



P3 CITY

ADMIN ORGANISES COVID VACCINATION CAMP FOR TRADERS AT SMHS

The Divisional Administration in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce Kashmir Tuesday organised a daylong supplementary Covid-19 vaccination...

P7 THINK

IN THE THROES OF OVERLOOKED PARVO VIRUS

India is in the throes of a terrible viral epidemic. Much worse than the Bird Flu, much worse than swine flu. It has 91% mortality and, while it is mainly dogs, it can spread to cats of all kinds as well and....



P11 SPORTS

A YEAR OF DISRUPTIONS: HOW INDIAN SPORTS ADAPTED TO COVID CONUNDRUM

The fans have largely gone missing, the training protocols have undergone a sea change and bio-bubbles have become the new normal despite the growing...

**Quote!**

You not only are hunted by others, you unknowingly hunt yourself.

—Dejan Stojanovic

NEWS DIGEST**Trooper Hangs Self To Death**

SRINAGAR: An Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) trooper on Tuesday ended his life by hanging himself to death in Zewan area of the city outskirts. Constable Ajeet Kumar allegedly committed suicide at the ITBP sector headquarters in Zewan area of the city outskirts on Tuesday, official sources said. They said police have registered **More On P10**

CASO Launched In Budgam

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Tuesday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in two villages of central Kashmir's Budgam district. According to reports, special operations group (SOG) of police and army's 53 RR laid a cordon around twin villages of Wani Mohalla and Lala Mohalla- Yarikah on Tuesday evening and launched a search operation. The joint team, reports **More On P10**

Mild Intensity Quake Jolts Ladakh

SRINAGAR: A mild intensity earthquake on Tuesday jolted parts of the newly carved Union Territory of Ladakh. The 3.0 magnitude earthquake occurred at 11:27 am Tuesday with its epicentre latitude 33.64 north and longitude 76.28 east, official sources said. The depth of the earthquake, they said, was 10 kilometres. No loss of life or property has been reported, the sources added.

Cop Killed In Car Crash

SRINAGAR: A policeman on Tuesday died after a car he was on board met with an accident in Doda district of Jammu division. 35-year-old Constable Amjad Husain died after a Maruti Car (PB-35L-3419) he was travelling in, rolled down at 'Pul' Doda area on Tuesday morning, officials said. Meanwhile, a police official has confirmed the death of the constable and said that they are gathering further details about the accident.

Shooting Stone Kills Youth

SRINAGAR: A youth on Tuesday was killed after being hit by a shooting stone in Karnah area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 20-year-old Amir Chaneza was hit by a shooting stone in Murchana Rayala area of Karnah on Tuesday leaving him on spot dead, reports said. The youth was a resident of remote Ibkote village that witnesses frequent landslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy snowfall and incessant rains. **More On P10**

Ready To 'Bury Hatchet' With India For Peace: Pakistan**Agencies**

NEW DELHI: On the occasion of Pakistan Day, Islamabad expressed its desire for good neighbourly relations and said it wanted to settle all disputes, including Kashmir, through dialogues. "I would like to emphasise that peace and stability in this region are essential for the development of all the countries. Pakistan would like to have good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours especially India for durable peace and stability," acting Pakistan High Commissioner

in India Aftab Hasan Khan said while speaking during an event organised the mark Pakistan Day.

"It is essential that we solve all bilateral issues with negotiations through dialogues especially the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Khan told ANI news agency.

It is important that New Delhi and Islamabad work towards eliminating poverty and illiteracy, he said. "It would only be possible if there is peace. For peace to prevail, issues must be resolved through dialogue," Khan's remarks **More On P10**

Qureshi, Jaishankar Likely To Meet In Tajikistan**Press Trust Of India**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will travel to Tajikistan later in the month to participate in the 'Heart of Asia' conference, which is expected to be attended by his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, sparking speculation of a possible meeting between the two amidst peace overtures from the Pakistani Army, according **More On P10**

Hurriyat Backs Indo-Pak Peace Initiatives**Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: The moderate Hurriyat Conference faction led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday said it was ready to extend full support to all initiatives between India and Pakistan that aim at bringing peace in the subcontinent. In a statement issued here, the Hurriyat faction said the agreement between India **More On P10**

AIIMS At Awantipora Sees Only 3% Physical Progress, Samba 10%**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: More than two years and two months after cabinet approval, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in south Kashmir's Awantipora area has seen only 3% progress in construction work.

The AIIMS was approved by the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India on 10 January 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 1828 crore. On the same date, the AIIMS at Vijaypur in Samba was also approved. The progress of construction work at Samba is 10%, said Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

22 new AIIMS including two in J&K have been approved under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and six of them at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh are already functional.

The apparent abysmal progress in construction works can be compared with the AIIMS at Bilaspur, **More On P10**

**Snowfall In Higher Reaches Of Kashmir****Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg and some other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Tuesday, while the plains were lashed by rains, officials said.

Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded over six inches of fresh snowfall last night, they said.

The officials said intermittent

snowfall continued at the resort on Tuesday as well.

Other areas in the higher reaches of the valley, including Sonamarg, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, and Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, also received fresh snowfall, they said. The officials said the plains in the valley, including the summer capital Srinagar, were lashed by rains, causing waterlogging in many areas. **More On P10**

300 Vehicles Stranded On Highway

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic on Tuesday following snowfall in Jawahar Tunnel area and multiple landslides between Banihal and Chanderkote, officials said. Over 300 vehicles have been **More On P10**

Centre Extends Covid-19 Guidelines Till April End As Cases Rise**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Tuesday issued an order with guidelines for effective control of COVID-19 spread, which will be effective from April 1, 2021, and remain in force up to April 30, 2021.

The main focus of the guidelines is to consolidate the substantial gains achieved in containing the spread of COVID-19, which was visible in the sustained decline in the number of active

cases, continuously for about five months.

Keeping in view a fresh surge in COVID-19 cases, which is being witnessed in some parts of the country, the guidelines mandate the State/UT governments to strictly enforce the Test-Track-Treat protocol in all parts of the country; ensure observance of COVID appropriate behaviour by everyone; and, to scale up the vaccination drive, to cover all the target groups, **More On P10**

J&K Logs 157 New Cases, 2 Deaths**Press Trust Of India**

The COVID-19 tally in Jammu and Kashmir rose to 1,28,679 on Tuesday with 157 fresh cases, including 41 travellers, even as two new fatalities due to the virus were reported in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 52 were reported from the Jammu division and 105 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. The officials said Srinagar district **More On P10**

Ensure Zero Deaths Due To Human Negligence: Kansal To PDD**Observer News Service**

JAMMU: Calling for strict adherence to safety manuals, the Principal Secretary Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal said Tuesday that individual and system safety is of utmost importance

and focused attentions is to be accorded to ensure that there is zero accident; zero death due to any kind of human negligence.

Chairing a high level meeting here to review the performance of power sector in Jammu and Kashmir and **More On P10**

INDUS COMMISSIONERS MEET**Pak Objects Designs Of Hydro Projects In J&K****Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan raised objections to the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower plants in Jammu and Kashmir and sought more information on the projects in Ladakh sanctioned after the abrogation of Article 370 as the Indus Commissioners of the two countries met here on Tuesday, sources said.

On its part, India justified its stand on the designs.

The Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1,000 MW) is proposed on the Marusudar river, a tributary of the Chenab river, in Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir. The Lower Kalnai project is proposed in Kishtwar and Doda districts.

The two sides also discussed a host of other issues under the Indus Waters **More On P10**

BCCI To Manage Cricket In J&K, Ladakh For Now: HC**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court on Tuesday discontinued Court Appointed Administrators (CAA) and the CEO of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) while as it asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to manage affairs of the game in the J&K and Ladakh till the elections of JKCA are completed.

In a 40-page judgment, a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta also directed the BCCI to see if the newly drafted Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations by Court Appointed

Administrators (CAA) were in tune with the Lodha Committee recommendations or need amendments.

In 2017, the court's single bench has appointed Justice C. K. Prasad, former judge of the Supreme Court, and Justice Syed Rafat Alam, former Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh and Allahabad High Courts, as Administrators of the J&K Cricket Association.

The CAA was tasked to ensure free and fair elections of JKCA as well as amend rules of the J&K Cricket Association in conformity with the recommendations made by the Lodha Committee. Later, on December 6, a Division Bench of the Court while upholding **More On P10**



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
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Wednesday| 24.03.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER

2

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one.

Shri : Hafiz ullah Dar
S/o: Ghulam Hassan Dar
R/o: Ranger Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04E 2502 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd B/U Ranger .

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



No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3135
Dated 23/03/2021
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one.

Shri : Farida Bano
S/o: Mohammad Ramzan Khan
R/o: Narkara Budgam owner of vehicle bearing

Registration No: JK04D 4645 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S HDFC Bank B/UBudgam .

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



No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3130
Dated 23/03/2021
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Death Certificate of my Wife , Has-een Begum who passed away on 06-08-2018.

If any body having nay objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of 4 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Riyaz Ahamd Bhat
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
R/o Gulshan Bagh Checkroda
Khan Fruit Mandi Sopore

AMS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd. No while travelling from Shilwat To Sumbal ; JK01AL3893.

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 Assistant Regional Transport Officer Sriangar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ahamd Sankar R/o Hamdaniya
Colony Bemina Srinagar

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my share certificate of 1000 shares bearing folio no JKB058324, S. No 506594. Dist. No 12484461-12485460. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same. Anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the J&K Bank Headquarters Dalgat Srinagar within a period of seven days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Hajira Banoo
W/O Ghulam Mohi ud din Regoo
R/o Malangpora Awantipora
Distt Pulwama

x

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, SRINAGAR

Subject: Compliance of order No: 121 of 2021/RG dated 21-3-2021 issued by Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir."

NOTIFICATION

Attention of litigants, lawyers and public in general is invited to Order No: 121 of 2021/RG dated 21.3.2021, whereby the Hon'ble Chief Justice Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh has been pleased to direct as under:-

"Entry of litigants and public into the Court Premises from the very outer gate shall continue to be prohibited. If however, any litigant on any reasonable ground is compelled to argue his case personally, he shall be allowed entry into the Court premises subject to the condition that he makes an application at least two days prior to the date of hearing through e-mail to the Registrar judicial/Presiding Officer of the Court disclosing such compelling reasons and seeking permission in that regard. If and when any such application is made by any litigant, the Registrar Judicial/Presiding Officer concerned shall consider the same and, if satisfied, may permit such litigant to enter into the Court Premises and inform the litigant of such order by return e-mail. A copy of such order shall also be sent by the Registrar Judicial/Presiding Officer concerned to the Incharge, Security at the main gate of the Court premises for necessary action."

In order to ensure strict compliance to the directions issued herein-above, the following guidelines are hereby issued for lawyers and litigants to be complied with in letter and spirit:-

- All the latest SOPs of the Central and Union Territory of J&K Government regarding gathering at Public places shall be followed in letter and spirit.
- Ld. Advocates shall be allowed entry into the Court premises. However, the Advocates shall themselves restrict their entry in a manner that only those Advocates enter the Court building on a given day whose cases are listed on that date before any Court at District Court Complex Srinagar including Pantha-Chowk.
- On entry in to the District Court Complex Srinagar, Advocates shall strictly maintain the social distancing SOFs while waiting for hearing of their cases. They shall not huddle either in the well or in the gallery outside the Court Rooms. As and when their cases are finished they shall make an endeavour to leave the court premises at once.
- Entry of the Advocates into the court rooms shall be regulated case wise. General entry in Court rooms shall continue to remain prohibited. Only such Advocates shall be allowed entry into a Court room as may be representing a party in a given case upto the maximum of two Advocates for each party. As and when a case is called/displayed on a Display Board fixed outside the Court Room, the appearing Advocates may enter the Court room and shall maintain a distance of six feet between themselves. In the gallery, outside the court rooms, at the most, Advocates representing the parties in other two following cases according to serial number in the cause list shall wait for their turn, again maintaining the requisite distance. As and when the advocates finish their case in the Court room and exit it, they shall immediately leave the gallery and not stand there.
- Entry of Clerks and Agents of the Advocates into the Court rooms shall continue to be prohibited for the time being.
- Entry of litigants and public into the court premises from the main gate shall continue to be prohibited. If, however, any litigant on any reasonable ground is compelled to argue his case personally, he shall be allowed subject to the condition that he makes an application at least two days either through his lawyer or on e-mail id: srinagar-dc@jk.gov. in prior to the date of hearing to the concerned Court/Presiding Officer of the Court in which his case is pending disclosing such reasons and seeking permission in that regard. If and when any such application is made by any litigant, the Presiding Officer concerned shall consider the same and if satisfied, may permit such litigant to enter into the Court premises and inform the litigant of such order by return e-mail. A copy of such order shall also be sent by the Presiding Officer concerned to the Incharge, Security at the main gate of the Court premises to facilitate his entry on the given date. In case of witnesses, the Presiding Officer of the concerned Court shall be competent to regulate the entry to avoid inconvenience to the witness with due regard to the preventive measures of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- If in a given case one of the party appearing through Advocate insists for virtual hearing for any reason such as inability to appear physically, the court may, if necessary, permit him/her to argue through virtual mode and the other party may present his/her case physically or the matter may be adjourned with consent of the parties.
- The Filing Counter in the District Court Complex Srinagar including Pantha Chowk shall remain functional on all working days with full manpower.
- The cause list of every Court at District Court Complex Srinagar shall be available on Internet/e-Court Services App for convenience of litigants, however the hard copy shall also be kept available in the Court Room.
- The aforesaid relaxation of entry into the Court premises shall be only between 09.30 am to 05.00 pm on each working day so as to enable the sanitizing teams assigned for the purpose to carry out sanitization of Court Complex according to the standing procedures in that behalf.
- The Canteens located in the premises of the Court Complex are also permitted to be run subject to the strict observance of all the relevant SOPs, instructions etc. referred to hereinabove. However, the Canteen holders shall restrict/reduce the attendance of their workmen to 50% of their respective roll of employees. They shall furnish the list of their employees and their daily work roster for maintaining 50% attendance to this office (PDJ Office) who shall provide an authenticated copy of such daily work roster to the Incharge Security at the main gate of the Court Complex so as to enable them to identify these civilian employees and to allow them to enter into the District Court premises.
- The Petitioner Writers, Stamp Vendors, Typists, Amin-e-Adalats and Photostat operators working in District Court Complex in the Petition Writers' Building shall reduce the working strength by 50% and shall also ensure social distancing as directed herein above. The copy of the Roster shall be handed over to the Chief Administrative Officer of this Court forthwith to regulate entry at the main gate.
- For convenience of lawyers and litigants, the detailed information with regard to helpdesk comprising of Civil and Criminal Ahlimads of each Court, with their Cell Nos. is appended herewith, so that any query regarding the status of the case is responded quickly by the Civil and Criminal Ahlimads without any delay. The Presiding Officers shall monitor the working of the Helpdesk.
- Secretary DLSA shall be contacted on Cell Nos: 9419167570, 9697724692 and 7889400594 for Free and Competent Legal Services.
- All the Presiding Officers shall ensure that the cases are uploaded with proper business (updated orders) on Case Information System (CIS), so that the litigants do not face any hardship in identifying and locating the status of their cases.
- Mr. Naseer Ahmad Wafai Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat S.O Administration, to be assisted by two Staff Members shall oversee the implementation of this order at the Main Gate and also coordinate with the Lawyers and Litigants, so that no inconvenience is caused to any Lawyer or Litigant so as to ensure effective implementation of this order, in letter and spirit.
- Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar shall ensure that the preventive measures issued by the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are complied with in letter and spirit in the District Court Complex Srinagar.

(Abdul Rashid Malik)
Principal District & Sessions Judge,
Srinagar.

DIPK-15472/20

No: 5873-83/PDJS/Adm/2021

Dated: 22-03-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass certificate somewhere. 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 Govt Middle School Rashidaab Machipora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ubaid Ahmad Chopan
S/O Ghulam Nabi Chopan
R/O Rashiabad Machipora

ams_r

Public Notice

I am applying for the issuance of Pesticides license under name and style "Thoker Pesticides Tulran Shopian". If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Yousf Thoker
S/o Ab Gani Thoker
R/o Tulran Shopian

ast

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Date of Birth Certificate Issued by Govt High School Zalooru Under Roll No; 3159321 (10TH CLASS) .

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 office of the Principal Govt High School Zalooru within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Haroon Ramzan War
S/O Mohammad Ramzan War
Mother's Name Raja Begum
DOB: 21-06-2000

AMS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 12th marksheet bearing Roll No: 5206556 Year/ Session: Bi-Annual 2017 .

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 J&K Board Of School Education Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Haroon Ramzan War
S/O Mohammad Ramzan War
Mother's Name Raja Begum

AMS

Office of Senior Materials Management Officer (Purchase I) Sher-I-Kashmir Institute Of Medical Sciences

Soura Srinagar -190011

Extension : 2275 Email ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in tele/fax no : 0194-2403929

E-NIT NO: SIMS 325 (PI) Tender 05 of 2021

dated: 19-03-2021

Subject: Abbreviated e-tender notice for supply of various surgical disposable items on 2 year rate contract basis.

E-tender are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science Soura, Srinagar, only from original manufacturers or their authorized distributors/agents for supply of various surgical disposable items on 2 year rate contract basis on item wise basis and sample basis as per following.

Description	Tender Fee
Group A	Rs 1000/-
Group B	Rs 1000/-
Group C	Rs 1000/-
Group D	Rs 1000/-
Group E	Rs 1000/-
Group F	Rs 1000/-
Group G	Rs 1000/-

Note: The tender fee and sample are to be submitted separately for each group.

NIT Schedule

Nomenclature	Schedule
Bid submission end date	17/04/2021 upto 4.00 PM
Sample submission end date	20/04/2021 Upto 3: 00 PM
Technical Bid Opening date	22/04/2021 at 12: 30 pm

The detailed e-tender documents are also available at www.jktenders.gov.in and www.skims.ac.in complete bidding process will be online on e-tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in and the tender should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT

No; SIMS 325 (I) - E-Tender 05 of 2021- 1746-51-615567
Dated: 19-03-2021

Sr. Materials Management
Officer Purchase I

"Government of Jammu and Kashmir"

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PULWAMA

QUOTATION

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, sealed quotations affixed with Revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from the Registered Suppliers for Supplying of following items.

