

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Saturday 03 April | 19 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 78 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

SRINAGAR HAS THREE DUMPING SITES FOR 450 METRIC TONS OF SOLID WASTE PRODUCED DAILY

With limited storage of dumping and treating the solid waste that gets generated in Srinagar, the area is producing...

THINK

WANT TO REDUCE YOUR COVID-19 RISK? GET SOME MORE SLEEP

If there's one thing that's become clear as the pandemic has stretched on, it's that there's a lot to be explored in the relationship between COVID-19 and poor sleep. We already knew the two were linked. An analysis of sleep studies...



P5 STATE

OWNER MOVES COURT AS COPS REJECT VEHICLE PAPERS IN DIGITAL MODE

A private vehicle owner in Srinagar moved to court after police allegedly refused to accept his vehicle documents through the government-recognised mparivahan...



Quote!

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail
—Benjamin Franklin

NEWS DIGEST

Police Officer Arrested For Taking Bribe

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has on Friday arrested a Sub-inspector on allegations of him receiving bribe, while on duty, in Srigufwara police station in south-Kashmir's Anantnag district. In a statement issued here, the Bureau maintained that on receipt of a complaint alleging therein that a quarrel took place between complainant and a person who was the resident of village Dupathyar Anantnag - on this the non-complainant filed a complaint (applicant therein) against the applicant (complainant) herein with respect to (ACB) in Police Station • More On P10

Travellers To Be Screened At Lakhanpur

JAMMU: Authorities in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday assigned duties to different departments to ensure proper evacuee management of travellers entering the Union Territory through Lakhanpur bordering Punjab. The move followed a surge in COVID-19 positive cases in the neighbouring states as well as in the Union Territory, which recorded five fresh fatalities and 517 new infections on Friday. The order issued by District Magistrate and • More On P10

Hangul Census To Begin Today

SRINAGAR: At least 350 people affiliated with NGOs, Civil Society and others are set to begin a fresh census-2021 of the endangered Hangul or Cervus canadensis Hangul from Saturday to know the exact population of the animal. Pertinently, in the last three consecutive surveys, conducted after every two years, the population of Hangul has shown a bit upward trend. In 2015, the population of (Kashmir Stag), Hangul was 186 while in 2017 and 2019, it was 197 and 237 respectively. The Department of Wildlife Protection is going to conduct • More On P10

3 Schools Closed Over Covid Fears

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Friday announced the closure of three educational institutions in north Kashmir's Baniptara district for the period of three days with effect from Friday as a precautionary measure in the wake of the Covid-19 positive contacts. An official said that as per the communication received from District Administration Baniptara, the schools including Higher Secondary School Gadkhud, High School Chewa and (IDPS) School Baniptara shall remain closed for three days as • More On P10

3 Militants Killed In Pulwama Encounter

Two Of Them Were Involved In Attack On BJP Leader's House: IGP



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three militants, including two who were involved in an attack on a BJP leader's house here, were

killed in an encounter with security forces on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said. The encounter took place early in the morning • More On P10

Woman Among 8 Injured During Clashes

At least eight people, including a woman on Friday were injured during clashes between protesters and government forces near the encounter spot in Kakpora area of Pulwama district. According to reports, groups of youth hit the streets in Kakpora and clashed with the government forces when the encounter in the area was going on. The state forces, reports said, burst tear gas canisters and fired pellets towards the stone throwing youth in an attempt to • More On P10

VIP Security Cover Being Revamped: IGP

The Jammu and Kashmir Police is mulling revamping the security cover of leaders "vulnerable" to militant attacks along with fresh training to those guarding them in view recent militant incidents, a top official said on Friday. The remarks came a day after four militants attacked BJP leader Anwar Ahmad's residence in Nowgam here and a policeman, Rameez Raja, • More On P10

Hira Nagar Jail Turned Into 'Holding Centre' For Rohingyas

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory denotified Hira Nagar sub-jail as a prison last month before declaring it as a holding centre for lodging Rohingya refugees there.

Documents reveal that Home department of J&K issued a notification on March 5 to denotify Hira Nagar sub-jail as prison. "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section(1) of section 3 of the Prison Act, 1894(Act No. 9 of 1894), the Government hereby denotifies the structure(s) raised over land bearing Khasra No. 159 village



Dhangroli, Tehsil Hira Nagar, district Kathua as prison with immediate effect," reads the notification.

On the same day, another notification was issued by the Home department to declare the erstwhile jail as holding centre under • More On P10

ED ATTACHMENT CASE

HC Refuses Relief To Dr Farooq For Now

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said that Enforcement Directorate's order, attaching National Conference President Farooq Abdullah properties in a case of alleged money laundering was just provisional and as such it does not consider it to be "an appropriate case to pass any interim order at this stage."

"In view of the facts and circumstances and looking to the fact that presently the petitioner (Farooq) has only been served with a show cause notice in which we are told 20th April, 2021 is the next date

fixed and the fact that the order of attachment is provisional in nature which is valid for a period of 180 days only, we do not consider it to be an appropriate case to pass any interim order at this stage particularly when the laundering of Rs 43.69 crores of the amount is not in dispute which in all fairness ought to be returned to the public body i.e., JKCA," said a bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul. The court directed officials to file their counter affidavit to the Farooq's petition within a period of three weeks and also allowed one • More On P10

Panel Formed To Resolve Seniority Issues Of Employees

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led dispensation has on Friday granted assent to the constitution of a committee to resolve issues vis-à-vis seniority of employees appointed under Prime Minister's Special Package in different departments in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Administrative Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction will act as Chairman and Administrative Secretary, • More On P10

Barring Gulmarg, Mercury Up Elsewhere In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for a wet spell next week, the night temperature hovered around below normal in Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 2.5 degree Celsius, weatherman said on Friday.

A meteorological department official said that the mercury settled at 4.8 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.4 degree Celsius in Srinagar. The temperature



was below 1.6 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.7 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night. It was • More On P10

J&K Reports 517 New Cases, 5 Corona Deaths



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday breached 500 mark while five more people succumbed to the virus in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, taking the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic to 2003.

According to the officials, five more people lost battle with the

deadly disease, four among them from Kashmir Valley and one from Jammu division, taking the death toll to 2003-738 in Jammu region and 1266 in Kashmir.

