half for a paltry 135 in 54.5 overs to complete a 3-1 rout, ensuring that the Anthony De Mello Trophy will stay at the Cricket Centre in Mumbai.

It was another two-and-a-half days finish but even the most partisan England experts, such as their former skipper Michael Vaughan, have admitted that the 22-yard strip had almost nothing to do with their side's abject surrender.

A case in point could be India's first innings score of 365 and a lead of 160 on the same track where England could cumulatively manage only 340 runs across two innings.

"The comeback in Chennai pleased me the most. The first game was an aberration and England outplayed us," said India skipper Virat Kohli at the post-match presentation.

"Every team in international cricket is a quality side and we need

to work hard to beat them, even at home. Keeping that intensity going is most important and is the hallmark of our team," the captain added.

Atrocious application and unbelievably poor mindset while playing spinners cost the Englishmen dearly during the last three Tests and skipper Joe Root had little to offer in terms of explanation.

"We haven't matched India in the last three, and we need to keep learning and keep getting better for this experience and this series, and we need to keep evolving and move forward," admitted Root.

This was one Test match where Indians, even before a ball being bowled, created an illusion of a turning track. It was a ploy of playing with the minds of a team that was already in a negative zone.

There wasn't much turn but enough to ensure that the visitors wilted under pressure as Patel's series tally stood at highest for a newcomer (27) while man of the series Ashwin was peerless as ever with 32 scalps in his kitty.

A lot of credit for this victory should go to the indomitable Rishabh Pant, who played the enforcer on the second day with a magnificent hundred, and Washington Sundar, who notched up a chiselled 96.

These two knocks literally made it impossible for England to make a comeback as a total of 365 seemed like 650.

The coming of age of Pant as a real replacement for the iconic Mahendra

Singh Dhoni and emergence of Washington as a potent batting all-rounder only augurs well for the team.

So formidable is India's bench strength right now that Hanuma Vi-hari, who saved an epic Test in Sydney only a couple of months back, may not get to play a Test in near future.

World's best wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha will also find it difficult to add to his 38 Tests unless the 'Rourkee Rockstar' gets injured.

Patel, in his debut Test series, was a powerhouse performer but he also knows that once Ravindra Jadeja is fit and available, he will have to wait for his next Test.

The story of the third day was similar to the one that has played out for most of the series.

With shoulders already drooping after the humiliation inflicted by Pant and Washington, England's openers Zak Crawley (5, 16 balls), Dom Sibley (3, 21 balls) and Jonny Bairstow (0, 1 ball) seemed like "walking wickets" at the start of the post-lunch session.

Crawley, who in this Test match has made an ordinary strip look extraordinarily difficult with his approach, was snuffed out by Ashwin with two deliveries.

The first was a sharp off-break that made him look vulnerable and then came the straighter ball which he managed to jab to Ajinkya Rahane at slips.

Bairstow didn't trouble the scorers as he closed his bat face to give Rohit Sharma an easy catch at leg slip.

2-Day Kho-Kho Tournament Concludes At GDC Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: The two Day long Kho-Kho open tournament for men & women being organized by Management of District Kho-Kho Association Udhampur concluded today here at Government Degree College Boys.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur Sargun Shukla was the chief guest and Dy Sp Head Quarter Sahil Mahajan was the guest of honour and Station House Officer, Chanchal Singh and Station House Officer, Women Cell Udhampur Isha Mahajan were the special invitees at the valedictory function.

Earlier, President District Kho-Kho Association Advocate Sanjeet Bavouria welcomed the chief guest and presented the report on the tournament and expressed his gratitude to College Administration and all oth-

ers who contributed directly or indirectly to make this tournament successful.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest complimented the organizers for the successful conduct of the tournament. She said that such tournaments give a platform to the budding players of the District and encourage the sports culture for a healthy society.

In women category: Flying club Udhampur defeated Government College for women Udhampur by one inning and 03 points. In Men's Category Parivartan club Udhampur 02 defeated Parivartan club Udhampur 01 by 07 points.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes and certificates among the winners as well as participants on the occasion.