S.No.	Particulars.	Quantity.
01.	Epson Printer all in One (Legal & A-4 size Paper) WI-Fi/Bluetooth Facilities.	01 No
02.	Cartridge ABS P2H-AT9P/S Machine)	02 No
03.	Cartridge 88A(Computer printer)	10 No's
04.	Photostat Paper F/S spectra	02 Box
05.	Photostat Paper A4 paper (Spectra)	20 Box
06.	Fluid Pen	10 No's
07.	Glue stick	30 No's
08.	Maxriter Ball Pen Blue	20 No's
09.	Paper Pins PVC Box	50 Box
10.	Pencil	05 Box
11.	Hi teach V7 (Pilot Pens)	30 No's
12.	Calculator (Casio)	10 No's
13.	Ball Pen (Blue/Red/Green)	60 No's
14.	Sign Pen Uniball (Blue/Black/Green Air	24 No's
15.	Sketch Pen	02 Box
16.	Slip pad	10 No's
17.	Stapler Big size (with pins) 24/6	02 No's
18.	Sticky paper notes	20 No's
19.	Dak- Pad (Leather)	05 No's
20.	Duster Cloth	10 Mtr
21.	Stainless Steel 64 GB Pen drive	05 No's
22.	Register Files (Big size)	50 No's
23.	Register Files (Small size)	50 No's
24.	Attendance Register	02 No's
25.	Stamp pad	20 Nos
26.	Eraser	01 Box
27.	File covers	1000 No's
28.	Laces/Tags	10 Bandal
29.	Stapler pins 24/6	20 Box
30.	High Lighter pen	20 No's

The quotation along with earnest money for Rs.2000/- in the shape of CDR should reach to the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama on or before 27-03-2021 up to 2 PM. and will be opened at the same day or any other date convenient to the undersigned.

The quotationer shall quote the rate including all taxes, loads and lifts, carriages and installation complete. The successful quotationer has to complete the supply within Two days, from the date of issue of the supply order.

The Executive Engineer (undersigned) have right to reject the quotation without any reasons. The payment shall be made soon after the funds are received from the competent authority.

NO Q-1/EEP/11892-94
Dated:22-03-2021

DIPK-15450/20

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division, Pulwama.

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Admin Organises Covid Vaccination Camp For Traders At SMHS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Administration in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce Kashmir Tuesday organised a daylong supplementary Covid-19 vaccination for traders, frontline workers of Societies and NGOs at SMHS Srinagar.

On the occasion, as many as 100 members representing various prominent trade bodies, Societies and NGOs were administered vaccine shots against the Covid-19.

Joint Director Industries and Commerce Fayaz Ahmad who was present on the occasion lauded the Divisional Administration for holding the supplement-

tary vaccination.

He said that the vaccination was held so that all frontline workers affiliated with I&C through different Societies and NGOs remain safe and healthy.

He said that it has been organised under the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole and similar vaccination programmes shall be held in other parts of the Valley to cover the maximum number of people.

JD stressed on the business community to ensure each industrialist, unitholder, traders, shopkeeper, retailer or wholesaler or any members representing any Society or NGO comes forward and takes the vaccine shot.

Public Grievances Camps To Be Held In Srinagar On March 25, 26

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan will convene public grievance camp at Grievance Cell, Church Lane, Sonawar on 26th March (Friday) from 10:30 am onwards.

The public deputations and individuals, who wish to bring their grievances and demands into the notice of the government, can meet the Advisor at the said venue.

The public delegations and individuals willing to meet the Advisor have been advised to follow the guidelines and SOPs regarding Covid-19, like wearing the mask and maintaining the social distance at the venue.

Further, it has also been advised that deputa-

tions should not exceed more than 3 members in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, a government spokesperson said that advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Khan will convene a public grievance camp at Grievance Cell, Church Lane, Srinagar on March 25th (Thursday) from 1:00 PM onwards.

The desirous individuals and delegations who intend to meet the Advisor may register themselves on the Phone Numbers 7006223781 or 9419000800.

The public delegations and individuals willing to meet the Advisor have been advised to follow the guidelines and SOPs regarding Covid-19, like wearing mask and maintaining social distance at the venue.

KU's Annual Festival 'Sonzal' Begins

1500 Students To Participate In 25 Cultural, Literary And Art Competitions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad on Tuesday inaugurated the varsity's annual literary and cultural festival Sonzal-2021.

Addressing the inaugural function held in the lawns of the picturesque Zabarwan Guest House, Prof Talat said the university continues with the rich legacy of organising the 'Sonzal' festival every year to provide a platform for its students to showcase their talent and foster the culture of interaction and conversation amongst themselves.

The eight-day festival, organised by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), includes literary and cultural activities as well as competitions in 25 events including Painting, Islamic Calligraphy, Collage, Debate, Poster-Making, Spot Photography, Poetry Recitation, Bollywood Singing and Western Vocals, Cartoon Making and Mehendi Design.

Prof Talat called for constructive engagement of students beyond the classrooms on platforms

like 'Sonzal' to enable them to showcase their creative abilities and expressions.

"We are committed to support and encourage our students from colleges and universities, who are very bright and talented, to participate in various competitions at the local, national and international levels," he said, congratulating the DSW for organising the 'Sonzal' festival.

Earlier, Prof Talat led the ribbon-cutting ceremony of an Art Gallery showcasing students' paintings, clay models, photographs and other art works on varied issues concerning the society.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, who was a guest of honour, assured the university's full support to such festivals which help inculcate in students the spirit of competition as well as the urge to participate in literary and cultural activities. "Student welfare is our priority. We want our students to excel in academics as well as extra-curricular activities and we are committed to provide all necessary support to make it happen," Dr Mir said.

LG For Making Srinagar Smart City Project Sustainable, Eco-friendly

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress on Srinagar Smart City Project.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor discussed the modalities to make the prestigious project more sustainable and eco-friendly.

The Lt Governor called for taking comprehensive measures to restore the aesthetic value of Jhelum River, besides developing a sustainable environment and urban infrastructure. He passed specific directions for completion of the projects within the set timelines.

The Lt Governor asked the concerned officers of Smart City projects to explore all the possibilities to transform Jammu and Srinagar into modern, sustainable and economically vibrant cities.

He stressed upon maintaining proper inter-departmental coordination and asked the officers to get a better understanding of different facets of the prestigious project for effective implementation of vari-



ous Smart City initiatives.

Keshav Varma, Chairman, Sabarmati River Front Development Corporation Ltd (SRFDCL), gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation depicting measures to be incorporated in Srinagar Smart City Project.

The meeting discussed various other aspects of Srinagar Smart City project including development and beautification of city-rivers, lakes and river ecology, mobility,

sports, and recreational avenues for youth.

Discussions were also held on developing pedestrian bridges, smart streets, transportation facilities, Sports infrastructure, besides rejuvenation of canals & drains, cleaning of Dal and Nigeen Lakes, prevention & enhancement of floating vegetable markets, and setting up of capacity building institutes under the prestigious Smart City Project.

NC Seeks Probe Into 'Mysterious Death' Of Rawalpura Youth

Observer News Service

Srinagar, The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani on Tuesday visited the bereaved family of slain youth Zahid Ameen Baba, who was found dead in his car.

Nasir expressed shock over the "mysterious death" of Zahid who went missing from his residence at Yayil-Wanbal since Saturday afternoon and

was thereafter found mysteriously dead inside a car at Gangbugh.

He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family urging the administration to initiate a prompt and impartial investigation in this matter so that the perpetrators are brought to justice. "I share the grief of the bereaved family, and pray to Almighty to give them courage to bear the loss. The culprits behind the heinous crime should be booked and given exemplary punishment," he said.

Div Com Flags Off Youth On Kashmir – Kanyakumari Cycling Expedition

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Tuesday flagged off Adil Teli, a professional cyclist on Kashmir - Kanyakumari cycling expedition here today.

Teli, a young cyclist from Narbal area of Budgam district started his journey from Srinagar to set a new record to cover the distance between Kashmir and Kanyakumari within 8 days duration.

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, J&K

Jammu Office: Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Nagrota, Jammu - 181221

Fax: 0191-2674114; Telephone: 2674244; e-mail: mdnhmjk@gmail.com

Kashmir Office: Block 'A', Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar Pin: 190001

Fax: 0194-2470486; 2477309; Telephone: 2477337; e-mail: mdnhmjk@gmail.com

NHM Help Line for Jammu Division: 18001800104; Kashmir Division: 18001800102

Notice inviting online bid(s) for finalization of Rate Contract for hiring of vehicles, on Monthly and Daily basis, for supervision & monitoring visits of the Officer(s)/ Official(s)/ Other Visiting Team(s) of/ from State Health Society, National Health Mission, J&K, in Jammu/ Kashmir Division(s)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, online bids are invited for finalization of Rate Contract for hiring of vehicles, on Monthly and Daily basis, for supervision & monitoring visits of the Officer(s)/ Official(s)/ Other Visiting Team(s) of/ from State Health Society, NHM, J&K, in Jammu/ Kashmir Division(s), as per detailed specifications and terms & conditions mentioned in the tender document (SBD):

S. No.	Particulars	Date/ Time
1	Date of Publishing RFP	22/03/2021 at 1830 Hrs
2	Start Date of Downloading RFP from Website	22/03/2021 at 1830 Hrs
3	Websites for Downloading RFP	www.jktenders.gov.in, www.jknhm.com
4	Last Date of Downloading RFP from Website	30/03/2021 upto 1400 Hrs
5	Website for Submission of Bids (Technical as well as Financial)	www.jktenders.gov.in
6	Start Date for Submission of Online Bids	22/03/2021 from 1830 Hrs
7	Last Date for Submission of Online Bids	30/03/2021 upto 1600 Hrs
8	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	31/03/2021 at 1100 Hrs
9	Date of Opening of Financial Bids	31/03/2021 at 1500 Hrs

In view of prevailing situation, any Pre-Bid Meeting has Not been scheduled. Intended bidder(s), desirous to seek any clarification(s), may submit their query(ies) through e-mail at: mdnhmjk@gmail.com, by or before 26/03/2021 (upto 1400 Hrs).

Sd/-
Mission Director
(Tender Inviting Authority)
National Health Mission, J&K

No: SHS/NHM/J&K/Estt./4656-60

Dated: 22/03/2021
DIPK-NB-6606/20

ISLAMIA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND COMMERCE,

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR- 190 002

UGC AUTONOMOUS

(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE-A)

Phone No.2426819, Fax: 0194-2429014 | Website:islamiacollege.edu.in | Email: principal@islamiacollege.edu.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS NO.04 OF 2021
DATED 22-03-2021

For and on behalf of the Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar "Accounts officer, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar" invites e-tenders through www.jktenders.gov.in as RFP in two cover format for supply of Sports items. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.) set of terms and conditions and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the JK e-Tender website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1.	e-Tender Notice No.04 of 2021 dated 22-03-2021		
2.	Date of issuance of Tender Notice	23-03-2021	01:00 p.m.
3.	Start of downloading of bid documents	23-03-2021	15:00 p.m.
4.	Bid/Tender submission start date	24-03-2021	01:00 p.m.
5.	Bid/Tender submission end date	30-03-2021	03:00 p.m.
6.	Deadline for receiving the hardcopies	01-04-2021	04:00 p.m.
7.	Opening of technical bid/tender	02-04-2021	02:00 p.m.
8.	Online financial e-Bid opening date and time (only of the technical qualified bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation	
9.	Venue of opening technical and financial e-Bids	College campus	
10.	Cost of the e-Tender Document	Rs.500/-	
11.	Amount of Earnest Money (EMD) to be deposited in the form of Call Deposit Receipt (pledged to the Accounts Officer, Islamia College, Srinagar)	Rs.6,000/= (Rupees Six Thousand Only)	

The interested bidders to submit their offers in terms and conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this Tender Document. Further, any notification regarding this tender shall be available on the College website www.islamiacollege.edu.in and all bidders should be visiting the same to remain updated. The undersigned reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

No. ICS/3944-50/E-33/A-35

Dated:22-03-2021

DIPK-NB-6602/20

Sd/-
Accounts officer

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
09 SHABAN
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 07
ZUHR	12: 40
ASR	4:59
Magrib	6:49
ISHA	8:09

This Day In History

- 1379 - End of Gelderse war victory
- 1545 - German Parliament opens in Worms
- 1550 France & England sign Peace of Boulogne
- 1603 - Scottish King James VI son of Mary Queen of Scots, becomes King James I of England in succession to Elizabeth I, thus joining the English and Scottish crowns.
- 1765 - Britain enacts Quartering Act, required colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.
- 1837 - Canada gives its black citizens the right to vote
- 1878 - British frigate Eurydice sunk; 300 lost
- 1882 - German scientist Robert Koch discovers and describes the tubercle bacillus which causes tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)
- 1894 - 37 miners killed at Franklin, Washington
- 1905 - A group of Cretans dedicated to Crete's union with Greece led by Eleutherios Venizelos, meet at the village of Therisso and proclaim a union in defiance of the Great Powers
- 1913 - Netherlands soccer team's 1st victory over England
- 1916 - German submarines torpedo the unarmed French cross-channel packet 'Sussex'
- 1924 - Greece becomes a republic
- 1941 - British troops defeat British Somalia
- 1941 - German troops occupy El Aghella Libya
- 1945 - Largest one-day airborne drop, 600 transports & 1300 gliders
- 1959 - Iraq withdraws from the Baghdad Pact
- 1965 - US Ranger 9 strikes Moon, 10 miles (16 km) NE of crater Alphonsus
- 1972 - Great Britain imposes direct rule over Northern Ireland
- 1975 - Muhammad Ali TKOs Chuck Wepner in 15 for heavyweight boxing title
- 1981 - Bombay beat Delhi by innings & 46 to win Ranji Cricket Trophy
- 1981 - Colombia drops diplomatic relations with Cuba
- 1986 - US & Libya clash in Gulf of Sidra
- 1986 - NASA publishes "Strategy for Safely Returning the Space Shuttle to Flight Status".
- 1990 - Indian troops leave Sri Lanka
- 1991 - Banks reopen in liberated Kuwait
- 1992 - Space Shuttle STS-45 (Atlantis II) launches into space.
- 1997 - Australian parliament overturns world's 1st & only euthanasia law.
- 1998 - A tornado sweeps through Dantan in India killing 250 people and injuring 3000 others.
- 1999 - Kosovo War: NATO commences air bombardment against Yugoslavia, marking the first time NATO has attacked a sovereign country.
- 2003 -The Arab League votes 21-1 in favor of a resolution demanding the immediate and unconditional removal of U.S. and British soldiers from Iraq.
- 2008 - Bhutan officially becomes a democracy, with its first ever general election.
- 2013 - 17 soldiers are killed by a suicide bomber at a military checkpoint in North Wa =ristan, Pakistan
- 2013 - 25 people are killed by gunmen in a coordinated attack in Adamawa State, Nigeria
- 2013 - A series of emergency meetings in Brussels undertaken to resolve Cyprus' financial situation
- 2013 - Scotland defeats Sweden to win the 2013 World Women's Curling Championship
- 2014 - Ukraine withdraws its forces from the Crimea
- 2016 - Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic found guilty of genocide during 1995 Srebrenica massacre, sentenced to 40 years.
- 2018 - Tens of thousands attend 'March for Our Lives' rallies held in Washington D.C. and around the world to protest gun violence
- 2018 - American conducts its first ever drone strike against Qaeda militants in southern Libya
- 2018 - Hundreds of protesters shut down special meeting at Sacramento City Hall investigating police shooting of Stephon Clark

From KO Archives

Geelani boycotts Pak function

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - Senior separatist leader and chairman of the breakaway faction of Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani today stayed away from the Pakistan Day for the first time since outbreak of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. Geelani had adopted a tough posture on the eve of the Pakistan day criticising Islamabad for allowing running of the bus between Srinagar and Muzafarabad which according to him was a virtual acceptance of Line of Control as the permanent border between the two countries.

Pakistan had deputed the Deputy High Commissioner of its mission in Delhi Munawar Bahhti to placate Geelani and persuade him to attend the national day. After failing to get any positive response from him, Pakistan High Commissioner Aziz Ahmed Khan met Geelani this morning but this also did not move the pro-Pakistan leader.

(Kashmir Observer, 24 March, 2005)

Dr.Shabir Ahmad Dar CONSULTANT NEUROPSCHIATRIST

GMC SRINAGAR

FREE 1 VISIT

CONSULTATION ON

24 & 26 MARCH 2021

Timing : 5:00PM - 7:30PM

The disorders which will be delt include Depression, Anxiety,Epilepsy, Mood Swings, Chronic Headache including Migraine, Sleep disorders, Sexual Problems, Addiction disorders and Behavioural problems in children. Consultation by prior appointment only. Kindly feel free to contact

7006086700
Raashid Ali

FOR BOOKING.
SHARIF MEDICAL HALL
NEAR HDFC BANK

inf

SHARI BHAT ALAMGARI BAZAR SRINAGAR

Ansarullah: There's Nothing New In Riyadh's 'Peace Initiative'



Agenceis

He, however, said Ansarullah would continue to hold talks with Riyadh, Muscat and Washington to end the Saudi-imposed war.

Riyadh has presented a 'peace initiative' which would include a nationwide ceasefire under the supervision of the UN and re-opening of air and sea links.

The initiative includes reopening of Sana'a airport, and free passage for fuel and food imports through the Hudaydah port, both of which are controlled by Ansarullah.

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the initiative would take effect "as soon as the Houthis agree to it."

Downplaying the offer, the movement has demanded lifting of air and sea blockade, which has contributed to the world's worst humanitarian crisis in Yemen, as a main pre-condition for any deal.

Saudi Arabia and its regional allies have been in a bloody war on Yemen since 2015, using weapons supplied by the West, primarily to restore the regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a move fiercely resisted by Ansarullah.

In December last year, the United Nations put the death toll in the Saudi-imposed war at 233,000, terming it "unfortunate and unacceptable."

A large number of hospitals and residential property have been destroyed in the Saudi bombardment, which has further aggravated the situation in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic.

While Saudi Arabia and its regional allies have been spearheading the war, the Western regimes have been complicit for providing weapons to them and failing to condemn their brutal



aggression.

Although the new US administration announced the end of Washington's support to the coalition, the principal US policy remains unchanged, according to Abdulsalam.