The victims from Valley included an 80-year-old woman from Vailoo in Anantnag, a 50-year-old female from Bijbehara, a 90-year-old man from Lalbazar Srinagar and an 80-year-old female Ganderbal. • More On P10

DMs To Take Call On School Functioning

Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration has asked district magistrates to • More On P10

Fast Track Vaccination In 4 Districts Soon

As coronavirus cases continue to shoot up rapidly, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday announced to carry out a fast-track vaccination drive four districts of the Union Territory showing maximum number of cases. This was announced by Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam in a high-level meeting of • More On P10

Compensation Yet To Be Disbursed To Many Victims: CAG



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller and Auditor (CAG) of India in its report revealed that a compensation amount of Rs 5.48 crore for 2014 flood victims is lying undisbursed while out of 58 DDOs eight

have communicated wrong details to the bank.

The information was shared by the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) of India in its report stating that victims of the 2014 flash floods have not been compensated.

The CAG said • More On P10

Machine Supremacy Crippling Kashmir's Celebrated Golden Hands

Swati Joshi

When Shameem Magray was young he happily chose workshop over school. He along with his bunch of friends learned embroidery at his neighbor's house. Since then Magray has been working in this field and is a master of all hand-made embroidery techniques. "You tell me what you want and I will make it," says the confident artisan who has been in the field for 35 years. "It may take some time but the product will be everlasting." But while he put in a lot of hard work in the work, he only earns about Rs. 500 per day for



his 12-hour work.

Kashmir's embroidery popularly known as Kashida embroidery is one of the most

popular needleworks from the subcontinent.

Be it Pashmina shawls with exotic Sozni embroidery designs,

or the crewel embroidered curtain in Kashmiri houseboats, or the embroidered rugs or the chain stitch cushions, all these



embroideries techniques have been followed by Kashmiri people for a long time.

For summers, the base material

used for Kashida is light-colored wool or cotton cloth. It's a thick-black wool cloth for winters.

Birds, animals, trees, leaves, and many other motifs are embroidered with colorful threads and beads on the cloth by artisans.

Kashmir was ruled by different regimes for centuries, whose influence can be seen on Kashmiri textiles.

During 1420-70 AD, a paper by Deborah Emmet notes, Zain-ul-Abidin, the eighth sultan of Kashmir, brought shawl and carpet weavers to the valley from Turkestan and Samarkand respectively. It is believed that crewel and chain stitch embroidery was introduced in the

valley during his reign.

The world-famous Kashmiri Pashmina shawl industry came into existence in the late sixteenth-century under the rule of Mirza Haider Dughlat, claims the paper.

"A patron of the arts of Kashmir," the paper mentions, he [Dughlat] is said to have introduced the concept of using pashm from Ladakh to be woven into shawls by the expert craftsmen of Kashmir who had previously used sheep's wool."

Zamir Naqash, the owner of Naqash Design, deals with Sozni and crewel embroidery techniques for a long time. His father started the • More On P10

Study reveals experimental hearing implant succeeds in registering brain waves

Agencies

A team of researchers has succeeded for the first time in measuring brain waves directly via a cochlear implant. These brainwaves indicate in an objective way how good or bad a person's hearing is.

The research results are important for the further development of smart hearing aids. The findings of the study, led by scientists at KU Leuven (Belgium), were published in the journal Scientific Reports.

A cochlear implant enables people with severe hearing loss to hear again. An audiologist adjusts the device based on the user's input, but this is not always easy. Think of children who are born deaf or elderly people with dementia. They have more difficulty assessing and communicating how well they hear the sounds, resulting in an implant that is not optimally tuned to their situation.

A possible solution is to adjust the implant based on brain waves, which contain information about how the person processes the sounds that they hear. This kind of objective measurement can be made with an electroencephalogram (EEG), whereby electrodes are placed on the head. However, it would be more efficient if the implant itself could record the brain waves to measure hearing quality.

Experimental implant

Research by KU Leuven and manufacturer Cochlear on a few human test subjects has shown for the first time that this is possible. "We used an experimental implant that works exactly the same way as a normal implant, but with easier access to the electronics," said post-doctoral researcher Ben Somers



from the Experimental Oto-rhinolaryngology unit.

"A cochlear implant contains electrodes that stimulate the auditory nerve. This is how sound signals are transmitted to the brain. In our research, we have succeeded in using these implanted electrodes to record the brain waves that arise in response to sound. That is a first. An additional advantage is that by carefully choosing the right measuring electrodes, we can measure larger brain responses than the classical EEG with electrodes on the head," added Somers.

Self-tuning device

An implant that can register brain waves and measure hearing quality on its own has various advantages, added co-author Professor Tom Francart.

"Firstly, we get an objective measurement that does not depend on the user's input. In addition, you could measure a person's hearing in everyday life and monitor it better. So, in the long run, the user would no longer have to undergo testing at the hospital. An audiologist could consult the data remotely and adjust the implant where necessary," Francart noted.

Francart further said, "In the future, it should even be possible for the hearing implant to adjust itself autonomously based on the recorded brain waves. We have a long way to go before that, but this study is a necessary first step. Based on our findings, manufacturers can now move forward with developing smart hearing devices that improve the quality of life of the people that use them."

He added, "Besides audiological applications, there are numerous other possibilities that come with measuring brain waves. Think of monitoring sleep, attention span or epilepsy, but also, for example, so-called brain-computer interfaces that allow you to control other devices with brainwaves."

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons runs an NGO with name and style "Roses of nation" at Pattan Baramulla, now we are applying for No objection Certificate (NOC) ,in this regard if anybody have any kind of objections may file the same to Deputy commissioner of- fice Baramulla with in the period of Seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name of persons :-

- (1) Nisar Ahmad najar S/o Mohd Subhan najar R/o Hardushoora Kunzar.
- (2) Mohd Yaseen tantray S/o Sonaulah tantray R/o Devbugh kunzar
- (3) Kulsuma Akther D/O Ab. Ahad Najar R/o Nehalpora Pattan
- (4) Rameeza Khaliq D/o Ab. Khaliq Najar R/o Nehalpora Pattan
- (5) Umreena Qadir D/o Gh. Qadir Najar R/o Hardushoora Kunzar
- (6) Irshad Ahmad dar S/o Mohd Subhan dar R/o Palpora Pattan
- (7) Javid Ahmad najar S/o Mohd Maqbool najar R/o Hariwatnoo Tangmarg
- (8) Wahid Bashir Lone S/o Bashir Ahmad lone R/o Thindama Kreeri

Chairman, Roses of nation
H/O Pattan Baramulla

GMS

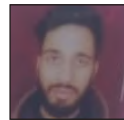
PUBLIC NOTICE

I Haji Ab.Gani Misgar would like to transfer my proprietorship of Javaid Metal Works (B8 industrial estate Anantnag) to my Daughter in law (Shugufta Parveez) if any one having any objection regarding this setforth it within seven days .After that no objection will be entertained.

r-ang

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education, BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name Sohail Shafi
Father's name Mohammad Shafi Bhat
Mother's name: Fatima Begum
Class 10th 12th
Roll No (3172313/) (3179310)
Session 2016 Reg 2018 Reg
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.



Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Branch Office Sopore

ams

PUBLIC NOTICE

In School records the name of my Daughter has been wrongly written as Marooofa While her correct name is Afreen Mehraj which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Boys Middle Schoo Namalbal Pampore Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehraj Din Shah
F/o Afreen Mehraj
R/o Namalbal Pampore

fyp

PUBLIC NOTICE

In School records the name of my son has been wrongly written as Shahid Ferooze while his correct name is Mohd Shahid Wnai which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the DMPS Pampore Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ferooze Ahamd Wani
F/O Mohd Shahid Wani
R/o Ladhoo Pampore

fyp

AFFIDAVIT

I Tawqeer Imtiyaz Dar S/o Imtiyaz Ahamd Dar R/o Arhama Tehsil And District Shopian do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That I am the permanent resident of J&K UT and is residing at Arhama Shopian.
2. That my caste is Dar which has not been shown in my pass port under no. N5408071 and Also my mothers name is Haleema but in my said pass port her name has been shown as Haleema Banoo.
3. I solicit this affidavit to concerned pass port office for correction in my said pass port
4. That my caste as Dar be enlisted/ shown and also the word Banoo with my mother's name be deleted in my said Pass port as is clear in my school records.
5. That I the above statement is correct and in case any statement be proved incorrect or otherwise I shall be personally responsible for the consequences.

Hence this affidavit is sworn today on 25th day of March 2021 in court Premises Shopian.

Deponent.

Verification:- Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

tas

Deponent.

Jammu and Kashmir Government

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation & FC Division Baramulla

Fax / Phone:- 01952-234384, Email ID:- ifcdebaramulla@gmail.com, exenifcdebaramulla@ifckashmir.com

E-Bid Notice No.: (01) of 2020-21

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-Auction on item rate basis are invited from interested persons / parties / dealers for bidding of Dredged out material dumped at below mentioned Dyke(s).

S. No	Dumping location of material	Minimum Reserve bid(Inclusive GST @5%) (In Lacs)	Amount of C.D.R @2% (in Rs)	Time for Completion (Evacuation)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs)
01	Dyke A at Janbazzpora (Re-Adv.)	39.48	78960/-	75 Days	5000/-
02	Dyke B at Janbazzpora (Re-Adv.)	30.83	61660/-	60 Days	3000/-
03	Dyke I at Juhama	8.33	16660/-	10 Days	2000/-
04	Dyke A Upstream Ladoora Bridge	8.31	16620/-	10 Days	2000/-
05	Dyke B Upstream Ladoora Bridge	19.10	38200/-	20 Days	3000/-

1.	Date of Publishing	25-03-2021	05:00 PM
2	Start of downloading	26-03-2021	11:00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	26-03-2021	01:00 PM
4	Bid Submission end date	05-04-2021	06:00 PM
5	Date of opening of Tender	06-04-2021	11:00 AM

Executive Engineer
Irrigation & FC Division
Baramulla

No: I&FCDB/ 5437-57
Dated:24-03-2021.

DIPK-36/21

J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)
Corporate Office: Jawahar Lal Nehru UdyogBhawan, Railhead Complex Jammu-180012/
SanatGhar, Bemina, Srinagar

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: SICOP /RMD/Z/2020-21/118/1124 Dated: 31-03-2021

For and on behalf of Managing Director Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Ltd (SICOP), Online tenders are invited for purchase of cement OPC 43 Grade for the year 2021-22 from original manufacturers/stockiest/dealers having minimum business annual turnover of Rs. 50.00 Crores as per the following manner:-

S. No	Particulars of the tenders	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money	Date of opening of Pre-Qualification Bid
01	Purchase of Cement OPC 43 Grade IS:8112 (including carriage & GST FOR Zainakote	` 1,000/-	` 5,00,000/-	16-04-2021 At1500Hrs.

1. The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 02-04-2021 (1200 Hrs) .
2. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 02-04-2021 (1200 Hrs) onwards.
3. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 02-04-2021 (1200 Hrs) up to 15-04-2021(16:30 Hrs)only.
4. The uploaded technical bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 16-04-2021 (1500 Hrs) in the office of General Manager (RM) SICOP Kashmir, in presence of bidders who wish to be present at Raw Material Depot SICOP Zainakote, Srinagar. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in technical bid. Intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
5. The Cost of tender document (in shape of Demand Draft) and Earnest Money Deposit (In shape of CDR/FDR) in original, favoring Managing Director, SICOP superscripted as "Pre-Qualification Bid" should reach in the office of General Manager (RM) SICOP Kashmir, Zainakote Srinagar in person or through speed post/Regd post/Courier before due date & time of submission of bid. The corporation shall not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.
6. Original copy of affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by Judicial Magistrate 1st Class to the effect that:-
 - a) That the documents/certificates etc enclosed with the Technical bid are genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.
 - b) That the firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt/Private Institution of the country and there is no case pending in ACB or other investigating agency.
 - c) That if anything is found adverse in respect of documentation or otherwise, legal action warranted under law shall be initiated against the tenderer(s) submitting the tender.
7. All documents as required in SBD should be uploaded with the technical bid.
8. Complete bidding process will be online (Price Bid not to be submitted in physical form).
9. Other terms & conditions are mentioned in SBD.