Among others, Prop Rippy

Bawa, Manager Sports Stadium, Shaktesh Chopra, General Secretary J&K Kho-Kho Association, S. Harjeet Singh, Senior Vice President J&K Kho-Kho Association, S. Bhupinder Singh, District Secretary, S. Menender Singh, District Treasurer, Rakesh Khajuria, Organizing Secretary, Sanjay Sharma, District President Volleyball Association, Raj Guru, Principal Happy Model Higher Secondary School, Muneesh Gulati, District President, Kabaddi Association, Tanveer Sheikh, President District Badminton Association, Suresh Khajuria and other members of different Associations besides players were present on the occasion.

The matches were supervised by Raman Kumar, Raj Kumar, Pooja Sharma, Radha Devi, Monika Sharma, and Jagdev.



bowled and fielded with more intensity and so the comeback was very heartening," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

"Our bench strength is extremely strong and that's a good sign for Indian

cricket. When the transition happens, the standards won't fall and Rishabh and Washy's partnership showed exactly that in a crucial juncture of the match," Kohli added. After notching up victories in the second and third Tests

Sri Lanka Defeat West Indies By 43 Runs To Level T20 Series

Agencies

COOLIDGE: Sri Lanka's spinners bowled the tourists to a 43-run win over the West Indies in the second Twenty20 cricket international on Friday, leveling the three-match series at 1-1.

Defending a moderate total of 160-6, Wanindu Hasaranga, Akila Dananjaya and Danushka Gunathilaka took eight wickets, bowling out the West Indies for 117 in 18.4 overs.

Sri Lanka stacked its line-up with four spinners for the must-win match at Coolidge and the tactic paid off on a slow pitch which made big hitting difficult. The West Indies were unable to maintain any scoring momentum as wickets tumbled regularly.

Dananjaya, who made history twice in the first match of a series — taking a hat-trick and conceding six sixes in one over — set the tone of the West Indies innings when he bowled his four overs in succession in the power play, taking 1-13.

Left-arm wrist spinner Lakshan

batsman with the variety of his wrist spin, his line and flight, dismissing Lendl Simmons (21), Chris Gayle (16) and Fabian Allen (12). His googly, difficult to pick, accounted for Simmons and Allen, who fell lbw.

"The wicket was slow and I was trying to bowl without giving too many boundaries and keeping a good line and length," Hasaranga said.

"Akila (Dananjaya) bowls with the new ball and I always bowl after the new ball play so I have to concentrate on line and length. I prefer to play that role."

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews made a good decision when he elected to bat on winning the toss. Openers Danushka Gunathilaka and Pathum Nissanka gave the tourists a strong start, putting on 95 for the first wicket in the best partnership of the match.

Nissanka was run out for 37 in the 11th over and Gunathilaka went on to his half century from 35 balls before falling in the same over with the total 96-2.



Sandakan, who missed the first match of the series, took 3-14 from 3.4 overs, including the vital wicket of West Indies captain Kieron Pollard for 13.

It was Pollard who won a place in history two days ago by becoming only the third cricketer to hit six sixes in an over in an international match, striking 38 from 11 balls.

He held himself back on Friday, coming in at No. 7 but also found the pitch difficult to come to grips with, managing only 13 from 15 balls with one six.

Sandakan removed him with a wider delivery which Pollard looked to hoist over cover but which took a thick edge and flew to the cover sweeper.

Hasaranga was named man of the match for his 3-17 from four overs and his unbeaten 19 in Sri Lanka's innings.

He bamboozled the West Indies

The remainder of the Sri Lanka batsmen struggled with the best subsequent efforts coming from Ashen Bandara who made 21 from 19 balls and Hasaranga whose 19 came from 11 deliveries.

Dananjaya kept the West Indies batsmen tied down early: the home team struggled to 25-1 after five overs. Hasaranga then removed Simmons and Gayle in the same over — the seventh — accounting for two of the West Indies most dangerous players.

The threat of Pollard hung over the match until late and Sri Lanka was jubilant when he fell relatively cheaply. Obed McCoy hit 23 from only seven balls batting at No. 10, too late to change the outcome of the match.