"It is deplorable for America to chant the slogan of human rights and express concern over the worsening humanitarian conditions in Yemen as a result of the [Saudi-led] aggression and siege, and then make that (humanitarian issues) subject to military and political bargaining," he wrote on his Twitter page recently.

Last week, a member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, emphasized that there will be no peace in the Arab country unless the Saudi-led coalition halts attacks, lifts the crippling siege and ends the military occupation.

"We call on the US, Britain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates and their allies for holding a comprehensive ceasefire throughout the Republic of Yemen and remove the current blockade," he tweeted.

He also urged the release of "all the 14 detained ships within the next forty-eight hours" as the first step to remove the current blockade.

Pakistan Marks National Day With Traditional Fervor



Agenceis

Pakistan marked its National Day on Tuesday with rallies, seminars and flag-hoisting ceremonies. The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in the capital Islamabad and a 21-gun salute in all the four provincial capitals.

This was followed by change-of-guards ceremonies at the mausoleums of Quid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the South Asian nation, in the port city of Karachi, and Allama Mohammad Iqbal, the national poet, in northeastern city of Lahore.

Similar ceremonies were also held in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, state-run Pakistan Television reported.

A traditional military parade, which is usually the main event of the day, has been rescheduled for March 25 due to rains and inclement weather in the capital.

A famed Turkish Air Force aerobatic team will also showcase their unique display during the military parade.

Turkish F-16 demo and stunt team SOLOTURK performed its first demonstration in 2011.

The day commemorates the passage of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940 in which the Muslim leaders of the sub-continent set the agenda of a separate homeland for Muslims.

On March 23, 1956, the country also adopted its first Constitution, making Pakistan the world's first Islamic republic.

Local and international leaders congratulated Pakistanis on the occasion. In separate messages, Saudi King Salman bin Abdel Aziz and Crown Prince Mohamad bin

Salman congratulated Pakistanis and prayed for the country's progress and prosperity.

President Arif Alvi and the Prime Minister Imran Khan in separate messages urged the public to continue efforts to make the country a "truly democratic and welfare state."

The two leaders ceased the opportunity to reiterate Islamabad's support to the struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The world must take notice of blatant human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Alvi said.

The key to durable peace in South Asia, he said, is resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Khan, in his message, reaffirmed his government's commitment to make Pakistan a "humane, progressive and prosperous state."

Expressing solidarity with Kashmiris, he said: "We salute their courage and will continue to support them morally, politically and diplomatically for realization of their right to self-determination under relevant UNSC resolutions."

US President Joe Biden also sent a message to Pakistan, according to the President's Office.

"President @JoeBiden congratulated President @ArifAlvi & Pakistani Nation on #PakistanResolutionDay. He said that US-Pak partnership is based on common goal of regional peace & prosperity. US & Pak would work for peace in Afghanistan, address COVID-19 and climate change," according to a tweet.

COLORADO SHOOTING

Gunman Kills 10 At US Supermarket

Agenceis

At least 10 people have been killed, including a police officer, in a shooting at a supermarket in the US city of Boulder, Colorado less than a week after eight people were shot dead in the US city of Atlanta.

Police arrested a suspect but did not reveal his name or any details about the shooting at an evening news conference.

Investigators had just begun sorting through evidence and witness interviews and did not have details on a motive for the shooting, said Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty, adding that because families were still being notified, most of the victims' names have not been released.

"This is a tragedy and a nightmare for Boulder County, and in response, we have cooperation and assistance from local, state and federal authorities," he added.

Boulder Police chief Maris Herold later said officer Eric Talley, 51, who had arrived at the scene first, had been killed in the shooting.

The officer's father, Homer Talley, told local network KUSA it "didn't surprise me he was the first one there."

He added the younger Talley "loved his family more than anything."

The shooting occurred at about 3pm local time (21:00 GMT) at a King Soopers supermarket in the Table Mesa area of Boulder, a city at the eastern foot of the Rockies about 45 kilometres (28 miles) northwest of Denver.

Authorities said the suspect was receiving medical treatment and there was no further threat to the public. Video footage from the scene broadcast earlier by television stations showed a shirtless, bearded man in boxer shorts being led away from the shop in handcuffs, before he was placed on a stretcher and loaded into an ambulance. The man in custody appeared to have a bloody leg and was limping as he walked. Commander Kerry Yamaguchi of the Boulder Police Department said police were still investigating and did not have details on a motive for the violence.

'I couldn't help anybody'

Witnesses described scenes of



pandemonium as they heard gunfire ring out inside the supermarket.

"We were at the checkout, and shots just started going off," said Sarah Moonshadow, 42, who was in the store with her son, Nicholas.

"And I said, 'Nicholas get down,' and Nicholas ducked. And we just started listening and there, just repetitive shots ... and I just said, 'Nicholas, run,'" Moonshadow later told the Reuters news agency.

Moonshadow recounted seeing "someone laying in the road" as she and her son fled.

"And I tried to run towards him, and Nicholas pulled me away and he said, 'We have to go.' And we just ran and hid behind the building."

The woman broke down in sobs, adding, "I couldn't help anybody."

Dean Schiller told The Associated Press news agency that he had just left the supermarket when he heard gunshots and saw three people lying face down, two in the car park and one near the doorway. He said he "couldn't tell if they were breathing".

Another witness, James Bentz, told the Denver Post newspaper he was in the meat section when he heard what he thought was a misfire, then a series of pops.

"I was then at the front of a stampede," he said. Bentz said he jumped from a loading dock at the back of the shop to escape and that younger people were helping older people off it.

Aerial TV news footage showed a heavy law enforcement presence outside the supermarket, along with ambulances and fire engines,

as police led customers and workers out of the store with their hands on their heads.

'Heart-breaking'

Colorado Governor Jared Polis said on Twitter that his "heart is breaking as we watch this unspeakable event unfold in our Boulder community".

He added, "My prayers are with our fellow Coloradans in this time of sadness and grief as we learn more about the extent of the tragedy."

The FBI and agents of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting police and sheriff's deputies in the investigation, authorities said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki tweeted that President Joe Biden had been briefed on the shooting.

In a statement, the King Soopers chain offered "thoughts, prayers and support to our associates, customers, and the first responders who so bravely responded to this tragic situation. We will continue to cooperate with local law enforcement and our store will remain closed during the police investigation."

The attack is the seventh mass killing this year in the US, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University, and follows a March 16 shooting that left eight people dead at three Atlanta-area spas.

There was a lull in mass shootings during the pandemic in 2020, which had the smallest number of such attacks in more than 10 years, according to the database, which tracks mass killings defined as four or more dead, not including the attacker.

Videos Of Sex Acts Inside Australian Parliament Leaked; MPs Used Prayer Room To Have Sex

Agenceis

CANBERRA: Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Tuesday acknowledged mounting dissatisfaction with his handling of a series of allegations about the mistreatment of women in politics, as he vowed to drive cultural change.

Morrison's comments came just hours after the whistleblower—identified only as Tom—told the news outlets that government staffers and MPs often used a Parliament House prayer room to have sex, and alleged that sex workers had been brought into the building "for the pleasure of coalition MPs".

He also said a group of staffers routinely swapped explicit photos of themselves, and he received so many he had "become immune to it".

He said there was a "culture of men thinking that they can do whatever they want" and while he did not think the staffers had broken any laws, "morally, they are bankrupt".

One government staff member has been removed from his position, a government minister



said on Tuesday.

Morrison described the report as "disturbing" and said he would speak with all government staff members on Tuesday to remind them of their responsibilities.

The ruling Liberal/National coalition has come under sustained pressure in recent weeks following allegations of rape by a Liberal party staff member, including one in the office of a Cabinet minister.

The issue spurred tens of thousands of people to rally around Australia last week and led to a slump in Morrison's standing in opinion polls.

Morrison has sought to defend his government's actions in working to improve gender equality, but on Tuesday he accepted there was broad dissatisfaction.

"I acknowledge that many Australians, especially women, believe that I have not heard them, and that greatly distresses me," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

"We must do better... we must get this house in order." However, he offered few concrete proposals to improve the workplace culture in parliament, insisting that changes would be announced in the coming weeks. — Agencies

Hit With Western Sanctions, China, Russia Push For UN Summit

Agenceis

Russia and China have called for a United Nations Security Council summit over what they term heightened "global political turbulence", which has seen Western powers impose fresh sanctions on the pair over alleged human rights violations.

The two allies, whose relations with the West are under increasing strain, made the call in a joint statement on Tuesday following talks in Guilin between Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi.

"At a time of increasing global political turbulence, a summit of the permanent members of the UN Security Council is particularly necessary to establish direct dialogue about ways to resolve humankind's common problems in the interests of maintaining global stability," said the statement, published on the Russian foreign ministry's website.

Moscow has long been unilaterally pushing for such a summit.

The joint statement came after the United States, European Union, United Kingdom and Canada imposed sanctions on a handful of Chinese officials on Monday for alleged human rights abuses against the country's Uighur population in its northwestern Xinjiang province.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the united response "sends a strong signal to those who violate or abuse international human rights," as he warned, of "further actions in coordination with like-minded partners".

China responded by imposing sanctions on 10 European individuals and four institutions that it said had damaged China's interests and "maliciously spread lies and disinformation".

Russia too is braced for a new round of US sanctions over what

Washington says was its meddling in the 2020 US presidential election, which Moscow denies.

Russia, China slam foreign interference

Russia and China's joint statement also urged other countries to refrain from interfering in the pair's domestic affairs.

"Interference in a sovereign nation's internal affairs under the excuse of 'advancing democracy' is unacceptable," it said.

Commenting specifically on Monday's sanctions, Lavrov said Russia and China both regarded the measures as unacceptable.

Wang sharply criticised the moves, warning they would "not be embraced by the international community".

"Countries should stand together to oppose all forms of unilateral sanctions," he said.

The joint statement did not mention the US by name, but Lavrov was cited by the TASS news agency as telling reporters after talks with Yi that Moscow and Washington were both unhappy with Washington's behaviour.

The US was relying on Cold War-era military and political alliances to try to destroy international legal architecture, he reportedly said. Earlier, the pair also urged the US to rejoin the Iran nuclear agreement.

Russia and China have close ties with Tehran, while Biden's new administration has approached rejoining the accord cautiously.

Lavrov also took a swipe at the EU, accusing Brussels of destroying Russia-EU ties and saying that Moscow only has relations with individual European nations now.

The fresh sanctions came after US and Chinese officials on Friday concluded what Washington called "tough and direct" talks in Alaska.

Meanwhile, Russia's ambassador, having been recalled, is back in Moscow for talks after US President Joe Biden said he believed President Vladimir Putin was a "killer".

14 Militants Sentenced To Death For Attempting To Kill Bangladesh PM Hasina

Press Trust of India

Fourteen Islamist militants were sentenced to death on Tuesday by a Bangladeshi court here for attempting to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2000.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of Dhaka's Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 pronounced the verdict as nine of them were brought to the court from jail to face the trial in person.

The rest five convicts are on the run. They were tried in absentia and defended by state-appointed lawyers.

"The verdict will be executed by a firing squad to set an example, unless the law barred it," the judge said.

Otherwise, the convicts could be hanged in line with the prevailing practice, following mandatory review of the death sentences by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court under the Bangladesh law, the judge said.

Under the Bangladesh law, the death sentences would require to be endorsed by the High Court following an automatic death reference hearing. The convicts are allowed to file an appeal as well.

For the five convicts who are at large, the judge ordered the verdict to be executed after their arrest or surrender.

All the convicts are operatives of outlawed Harkatul Jihad Bangladesh (Hujl-B).

Hujl-B's chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, who was found to be the

mastermind of the plot, too was indicted in the case but his name was dropped from the trial as he was executed in 2017 in another case involving attempted assassination of the then Bangladeshi-origin British High Commissioner.

The convicts had hatched the plot to kill Hasina by planting a high-powered 76 kilogram bomb near a ground in her constituency in Kotlalpara area in southwestern Gopalganj district where she was supposed to address an election rally in July 2000.

However, security agencies detected the device ahead of the rally at the spot where the premier's helicopter was set to land. Days later, another device weighing 40 kilograms was detected from a nearby spot.

In 2017, 10 militants were sentenced to death and nine others jailed for 20 years each by a court in the case. Hasina has in the past survived several assassination attempts with the first in 1975 when a military coup killed her father and Bangladesh's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived the carnage as they were on a visit to Germany. Hasina miraculously survived a grenade attack when she was addressing an anti-terrorism rally in 2004. The attack claimed 24 lives and injured some 500 others.

NEWS MAKERS

Trump To Launch Own Social Media Platform

Agenceis

Despite Trump's defeat in November by Biden, he remains influential in the Republican Party and has not ruled out a third run for president in 2024.

Donald Trump plans to return to social media soon, using "his own platform" after being banned from Twitter and other outlets, a former advisor said on Sunday.

"I do think that we're going to see president Trump returning to social media in probably about two or three months," Jason Miller told Fox News.

"It's going to completely redefine the game, and everybody is going to be waiting and watching to see what exactly president Trump does, but it will be his own platform," said Miller, who held senior posts in both of Trump's presidential campaigns.

Trump's provocative use of social media was a defining feature of his presidency, as he drew 88 million followers to Twitter and often used tweets to slam his critics or to announce personnel changes or significant policy shifts.

But Twitter permanently suspended his @realDonaldTrump account after he used it to encourage people to take part in the rally that turned into the violent storming of the US Capitol on January 6.

Trump was also banned, temporarily or permanently, by other major platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

Since leaving Washington and returning to his Mar-a-Lago resort home in Florida, the former president has kept a relatively low profile, largely relegated to issuing occasional news releases.

Netanyahu's Fate Hangs On Elections As Israelis Vote For Fourth Time In Two Years

Agenceis

Israelis began voting on Tuesday in the country's fourth parliamentary election in two years — a highly charged referendum on the divisive rule of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Public opinion polls forecast a tight race between those who support Israel's longest-serving premier and those who want "anyone but Bibi", as he is widely known.

Facing an electorate worn down by a series of campaigns and the coronavirus pandemic, candidates made their final push in recent days with a series of TV interviews and public appearances at shopping malls and outdoor marketplaces.

The campaigns increasingly reached into people's personal space with a constant barrage of get-out-and-

vote texts that made cell phones ding and buzz at all hours.

Netanyahu has portrayed himself as a global statesman uniquely qualified to lead the country through its many security and diplomatic challenges. He has made Israel's successful coronavirus vaccination campaign the centrepiece of his re-election bid and pointed to last year's diplomatic agreements with four Arab states.

Opponents accuse Netanyahu of bungling the management of the coronavirus pandemic for most of the past year. They say he failed to enforce lockdown restrictions on his ultra-Orthodox political allies, allowing the virus to spread, and point to the still-dire state of the economy and its double-digit unemployment rate. They also say Netanyahu is un-

fit to rule at a time when he is on trial for multiple corruption charges, a case he dismisses as a witch hunt.

Up to 15 per cent of the electorate is expected to vote outside their home districts, a batch of absentee balloting that's larger than usual to accommodate those with coronavirus or in quarantine. The government is dispatching special polling stations, including vehicles, to provide places for them to vote safely.

Those votes are tallied separately in Jerusalem, meaning final results may not be known for days. Given the tight race, the large number of undecided voters and a number of small parties struggling to cross the 3.25pc threshold for entry into parliament, it could be difficult to predict the outcome before the final count is complete.

EJAC Expresses Displeasure Over Govt's Cold Response

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Tuesday expressed their displeasure against the government for not resolving the pending issues of the employees of Jammu & Kashmir. The EJAC urged the government not to test the patience of employees of the state anymore.

Discussing the issues of the employees, the leaders expressed their anguish that the Kashmir-based employees working in different departments in general and the lectures and doctors posted in Ladakh be repatriated back to the valley as these employees have given their choice

to serve in Kashmir. "Some of them have completed their terms of two years as per the rules in vogue before the abrogation of Article 370."

EJAC appealed to the Government and the concerned departments to expedite their files and transfer them to Kashmir. "These employees are in distress and their families and children are suffering."

The president of EJAC Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam urged the administration to take immediate steps for their transfer to the valley. He also asked the Department of Education and Health to clear their cases of transfer on priority as they have suffered a lot.

J&K Bank Inaugurates New Premises At Yaripora, Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Tuesday inaugurated new premises at Yaripora in District Kulgam. The new premises was inaugurated by Zonal Head, Kashmir South 2, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat.

Cluster Head Kulgam Ifrikhar Abdullah Sofi and other officials of the bank were also present on the occasion besides a gathering of businessmen, traders and local residents, a bank statement said.

Thanking the customers and dignitaries for their august pres-

ence on the occasion despite inclement weather, the Zonal Head reiterated the Banks resolve to offer best possible infrastructure to the satisfaction of valued customers while making every effort to deliver a satisfactory customer service.

Sensitizing the customers about the wide range of products and services offered by the bank, the Zonal Head urged them to avail of the same. He exhorted the customers to prefer use of digital products offered by the bank to enjoy banking facilities at their convenience.

Vehicle Carrying Illicit Timber Seized, Driver Arrested

Observer News Service

HANDWARA: A vehicle loaded with illicit timber was seized by a joint team of Kehmil Forest Division and Forest Protection Force at Handwara.

Conservator of Forests, Irfan Rasool said that they received information about the movement of illicit forest produce. A team was framed consisting of Range officer Ramhal and Assistant Director FPF.

"Early morning, one Tata mobile vehicle bearing registration no. JK01C 8975 loaded with illicit Kail timber was intercepted at

Chowkibal. The driver of the vehicle fled from the spot and the vehicle was chased by forest officials. The vehicle was finally captured and seized at Handwara by covering team. The vehicle was searched and was found loaded with illicit Kail timber 9 logs. The driver of vehicle Ashiq Hussain Lone, son of Abdul Sattar Lone, a resident of Chowkibal was detained on the spot," he said.

The case has been handed over to Kehmil Forest Division which will take up the matter with Police authorities for further investigations, he added. (KNS)

School Closed After Nine Students Test Positive For COVID-19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Tuesday ordered closure of Government Higher Secondary School Hardapanzoo located in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, for next five days after at least nine girl students tested positive for the Covid-19.

An official told News Agency Kashmir Dot Com (KDC) that in the ongoing mass testing of students and staff being conducted at Higher Secondary Hardapanzoo Budgam, nine students have been found to have contracted the virus so far, adding that testing is on.