DIPK-NB-9/21

General Manager (RM-K)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR

NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Gist of e-NIT No. 84 OF 2020-21, Dated. 25-03-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e- tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:-

S. No.	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost of work "Rs" in Lacs	Exemption Allowed	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type
1	2	3	4	4	5	6
1.	Replacement of damaged contact points to 60HP oil immersed star delta Starter at LIS Astanpora Rawalpore.	100.00	0.077	Yes	07 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.
2.	Replacement of damaged coupling by new TC-17 coupling at LIS Bemina Right.	100.00	0.095	Yes	07 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.
3.	Overhauling of 20 cusec – VT pumping unit 2 nd at Lift Irrigation Scheme Takenwari old.	100.00	0.928	Yes	10 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having experience in repair/maintenance of VT pumping Units.
4.	Replacement of old/ damaged 400Amp 3-pole MCCB at LIS Goripora.	100.00	0.298	Yes	07 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.
5.	Overhauling of 7.5 cusec – VT pumping unit 2 nd at Lift Irrigation Scheme Takenwari Bangladesh.	100.00	0.375	Yes	10 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having experience in repair/maintenance of VT pumping Units.
6.	Repairs to be carried to 250KVA Voltage Stabilizer at LIS Noorbagh.	100.00	0.565	Yes	07 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.
7.	Replacement of damaged 7.5HP DOL starter and providing/ fitting DP (MCB) 16A at LIS Mazhama.	100.00	0.05	Yes	07 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.
8.	Overhauling of 20 cusec – VT pumping unit 1st at Lift Irrigation Scheme Noorbagh.	100.00	0.928	Yes	10 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having experience in repair/maintenance of VT pumping Units.
9.	Overhauling/ repairs to 05 cusec 15meters dynamic head horizontal pumping unit at Lift Irrigation Scheme Dar Mohalla.	100.00	0.52	Yes	10 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having experience in repair/maintenance of VT pumping Units.

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. **Cover '1st'** –Tender fee and Bid Security Declaration, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. **Cover '2nd'** - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date	30 /03/2021 at 1600 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	31 /03/2021 from 1200 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	31/03/2021 from 1400 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	19 /04/2021 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	20 /04/2021 at 1400 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions
Position of AaA	Accorded Under Order No. 155-MCO of 2020-21, Dated:- 20-03-2021
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No's. 134, 135, 138, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141 and 142 of 03/21 respectively.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 4868-73
Dated:- 25-03-2021

DIPK-4/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Srinagar

Srinagar Admin Inspects Ration Depots, Fair Price Shops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the teams comprising Sub Divisional Magistrates/ Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars conducted mass inspection of Ration Depots/Fair Price Shops across the district.

During inspection, five ration depots were inspected in Tehsil Khanyar, eight in Tehsil Shalteng, 29 in Tehsil Panthachowk, 21 in Tehsil North, 17 in Tehsil South, 16 in Tehsil Eidgah and 14 in Tehsil Chanpora.

During the inspection, two Ration depots were sealed by SDM West and three Ration Depots, FPS were found unhygienic. "Based on the report of inspecting officials, DC Srinagar has ordered withholding salary of TSO Qamarwari, TSO Khonmoh, TSO Safakadal and TSO Barzulla till further orders for utter non-seriousness in public Service delivery of providing ration to the public. They have not paid any attention in maintaining hygiene at the inspected ration depots."

It is also to mention that Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has issued orders for immediate audit of all Ration Depots/ Fair Price Shops—(KNO)

NIT Srinagar Hosts 'Marketing Master Class' On Current Marketing Trends

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Friday organized a special virtual session on 'Marketing Master Class' in which Chairman and Managing Director of Aries Agro Limited Dr. Rahul Mirchandani hosted the session for research scholars and students.

The session was hosted by the Department of Humanities Social Science and Management (HSS &M).

On the occasion, Director NIT, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal attended the event and appreciated the department for organizing such classes. Our research scholars and students should be aware of the current market trends and emerging techniques, he said.

Prof. Sehgal said the landscape of business constantly changes. The new trends in marketing are emerging in response to new customer needs and demands. Our students should keep updated with these trends is critical to staying ahead of the curve," he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari also stated that the marketing world is constantly evolving. Such sessions equip students with a broad range of skills including data interpretation, communication skills, people skills, critical thinking skills, etc.

Srinagar Has Three Dumping Sites For 450 Metric Tons Of Solid Waste Produced Daily

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With limited storage of dumping and treating the solid waste that gets generated in Srinagar, the area is producing at least 162,000 metric tons of solid waste annually.

The official figures reveal that at least 450 metric tons of solid waste is being produced in Srinagar city on a daily basis.

SMC in its first draft for smart city proposal have also stated that despite having 90 percent of waste collection efficiency SMC is segregating zero percent of waste from the source.

In the proposal, it has also been stated that 60 percent of

the door to door collection of waste is being carried out by the SMC authorities and 47 percent of the area is covered by Storm water drainage system.

“The status of the Srinagar city mentioned in the smart city draft proposal had disappointed not only me but thousands of local residents of Srinagar who want the concerned authorities to take major steps to overcome the issue

One of the locals of Amira Kadal, Arshid Ahmad said, “There seems to be no authority that could monitor throwing of garbage on roads and water bodies.”

“The status of the Srinagar city mentioned in the smart city draft proposal had disappointed not only me but thou-

sands of local residents of Srinagar who want the concerned authorities to take major steps to overcome the issue,” said Arshid.

SMC Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan said, “As of now, the corporation is dealing with the existing waste of nearly 10 lakh metric tons present in the dumping site. We will start bio-mining the existing waste.”

“In the Achan duping site, there is already nearly 10 lakh metric tons of waste of previous

years and the SMC is planning to start bio-mining of that existing solid waste,” Khan said.

On asking about the waste being generated on a daily basis, the Commissioner said that the department is working on the safe disposal of the waste. “It is easy to process the waste that is segregated from the source, and we are working on that mechanism,” he said.

Khan said that SMC has started door to door collection of the waste in four administrative wards and in the coming couple of months, “We are moving to other wards too. In this process, the fresh waste will be taken care of,” he said—(KNO)

Tulip Festival To Begin Today

Adv Khan Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Friday chaired a meeting to review the final arrangements for the Tulip Festival commencing today, at SKICC here.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Aijaz Asad, Director Tourism, G N Itoo, Commissioner SMC, Superintendents of Police & Traffic and HoDs of Line departments.

The meeting held threadbare discussion over the slew of measures put in place and the plans laid out for the successful conduct of Tulip Festival like Traffic Plans, COVID protocol management, Parking of vehicles, illumination of area and venue, contingency plan of Fire and Emergency, provision of medical and drinking Water facility, sanitation and other facilities.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha will be the chief guest on the occasion the main function of Tulip Festival which will start at 3pm and continue till 8pm in the evening.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Advisor impressed upon the officers

to work in full synergy to make the festival a grand event. He said that Tulip festival is the first of its kind and is expected to have far reaching impact on tourism sector here.

Advisor was informed by the Divisional Commissioner that the Tulip festival has been given wide publicity to attract large number of tourists across the country and outside.