The deciding match of the T20 series is on Sunday. The teams will also play three one-day games followed by two test matches.

PV Sindhu Enters Swiss Open Badminton Final



Press Trust of India

BASEL: Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu dished out a superlative performance to outclass Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in straight games and enter the women's singles final of the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament here on Saturday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, beat fourth seeded Blichfeldt 22-20 21-10 in 43 minutes to avenge her first-round loss to the Danish world No. 12 at the Yonex Thailand Open in January.

This is Sindhu's first final appearance since the World championships here in 2019.

On Friday night, former champion Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men's singles semifinals after a straight game win over sixth seed Kantaphon Wangchareon of Thailand.

World no. 10 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also entered the semifinals of the Super 300 event, continuing their good run following a last four finish at Toyota Thailand Open in January. Fourth seed Srikanth beat Wangchareon 21-19 21-15 in 44 minutes, while second seeds Satwik and Chirag saw off fifth seeds Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 21-21 21-19 21-12 in the men's doubles competition on Friday night.

Former world No. 1 Srikanth, who had last made it to semis at the Hong Kong Super 500 in November, 2019, will now clash with top seed and world No. 2 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark. It will be the first clash between the two since their meeting at the 2019 India Open in March.

Satwik and Chirag will face sixth seeded Danish pair of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen.

India's Bench Strength Is Extremely Strong, Says Captain Virat Kohli After Humbling England

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: India's supremely talented bench strength has made skipper Virat Kohli quite confident that the team will have a relatively smooth ride when the transition period dawns upon it in the next few years.

With the rise of several young players like Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj and the maverick Rishabh Pant, India have been on a roll both at home and abroad. On Saturday, the side humbled England 3-1 after clinching the fourth and final Test by an innings and 25 runs here.

This was after an embarrassing 227-run loss in the first Test.

"The comeback in Chennai pleased me the most. The first game was an aberration and England outplayed us. The toss played a crucial role and the bowlers weren't in the contest. We

respectively, India won the fourth match inside three days.

"We had to pick up our body language after the first game in Chennai. Every team in international cricket is a quality side and we need to work hard to beat them, even at home. Keeping that intensity going is most important and is the hallmark of our team," Kohli said.

Star opener Rohit Sharma scored 161 in the first innings of the second Test and the skipper feels the knock changed the complexion of the series alongside seasoned spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's performance of 32 wickets.

"Rohit's knock was the defining moment in Chennai, and Ashwin has been our most bankable player over the years so they have been our best players this series.

"Now we can accept that the World Test Championship final, which was a distraction in New Zealand in 2020,

but now it's a reality," Kohli said.

Ashwin, who ended the series with 32 wickets and a century, was named man of the series and the spinner was delighted to qualify for the WTC final, adding that the win was a collective effort.

"The fact that we qualified for the WTC final is very important. The intensity was low after Chennai, despite the high in Australia. Every time there was a challenging time in the series, someone put their hand up, so this series win was right up there," Ashwin said.

Ashwin also lauded Rishabh Pant, saying it is unfair to compare the young wicketkeeper batsman to legends of the game.

"If you put a board on what Rishabh has gone through in the last year, it's been a little unfair being compared to legends, and the way he's come out of it and kept in this series has been excellent.

Gujarat Man Infected With Covid After Taking Second Dose Of Vaccine

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A health official in Gujarat has tested positive for coronavirus days after taking the second dose of the vaccine against the infection, officials said Saturday.



The man, a health officer in Gandhinagar's Dehgam taluka, had taken the first dose on January 16 and the second one on February 15. He had fever and his samples were examined, which detected the COVID-19 infection on February 20 said Gandhinagar's Chief Health Officer Dr MH Solanki.

"He is in home isolation as his

symptoms are mild. He has told me that he is fit to join work from Monday," Mr Solanki added.

The CHO said it generally takes around 45 days for antibodies against the infection to develop after both the doses of the vaccine

are administered.

He also said one must wear a mask and adhere to all COVID-19 protocols like social distancing etc. even after taking both doses of the vaccine against the infection in order to be on the safe side.