Meanwhile, CEO Budgam told KDC that the school has been closed for the next five days as a preventive measure to contain the spread of virus. (KDC)

Budgam Village's Middle School Has Just One Teacher For 38 Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Locals of Arath village of Central Kashmir's Budgam, District on Tuesday rued that the only government middle school in the village continues to operate with just one teacher for 38 students.

"It is very difficult for a single teacher to engage all classes simultaneously under a single roof. It is injustice with the students who come to the school in the hope of learning. How can the said teacher concentrate properly on all students," the locals asked?

The locals said that they have conveyed the problem to the concerned authorities several times, but all in vain. "No other teacher has joined the

school yet," they complained.

Meanwhile, ZEO Soibugh said that they had already recommended the transfer of teachers from the institutions possessing more than required staff to the institutions having dearth of staff members. As per ZEO the transfer order has been kept in abeyance by authorities.

He further said there are at least five teachers working as two schools have been clubbed and are working from the same institution. "I have told the said headmaster to direct the teachers of another institution which has been clubbed in to take classes of his institution too, adding that he will still look into matter."

Severe staff crunch has affected the educational activities badly in the school. (KDC)

18 Employees Of Commercial Taxes Office Test Covid Positive

'Department Functioning Normally Without Following SOPs'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a shocking incident that has come to fore not a single preventive measure has been taken by the authorities at the Commercial Taxes office in the Rambagh area of Kashmir capital Srinagar, even after 18 of its employees turned positive for Covid-19 this month, so far.

At least eighteen employees including ten officers and eight lower wing officials have turned positive for the virus in March so far with the administration endangering lives as the office continues to remain open for the general public without any sanitisation or preventive measures being taken, sources said.

They said that a day after a review meeting which was held in the said office through video conferencing with the Commissioner, two officers tested positive for the pathogen.

"As per the protocol laid down by the government and as a pre-



ventive measure the said building was supposed to be sanitised and the attendees of the meeting should have undergone tests but no measures were taken thus endangering the lives of others."

Ten officials turned positive for the virus three days after another review meeting was held through VC with the Financial Commissioner Finance.

The aforesaid office is turning out to be a silent hotspot for Covid-19, with employees fearing mass spread and the office is still functioning normally.

As per sources hundreds of people are visiting the said office for tax-related queries and it is feared that the office might become a hotbed for Covid-19. (KDC)

Govt Owes Rs 500 Crore To Contractors: Coordination Committee

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Central Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCCC) Tuesday termed non-payment of Rs 500 crore as the biggest hurdle in the construction work in Kashmir.

During a press conference at their office in Srinagar, General Secretary of the Central Contractors Coordination Committee, Farooq Ahmad Dar, expressed deep disappointment that even during the recent budget, there was no presentation on contractors' dues and no progress has been made.

He said that after the previous governments, the governor's administration had also assured about the payment of these dues.

"If construction and development works are slow, the biggest reason is non-payment of contractors' dues," he said,



adding that the budget has disappointed them as they hoped that this time the central and state governments would take historic steps to pay the pending dues.

Dar added that the government's announcement of development works was a dream come true and asked how the contractors would invest in

new works when their dues were not paid.

"There is also a liability of around Rs 500 crore, as a result of which the contractors are facing severe difficulties," he claimed.

Dar termed Single tender a burden for Govt exchequer, which it will not be able to bear in the days to come.

VC CU For Collaborative Efforts In Mitigating Environmental Concerns

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Mehrajuddin Mir Tuesday launched a plantation drive within the varsity's Tulmulla Campus.

Addressing the gathering, the VC who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion urged the students to be at forefront of environmental protection and said that academic institutions must help build partnerships and strategies and contribute to boosting environment protection efforts at the local, national and international levels.

He said the active involvement of students in pro-environment initiatives can go a long way in meeting the desired goals and addressing pressing environmental challenges including air pollution, global warming, and climate change besides biodiversity loss.

The day-long plantation drive was organised by the Landscape



Development Division of the Varsity in collaboration with the J&K Forest Department and Social Forestry department.

Regional Director, Social Forestry Kashmir, Mehrajuddin Malik who was the Guest of Honour, said his department is working seriously to increase the green cover of the J&K UT.

He said this year the department has tied up with Village Panchayat Committees for afforestation and said that they are hopeful about such collaboration which shall go a long way in developing community forests to enhance the green cover as well as suffice the needs of the local community in terms of fodder,

fuelwood, and timber

Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar said that the university is taking the plantation drive in the newly developed Campus to augment the green cover. He also informed that the Botany division is developing a herbal park in the campus and requested for contribution from the Forest department in this regard.

DFO Sindh Owais Mir said academic institutions have a huge role to play in helping the Forest Department to increase the green cover across the J&K UT.

Among others, Prof. Farooq Ahmed Dean Legal Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool Director Tulmulla Campus, Prof. Mohd Yousuf Dean Life Sciences, Dr Zahoor Ahmed Dean Education, Dr Mehrajuddin Shah Dean Students welfare, Dr Ahsan Chisti Dean Engineering and IT, Officers and officials of Forest and Social Forestry, students and officials from Central University were present on the occasion.

Don't Lower Guard Against Avian Influenza: Div Com

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Tuesday chaired an interactive session of the inter-sectoral departments regarding avian influenza (bird flu) under CSS-ASCAD at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, GawKadal.

The interactive session was organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir.

Representatives from Health & Medical Education Department, Wildlife Department, Revenue Department, Dean FVSC & AH SKUAST-Kashmir participated in the session with an aim to deliberate on the control and containment of Avian Influenza in Kashmir Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Div Com emphasised more public awareness among the masses and directed the concerned to set up aggressive testing to combat Avian Influenza without lowering the guard.

He assured full cooperation and support with regard to the control and containment of Avian Influenza.

The Director of Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Purnima Mittal informed the house about the mechanism and strategies adopted by the department in the containment of Avian Influenza. Besides, the need of setting up modern infrastructure with regard to aggressive testing was also emphasised. All the line departments assured to extend full support in control and containment of this deadly disease.

Nocturnal Fire Guts Tehsil Office Doda

Observer News Service

DODA: A mysterious fire broke out in Tehsil Complex Doda last night damaging the records while the building was also severely damaged.

The fire broke out in a room of Tehsil Complex Doda around 10:30 last night and spread to the entire building within a few minutes, an official said. Although the fire brigade vehicles, police, other security forces teams and locals rushed to the spot to save the records in the Tehsil complex but all their efforts went in vain. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Govt Abolishes Provision For Granting Special Status To States

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The central government on Tuesday said that as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the obligation to grant special status to any state has been removed.

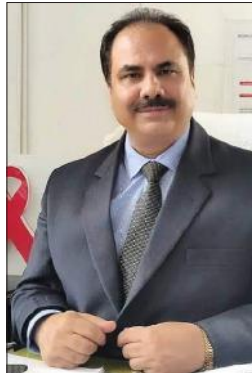
Replying to a supplementary question during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nitya Anand Rai said that the Union Government provides a financial package to the states for development works and added that Grants are released under central commitments in view of the loss of revenue of the States. He clarified that as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the obligation to grant special state status to any state has been abolished.

Dr Mushtaq Rather Assumes Charge As DHSK

SRINAGAR: Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather assumed charge as Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) here today.

Later, the Director held an introductory meeting with the concerned officers of the Directorate. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rather said that the DHSK has always exhibited high standards of professionalism while discharging services in the healthcare sector of Kashmir.

He added that he expects a complete dedication and commitment from all officers, officials and other staff of the Directorate so that better healthcare services would be provided to the people.



PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that I Tepo Sultan War S/O Mohd Sultan War R/O Rakhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag I have applied for Fertilizer License under name and style M/S Sultan Fertilizers at Village Rukhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag. If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard He/she may object his objection in Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will entertained.

Tepo Sultan War
S/O Mohd Sultan War
R/O Rakhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag

mja

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that I Tepo Sultan War S/O Mohd Sultan War R/O Rakhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag I have applied for Pesticides License under name and style M/S Sultan Pesticides at Village Rukhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag . If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard He/she may object his objection in Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi Srinagar, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will entertained.

Tepo Sultan War
S/O Mohd Sultan War
R/O Rakhi Moman Bijbehara Anantnag

mja

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Fayaz Ahmad Rather S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Rather



R/o: Kahal Mulla Naghbal Ganderbal (Transferor) of LMV alto. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A-9843. Chasis number 79879 Engine no. 63960 Model 2009. in favour of Shri.. Sheikh Sameer Syed S/o. S.M. Syed R/o Umer Abad Zainakote Srinagar (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.3141
Dated 23/03/2021
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDANT DISTRICT HOSPITAL GANDERBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDERS.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from authorized registered firms or their authorized dealers (Fulfilling all the Statutory Compliances applicable in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir & other mandatory regulations as prescribed by the Department of Health & Medical Education UT of J&K) for the supply of Drugs, Medicines Consumables & Suture Items for the year 2021-2022 or till such supply from JKMSCL is received. The tender documents can be collected from the office of undersigned at an non-refundable amount of Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)- from 27/03/2021 to 05/04/2021. The tenders must be submitted and properly sealed in double waterproof envelopes duly super scribed as "Tenders for Drugs, Medicines, Consumables & Suture Items" addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal and should reach to the office of undersigned by or before 10/04/2021 and will be opened on the same day at 2:00 PM or any other date convenient to the Tender opening committee in the office Chamber of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal in the presence of suppliers or their representatives who wish to be present.

The tenders should be accompanied by an amount of Rs 5000/- (Five Thousand Only) in the shape of CDR from any National Bank /J&K Bank Ltd having validity not less than 12 Months from the date of issue pledged to the Undersigned.

No: MS/DH/GBL/2099-300
Dated: 18/03/2021

Medical Superintendent
District Hospital Ganderbal

Kidnapped Minor Girl Rescued, Accused Arrested

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam Tuesday recovered a kidnapped minor girl and arrested the person involved in the commission of crime.

A police spokesperson in a statement said that on 21/03/2021, police post Mir Bazar received a complaint from a person that his 14-year-old daughter is missing and is apparently kidnapped by unknown person.

"Accordingly, a case FIR No. 55/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Qazigund and investigation was initiated."

During the course of investigation a team was constituted. Acting on specific leads, the team was able to recover the kidnapped girl from Hyderabad and arrested the accused person identified as Gowhar Ahmad Mir son of Muhammad Yousuf Mir, a resident of Lalan Anantnag. He has been shifted to PS Qazigund where he remains in custody.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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

K O V I E W

Building Trust

Less than a month after India and Pakistan dramatically re-affirmed the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control, the neighbours on Tuesday began discussing their water issues, signalling a return to bilateral dialogue following a gap of many years. The talks assume more importance in view of the situation of the last two years during which the relations between the two countries plunged to their lowest. Pakistan had drastically downgraded its relationship with India following the latter's withdrawal of Kashmir's autonomy in August 2019. Given the consequent state of their relationship, it had appeared unlikely that a dialogue between them could resume anytime soon. But the unthinkable has happened: first with reiteration of the ceasefire agreement and now with resumption of dialogue. In between, the neighbours also restored their sporting ties. Pakistan's lone skeet shooter Usman Chand recently got a visa to travel to India to compete in the New Delhi World Cup.

Nobody could have imagined things will move so fast. It appears now a matter of time before the two countries resume a formal dialogue on a broad range of issues including on the issue of Kashmir. Earlier, Islamabad had insisted that there will be no talks with New Delhi until latter reverses the decision to repeal Kashmir's autonomy. Now this condition seems to have been given up just as New Delhi seems to have overlooked its demand that for the dialogue to resume, Pakistan will have to end cross-border terrorism. Where the anticipated new engagement would lead, only time will tell. Indo-Pak engagement has traditionally been tough to sustain. Even before things could settle down and move towards resolution of the issues, the dialogue is cut short either by a terrorist attack or due to some political reason. This has happened so often that it is difficult to attach any hope to a fresh peace process.

But with statesmanship and the political will, the leaders of the two countries could make it happen this time. On Pakistan side, it seems both the civilian government and the Army are on the same page as far as talks with India. And in New Delhi, we have an absolute majority government in power which has shown it is willing to depart from the status quo to fulfill its political goals. A similar approach to resolution of the issues with Pakistan has the potential to put the subcontinent on the road to peace. Here's hoping that the dialogue this time not only sustains but reaches it logical conclusion.

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

The PM issues a warning

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual meeting with chief ministers to urgently deal what he called the "emerging second peak" of Covid-19 in the country. He discussed a worrying spike in infections in several states and said that "quick and decisive steps" are needed to combat another pan-Indian outbreak. A few hours later, when the day's new Covid-19 cases were tallied from all states, the total came to 35,836 new infections — the highest number of single-day cases in the country in more than 100 days. In India's worst-hit state, Maharashtra, Wednesday's case toll (23,179) was the highest single-day rise since September 17, 2020 — that was a time when the country's first Covid-19 wave was raging at its peak. Like in the first wave, the western state is again the first major hot spot region, and if things don't change soon, it will be the first of many.

Coaxed into a sense of false security due to six months of declining cases, and a high degree of fatigue (for both people as well as governments) against the disease, there is an alarming degree of laxity at all levels. Testing numbers have been steadily dropping; the concept of contact-tracing has been reduced to just getting immediate family members of positive cases tested; and mask etiquette, as well as enforcement of social distancing norms, are near non-existent even in metros, leave alone smaller cities or rural areas.

It is now nearly a year since a nationwide lockdown was introduced on March 24, 2020 to fight the disease. Neither the economy nor citizens can cope with such strict measures again. The best way to fight the second wave, apart from strictly instituting Covid-19 management protocols, is to use the one advantage that the country did not have a year ago — vaccines.

Hindustan Times

Supply Of Unhygienic Water From Doodh Ganga



DR RAJA MUZAFFAR BHAT

The solid and liquid waste continues to pollute Doodh Ganga. Most of the pollution takes place in Chadoora where large quantities of liquid waste gets drained into Doodh Ganga

D OODH GANGA, a small river which originates from the glaciers of Pir Panjaal mountains is the drinking water source for a huge population in Srinagar and some parts of Budgam. I have constantly been highlighting the pitiful and pathetic condition of Doodh Ganga as a large number of people are made to drink unhygienic water for the last many years. In addition to writing columns or issuing press statements, I have been highlighting this problem by posting photos and videos of Doodh Ganga on social media. I every now and then appeal to the Government and people to preserve and protect this water body.

We can't only blame the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department (Jal Shakti) which supplies the unhygienic water, but instead J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) and District Administration Budgam are supposed to be blamed for this messy state of affairs. PCB as well as District Administration Budgam have failed to make sure people get clean drinking water. Around the year 2018, I even moved a petition before the erstwhile J&K State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). I urged upon the commission to intervene as supply of unclean drinking water to people was a violation of basic human rights. SHRC took the issue very seriously but when the case reached its logical conclusion, the SHRC was shut down in view of abrogation of article 370.

In September last year, I used the Right to Information (RTI) Act to seek information from the J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) about various studies taken up regarding Water Pollution caused by fecal matter and liquid waste getting drained into Doodh Ganga river. I also asked PCB the exact number of lavatories and drains going into the river from Branwar to Barzulla via Chadoora, Wathoor areas of District Budgam and action taken vis a vis water pollution in Doodh Ganga by way of dumping of solid and liquid waste? Through my RTI application I also sought similar details pertaining to river Jhelum from Khanabal to Baramulla. The in-charge officer water laboratory Srinagar operating under the J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) in his response dated 17.9.2020 seemed ignorant about the water pollution in Doodh Ganga which is one of the major drinking water source for Srinagar uptown areas like Hyderpora, Rawalpora, Barzulla, Solina, Jawahar Nagar, Batmaloo and many areas. The reply from PCB simply made it clear that no study had been undertaken by Water lab PCB Srinagar. To another query about the study undertaken by PCB vis a vis fecal matter and liquid waste being drained into River Jhelum from Khanabal to Baramulla, the response was cryptic. The reply reads as:

"An exercise has been under-

taken by J&K PCB with allied departments of respective district administration to locate the toilets and drains that empty into River Jhelum from Khanabal to Baramulla. A survey to river Jhelum was conducted in the year 2019 to find out the point source and diffuse sources of pollution. The observations made in the study were submitted to the High Court in a case titled Javid Ahmad Zargar VS State and others based on the report submitted by PCB many toilets have been demolished by the concerned agency,".

This study was never made public by PCB through its website as the information falls under section 4 of RTI Act 2005. In January this year, I sought details from Deputy Commissioner office Budgam about meetings held on cleaning of Doodh Ganga from September 1st to December 31st in response to J&K High Court's direction on the pathetic condition of Doodh Ganga and supply of unclean drinking water? I asked copies of the minutes of these meetings as well. Till date DC office Budgam has not supplied any information to me. I am now filing an appeal against PIO DC of office Budgam.

Clean water and SDG

Clean water and sanitation is one of the important constituents of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This figures at serial 6 of SDGs. In-fact, access to safe water and sanitation are included in human rights, as recognized in 2010 by the UN General Assembly. Having spent my childhood around Doodh Ganga I feel shocked to see heaps of solid waste lying scattered on the banks of Doodh Ganga. I can't blame only the locals as the Govt has provided no alternative for collection and disposal of solid waste in rural areas. In spite of the fact that Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-Gramin) has a well defined programme for rural waste management under Solid Liquid Resource Management (SLRM) but District Administration Budgam has failed to implement this scheme on ground. During Back to Village programmes, this issue was highlighted by me before the visiting officer Mr Sarmad Hafiz IAS, but the District Administration could not execute the plan. The photos of the Back-to-Village continue to be highlighted on the official website of District Budgam but who will tell the visitors surfing this website that all the promises made during this meeting were never fulfilled.

Intervention by J&K High Court

This author in summer 2020 provided lots of updates to a journalist associated with a leading English daily of Srinagar. A detailed report was subsequently filed by the newspaper on 2nd August 2019. J&K High Court took suo moto cognizance of that news report but due to severe lockdown and curfew from August 5th 2020

onwards the matter could not be listed for several months. On October 30th 2019 J&K High Court issued notice to Government especially to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Budgam. As mentioned above I sought updates from DC Budgam on the issue under RTI on January 18th 2021 and meetings held in this regard. Till date no response has been provided. Even the Govt has not started river clean up drive. The matter is now listed on April 4th 2021.