Advisor Khan instructed the Director Handicrafts & Handlooms to place stalls displaying Handicraft and Handloom products as an additional feature to the festival. He directed the concerned to ensure quality products are put to display and sale for tourists.

Advisor further directed the JKTDC to put up famous cuisines of J&K.

Advisor directed the officers to plan out meticulously so that the tourists are not put to any inconvenience during the festival. "They should be facilitated with easy access to the venue and convenient stroll in the tulip garden", Advisor maintained.

He said the way publicity of this tulip festival is making rounds in the social media and other conventional media, the people in huge number are expected to throng this iconic garden.

Public Notice

I want to renew my Fertilizer License bearing No: CAOBI FL/2017-18/1313. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Sopore within a period of seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mudasir Ahad Lone
S/o Ab Ahad Lone
R/o Nathipora Sopore

ams

Loss OF WHOLE SALE DRUG LICENSE

I have lost my Whole Sale Drug License in an fire accident at in cheeni chowk Anantnag under the name and style of the license High Way Pharma Cheeni Chowck Anantnag bearing No.AW-2559/2560. Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at Deputy Drug Controller office Srinagar within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:-Mohd Yousuf Bhat
Prop. Highway Pharma Cheeni Chowck Anantnag

mja

THE URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED ANANTNAG KASHMIR

NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all the Members/ Share holders of the Bank that the Annual General Body Meeting shall be held on 12th April, 2021 at 12:30 P.M at Wazir Bagh Anantnag. All the concerned Share Holders / Members are requested to participate in the said meeting. The Agenda of the meeting shall be the same as listed under section 27 of The Cooperative Societies Act 1989.

Sd/-
Chairman

mja

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- , 2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu)
website: <http://www.jakbopee.org>. email: ceojakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to 12th based Paramedical courses-2020 after second round of Physical Counselling.
Reference:- i) Notification No.030-BOPEE of 2020 dated 19-09-2020.
ii) Notice No.056-BOPEE of 2020 dated 07.10.2020.
iii) Notice No.059-BOPEE of 2020 dated 13.10.2020.
iv) Notification No.013-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-01-2021.
v) Notification No.030-BOPEE of 2021 dated 27-02-2021.
vi) Notification No.032-BOPEE of 2021 dated 06-03-2021.
vii) Notification No.045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-03-2021.

NOTIFICATION No. 048-BOPEE of 2021
DATED: 31-03-2021

Pursuant to Notification No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-03-2021, the physical Second round of counselling for filling up of unfilled seats of 12th Based Paramedical courses 2020 was conducted on 30-03-2021 & 31-03-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The eligible candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted/upgraded as per their merit-cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to said course in various Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jakbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 01-04-2021 to 07-04-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Marks Card of 10+2 class.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate,
6. Any other certificates/ documentas required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 7th April-2021 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per guidelines issued by J&K Paramedical Council before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (07-04-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays / off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / jakbopee@gmail.com / ceojakbopee@gmail.com on 7th of March, 2021 (04.00 PM).

Note:

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
2. The Principals of Colleges/ Institutions are advised to download the copy of Annexure "A" from the official website of the BOPEE www.jakbopee.gov.in for reference and record.
3. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E&OE

(Dr Sunil Gupta)

Controller Of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No: BOPEE/Exam-35(v)/2020 Dated: 31-03-2021

DIPK-NB-30/21

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 51

ZUHR 12:34

ASR 5:04

Magrib 6:55

ISHA 8:18



This Day In History

- 1513 - Explorer Juan Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain as the first known European to reach Florida
- 1559 - England & France sign 1st Treaty of Le Cateau-Cambrésis
- 1745 - Austria & Bavaria sign peace
- 1917 - US President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
- 1944 - Soviet Army marches into pro-German Romania
- 1945 - Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Brazil are established
- 1960 - Cuba buys oil from USSR
- 1963 - Explorer 17 attains Earth orbit (254/914 km)
- 1963 - USSR launches Luna 4; missed Moon by 8,500 km
- 1964 - USSR launches Zond 1 to Venus; no data returned
- 1966 - Soviet Union's Luna 10 becomes 1st spacecraft to orbit Moon
- 1970 - Meghalaya becomes autonomous state within India's Assam state.
- 1971 - Libya concludes 5 weeks of negotiations with Western oil companies in Tripoli
- 1972 - Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin visits Cairo
- 1975 - Vietnam War: Thousands of civilian refugees flee from the Quang Ngai Province in front of advancing North Vietnamese troops.
- 1979 - Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin meets Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo
- 1981 - Heavy battle between Christian militia & Syrian army in East Lebanon
- 1982 - Several thousand Argentine troops seize the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands from Great Britain
- 1985 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1992 - Space Shuttle STS-45 (Atlantis II) lands
- 1993 - 1st test flight of Fokker 70 (Amsterdam)
- 2002 - Israeli forces surround the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem into which armed Palestinians had retreated. A siege ensues.
- 2013 - The UN General Assembly approves the first Arms Trade Treaty
- 2015 - 140 people are killed after gunmen attack Garissa University College, Kenya
- 2017 - Attack on visitors to Muslim shrine by a custodian and others in Sarajevo, Pakistan leaves 20 dead

From KO Archives

Did Maharaja cede Kashmir to US?

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR- Are India and Pakistan engaged in a futile tussle over Kashmir, when in reality neither of them has any claim over the state? And, is the far-fetched theorising that it is the U.S. that is shaping developments in the subcontinent to claim what it regards as its own correct after all?

These and other questions come tumbling, one after another, because of the startling revelation made by Dan Brown, the internationally best-selling

Author of the The Da Vinci Code, in a shortly to be released non-fictional work, The Secret of the K-word.

The author says that in this book lie has revealed "one of the best-hidden secrets of (lie 'modern world' and acknowledges that his book would "create a global furor" and open many cans of worms." A report published in the Times of India said that using spectroscopic analysis (a technique described in detail in The Da Vinci Code) the author claims to have discovered the original document over which the Instrument of Accession, signed by Kashmiri Maharaja Had Singh and preserved in the National Archives. New Delhi was later superimposed.

The secret document reveals that Hari Singh, equally apprehensive of joining either India or Pakistan, covertly ceded Kashmir to the US. According to Brown, when the map of Kashmir is reversed it becomes, uncannily, congruent with the hilly state of Kentucky in the southern US.