As on Friday evening, Gujarat has a caseload of 2,72,240, including 4,413 deaths.

Saudi Asks India To Use Cheap Oil It Bought Last Year To Cool Prices

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: International oil prices rose after OPEC and its allies ignored India's plea to ease production control, with Saudi Arabia asking New Delhi to instead use oil it bought at rock bottom rates last year.

Brent crude, the most widely used benchmark, on Friday rose nearly 1 per cent to USD 67.44 a barrel after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, agreed not to increase supplies in April awaiting more substantial recovery in demand.

India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had in the run-up to Thursday's OPEC meeting urged the producers' group to ease production curbs to fulfil their promise of stable oil prices.

He felt rising international oil prices were hurting economic recovery and demand.

Responding to a question on India's pleas, Saudi energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman at a press conference after the OPEC+ decision on Thursday said New Delhi should take some of the crude out of storage that they had purchased at very cheap rates last year.

"With regard to India, very simple. I would ask my friend that he withdraw some of the cheap oil that they bought in April, May and June (last year)," the Saudi Minister said. "There is an opportunity cost for not withdrawing it now." India had purchased 16.71 million barrels of crude in April-May, 2020 and filled all the three Strategic Petroleum Reserves created at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka. The average cost of that crude purchase was USD 19 per barrel, according to Pradhan's written reply to a ques-

tion in the Rajya Sabha on September 21, 2020.

Retail petrol and diesel prices, which already are at historic highs, should rise if the oil companies decide to pass on the surge in international oil prices to consumers.

Petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for the last five days and oil companies have in past not revised prices in the run to crucial assembly elections in 2017 and 2018 ahead of elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Assam will go to the polls in the next few weeks.

Earlier this week, Pradhan had said India, where fuel demand is recovering to pre-pandemic levels, wants reasonable and responsible oil prices.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, had supported the decision of the oil producers' cartel OPEC and its allies to cut production last year in view of the oil demand collapsing due to the spread of COVID-19.

"At that point in time, the producers especially OPEC assured the global market, that by the beginning of the 2021 demand will be coming back and production will be as usual. But I am sorry to say the production is yet to be normal," he said. "If you do not supply properly if there is a gap in demand and supply artificially (created), there is a price rise."

The average price of crude oil India imports was less than USD 50 per barrel between April and December 2020 and comparable to 2019-20 average rate of USD 60.47 in months thereafter but petrol and diesel prices are at historic highs now as the government has so far not rolled back the taxes it levied when prices plummeted almost a year back.



TMC, Left Candidates Begin Campaigning For West Bengal Assembly Elections

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress and Left candidates kick-started their campaigns for the West Bengal elections on Saturday.

While the TMC announced the list of candidates for 291 seats on Friday, the Left named nominees for 39 seats that are going to polls in the first phase. TMC's Ashokenagar candidate Dhiman Roy began door-to-door campaigning in the morning.

The party's Jadavpur candidate Debabrata Majumdar also visited

the voters in the area.

CPI(M)'s Jhargram nominee Madhuj Sen Roy also campaigned in her constituency.

In Behala, TMC supporters were seen busy painting wall graffiti in the support of the party's two candidates from the area — Partha Chatterjee (Behala West) and Ratha Chatterjee (Behala East). Ratna, who has been fielded by the TMC from the constituency of her estranged husband and BJP leader Sovan Chatterjee, began her campaigning by offering puja at her Parnasree home.

"I will give my best efforts to win this seat. We all are working to make Mamata Banerjee our chief minister for the third time," she said.

Exuding confidence, TMC's Labhpur candidate Abhijit Singha said it appeared that there was no opponent against him.

"Last time, the party won by a margin of around 4,500 votes. Lets see what happens this time," the leader from Birbhum said.

West Bengal will be voting in eight phases, beginning on March 27. Votes will be counted on May 2.

West Bengal Election: BJP's Suwendu To Fight Mamata in Nandigram Seat

Press Trust of India

The BJP on Saturday released its first list of 57 candidates for the West Bengal assembly polls and fielded Suwendu Adhikari from his home turf of Nandigram, from where Trinamool Congress president and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already announced her candidature.