The solid and liquid waste continues to pollute Doodh Ganga. Most of the pollution takes place in Chadoora where large quantities of liquid waste gets drained into Doodh Ganga. Unfortunately, the same water is lifted by PHE (Jal Shakti) at Karpora water supply plant which is located 6 kms down stream. A garbage dump has been created by Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) near the banks of Doodh Ganga at Bagh e Mehtab area near Railway bridge. This is a public place / bus stop on Srinagar-Chadoora road. I tried my best to bring the issue into notice of Govt, but authorities don't even want to listen. District Administration Srinagar assured me several times that the garbage dump at Bagh e Mehtab would be shifted and a public park or open gym would be set up at the site, but the promises were never fulfilled till date?

Conclusion

Is the Pollution Control Board's (PCB's) role only limited to inspect small scale industrial units? If PCB can't check liquid and solid waste entering into Doodh Ganga or any other drinking water source, who else will do this job? District Administration Budgam could also have utilized funds available under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin for solid liquid waste management but not even a single penny has been utilized in Budgam. This was also revealed under RTI by District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Budgam recently. Under SBM Gramin the money is very much available for rural waste management but due to official negligence the work hasn't been executed on ground zero during the last more than 6 years. Let us hope that the High Court issues some meaningful orders in the coming months so that the Govt is made to act and pollution in Doodh Ganga gets reduced so that people are supplied safe drinking water. This is my message on this World Water Day.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Anant Fellow for Climate Action and Acumen India Fellow. He is also Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Curb domestic violence

The National Crime Record Bureau data have pointed out that the number of cases registered under section 498A of IPC for 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' recorded an increase of 21.3 per cent in 2019 compared with 2018. Moreover, the number of

cases registered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act reflected a decline of 4.5 per cent in 2019 over 2018. The reasons for the under-reporting of cases were personnel, societal, and institutional.

The Parliamentary Com-

mittee on Home Affairs has recommended that the Home Ministry advise states and union territories to conduct sensitization and briefings of ground-level officials dealing with the PWDV Act so that women facing domestic violence could be better equipped to access justice. The

awareness programs at the grass-root level, fast-track courts, and rehabilitation facilities can be helpful in curbing domestic violence.

...
Amit Singh Kushwaha
amitsk68@gmail.com

In the Throes of Overlooked Parvo Virus

MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI

Government refuses to even acknowledge this viral epidemic. While they were quick to strangle and burn millions of birds during the Bird Flu epidemic, because they thought it would affect humans, they have completely ignored the Parvo Virus one – probably because they think it will not affect humans.

India is in the throes of a terrible viral epidemic. Much worse than the Bird Flu, much worse than swine flu. It has 91% mortality and, while it is mainly dogs, it can spread to cats of all kinds as well and God knows which other animals. The killer is the deadly Canine Parvo Virus (CPV).

Outbreaks have been reported from all over India. Thousands of pups have died. My own People For Animals shelters have several thousand cases admitted. Shelters from Mangalore to Siliguri have shut down and refused to admit normal accident cases as they are full of parvo afflicted, dying, animals. Each shelter is a war zone with makeshift drip stands, or volunteers patiently holding IV fluids while they go slowly into small dying bodies.

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So, government refuses to give vaccines to poor people and to street animals, and government hospitals do not treat parvo cases because they say they do not have the budget for drips and antibiotics. 80% of all Indian vets are employed by the government and they sit idly in government clinics which open at 10 am and close at 2 pm – while lakhs of animals fall dead, untreated. If you ask the same vets to go and strangle chickens they will happily do so.

There are two prominent strains of the canine parvovirus (CPV-2a and CPV-2b) from the genus family of Parvoviridae. It spreads through infected faeces, vomit, blood, touch, surfaces, clothing etc. Shelters, kennels, clinics, public parks are prime locations where the virus lurks. It's favourite victim is the young pup, but unvaccinated dogs in general are vulnerable. Undetected or diagnosed at a later stage, it is almost always fatal within 48 - 72 hours.

There is a silent massacre going on, but government municipalities, health authorities, animal husbandry departments in every state refuse to respond with either short or long term measures. In one district only – Uttar Dinajpur – one parvo vaccination camp was held after the government dispensary received 342 cases in a week with 100% mortality, as there were no drip stands or IV fluids available! Across the country veterinary government clinics are unable to handle even this basic treatment, for lack of supplies, infrastructure, manpower and, sometimes, even basic facilities such as water supply and electricity.

Dissemination of mass public messages, to spread awareness about the disease, should have been undertaken. While we have any amount of information – and a lot of it is total rubbish – being spread about bird flu, the government is completely silent about this deadly virus – which may also prove to be zoonotic in time.

There is absolutely no Government Policy in any State for mandatory vaccination of all dogs for CPV. In contrast, there exists a mandate for vaccination of dogs against rabies under the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 promulgated under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Protocols under the ABC Program make it mandatory to vaccinate sterilized dogs against rabies before releasing them. This is also the



reason as to why the rabies vaccine for both human and animal consumption is subsidized by the government. The CPV vaccine is 14 times more costly than the anti rabies vaccine, but both the diseases are deadly. In spite of the epidemic that is raging throughout India, CPV is a disease that has been omitted from Government budgets entirely.

But it has lethal ramifications on wildlife conservation. The mass die-off of lions, at Serengeti National Park in Tanzania in 1994, was attributed to CPV and its equally potent cousin, the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV). In 2018, Asiatic Lions at Gir National Park were afflicted by both CPV and CDV, leading to the loss of irreplaceable Protected Schedule I Animals, and shrinking their gene pool even more. Dwindling habitats and the blurring of boundaries, between urban areas and forest land, have brought wild animals in increasing proximity to domesticated and free ranging dog populations.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has asked for a sterilization program for dogs around tiger reserves. It states the creation of 'immunization buffers' in buffer zones of the reserve, and encompasses vaccination against canine distemper along with rabies. Canine Parvo Virus is not included within its ambit. But even their original demand has not been complied with.

The vaccines are effective and immunoglobulin serum (given to CPV afflicted animals at the time of treatment) can help fight the virus. But vaccination interventions have their own set of challenges. Maintenance of cold chain supply and storage, especially during transportation, is always inadequate. The parvo virus mutates regularly, and vaccine makers often cheat in supplying old strains. So the vaccination is a mismatch between outbreak strain of CPV and the vaccine strain.

Viral strains used in vaccines are not disclosed by manufacturers. The relevance of a comprehensive vaccination policy must be based on adequately addressing these challenges.

Efforts to vaccinate street and community dogs in India are largely dependent upon the goodwill of volunteers feeding animals or on non-profit animal welfare organizations. Vaccination drives against CPV, funded by the Government (Veterinary Department/ Animal Husbandry Department/ Municipal Administration) would pave the way for ensuring a healthy dog population.

A compelling case may be derived from the One Health Approach – a policy that recognises the interconnectedness between public health, animal health, and ecosystem health of our shared environment. The approach has been endorsed by the One Health Platform Initiative, represented by leading experts from Who Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO), United States Centre For Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and World Organization for Animal Welfare (OIE).

The time has come when the world is going to lurch from one viral epidemic to another. It is time for the government to plan sensibly on how it is going to deal with each virus. In the meantime, can we please have some state dealing with this one?

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

Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is an animal rights activist and politician. She writes column 'Heads & Tails' for the Kashmir Observer. To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in

Covid-19: Shaking Hands In A Shaken World

Hand-shakes are the points of start for many a sporting event

RAKESH MAGGON



A handshake is the warmest means of congratulating anyone. Congratulatory messaging tends to be longer and requires the congratulator to have sufficient opportunity to convey his entire sentiment.

A handshake is an ideal method to precisely time the duration of interaction and one holds on accordingly. The proximity and eye-contact impart an altogether different dimension to the exchange.

A handshake is indeed a great to-

ken of solemnity at partings. Touch of a hand conveys an deeply comforting warmth in spite of the sorrow of separation, the pain of severance, the anxiety of absence, the sombreness of loss. It is when these hands are held in a transient embrace that many a memorable parting words have been said.

Great sportsmanly gesture

Hand-shakes are the points of start for

many a sporting event. They are considered a great sportsmanly gesture before the ferocity of competition overtakes everything else. Indeed they, sort of, reaffirm the spirit of the sport at the end of a fiercely contested game.

Who can forget the gentlemanly handshakes of the Rod Lavers and Bjorn Borgs and Jimmy Connors of the era gone by? Or the ones Peles and Eusabios and Platinis indulged in after bruising encounters on

the soccer pitch.

Readers are well with in their rights to ask the relevance this issue at this juncture. I must confess that this teeny-weeny particle of incomplete life, a virus, has left us all completely homebound, monitored and in our islandic isolation. Life does limp back to normality but I miss the bonhomie of the workplace.

I miss the hand shake.

It's all very well to fist-bump or tangle elbows or meet-feet, but none of this opens the day with a co-worker as well as the good old handshake did. The office doesn't feel the same. No more loud and lively morning greetings with hands in a firm clench. No more hugs with hands in embrace.

I truly wish that this virus that has shaken us all is shaken off soon so that we can go back to days of an easy handshake.

Dr Rakesh Maggon is a Dubai-based specialist ophthalmologist with an interest in literature

Gulf News

The grasp of hands brings about a certain physical proximity and an inevitable eye contact ensues. This arguably sets the stage for furthering the cause of a potential relationship

I suspect that the word "man" emerged from the word "manus". Manus means the hand and one thing that gave the "man" a real kick-start in his evolution was this manus. With manus the man could dig, shape, write, paint, strum, shoot and even text.

Soon he became the king of the proverbial jungle and started to dominate the nature's proceedings. Lives attained greater complexity and numerous societies materialised. With time men met other men, as indeed women, and such interaction inevitably necessitated a need for a greeting.

It is said that as far back as 500BC, Greeks first indulged in a handshake and this manual exchange was purely from a safety standpoint. This was one way to express that one's hands were clean of any weapon. Romans extended the courtesy all the way up to the elbow and carried out a very thorough search to shake off any weapon.

So, began the greetings. Variety, they say, is the spice of life. Men at different places spiced their lives up differently and cultures allowed different gestures to evolve. Hand, face, feet, nose, cheeks and forehead, all exposed parts of the human body were put to use.

However, a touch was integral to all such greetings; be it the rub-of-the-noses among Maoris or rubbing the cheeks in France or a, now-so-popular, Yankee fist bump and not to forget the "high" or "low" five. Now, all these manual tactile interactions have their proponents in different geographies and cultures but one gesture that has withstood the test of time and has acquired a gender-neutral universality, it is the ubiquitous handshake.

Many fabulous attributes

A hand shake has many fabulous attributes. You can enter a room full of strangers and instantly make the first move by warmly shaking a strange hand. The firmness of your grip and the duration of contact can be deemed to be measures of degree of acquaintance.

The grasp of hands brings about a certain physical proximity and an inevitable eye contact ensues. This arguably sets the stage for furthering the cause of a potential relationship. That the shake is always with the manus dextra, is also a pointer towards hand of the divine in ensuring that one always starts with the right side and the right spirit.

Your hunger affects your monetary decisions, says new study

Agencies

Higher levels of the stomach-derived hormone ghrelin, which stimulates appetite, predict a greater preference for smaller immediate monetary rewards over larger delayed financial rewards, a new study finds.

The study results will be presented at ENDO 2021, the Endocrine Society's annual meeting.

This research presents novel evidence in humans that ghrelin, the so-called "hunger hormone," affects monetary decision making,

said co-investigator Franziska Plessow, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston. She said recent research findings in rodents suggested that ghrelin may play a part in impulsive choices and behaviours.

"Our results indicate that ghrelin might play a broader role than previously acknowledged in human reward-related behaviour and decision making, such as monetary choices," Plessow said.

"This will hopefully inspire

future research into its role in food-independent human perception and behaviour."

Ghrelin signals the brain for the need to eat and may modulate brain pathways that control reward processing. Levels of ghrelin fluctuate throughout the day, depending on food intake and individual metabolism.

This study included 84 female participants ages 10 to 22 years: 50 with a low-weight eating disorder, such as anorexia nervosa, and 34 healthy control participants. Plessow's research team

tested blood levels of total ghrelin before and after a standardized meal that was the same for all participants, who had fasted beforehand. After the meal, participants took a test of hypothetical financial decisions, called the delay discounting task. They were asked to make a series of choices to indicate their preference for a smaller immediate monetary reward or a larger delayed amount of money, for instance, USD 20 today or USD 80 in 14 days.

Healthy girls and young women with higher ghrelin

levels were more likely to choose the immediate but smaller monetary reward rather than waiting for a larger amount of money, the researchers reported. This preference indicates more impulsive choices, Plessow said.

The relationship between ghrelin level and monetary choices was absent in age-matched participants with a low-weight eating disorder. People with this eating disorder are known to have ghrelin resistance, and Plessow said their finding might be another indicator of a disconnect be-



tween ghrelin signalling and behaviour in this population.

The study received funding from the National Institutes of Health and a Charles A. King Trust Research Fel-

lowship Award to Plessow. Naila Shiraliyeva, M.D., a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, will present the study findings at the meeting.

Study suggests 'harsh parenting' may lead to smaller brains

Agencies

Repeatedly getting angry, hitting, shaking or yelling at children is linked with smaller brain structures in adolescence, according to a new study published in Development and Psychology.

It was conducted by Sabrina Suffren, PhD, at Université de Montreal and the CHU Sainte Justine Research Centre in partnership with researchers from Stanford University.

The harsh parenting practices covered by the study are common and even considered socially acceptable by most people in Canada and around the world.

"The implications go beyond changes in the brain. I think what's important is for parents and society to understand that the frequent use of harsh parenting practices can harm a child's development," said Suffren, the study's lead author. "We're talking about their social and emotional development, as well as their brain development."

Emotions and brain anatomy
Serious child abuse (such as sexual, physical and emotional abuse), neglect and even institutionalization have been linked to anxiety and depression later in life.



The implications go beyond changes in the brain. I think what's important is for parents and society to understand that the frequent use of harsh parenting practices can harm a child's development

Previous studies have already shown that children who have experienced severe abuse have smaller prefrontal cortexes and amygdala, two structures that play a key role in emotional regulation and the emergence of anxiety and depression.

In this study, researchers observed that the same brain regions were smaller in adolescents who had repeatedly been subjected to harsh parenting practices in childhood, even though the children did not experience more serious acts of abuse.

"These findings are both significant and new. It's the first time that harsh parenting practices that fall short of serious abuse have been linked to

decreased brain structure size, similar to what we see in victims of serious acts of abuse," said Suffren, who completed the work as part of her doctoral thesis at UdeM's Department of Psychology, under the supervision of Professors Francoise Maheu and Franco Lepore.

She added that a study published in 2019 "showed that harsh parenting practices could cause changes in brain function among children, but now we know that they also affect the very structure of children's brains."

Children monitored since birth at CHU Sainte-Justine:

One of this study's strengths is that it used data from children who

had been monitored since birth at CHU Saint-Justine in the early 2000s by Université de Montreal's Research Unit on Children's Psychosocial Maladjustment (GRIP) and the Quebec Statistical Institute. The monitoring was organized and carried out by GRIP members Dr. Jean Seguin, Dr. Michel Boivin and Dr. Richard Tremblay.

As part of this monitoring, parenting practices and child anxiety levels were evaluated annually while the children were between the ages of 2 and 9. This data was then used to divide the children into groups based on their exposure (low or high) to persistently harsh parenting practices.

"Keep in mind that these children were constantly subjected to harsh parenting practices between the ages of 2 and 9. This means that differences in their brains are linked to repetitive exposure to harsh parenting practices during childhood," said Suffren who worked with her colleagues to assess the children's anxiety levels and perform anatomical MRIs on them between the ages of 12 and 16.

This study is the first to try to identify the links between harsh parenting practices, children's anxiety and the anatomy of their brains.

Strong coffee before exercise ups fat-burning in men: Study



Agencies

Caffeine—about 3 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), the equivalent of a strong coffee—ingested half an hour before aerobic exercise significantly increases the rate of fat-burning, suggests a new study.

The study, published in Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition, also found that if the exercise is performed in the afternoon, the effects of the caffeine are more marked than in the morning.

"The results of our study showed that acute caffeine ingestion 30 minutes before performing

The conditions prior to each exercise test (hours elapsed since last meal, physical exercise, or consumption of stimulant substances) were strictly standardized, and fat oxidation during exercise was calculated accordingly.

an aerobic exercise test increased maximum fat oxidation during exercise regardless of the time of day," said lead researcher Francisco Jose Amaro-Gahete from the University of Granada in Spain.

For the study, the researchers aimed to determine whether caffeine—one of the most commonly-consumed ergogenic substances in the world to improve sports performance—actually does increase oxidation or "burning" of fat during exercise.

A group of men with a mean age of 32 participated in the research, completing an exercise test four times at seven-day intervals. Subjects ingested 3 mg/kg of caffeine or a placebo at 8 am and 5 pm (each subject completed the tests in all four conditions in a random order).

The conditions prior to each exercise test (hours elapsed since last meal, physical exercise, or consumption of stimulant substances) were strictly standardized, and fat oxidation during exercise was calculated accordingly.

In summary, the findings of this study suggest that the combination of acute caffeine intake and aerobic exercise performed at moderate intensity in the afternoon provides the optimal scenario for people seeking to increase fat-burning during physical exercise.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (HYD) DIVISION BANDIPORE

Email: xenhydbpr@gmail.com, xen-hydbpr@jk.gov.in
Address: Mini Secretariat Bandipore Block-C

TENDER DOCUMENT

E-NIT S. No: 33-PHE/Hyd/Bpr of 2020-2021

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	22	03	2021	10Hrs
2	Download start date	22	03	2021	10Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	22	03	2021	10Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	01	04	2021	1600 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date	03	04	2021	11.30 Hrs.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT 33/PHE/HYD/BPR of 2020-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subject work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipora as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The set of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipora

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Position of AA
01	Construction of balance work of 0.74 lac gallon slow sand filtration plant Kharipora Bandipore and connecting with existing network which include DLP of 12 months.	29.75Lacs Incl. cost of pipes	2500.00 indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E-Challan	03 Months	AA/ BEE	Accorded

Position of Funds:-

Major Head of Account:-

Available

Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1.1 The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in- Charges of Civil & Mechanical wings In-charge of the Scheme.