In a telephonic interview with the Times of India, the Houston-based author said... he had employed the ancient Kabbalistic form of numerological interpretation to discover "amazing co-relatives between Kashmir and Kentucky which by no stretch of the imagination can be put down to pure coincidence".

For instance, when the longitude of Frankfurt, the capital of Kentucky, is divided by the latitude of Srinagar, the Kashmiri capital, the prime number so obtained has the same numeric valency as Article 170 of the Indian Constitution which accords a special Status to Kashmir

Describing it as "one of the best-hidden secrets of the modern world". Brown acknowledged that his book would "create a global furor" and "open many cans of worms".

Disclaiming that America's Central Intelligence Agency had any role in these developments, the author said, "The truth can no longer be suppressed. We owe this much at least to the long-suffering people of Kashmir. May the truth set them free, at long last?"

(Kashmir Observer, 03 April, 2005)

از نیابت ماگام با اجلاس جناب نائب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام

عنوان: مضمون درخواست

عماد فاروق و دانش فاروق و رینا فاروق و فرخندہ فاروق و سمیعہ فاروق اولادان

فاروق احمد شیخ سائلہ انجمن پورہ ہمداد عطا گنجی بیکوارڈ ایریا سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتبہ ہمداد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست ہمداد بیکوارڈ ایریا سرٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بذیل افترا پر مشتمل ہے

فاروق احمد شیخ ولد غلام محمد شیخ ملازمت کام 48 سال

عاشق بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد گھریلو کام 48

عماد فاروق پسر زیر تعلیم 24

رینا فاروق دختر زیر تعلیم 28

دانش فاروق پسر زیر تعلیم 22

فرخندہ فاروق دختر زیر تعلیم 20

سمیعہ فاروق دختر زیر تعلیم 14

شفیقہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق گھریلو کام 32

انکے علاوہ عہد کی مہمان آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 48841 ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

نائب تحصیلدار ماگام sult

UK Says 25 New Cases Of Rare Blood Clots Linked To AstraZeneca Vaccine

Agenceis

The U.K. reported 25 new cases of rare blood clots possibly linked to AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 vaccine, adding to the numbers that have caused some European countries to adopt precautionary measures.

The fresh reports lift the total number of cases to 30 as of March 24, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency said in a statement Thursday. The benefits of the shot continue to outweigh the risks, the regulator said.

AstraZeneca's vaccine, developed with the University of Ox-

cine when invited to do so," the MHRA said. The AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines have shown "very high levels of protection" against Covid-19, the agency said, adding that "all vaccines and medicines have some side effects."

U.K. Program

The U.K. has one of the world's fastest-moving vaccine programs, administering shots to more than half of all adults by late March. New daily Covid cases and deaths have fallen to the lowest levels since September, even as infections surge anew across much of the European Union, where immunizations have lagged.



ford, is under mounting scrutiny and has faced dwindling support in Europe. Still, countries are counting on the shot to help them exit the pandemic, and millions of doses have been administered across the region.

The U.K. agency said that the 30 incidents were out of 18.1 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine given by March 24. Prior to that, the agency disclosed five cases on March 18, out of 11 million shots.

With the new reports, the rate of incidents with the AstraZeneca shot in the U.K. is about 1 in 600,000. There were no reports of the same reactions to the vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, which is also being used in Britain.

"On the basis of this ongoing review, the benefits of the vaccines against Covid-19 continue to outweigh any risks and you should continue to get your vac-

Earlier this week, the EU drugs regulator said a link between the AstraZeneca vaccine and a rare type of blood clot is possible, identifying at least 62 cases of the condition. The European Medicines Agency said its safety committee will probably issue an updated recommendation next week. Germany has restricted younger people from taking the AstraZeneca vaccine amid growing concerns about side effects. That followed reports of 31 cases of the rare clots, mostly in women.

Norway and Denmark extended suspensions on the use of the shot, which has also been the subject of a tussle over supplies between the EU, the U.K., and others.

On Friday, Australia reported one case of clotting disorders following inoculation with the AstraZeneca vaccine and is investigating, according to a joint statement by government agencies.

WHO Sounds Warning Over Upcoming Religious Festivals



Agenceis

Days ahead of Easter and two weeks before Ramadan, the World Health Organization on Wednesday cautioned against crowded indoor celebrations that could trigger a fresh surge in coronavirus infections.

"In countries experiencing widespread community transmission of the virus, virtual meetings, postponing or reducing such gatherings should be seriously considered," said a WHO statement.

"Regardless of location, any religious service should be held outdoors wherever possible or be

limited in size and duration, with physical distancing, ventilation, hand hygiene and mask use, as appropriate," it added.

Better would be for people to mark the festivals with those they lived with and avoid meeting others — especially if feeling unwell or in isolation or quarantine, it said.

Experts are worried that some people may drop their guard while celebrating religious festivals, just as many countries are imposing restrictions to try to slow rising numbers of Covid-19 infections. In the coming days, Christians celebrate Easter, while Muslims begin the fasting month of Ramadan on April 13.

Saudi FM: Deal With Israel Will Be 'Extremely Helpful' For Region

Agenceis

A normalisation deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel would benefit the region, the kingdom's foreign minister has said, adding that a potential deal "depends to a large extent on the progress of the peace process".

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, during an interview on Thursday, added that "the normalisation of Israel's status within the region would bring tremendous benefits to the region as a whole".

"It would be extremely helpful economically, socially and from a security perspective," he said in the interview with CNN, adding that it would be possible only if a Palestinian state within 1967 borders was delivered.

Saudi Arabia has previously made similar comments, saying it would only normalise ties with Israel within a plan that would deliver a sovereign state to Palestinians. "What we need to make happen is a peace deal that delivers a Palestinian state with dignity and with a workable sovereignty that Palestinians can accept," Prince Faisal had said in December last year.

He added at the time that the normalisation of ties with Israel has long been part of Saudi Arabia's



vision, saying that the kingdom envisaged a move in exchange for the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borderlines.

In September last year, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed the so-called Abraham Accords to normalise ties with Israel. Sudan and Morocco have since followed suit. The deals were the first since Israel's recognition by Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

Last year's agreements, brokered by former US President Donald Trump's administration, included a freeze by Israel on planned annexation of Palestinian land.

Palestinian officials condemned the normalisation as "a stab in the

back of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people".

A two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict closely reflects the Arab Peace Initiative, which was proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002. The initiative called for normalised relations between Israel and other Arab states in exchange for a full withdrawal by Israel from lands it occupied in the 1967 war, including the occupied regions: Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The initiative was re-endorsed over the years by the Arab League but never implemented, as Israel continued its occupation and settlement expansion in the West Bank.