Former Indian cricketer Ashoke Dinda and ex-IPS officer Bharati Ghosh are among the BJP candidates, party general secretary Arun Singh said at a press conference, adding that it has conceded one seat to ally AJSU.

With this the party has announced candidates for all but three of the 60 seats which will go to polls in the first two of the eight-phase elections to be held between March 27 and April 29.

"Jungle raaj" prevails in the state, and voters have made up their mind to oust the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and elect the BJP to power, Singh claimed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi



is set to address a rally in Kolkata's Brigade Parade ground on Sunday, his first after the announcement of the poll dates. Nandigram, the site of protests against the Left government which had ignited a popular upsurge and catapulted the TMC to power in 2011, is set for one of the keenest electoral battles in the state with Ban-

nerjee taking on her former protégée and now BJP leader Adhikari.

Adhikari had won from the seat in 2016 and resigned recently before crossing over to the saffron party.

Banerjee announced her candidature from the seat while leaving her traditional constituency of Bhowanipore in Kolkata.

122 People Accused Of Being Members Of Terror Group SIMI Acquitted

Press Trust of India

SURAT: A court in Gujarat's Surat on Saturday acquitted 122 persons arrested under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for participating in a meeting organised in Surat in December 2001 as members of the banned outfit Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate AN Dave acquitted 122 persons arrested for being members of the banned outfit SIMI, giving them the benefit of doubt.

Five other accused had died during the pendency of trial.

In its order, the court said that the prosecution failed to produce "cogent, reliable and satisfactory" evidence to establish that the accused persons belonged to the SIMI and had gathered to promote the activities of the banned outfit. The court said the accused persons cannot be held guilty under the UAPA.

As many as 127 persons were arrested by Surat's Athwalines police on December 28, 2001 under various sections of the UAPA for allegedly being members of the banned outfit SIMI and organising a meeting at a hall in city's Sagrapura to promote and expand the organisation's activities.

The central government had through its notification dated September 27, 2001 banned SIMI.

The accused belonged to different parts of Gujarat as well as from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

In their defence, they said they did not belong to the SIMI and had gathered there to participate in a seminar organised under the banner of All India Minority Education Board.

They said they were in the city for religious and educational purposes to take part in a seminar in a peaceful manner.

CBI Issues Lookout Notice Against Trinamool Leader's Brother In Cattle Smuggling Case

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has issued a lookout notice against Bijay Mishra, brother of Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Binay Mishra who is a close confidant of party MP Abhishek Banerjee, in a cattle smuggling case, officials said today.

As a co-accused in its supplementary chargesheet filed in the cattle-smuggling case last month.

Binay Mishra is believed to be very close to West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, the officials said.

In its chargesheet filed before a special CBI court in West Bengal's



The agency is also contemplating to approach the Interpol to get a Red Corner Notice issued against Binay Mishra, who has not joined the probe, they added.

"A lookout notice has been issued against Bijay Mishra, the brother of TMC leader Binay Mishra," a CBI official said.

The agency has summoned two senior officers of the West Bengal police — an inspector general and a superintendent of police — on Monday for questioning in connection with the case, the officials said. The CBI named Binay Mishra

Asansol, the agency has already shown Binay Mishra to be on the run.

On February 18, the CBI filed a chargesheet in the case against Border Security Force (BSF) Commandant Satish Kumar and six others for their alleged involvement in a cattle-smuggling racket operating at the India-Bangladesh border.

The central probe agency has recently questioned Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira and sister-in-law Menaka Gambhir in a separate case pertaining to illegal coal mining and pilferage from the mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Air France Emergency Landing Over "Disruptive" Indian Passenger: Report

Press Trust of India

SOFIA: An Air France flight en route from Paris to New Delhi made an emergency landing at Sofia Airport in Bulgaria on Friday at about 5 pm (1500 GMT) because of a disruptive passenger,

Bulgarian officials said on Saturday. The passenger, an Indian citizen, began to act up soon after take-off, quarrelling with other passengers, assaulting a flight attendant and pummeling the cockpit's door, said Ivalio Angelov, an official at the National Investigation Agency.

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