1.2 If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 and EMD of the lowest bidder including the additional Security Performance shall be forfeited, besides debaring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e- Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer,
PHE (Hyd) Division
Bandipora

No: -PHE/Hyd/Bpr/6587-97
Dated:-20/03/2021

DIPK-15421/20

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Ph.01942951904

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO.220/2020-21 issue under endorsement No.18685-94

Dated:22 -03-2021

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time	M.H of Ac-count	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	7	6
1	Restoration of road cut damaged by PHE b.w.o GSB filling and WBM G-II at BandayBagh with allied links (Part-B)	03.20	200/-	05 days	8443 DC Works	DEE
2	Construction of U-shaped Cement concrete Drain on Main Gut-ligah road Balace Portion (Bridge onwards) under NABARD.	21.99	800/-	15 days	NABARD	CEE/BEE
3	Improvement/Upgradation of Akhal Prang road at Paw Mohalla link b.w.o Construction of B/Wall near L/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar.	04.83	200/-	05 days	4059 S/S	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.03.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.03.2021 from 6.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	22.03.2021 from 6.30 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	29.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29.03.2021 at 04.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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 Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work 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 Vendor.

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

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

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

Note:- Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

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

26. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 No. 18685-94

Dated: 22.03.2021

DIPK-15448/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

Business Activity In India Dips As Second Covid Wave Impacts Mobility: Nomura

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Business activity in India has declined as the second wave of the pandemic, which is spreading beyond Maharashtra, has started to impact mobility levels, according to Nomura. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) dipped to 95.1 for the week ended March 21, from 95.4 in the prior week, the Japanese brokerage said on Monday.

"The pandemic's second wave is now spreading to states outside Maharashtra and is starting to impact mobility. This second wave is likely to result in a short-term growth bump to what is otherwise an uptrend," it said. As of mid-March, Google workplace and retail and recreation mobility fell by 3.7 percentage points on a week-on-week basis and 0.3 percentage points, respectively, while the more updated Apple driving index fell by 2.6 percentage points.

However, power demand improved by 2.6 per cent week-on-week after a 0.6 per cent decline the prior week, while the labour participation rate inched up to 40.6 per cent from 39.5 per cent. The knock-on effect of the second wave on mobility suggests a likely sequential dip in contact-based services and a near-term delay of normalisation.

However, the brokerage said, it expects the impact to be "more transitory and muted" (than in Q2 2020), as factory operations remain uninterrupted; consumers and businesses have adapted to the new normal with the latter overhauling their supply and sales chains to become more resilient. Besides, medium-term tailwinds like vaccinations, global growth, and continued easy financial conditions will support real GDP growth of 13.5 per cent in FY22, up from a contraction of 7.4 per cent in FY21, Nomura said.

280 Companies Declared Bankrupt Amid Pandemic



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: National Company Law Tribunals (NCLT) across the country admitted a total of 283 companies into insolvency amid the pandemic after the announcement of the nationwide lockdown last year.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur, also said that during the period of April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, a total of 76 corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRP) ended in resolution, 128 CIRPs were closed due to withdrawal or appeal or settlement and 189 companies went into liquidation.

Further, the government temporarily suspended the initiation of CIRP under Section 7, 9 and 10 of the Code for a period of six months or such further period not exceed-

ing one year from March 25, 2020.

The benefit of the suspension is applicable to all those defaults of the corporate debtor that occur from March 25, 2020 and till the end of period of suspension.

Such defaults arising from March 25, 2020 and till completion of suspension period will remain as 'non rest' for the purpose of initiation of CIRP under the code as permanent carve out.

The 283 bankruptcies declared the pandemic pertain to defaults made before March 25, 2020.

Thakur told the house that 30 corporate persons were dissolved or sold as a going concern or undergone compromise or arrangement under section 230 of Companies Act, 2013 under liquidation process. Further, 59 corporate persons were dissolved under voluntary liquidation process.

Adani Green Energy Shares Hit Upper Circuit After The Company Adds Two Renewable Energy Projects To Its Kitty



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Adani Green Energy shares have resumed their upward journey after the company added two new renewable energy projects to its kitty. The two projects together add 350-megawatt to the company's power generation capacity, taking the total capacity to 15,165 megawatts.

Shares of Adani Green Energy were locked in the upper circuit at 1,252 per share, gaining 59.60 over the previous closing price. This translates to a gain of 5%.

Upper circuit refers to the maximum price that a stock is allowed to move upward in a day.

Adani Green Energy's shares have jumped over 67% since October, 2020. While this rally is impressive, it pales in comparison to the steep 700% jump over the last one year.

In the same time, the benchmark Nifty50 index rose by a mere 93%.

Adani Green Energy has added a total of 350-megawatt renewable energy capacity recently. The first one was due to the acquisition of 100% stake in Toronto-based SkyPower Global's 50-megawatt solar power project.

Apart from this, the company also won a 300-megawatt wind

power project from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project term is 25 years and the price has been fixed at 2.77 per kilo-watt hour.

Thanks to the addition of 350-megawatt projects, Adani Green Energy's total renewable energy capacity now stands at 15,165 megawatts. Of this, projects of 3,395-megawatt capacity are already operational while the remaining 11,770-megawatt projects are under implementation, according to the company's press release.

According to a report by Macquarie Research, Adani Green Energy has more than tripled its operational capacity over the past four years – from a little under 1 gigawatts to nearly 3.4 gigawatts. The company has announced plans to boost this capacity to 6.3 gigawatts by financial year 2022, and to 25 gigawatts by financial year 2025. 1 gigawatt equals 1,000 megawatts.

"Given the government's ambitious target to reach 175GW of renewable capacity by 2022 and 400GW by 2030, AGEL (Adani Green Energy Ltd) is favourably placed to tap into this mega opportunity," stated a report by Edelweiss Research, highlighting the favourable position of the company.

Advisor Khan Confers State Awards To Artisans Who Exhibited Unique Skill In Crafts



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Self Help Groups are viable economic activities which creates employment opportunities, besides exploring local potential optimally in traditional Handicraft and Handloom trades including Carpet, Sozni, Paper Machie, Crewel and Namda.

This was stated by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan while inaugurating the JKNRLM's (UMEED) five days Regional Mela 'POOSHIDA HUNNER'—A humble step towards strengthening of Women SHGs economically at Kashmir Haat here.

While speaking on the occasion, Advisor Baseer Khan said that he was impressed with the variety and quality of products prepared and displayed by different Self Help Groups on the stalls at Exhibition Ground.

He told SHG members that their enthusiastic participation in the Mela to display and showcase products is encouraging and is a statement of their commitment and dedication for promotion of skill and finished products besides economic empowerment.

The Advisor said that he has taken up the promotion of SHGs and the products prepared by them with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

He informed them that the government led by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha is very keen to double the number of SHG as it has proved to be a viable economic activity that employs thousands of females and earns them very considerable income.

He said various measures have been taken for marketing and ex-

ploring the space at prime locations for displaying the SHGs made products across Jammu and Kashmir.

He also directed all Deputy Commissioners of J&K to provide permanent space to SHGs at Rural Haats for displaying and selling of their goods.

He also directed Director Handicraft and Handloom Kashmir to explore the way to provide these groups permanent space in the exhibition ground at Kashmir Haat, besides helping them with registration of groups, and added that the same process should also be followed in Jammu District.

He said that stalls and kiosks shall be established along the Srinagar-Jammu Highway besides other places during the Amamath Pilgrimage.

He said a huge number of adventure and religious tourists are visiting here who will buy our products and will also help to promote those across the country.

He said that GI tagging shall be held and the products shall be registered through an e-commerce stage to give flip to the trade.

Advisor also called participants to increase their production of fine quality goods and said Kashmir is known for its Handicraft and handloom products across the globe.

Advisor also interacted with the Self Help Group members who had set up stalls at Kashmir Haat and enquired of them regarding profits in the trade. He also assured them full support for the sustenance of this economic activity.

Later, Advisor Baseer Khan gave away awards to the artisans selected for their extraordinary talent in the Carpet, Sozni and Paper Machie

sector at the Directorate of Handicraft and Handlooms.

Advisor congratulated the artisans and told them that it is the recognition of their skill and talent.

He said the government is exploring the resources to help artisans with financial assistance, marketing, GI tagging etc.

He directed concerned to conduct more and more exhibitions to highlight the potential of SHGs.

On the occasion, Gh Hussain Rather from Nowshera was awarded 50,000 posthumously, Safder Ali Mir from Sonpah was given 30,000 and Ajaz Ah Dar from Wakura was awarded 20,000 in Sozni category.

In Carpet category, Ali Mohammed Ganaie, Patlipora Payeen Chattable and Gh Mohammed Jan Shahoo shechem Kulgam were conferred with cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 respectively.

Also, in Paper Machie, Gh Mohiud-din from, Zadibal, Altaf Hussain Bhat from Zadibal and Syed Inayat from Alamgiri Bazar were given Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 prizes respectively.

Besides, in languishing & Innovative category, Ab Majid Shah from Nawa Kadal was awarded Rs 20,000 cash prize.

Further, in category of Crewel, Ruby from Kawadara was awarded Rs 20,000 and in Willow Wicker works, Gh Mohammed Magray, from Kachan, Ganderbal was given award of Rs 50,000.

Mission Director, JKNRLM, UMEED, Rubina Kounser; Director H&H, Mehmood Ahmad Shah, concerned officers, SHG members among others were present on the occasion.

India Files Appeal Against Cairn Arbitration Award

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India is believed to have challenged in a court in The Hague an arbitration tribunal verdict that overturned its demand for Rs 10,247 crore in back taxes from Cairn Energy Plc—the second time in three months that it has refused to accept an international award against retrospective tax.

The appeal was filed on Monday, a source with knowledge of the matter said.

The Finance Ministry spokesperson did not immediately respond to an e-mail sent for comments.

The appeal against a three-member tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague invalidating India's Rs 10,247 crore tax claim on Cairn Energy and ordering the government to return the value of shares it had sold, dividends seized and tax refunds withheld, comes weeks before UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit to India. The British Prime Minister is widely expected to broach India honouring international arbitration awards during his April 26 visit, another source said.

In December, the government had challenged in a Singapore court an international arbitration tribunal verdict that overturned its demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes from Vodafone Group Plc.

Since the seat of Vodafone arbitration was Singapore, an appeal was filed in a court in that country. In the case of Cairn, the seat was The Hague and so an appeal has been filed in a court in the Netherlands, the first source said.

The appeal was filed on a day when Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur had told the Lok Sabha in a written reply that "any such decision on filing of appeal or otherwise is taken only after careful consideration of all aspects of the matter."

The tribunal's 582-page detailed verdict that asked India to return USD 1.2 billion-plus interest and cost to Cairn was registered in the Netherlands on January 8 and New Delhi acknowledged it on January 19, the source said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier this month indicated the government's intent of appealing against the award on grounds of it questioning the sovereign powers of India to levy taxes.

Her ministry feels taxation is not a subject of bilateral investment treaties, like the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty under which Cairn had sought rescinding of the tax demand raised, and so the award should be appealed.

It is of the opinion that Cairn set up a tax abusive structure in

2006 when it reorganised its India business to list the local unit, and did not pay taxes anywhere in the world on the gains that it made in India, they said, adding India had made an unsuccessful case of tax not being part of the treaty before the arbitration panel as well.

However, the arbitration award specifically made it clear the base of the judgment was not a challenge to the 2012 law or India's sovereign right to tax.

"The issue at stake is thus not a matter of domestic tax law, it is rather whether the fiscal measures taken by the state, valid or not under its own tax laws, violate international law," the tribunal had said in a unanimous verdict.

The Hague panel found that a 2012 law passed by the Indian Parliament was a new tax, not a clarification of prior law that could be applied to earlier years.

Cairn has moved courts in nine countries to enforce the award against India. The award has already been recognised by courts in the US, the UK, Netherlands, Canada and France and the same is in the process in Singapore, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and the Cayman Islands.

The registration of the award is the first step towards its enforcement in the event of the government not paying the firm.

No Compound, Penal Interest Be Charged From Borrowers During Loan Moratorium Period: SC

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: In a relief to borrowers, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed that no compound or penal interest be charged during the six-month loan moratorium period announced last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the amount already charged shall be refunded, credited or adjusted.

The apex court refused to interfere with the Centre's and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) decision to not extend the loan moratorium beyond August 31 last year, saying it is a policy decision.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that the top court cannot do judicial review of the Centre's financial policy decision unless it is malafide and arbitrary.

The apex court said it cannot interfere with the government's decision to fix priorities for relief during the pandemic which has affected all across the country and the government has been under severe financial constraints.

The bench said this in its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by various trade associations, including from real estate and power sectors, seeking extension of loan moratorium and other reliefs in view of the pandemic.

The RBI had on March 27 last year issued the circular which allowed lending institutions to grant a moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans falling due between March 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic. Later, the moratorium was extended till August 31 last year.

In its verdict, the top court said that from various steps taken by the government, it cannot be said that the Centre and the RBI have not considered the relief for the borrowers.

The bench said it cannot strike down a policy decision merely at the behest of petitioners on grounds that the other view is possible and the other decision could be more beneficial.

While refusing to go into the financial policy decision taken by the government, the bench said it is not open for the court to embark upon judicial review of policy decision merely at the behest of petitioners.

It said that complete waiver of interest is not possible as it will have huge financial implications. The apex court had reserved its judgement on the batch of pleas on December 17 last year.

The Centre had earlier submitted before the top court that if it were to consider waiving interest on all the loans and advances to



all categories of borrowers for the six-month moratorium period announced by RBI, then the amount foregone would be more than Rs 6 lakh crore.

If the banks were to bear this burden, then it would necessarily wipe out a substantial and a major part of their net worth, rendering most of the lenders unviable and raising a very serious question mark over their very survival, it had said.

The government had said this was a main reason as to why waiver of interest was not even contemplated and only payment of instalments was deferred.

Giving an illustration, it had said that in case of State Bank of India alone, waiver of six months' interest would completely wipe out over half of the bank's net worth which has accumulated over nearly 65 years of its existence.

It had pointed out the sector-specific relief measures taken by the government for the small and mid-sized business/MSMEs including from sectors such as restaurants and hotels.

The Centre has promulgated emergency credit-linked guarantee scheme (ECLGS) of Rs 3 lakh crore providing additional credit at lower rate of interest, with 100 per cent government guarantee and no fresh collateral, it had said.

The scheme has been extended with higher financial limits to twenty seven COVID-19 impacted sectors including restaurant and hotel sectors, it had said.

On November 27 last year, the top court had asked the Centre to ensure that all steps be taken to implement its decision to forego interest on eight specified categories of loans paid up to Rs 2 crore in view of the pandemic.

The eight categories of loans are MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), Education, Housing, Consumer durable, Credit card, Automobile, Personal and Consumption.

Insurance Amendment Bill to hike FDI to 74 per cent passed in Parliament

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Insurance Amendment Bill, which seeks to hike the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent, with Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman saying that the measure was necessary to allow the insurance companies to access growth capital.

The Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. Sitharaman, speaking in the Parliament, pointed out that there is significant stress in the insurance sector, with three out of the seven public sector insurers below the solvency margin. Many of the insurance companies are hard pressed to maintain solvency ratio of 150 per cent as per the norms, she said. Solvency margin is the ratio of assets to liabilities.

The minister also pointed out that the government will provide funds to public sector insurance

companies but private players will have to raise capital on their own. The Bill provides them headroom to raise capital, she said.

"If growth capital is hard to come by, there will be a stress situation. In order that the stress situation is not left unattended, we need to raise the FDI limit," Sitharaman pointed out, adding that the pandemic has worsened the woes of insurance companies.

"There is definitely a financial stress for raising money, especially for private sector insurance companies, which needs to maintain that solvency ratio," she said. The minister also observed that the FDI limit was being raised on the recommendation of sector regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India after extensive consultations. FDI will not only bring in capital, but will also bring in greater competition, efficiency, better technology and enhance job opportunity, she said.

NEWSMAKERS



Nissan India To Increase Prices Of All Models For Nissan And Datsun From April 1

Agenceis

Nissan India has announced a price hike across all available models for Nissan and Datsun, effective from April 1.

"There has been continuous escalation in auto component prices, and we have tried to absorb this escalation over the last few months. We are now constrained to increase our prices across all Nissan & Datsun models, the increase varies from variant to variant, while still offering the best value proposition to its discerning Indian customers," said Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director, Nissan Mo-

tor India Pvt Ltd.

The all-new Nissan Magnite is currently available for bookings across all Nissan India dealerships and on its website, at Rs 11,000 with a complete digital experience that awaits each customer to ease their buying process. It is available in 20 grade line-ups and over 36 combinations, each grade walk is carefully curated to meet the aspirations of the discerning Indian customers.

The Nissan KICKS is available in 1.5L naturally aspirated & 1.3L Turbo petrol engine option in MT & CVT variants. The Datsun redi-GO is available in 0.8L and 1.0L engine option in MT & AMT

variants, whilst the Datsun GO is available in 1.2L engine option with MT and CVT. The Datsun GO+ is available in 1.2L engine with MT and CVT options.

Nissan Motor India Private Ltd. (NMPL) is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. Japan. The company was incorporated in 2005 and offers products across the hatchback, MUV, SUV and sedan segments in India. Nissan together with its global alliance partner Renault set up a manufacturing plant and a Research & Development Centre near Chennai. Nissan in India has a portfolio of two brands, Nissan and Datsun.

Ready To 'Bury

come days before Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will attend Heart of Asia – a meeting that among others would be attended by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar – in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The meeting provides a platform for regional co-operation with Kabul at its centre and with the recognition by the participants that a secure and stable Afghanistan is vital to the prosperity of the region.

The statement coincides with India and Pakistan holding in three years the first meeting of a commission that deals with water rights on the Indus River on Tuesday, illustrating a broader resumption of diplomatic ties.

The Permanent Indus Commission, set up under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, is set to meet in New Delhi on March 23 (today) to 24, said two Indian officials that deal in bilateral water issues.

At the talks, Pakistan will raise its objections to the technical designs of India's Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric plants.

The talks represent a thawing in bilateral ties, which have been frozen since a 2019 suicide bombing in Kashmir blamed on Pakistan and India's decision later that year to strip the disputed region's autonomous status in order to bind it closer to India.