Myanmar Protesters Urge 'Guerrilla Strikes' As Internet Blackout Widens

Agenceis

Myanmar activists held candle-lit protests overnight and scrambled to find workarounds for a new internet shutdown on Friday, as opponents to the military's bloody crackdown on dissent vowed no letup in efforts to unseat the ruling generals.

Anti-coup groups shared radio frequencies, offline internet resources and providers of text message news alerts to try to circumvent new curbs on the internet, which now limit Web access to fixed-line services only.

The military did not announce or explain its order to telecom firms to cut wireless broadband, which adds to a ban on mobile data through which a nationwide movement has mobilised on social media and spread images of the junta's lethal suppression of mostly youth-led protests.

Late on Thursday, protesters spread a call for a "flower strike" at bus stops where demonstrators killed by security forces had departed on their last journeys.

"We will leave flowers at bus stops tomorrow ... That's what I want to tell you guys before the internet is down," Khin Sadar, a protest leader, posted on Facebook.

"In the following days, there were street protests. Do as many guerrilla strikes as you can. Please join."

"Let's listen to the radio again. Let's make phone calls to each other too."

The former British colony has been in chaos for two months following the military's overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected administration, which has sparked anger across towns and cities and reignited hostilities between the armed forces and ethnic minority insurgents in several different regions.

New charges of violating the official secrets act were filed against the Nobel laureate, her chief lawyer said on Thursday, the most serious so far, on top of two comparatively minor offences. Breaches of



the colonial-era law are punishable by 14 years in prison.

The charges were filed against three of Suu Kyi's deposed cabinet ministers and her Australian economic adviser Sean Turnell, who are among hundreds detained in the military's sweeping crackdown on opponents since it took power, alleging fraud in an election swept by Suu Kyi's party.

Lawyer Min Min Soe said Suu Kyi looked in good health during a video hearing on Thursday, but was unable to tell whether the ousted leader, the figurehead of Myanmar's decades-long fight for democracy, was aware of the situation in her country.

"We will not surrender" Protesters were in the streets in several urban centres day and night on Thursday, where some burned copies of the military-drafted 2008 constitution. Media reported two people were killed, including an 18-year-old man, as police opened fire to quell gatherings.

Khit Thit Media reported shots were fired at a protest during the night, where 400 troops were present. The report could not immediately be verified.

Some 543 people have been killed in the uprising, according to the Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) advocacy group, which is tracking casualties and detentions. The military has repeatedly said those killed had instigated violence.

A video shared widely on

social media late on Thursday showed an unconscious man being kicked and beaten by a group of seven helmeted, uniformed men with rifles, who dragged him face down along a road before carrying him away.

Another image shared widely showed an overhead view of hundreds of candles arranged on a road in the darkness, forming the words "we will never surrender."

Britain on Thursday sanctioned one of the military's biggest conglomerates, following a similar move by several Western countries. Britain's Next became the latest high-street brand to suspend orders from Myanmar's factories.

"The Myanmar military has sunk to a new low with the wanton killing of innocent people, including children," British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said. The UK move was welcomed by his US counterpart Antony Blinken.

Myanmar's Asian neighbours, which it relies on for trade, have not imposed any embargoes, but some have moved beyond measured language after the military killed 141 people as it marked Armed Forces Day on Saturday.

Neighbour Thailand on Thursday said it was "gravely troubled". Stronger positions on Myanmar have been taken by the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, the top diplomats of which are meeting separately this week with Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi in Beijing.

New Zealand Increases Minimum Wage, Increases Taxes On Rich



Agenceis

New Zealand will raise its minimum wage to NZ \$20 (\$14) an hour, in order to protect the financially vulnerable and increase the top tax rate for the highest earners to 39 per cent.

The change will be effective Thursday onwards. This also includes small increases in unemployment and sickness benefits. The raise in minimum wage will benefit up to 175,000 workers. The new tax rate would be applicable to those earning more than NZ \$180,000 (approx. \$125,960) a year and will bring in an additional NZ \$550m (approx. \$384 million) in revenue this year. According to data from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, New Zealand's minimum wage of NZ\$18.90 an hour was already among the five highest in the world.

Businesses had called for a delay in the rise as borders still remain closed due to COVID-19. The

sentiment was echoed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The ministry also suggested in cutting the minimum wage by 25 cents in order to cushion economy from the uncertainties caused by COVID-19.

In 2020, labour unions had called for an increase to the living wage, \$22.10, for those on the front lines.

Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, told The Guardian they fulfilled a pre-election promise and represent "real and long-overdue improvements to the support we provide our most vulnerable".

"There is still much more to do, including building more homes, improving our health system, investing in education, training and job opportunities," Ardern said.

"Sharply increasing the minimum wage during a period of extreme uncertainty for small businesses is economic vandalism," workplace relations spokesman of the opposition National Party, Scott Simpson said.

Nearly 50 Injured As Devotees Clash With Police At Pakistan Shrine Closed Due To COVID-19

Press Trust of India

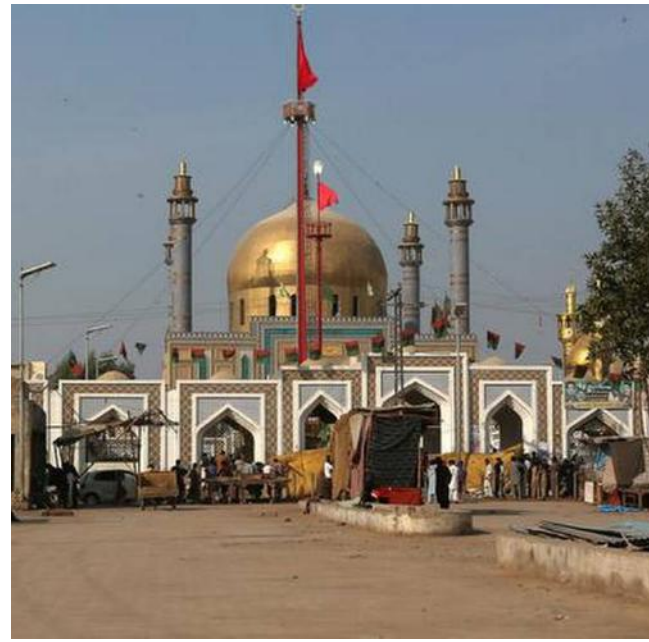
KARACHI: Overnight clashes between devotees and law enforcement personnel at a shrine closed due to coronavirus restrictions left nearly 50 people, including policemen, injured in Pakistan's Sindh province, prompting authorities to deploy paramilitary troops on Friday morning.