But over the past few weeks, the two governments have made tentative efforts to re-engage and calm the borders as they struggle to extricate their countries from the worst economic downturn ever amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

About a month after the armies of Pakistan and India agreed to observe a ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), Bloomberg revealed the months-long talks that preceded the landmark announcement were brokered by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The cease-fire, the report which cited sources said, is only the beginning of a larger roadmap to forge a lasting peace between the arch-rival neighbours.

The next step in the process involves both sides reinstating high commissioners in New Delhi and Islamabad, who were pulled in August 2019 after Pakistan protested India's move to revoke the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir.

The reinstatement of the envoys will be followed by the hard part: Talks on resuming trade and a last-ing resolution on Kashmir.

Last Thursday, addressing a gathering of scholars and experts discussing national security at the Islamabad Security Dialogue, Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a rare conciliatory call, urged for a peaceful resolution in Kashmir and for peace talks with India.

He had also called for burying the past and moving forward, saying that Kashmir holds the key to peace in all of South Asia, a region that is home to a quarter of the world's population.

"It is important to understand that without the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means, the process of sub-continental rapprochement will always remain susceptible to a derailment," the army chief had observed.

Qureshi, Jaishankar

to a media report here.

However, there was no official confirmation from New Delhi on whether Jaishankar will travel to Tajikistan for the conference or about the possible meeting with his Pakistani counterpart.

The Ninth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process is scheduled to take place on the 30th of March 2021 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

Dawn newspaper reported that the participation of Jaishankar and Qureshi in the March 30th event, in the backdrop of the recent developments, has led to speculation that they could meet.

"In view of recent events, we cannot say it's impossible," an official was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The militaries of India and Pakistan on February 25 announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

On March 18, Pakistan's powerful Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward".

Addressing a session of the first-ever Islamabad Security Dialogue here, Gen Bajwa also said that the potential for regional peace and development always remained hostage to the disputes and issues between Pakistan and India – the two "nuclear-armed neighbours".

"We feel it is time to bury the past and move forward," he said, adding that the responsibility for a meaningful dialogue rested with India.

India last month said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence and that the onus is on Pakistan to create such an environment.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a militant attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The ties hit rock bottom after India carried out a surgical strike at a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama attack in 2019 in which 40 CRPF men were killed.

The border tensions increased manifold after India abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

Hurriyat Backs

and Pakistan to adhere to a ceasefire agreement on the Line of Control (LoC) and the subsequent statements and actions by them indicate a positive shift in the relations between the two neighbours.

"The Hurriyat always was and is ready to extend full support to all initiatives between the two countries that aim at bringing peace and prosperity to all the people of the subcontinent and seek a fair and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, it said.

The amalgam said it greatly welcomes the shift towards good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

"This is being observed with anticipation by the people of J-K who are deeply affected by the state of the relations between the two neighbours," it said.

India and Pakistan had announced on February 25 that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

LG Seeks Help

and women in creating violence-free society, counter-radicalization and modernization of Madrasa education.

"Jammu & Kashmir has remained home to diverse religious and cultural influences which deeply enriched its pluralistic ethos. No development and progress is possible without sustained peace, communal harmony and brotherhood," LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

"Violence has no place in any civilized society and peaceful co-existence is the best means to resolve problems," he added.

The LG, he said, emphasized the need for restoration of the pristine glory of J&K as an abode of peace, amity, communal harmony and brotherhood and urged the people to come forward in achieving this goal.

While addressing the issue of counter radicalization, Sinha, he said, urged community elders, religious heads and torch bearers to spread the message of love, peace and tolerance among the youth.

"Radicalization should not be associated with a specific religion. There is a need for Islamic Scholars to formulate a policy and a process by which a helpless person, who is exposed to a violent ideology, is prevented from getting radicalized," LG said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG also

highlighted the significant role of family, community influencers, religious and spiritual heads in the counter-radicalization process to "thwart any attempt being made from across the border to incite communal hatred in the society". The LG, he said, also urged the religious heads and women to play an active role in prevention of drug addiction.

On social media based propaganda, Sinha, the official spokesperson said, called upon all the stakeholders to make collaborative efforts to check the violent ideology and propaganda being spread on social media by certain groups in radicalizing our young population.

"Although, the level of radicalization is comparatively much lesser in Jammu Kashmir, it is very important to focus on counter-radicalization for ensuring social harmony and national security," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

He said that the LG also underlined the important role of mainstream media to counter such elements and extremist ideologies.

"These efforts are not written ideologies or some philosophies but it is about humanness and helping the personality of an individual to grow in the right direction," Sinha, as per the official spokesperson said.

"Many people distorted the message of Islam and apart from Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, there are many clerics and khatibs who raised voice against deliberate distortion and misinterpretation of the selected portion of Islamic texts. There is a need to check propagation and wrong interpretation of texts from holy books, besides realizing our responsibilities to show the right way and direction to the one who is treading a wrong path," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG termed Jammu and Kashmir as an ocean of spirituality where the values of humanity and tolerance emanating from the united culture of Shavism, Buddhism and Sufism have always flourished over the centuries. The LG, he said, made special mention of Sufi saint Farid and Adi Shankaracharya and asked the people to spread their message of humanity and love.

"If you see any religion of the world, it teaches us only two paths – the paths of meditation and love. The problem arises when the original values of the religion are ignored and the spirit of love, kindness, compassion, renunciation which develops the 'Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava' and communal harmony is harmed. It is our responsibility to correct the wrong rhetoric and misinterpretation to preserve the feeling of love and harmony," Sinha, as per official spokesperson said.

"Many cases have come up in which even a very educated person gets radicalized. We need to counter radicalization through Sufi tradition, religious heads and Mothers and sisters without any particular sect," he added.

Speaking on the immense talent and potential possessed by the youth of J&K, the LG, as per official spokesperson said that under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the Union Territory administration was putting in all out efforts to provide them with rightful opportunities.

He said that the LG highlighted the reformative measures being taken in the education sector by the government and said that from this session, education will be imparted in all 5 official languages.

"Translation of local folklores and those of other states for cultural exchange and understanding is being done to promote the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. The stories of courage and sacrifice of our role models like Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Maqbool Sherwani and Women Self Defense Corps, would be told in schools," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

Speaking on tremendous work being done for modernization of education, the LG, he said, observed that Vocational courses have been started in all schools from class 9th in accordance with the suggestions of the new National Education Policy. Apart from this, vocational training is being provided to 44,351 children in 715 schools under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

The official spokesperson said that the LG underscored the initiatives taken for strengthening the skill development and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K, and said that in the last two years, revolutionary measures have been taken to channelize the young energies into the right direction.

"The Government has signed an MoU with the Bombay Stock Exchange to provide banking, finance and stock market training to the youth through the Mission Youth program. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, two CIIIT centers have been set up in Baramulla and Jammu in collaboration with Tata Technologies. Under the Himayat program, young boys and girls are being provided employment," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

"During the last 6 months, 17,800 young boys and girls from all panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir have become entrepreneurs and are also providing employment to other people of the villages. An unprecedented Rs 28,400 crore New Industrial development scheme was announced that will provide employment avenues and opportunities to around 5 lakh youth," he added.

Sinha, as per the official spokesperson also said that the work done during the last 18 months in the field of skill development and medical education was not done in the last 70 years.

"In the next two years, we aim to ensure that no house is deprived of electricity, water and access to roads. I am confident that the Young Generation will contribute significantly in making Jammu and Kashmir the most developed region in the country," LG, as per the official spokesperson said in his concluding remarks.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, Molvi Muzaffar also stressed on the need to put a special focus on misrepresentation of Islamic teachings further adding that the certain elements within the community were distorting the Islam's message for peace, love and harmony.

Besides Muzaffar, he said Mufti Nisar Ahmad, Tariq Ahmad, Mufti Aslam, Sheikh Muzaffar, Khalida Parveen, Rakesh Kaulji, Maulana Mufti , Sakhi Rathore, Maulvi Javaid, Maulvi Shabir, Molvi Ab Majeed Parray, Mufti Ghulam Mustafa, Mufti Mudasir Mohammad were present on the occasion.

Besides these religious figures, the official spokesperson said, LG's Advisor Baseer Ahmed Khan, Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Rahul Pandey, Director, Information and Public Relations were also present in the conference.

Int'l Flights To

Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral "air bubble" arrangements with selected countries since July.

India has formed air bubble pacts with 27 countries, including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The DGCA circular also said that the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it.

59 Civilians Killed

reply filed by MoS Home GK Reddy in the Lok Sabha said that a total of 59 people were killed in the military-related incidents, and 168 received injuries while no individual was killed during law and order incidents while 53 people received injuries.

The MoS in a district-wise break-up of the people killed and injured in militancy-related incidents, said that nine people were killed and 69 received injured in Srinagar, in Budgam two people were killed and four injured, in Baramulla, three people were killed and 43 received injuries, in Kupwara one person was killed and one injured, in Bandipora three people got killed and no while no individual was injured, in Anantnag six people were killed and 22 received injuries, in Pulwama 12 people were killed and 24 injured, in Kulgam 15 people were killed and three injured and in Shopian eight people were killed and

two received injuries.

The MHA said that Sopore, Handwara, Ganderbal, and Awantipora are the four districts in Kashmir valley with no killing and injuries in the militancy-related incidents post the Abrogation of Article 370.

About the district wise figures of civilian injuries and killings during law and order incidents, the MoS said that 29 people were injured in Awantipora followed by nine in Srinagar, four each in Pulwama, and in Baramulla, 3 in Kupwara, one each in Budgam, Handwara, and in Anantnag.

The MoS also said that "as reported by Government of J&K, no person is under house arrest. However, post 5th August 2019, certain persons were taken into preventive custody to prevent the commission of offences involving breach of peace and tranquillity, activities prejudicial to the security of the state, and maintenance of public order."—(KNO)

AIIMS At Awantipora

Himachal Pradesh, which has seen 54% progress after being approved by the cabinet on 03 January 2018. Similarly, the AIIMS at Deoghar, Jharkhand, has seen 30% progress in construction work after being approved on 16 May 2018, less than seven months after approval to AIIMS at Awantipora and Samba.

The Government of India set January 2025 as the deadline for the project at Awantipora while the complete date for one at Samba is January 2023.

The central government has appointed CPWD as an executing agency for the Awantipora project.

Nearly 1886 kanals of land have since been handed over to it for construction.

In December last year, the centre directed the J&K administration to set-up a temporary campus adjacent to the proposed site of AIIMS Awantipora for starting medical courses from this academic year.

AIIMS in Samba district has secured the Health Ministry's approval to start its first academic session from this year. The AIIMS has been sanctioned a total intake capacity of 50 MBBS seats for the academic session 2020-2021. (GNS)

Snowfall In Higher

The Meteorological (MeT) Office said widespread moderate to heavy rain/snow is most likely to prevail on Tuesday, but significant improvement in the weather was likely to take place from Wednesday.

300 Vehicles

stranded on both sides of the highway due to the closure.

The Jawahar Tunnel the gateway to Kashmir experienced snowfall this morning following which traffic was suspended between Banihal and Qazigund townships, the officials said.

They said incessant rains also lashed most parts of the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, for the third day on Tuesday, triggering landslides and shooting of stones from hillocks overlooking the highway at nearly a dozen places between Banihal and Chanderkote.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic (National Highway Ramban), Parul Bhardwaj said a few hundred vehicles were stranded on the highway between Nashri and Chanderkote since Monday night.

Despite incessant rains and the lurking threat of shooting stones, the men and machinery kept the highway open and the majority of the stranded vehicles in Ramban were cleared last night itself, he said.

He said a major landslide had struck the highway overnight at Cafeteria Morh, while the road is also closed by debris at many places including Maroog, Monkey Morh, Panthiyal, Digdole, Sherbi, Shabinbas.

Once the weather improves, all out efforts would be made to ensure early restoration of the highway, the officer said. Officials said reports of snowfall were also received from other high altitude areas including Peer Ki Gali along Mughal Road connecting the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region with Shopian in south Kashmir.

The Mughal road was closed for traffic in December and is expected to be thrown open on completion of the snow clearance operation in the first or second week of next month, they said.

They said snowfall was also recorded in the upper reaches of Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts, while Jammu city was lashed by overnight rains, resulting in a drop in the temperature.

The minimum temperature in Jammu city settled at 14.9 degrees Celsius against the 16.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, a spokesman of the Meteorological department said. (PTI)

Pak Objects

Treaty during the annual Permanent Indus Commission meeting.

The two-day meeting which started on Tuesday is taking place after a gap of over two years. The last meeting took place in Lahore in August 2018.

The Indian delegation was led by P K Saxena, India's Indus Commissioner, and his team from the Central Water Commission, the Central Electricity Authority and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

The Pakistani delegation was led by its Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah. The delegation arrived here on Monday evening.

This year's meeting is the first between the two commissioners after the August 2019 nullification of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting also assumes significance as this is the first important engagement between India and Pakistan after militaries of the two countries had announced last month that they would strictly observe a ceasefire along the Line of Control and other sectors.

In 2019, the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was also bifurcated into union territories -- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

India has since cleared several hydropower projects for the region.

Of these, Durbuk Shyok (19 MW), Shankoo (18.5 MW), Nimu Chilling (24 MW), Rongdo (12 MW), Ratan Nag (10.5 MW) are in Leh; and Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW) are Kargil. Both Leh and Kargil fall in Ladakh.

Pakistan has sought information on these projects, sources added.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) warrants the two commissioners to meet at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan.

However, last year's meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi in March was cancelled, a first since the treaty came into being, in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

In July 2020, India had proposed to Pakistan that the meeting for discussing pending issues pertaining to Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) be held virtually in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, but Pakistan insisted on holding talks at the Attari border checkpoint.

However, in response, India said it is not conducive to hold the meeting at the Attari Joint Check Post due to the pandemic. With the improvement in situation, this mandatory meeting is being held following all COVID-19-related protocols.

Under the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the water of the eastern rivers -- Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi -- amounting to around 33 million acre feet (MAF) annually is allocated to India for unrestricted use. The waters of western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab -- amounting to around 135 MAF annually has been assigned largely to Pakistan.

According to the treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers subject to specific criteria for design and operation. The treaty also gives right to Pakistan to raise objections on design of Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

BCCI To Manage

the judgment of the Single Judge ordered that the disputes between different clubs affiliated to JKCA shall be resolved by an Ombudsman, appointed by the Court, and not by the CAA.

Accordingly, the court appointed Justice Syed Bashir-ud-din (retired) as the Ombudsman. Besides, the Division Bench appointed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari (IPS), former DIG, as Chief Executive Officer to assist the CAA to manage the affairs of the Association.

Consequently, the CAA drafted Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations. Among others, the CAA, as argued by one of the litigating parties before the court, among others ended the monopoly of a few Clubs and replaced them with District Associations to adopt the policy of 'territorial representation' for the formation of the Association and ended the earlier practice of denial of representation to each and every territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the JKCA.

After hearing all the litigating parties, the court observed that it has been "in essence called upon to determine as to whether the newly drafted Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations by the CAA of the JKCA is in accordance with the mandate of the Lodha Committee, as approved by the Supreme Court."

"Having gone through the rival stands adopted by the learned appearing counsel for the parties concerned along with connected matters coupled with the facts giving rise to the instant litigation; as also keeping in view the directions passed by the Supreme Court from time to time; and the overall object of promoting the game of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir, we are of the view that it shall not be appropriate for this Court to go into the question of ascertaining whether the Memorandum of Association and Rules of Regulations so framed by the CAA of the JKCA are in tune with the recommendations of the Lodha Committee," the division Bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta said.

"Instead, in our opinion, now that the BCCI, which is tasked with the overall governing/controlling of the activities of the game of cricket in India and of which the JKCA is an affiliate member, is in position with its newly approved Constitution, it is the said body which shall be the appropriate authority to answer the above-formulated question in the light of its newly approved Constitution."

The BCCI, the court said, is expected to have all expertise required for answering the question being the apex body for managing and controlling the activities of the game of cricket in India, including the Jammu and Kashmir.

"Besides, the BCCI has also filed an application for handing over the affairs of the JKCA to it till such time the elections of the office bearers of the JKCA are conducted under its supervision."

Subsequently, the Division Bench while appreciating the effort and endeavour made by the CAA as well as the CEO, said that it feel that there was no further need of their continuation. "As such, the CAA and the CEO of the JKCA appointed by this Court shall stand discontinued," the court said.

The BCCI shall, as an interim measure and till a new body of the JKCA is elected under its supervision, run the management, control and administration of the JKCA immediately upon being handed over the same by the CAA, the court said in another direction.

"The BCCI shall, while finalizing the amendment, if any, in the Constitution of the JKCA, in conformity with the recommendations made by the Lodha Committee as approved by the Supreme Court, consult all the stakeholders, including the parties litigating before this Court, i.e., the representatives of the erstwhile clubs of the JKCA as also of the District Cricket Associations now formed by the CAA."

The BCCI, the court said, shall ensure promoting of cricketing activities in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Ladakh in tune with its approved Constitution and at par with other affiliated Associations from various States and Union Territories of the country.

"The BCCI shall ensure that the required infrastructure on ground is improved and made available to the cricketers of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh without waiting for any audit report."

The BCCI, the court also directed, shall make every endeavour to ensure that the boys and girls playing the cricket in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, from different age groups, are provided all facilities to excel in the game of cricket not only on national, but also at international level.

"The BCCI, given the task assigned to it as indicated above, shall be authorized to appoint Committee/sub-Committee to run, administer, control and supervise the affairs of the JKCA till the elections are held and a body of the JKCA is elected under its supervision, whereafter the administration, control and supervision of the JKCA shall be handed over to the newly elected office bearers of the Association," the court said, adding, "Deputy Commissioner of Jammu as well of Srinagar shall cooperate with the BCCI for ensuring implementation of the aforesaid directions passed in this judgment for any requisitioned assistance. They shall ensure preparation of inventory of movable and immovable property of the JKCA and furnishing the same, alongwith the list of assets and liabilities of JKCA as existing on the date of this judgment, to the BCCI during the course of this week."

The court also said that it hope and trust that the BCCI shall complete the exercise assigned to it "as expeditiously as possible".

"Before parting, it needs to be mentioned here that while going through the pleadings on record, we also came across some clubbed petitions, being WPC(Nos. 2059/2020; 2155/2020; 3653/2019; and 3738/2019 filed in this wing of the High Court, wherein the decisions of the then Ombudsman of the JKCA, as appointed by this Court at the relevant point of time, have been assailed. Since, we did not hear the parties on this issue, we feel that the said petitions are required to be segregated and listed separately before the roster Bench," the court said and ordered accordingly. (GNS)

Ensure Zero Deaths

the preparations to be made for ensuring regular supply to the consumers during the coming summer season in Jammu division, Kansal said that the safety manuals should be implemented at every work place and the concerned senior officer should ensure that the field workers are using safety equipment's while working, an official spokesperson said.

"The Principal Secretary said that individual and system safety is of utmost importance and focused attentions is to be accorded to ensure that there is zero accident; zero death due to any kind of human negligence," he added.

The meeting, he said, also held deliberations on the roadmap to be made for providing regular power supply to all in J&K by 2025. The meeting was attended by Chairman JPDCL, Jagmohan Sharma, Chairman KPDCI, Anand Mohan; Chairman JKPTCL, S N Saxena, Managing Director JPDCL, Chief Engineers of various Power Corporations, DG Planning, PDD, Tahir Khan among other senior officials of the department. MD KPDCI and Chief Engineers of Kashmir division participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

"Our collective objective should be to ensure 24x7 power supply to all the consumers of Jammu and Kashmir in the coming three years," Kansal said, as per official spokesperson.

Outlining the goal of the department to provide 24x7 power supply to entire Jammu & Kashmir by the year 2025, Kansal, as per the official spokesperson said that to achieve the same, "we need to have a vision plan for the coming three years. During the discussions, he stressed on system strengthening, financial stability of Corporations, resolving issues hampering the pace of projects, systematic improvements and augmentation of projects etc."

"Focusing on safety and welfare of the staff, the Principal Secretary said that individual and system safety is of utmost importance and focused attentions is to be accorded to ensure that there is zero accident; zero death due to any kind of human negligence. The safety manuals should be implemented at every work

place and the concerned senior officer should ensure that the field workers are using safety equipment's while working," the official spokesperson said.

He said that the Principal Secretary observed that the Power corporations have managed well over the past financial year, despite challenges posed by Covid pandemic. He also appreciated the joint efforts for delivering power smoothly during peak winters in Kashmir.

To resolve the public grievances, he said, the Principal Secretary asked the IT Cell to make the Call Centres fully functional along with required IT support and trained staff. Every grievance received at the Call Centre and other online platforms should be given high priority and should be disposed of by giving proper reply to the complainant.

"He also directed Executive Engineers to stay in touch with the public through social media and asked them to resolve grievances received through the Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell on priority," the official spokesperson said.

"He reiterated the Lieutenant Governor's directions that the power transformers damaged would need to be replaced within 24 hours in case of urban area, and 48 hours in rural area," he added.

With regard to execution of Power projects in the UT, the official spokesperson said that the Principal Secretary directed that there should be regular inspections of all ongoing projects by the concerned officers and the pace of works should be accelerated so as to complete the same in given time frame.

"The projects having national importance must be completed as per the fixed timelines, these projects are being regularly monitored by the Union Ministry of Power so all these projects need to be prioritized," Kansal added.

The official spokesperson further said that thorough discussions were also held on Capex Budget for the year 2021-22 and it was directed to the Chief Engineers to prepare a work plan of the proposed works in the next financial year as per their priority.

"The Principal Secretary emphasized that the department's immediate goal is to provide regular and quality power supply during summer season in Jammu division. He directed the MD and Chief Engineer JPDCL for having action plan ready with them to deal with the any situation during the summers," he said.

He further added that Kansal directed buffer stock of transformers to be made available and the same should be distributed to all the divisions in advance along with all associated material.

Centre Extends

reads the order issued by MHA

In A First, BCCI Conducts Level 2 Coaching Courses For India And Domestic Cricketers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a first of its kind initiative, the BCCI has conducted two Fast Track Level 2 courses for cricketers who have played over 75 first-class games, including India internationals L Balaji, Robin Uthappa and current selector Debashish Mohanty.



Phase 1 of the course was delivered online over four days considering the COVID-19 situation, followed by Phase 2, which was conducted at the National Cricket Academy from March 16-19.

The other attendees included former India players Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Abhinav Mukund, Ramesh Powar, former selector Sarandeep Singh, Wasim Jaffer and Vinay Kumar.

Topics covered included "Skill Acquisition, Applied Biomechanics in Pace Bowling, Spin Bowling, Batting, Wicket-Keeping, Building Social and Personal Competence, Video Analysis etc".

"The experience gained through the rigours of play-

ing first-class and international cricket coupled with knowledge of the technical and tactical intricacies of our game makes for a great combination for a coach," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly in a statement.

"I believe we have some of the best coaching talents in the world

and these courses conducted by the NCA will greatly benefit not only those that have participated in it but also the next generation of cricketers who will be coached by these coaches."

BCCI secretary Jay Shah added: "The BCCI has always looked to support the growth and development of its coaches and these courses are a testament to that.

"It is heartening to see former and current cricketers taking up this opportunity to upskill themselves as coaches. The future of Indian Cricket continues to remain bright given the continued involvement and enthusiasm of some of our cricketers even post their playing careers."

India Opener Shafali Verma Regains Top Spot In ICC T20 Women's Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Big-hitting teenage Indian batter Shafali Verma rose a rung to reclaim the top spot in the ICC women's T20 rankings, riding on her fine performances in the ongoing series against South Africa at home.

The 17-year-old, who grabbed the top position for the first time after helping her side reach the knockout phase of the T20 World Cup last year in Australia, has leapfrogged Australia's Beth Mooney with scores of 23 and 47.

The Indian team, however, has conceded a decisive 0-2 lead to the visitors in the three-match series.

South Africa opener Lizelle Lee is another one to gain in the rankings even though the big-hitting opener lost her top spot in the ODI rankings within a week of replacing England's Tammy Beaumont, the ICC said in a statement.

Lee has gained three slots to reach 11th position among T20I batters after a match-winning 70 helped South Africa to a winning 2-0 lead.

Laura Wolvaardt has risen five places to 24th after guiding her team to victory with an unbeaten

53 in the second match, while captain Sune Luus (up five places to 38th) and Nadine de Klerk (up three places to 74th) are the other South Africans to advance in the batting list.

For India, Deepti Sharma has moved up four places to 40th and teenager Richa Ghosh has rocketed 59 places to 85th among batters while young all-rounder Harleen Deol has progressed in both lists, up 262 places to 99th among batters and up 76 places to 146th among bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad has advanced from 34th to 25th.

There have also been some notable changes in the ODI rankings.

In the update to the longer format, India captain Mithali Raj, a formerly top-ranked batter, has moved up one place to eighth after an unbeaten 79 while Priya Punia has moved up to five places to 53rd. Gayakwad is up eight places to 318 among bowlers.

The 4-1 series win saw South Africa overtake England to second position in the ODI team rankings while India remain fourth.

A Year Of Disruptions: How Indian Sports Adapted To COVID Conundrum

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The fans have largely gone missing, the training protocols have undergone a sea change and bio-bubbles have become the new normal despite the growing concerns over the mental toll they are taking.

It is exactly one year since India's sporting landscape, along with the rest of the world, lost most of its vibrancy thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The beginning of it all was with a sudden closure for a few months, athletes locked in hostel rooms or their homes, without any practice or supervision of national coaches.

But as they adapted to the fear and uncertainty, a tentative resumption followed on global cues. That has continued despite relatively minor glitches cropping up both on and off the field of play.

Cricket was the first to hit the restart button in Indian sports with the IPL, albeit on foreign shores of UAE, in a strict bio-secure bubble.

A few COVID cases caused a flutter before it began but once the tournament-proper started rolling, it set a new benchmark on how to conduct an event amid a raging pandemic.

But the rules of engagement changed. So no saliva to shine the ball, no handshakes at toss, no moving out of the hotels during series, and mostly no fans to egg them on.

It was welcomed to start with as players were just desperate to compete again but the murmurs have grown louder by the day about the impact such isolation is having on the mental health of those competing.

India skipper Virat Kohli was upfront on the challenging situations that might arise out of such a taxing system if scheduling is not eased up a bit.

"...you just don't know where restrictions might come in and you have to, even in future, continue to play in bubbles...it's not just the physical side of things but mental side of things as well," he said at a press conference during the ongoing series against England.

"Otherwise it's going to be a case of whoever can last through difficult times like these, plays. If not, you know, move away and someone else replaces that player."

"I don't think that's healthy for a cricket system and a cricket culture moving forward," he warned.

On the upside, head coach Ravi Shastri talked about the bonding that grew with being in a bubble when players had just each other to fall back on.



In sports other than cricket, it has been about not just making adjustments but also redrawing the plans after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed to this year.

The suspension was welcomed at first as hardly anyone wanted to risk it in the face of a virus that has still not been controlled despite the arrival of multiple vaccines and better treatment protocols.

However, as days turned to weeks and weeks into months, the frustration grew about not knowing what might happen next.

For those who had booked their Tokyo tickets, the wait and watch was easier but for those still not assured of a berth at the quadrennial showpiece, the battle to keep the morale intact has been quite something.

Take for instance ace shuttler Saina Nehwal, a trailblazing Olympic bronze-medallist who is still in pursuit of a Tokyo ticket.

Virus concerns prompted her to opt out of the handful of events that took place in 2020 before she tested positive for the dreaded infection and returned to action only in January.

The rustiness ensured that she did not go far in these tournaments and now the seasoned pro has to make at least the quarterfinal of the remaining 3-4 events to have any chance of qualifying for the Games in July-August.

She isn't the only one battling such a tense scenario. And this pressure is in addition to the challenges of isolation and constant testing.

At a boxing tournament in Spain earlier this month, India's entire campaign on the final day was derailed after one pugilist tested positive for the virus, leading to three forced pullouts.

Such setbacks, seemingly beyond control despite the highly sanitised competition environments, are a new challenge for the teams and their support staff to deal with.

"What can one do, just take it

on the chin and move forward," an Indian boxing coach said of the disappointment.

The redrafted training protocols were particularly tough for contact sports like boxing and wrestling as sparring was initially banned to avoid infection.

This year, that crucial aspect of their routine has been reinstated with necessary safeguards like keeping it restricted to a limited pool after testing.

The impact of sparring ban was such that several Olympic-qualified wrestlers and boxers travelled abroad for training where lockdowns were not as stiff allowing them to engage with fellow pugilists and grapplers.

Shooters, who carry the maximum burden of expectations when it comes to Olympic medals hopes, are back at the range with the ongoing Delhi World Cup and have been largely impressive despite not competing for a year.

The story has been similar for track-and-field athletes, the paddlers, the tennis players and many of their other colleagues.

They have adapted to the new normal despite the many trials and troubles. A shining example of it was the Olympic qualification achieved by top paddlers like A Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra earlier this month.

Not to forget the new national marks set at the athletics' Indian Grand Prix around the same time.

Being the practitioners of individual sports, it was hardly surprising that they adapted to the isolation that came with the pandemic rather effortlessly and that can also be a pretty reasonable explanation for their business-as-usual comebacks.

Or is it the inherent resilience that comes with being a top-flight sports person?

Or perhaps, it is simply Citius, Altius, Fortius in an Olympic year.

After Record-Breaking 50 On Debut, Krunal Pandya Breaks Down Remembering Late Father

Press Trust of India

PUNE: India batsman Krunal Pandya smashed the fastest fifty by an ODI debutant during the first match against England here on Tuesday and broke down remembering his father who died in January this year after suffering a heart attack.

The 30-year-old Krunal was handed the India cap by his younger brother and star all-rounder Hardik. He reached the half-century mark in just 26 balls, overtaking John Morris (35 balls) of New Zealand.

Krunal broke down while being interviewed by the host broadcaster after his blistering



unbeaten knock of 58 (31 balls), which was studied with seven fours and two sixes.

"This one is for my father," was all that Krunal could tell commentator Murali Kartik when asked about his unbeaten knock before being over-

whelmed by emotions.

He was enveloped by Hardik in a tight hug soon after.

For Krunal, the last three months have been an emotional roller-coaster. In January, he had an ugly tiff with state-mate Deepak Hooda who accused the Baroda captain of bullying him during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy camp.

Hooda left the camp after that and was subsequently suspended for the entire season by the Baroda team management, which backed Krunal on the matter.

Weeks after the controversy, Krunal lost his father Himanshu and had to leave the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy bio-bubble to be with his family.

Hasan Ali Returns Two Negative Tests For COVID-19, Will Join Pakistan Camp



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Fast bowler Hasan Ali has returned two negative tests after initially testing positive for COVID-19 and will join the Pakistan training camp from Tuesday ahead of their tours of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The PCB has carried out a relentless schedule of COVID-19 tests on all the players and officials selected to travel to South Africa and Zimbabwe and only Hasan had tested positive in the initial tests.

The pacer had apparently also tested positive a day before the Pakistan Super League 6 was postponed earlier this month in Karachi due to rising cases of the infection among the franchise players and officials and even board employees.

Hasan is said to have tested positive after attending a small get together at which Islamabad United players were present, including Australian leg-spinner

Fawad Ahmed.

Fawad had returned a positive test during the league and was only allowed to return home after completing a quarantine period at the hotel.

Hasan and Fawad are part of the Islamabad United outfit in the PSL which is set to resume in June.

A reliable source in the PCB said the relentless COVID-19 tests are being carried out in the Pakistan camp as the squad is due to leave on March 28 and the board does not want any problems to occur at the eve of departure.

The PCB is yet to confirm whether the entire Pakistan squad will travel to Johannesburg by a chartered flight or the players, who will only participate in the two-Test series in Zimbabwe, will join the rest of the team in mid-April.

Pakistan will play three ODIs and four T20 internationals in South Africa and two Tests and three T20s in Zimbabwe.

I-LEAGUE TROPHY

Three Teams In Running For The Crown, Three Front Runners For Top Scorer



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: With just the last round of fixtures remaining, three teams — Gokulam Kerala FC, TRAU FC and Churchill Brothers — are in the running for the I-League crown this season.

The title could very well be decided by the last kick of the championship, with two matches featuring the three sides set to be held simultaneously on Saturday.

Even the race for the league's top scorer award is tantalisingly poised as three front-runners will be in action at the same time on Saturday and just one goal separating them.

Leading the charts is none other than TRAU FC's Bidyashagar Singh, who has 11 goals to his name so far. He found the net for the first time in a 2-0 win against Chennai City FC and then scored in a 1-1 draw against Churchill Brothers.

He came roaring up the charts after striking the net a whopping nine times in four consecutive games -- including back-to-back hat-tricks against Mohammedan Sporting and Real Kashmir -- both of which came in the second phase of the tournament.

Behind him are two foreign imports -- Churchill Brothers' Luka Majcen and Gokulam Kerala FC's Dennis Antwi with 10 goals each.

The Slovenian Majcen started off the campaign in a dazzling manner as he registered a brace in his first outing and has gone on to form a formidable pairing up top with fellow forward Clayton Zuniga.

Ghana international Dennis Antwi has been in red-hot form in the championship phase of the competition, scoring six goals in four games and taking his team to the top of the table with one game to play.

Only one Indian in I-League history has finished as the top goal-scorer and that player is none other than India captain Sunil Chhetri, who scored 14 goals for Bengaluru FC in the 2013-14 season when his side went on to lift the trophy.

Chhetri shared the top scorer award with Salgaocar's Darryl Duffy, but should Bidyashagar maintain his lead at the top of the charts this season, he could become the first Indian forward to be the outright top scorer in any I-League campaign which will be a monumental feat.

India Football Coach Assures Players, 'No One Will Be Eliminated For One Or Two Mistakes'

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India football coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday said the young players in the national side will be given ample chances to prove themselves at the international level as he looks to build a team for the future.

The Indian team is currently training in Dubai ahead of the FIFA friendlies against Oman and UAE.

The average age of the squad currently at the camp in Dubai is just over 24. Among them, 12 are below 25, and a couple of them are barely 19.

"It's fantastic to see guys at 19, 20, 21, 23 making it to the national squad. We are trying to build on the FIFA U-17 World Cup, and develop their knowledge," Stimac said during the ongoing preparatory camp here.

"We are trying to make sure that



in the next four years they become ready to play against the best, and win against them. It's a long process in football, and it takes time."

India take on Oman in Dubai on March 25 in the first of two international friendlies, with the second match against the UAE slated for March 29.

"The young guns proved it in In-

dian Super League this season. It's now for them to prove at the international level. I will give them the chance to do so.

"What we are doing here is trying to make them relax, and explain to them that there is no reason for fear at the international level. They need to be themselves and prove to

the world that they can play against the best," Stimac said.

"There is no reason for anyone to feel scared or have any kind of fear. Not a single player will be eliminated for one or two mistakes but we are trying to work on not to repeat them."

However, Stimac also said that "it's a revolving door."

"You need to perform and get selected. Age is never a bar for anyone to be in the squad. If you are good enough, you are never old enough."

The average age of the Blue Tigers at the 2019 Asian Cup was 25.

"We have 6-7 youngsters who can fight, who can chase, and pass the ball without any fear. 11 of the boys who are at the camp have come from the AIFF youth development programme," Stimac said in an AIFF release.

India Hammer England By 66 Runs In Opening ODI

Press Trust of India

PUNE: India outplayed world champions England by 66 runs in the opening ODI here on Tuesday to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing a steep 317-run target for victory, England folded for 251 in 42.1 overs despite making a dazzling start.

Rookie pacer Prasidh Krishna turned it around remarkably after being taken to the cleaners early on to register figures of 4/54 in 8.1 overs, the best by a debutant.

For England, opener Jonny Bairstow top-scored with a 66-ball 94. His 135-run opening stand with Jason Roy (46) put England in a commanding position before their it all unravelled for the visitors.



Earlier put in to bat, India produced a solid batting performance. Opener Shikhar Dhawan roared back to form with a 98-run effort, while skipper Virat Kohli (56), K L Rahul (62 not out) and debutant Krunal Pandya (58 not out) notched up half centuries.

Dhawan and Kohli shared a second wicket partnership of 105 runs that laid the foundation for Rahul and Pandya to accelerate.

The Pandya-Rahul combination put together 112 runs for the sixth wicket. Later, Pandya, a left-arm spinner, also picked up a wicket.

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