The incident at the Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan on Thursday night took place after the provincial

a revered Sufi saint.

Policemen on duty tried to push the devotees which led to clashes in which some 40 devotees and seven policemen were injured and taken to hospital.

"Many of the devotees had come from outside of Sindh and were staying in and around Sehwan and were perhaps not aware of the government orders when they started gathering at the shrine," Jamshoro Deputy Commissioner, Capt (retd) Fareeduddin Mustafa said.



government announced the closure of all shrines to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

The clashes took place after hundreds of devotees, who had gathered in Sehwan for the annual Urs, defied government orders and tried to enter the shrine.

An official at the shrine said that the devotees had gathered at the shrine for the 769th Urs (death anniversary) of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar,

Mustafa said the paramilitary rangers were deputed at the Lal Shahbaz Qalandar shrine on Friday after the clashes. In 2017, a suicide bomb attack inside the shrine had killed 90 people and left around 300 injured after which the government has upped security measures at the shrine.

Pakistan has reported 678,165 COVID-19 cases so far with 14,613 deaths..

NEWSMAKERS

Kyoto's Earliest Cherry Blooms In 1,200 Years Point To Climate Change

Agenceis

The famous pink cherry blossoms of Kyoto reached full bloom this year on March 26, the earliest date in the 12 centuries since records began, according to a Japanese university.

The earlier flowering indicates climate change, said Yasuyuki Aono, a professor of environmental science at Osaka Prefectural University, who has compiled a database of records of the full blooms over the centuries.

Global temperatures in 2020 were among the highest on record and rivaled 2016 as the hottest year ever, according to international data com-



plied by the World Meteorological Organization and released in January this year.

"As the temperatures rise the onset of flowering is earlier," Aono told Reuters in a Zoom interview.

Osaka University records include court documents from Imperial Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, as well as medieval diaries. Cherry blossoms have long historical and cultural roots in Japan, heralding spring and inspiring artists and poets through the centuries.

In modern times, people gather under the cherry blossoms every spring for hanami (blossom-viewing) parties that are often well lubricated with sake and can last for days.

With a state of emergency to curb coronavirus infections lifted across all areas of the country many people

flocked to popular viewing locations last weekend, although the numbers were lower than in normal years.

Kyoto, no longer the Japanese capital but a beacon of Japanese culture and manners, has long been famous for its temples and blossoms, which been a valuable tool for observing long-term changes in mean temperatures.

Scientists have often pointed to the earlier flowering times of species such as cherry blossoms as indicators of global warming. The Kyoto record is described in one study as "probably the longest annual record" of biological life cycles from anywhere in the world.

UK's Richest Woman Gets \$648 Million Pay From Betting Empire

Agenceis

The 53-year-old founder and chief executive officer of Bet365 Group Ltd. pocketed 468.9 million pounds (\$648 million) in pay and dividends, almost 50% more than a year earlier, according to a filing from the online bookmaker.

Her salary of 421.2 million pounds from the closely held British firm makes her one of the world's best-paid bosses. It also strengthens her status as the UK's richest woman, adding to a fortune already among the world's 500 largest, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Coates has

earned more than \$1.5 billion over the past decade, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Founded about two decades ago, Bet365's business has benefited from the growing popularity of online sports betting. The Stoke-on-Trent, England-based company posted revenue of 2.8 billion pounds for the financial year ended March 29, 2020, an 8% drop from a year earlier as the Covid-19 pandemic curbed sports wagering. Operating profit fell by more than half to 194.7 million pounds, partly due to Coates's salary increasing from 276.6 million pounds. A representative for Coates didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

After graduating from Sheffield University with a degree in economics, Coates trained to become an accountant and took over a small chain of betting shops her father owned on the side. She became managing director of the business at age 22, according to a Staffordshire University release, and expanded the number of shops before deciding to shift the business online. Along with Bet365, Coates and her family also own Stoke City Football Club. Coates is the only woman among 17 U.K. billionaires on Bloomberg's wealth index, which includes Virgin Group founder Richard Branson and Joe Lewis, owner of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

To 'Ensure' Protection Of Environment Govt Approves DEP For Ramban

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Revised District Environment Plan of Ramban has been approved which shall ensure implementation of development plans in an environmentally sustainable manner and execution of projects by taking appropriate actions to reduce adverse environmental impact during its life cycle.

The DEP is of importance as it involves community participation.

The DEP has clearly defined specific roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders to control the negative impact of human activities on the environment.

The DEP has been framed keeping in view the topography, geography, climatic conditions, population and requirements of the area to ensure sustainable development of the district.

Comprehensive specific plans have also been formed for the management of noise pollution, mining activity, air quality, Industrial waste, domestic sewerage, water quality, waste man-

agement, e-waste management, and hazardous and bio-medical waste, and construction, plastic and solid waste in the district.

Under the DEP various activities have been proposed for preservation, maintenance, rejuvenation and creation of water bodies besides harvesting rain water to meet the requirements of minor irrigation. Afforestation is also a prominent part of the DEP which will be implemented with the involvement of people from all walks of life.

As per the action plan, Solid Waste Management Plan of Batote and then Ramban shall be implemented as per SWM Rules, 2016 and directions of NGT. The 10 kanal Land for Material Recovery Facility (MRF) has already been transferred to MC Ramban and MC Batote.

Under the Domestic Sewage Management Plan, two sewage treatment plants of capacity 8 MLD and 3 MLD has been proposed in Ramban for treating sewage generated from residential and commercial activities on both sides of Chenab River at Maitra and Ramban side.

ACB Books Former Bureaucrat Farooq Renzu In Disproportionate Assets Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has booked former Jammu and Kashmir bureaucrat Farooq Ahmad Renzu in a disproportionate assets case.

Renzu besides serving as Director Information was Deputy Commissioner Budgam and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation. He retired few years ago.

ACB website revealed that a

case under FIR no. 03/2021 dated 23-03-2021 has been registered in a disproportionate assets case. However, the ACB did not issue a formal statement.

Officials said that Renzu has assets worth crores of rupees disproportionate to his known sources of income.

They said that Renzu has amassed huge chunk of land in Dachigam locality and has assets outside Kashmir as well.

DC Jammu Asks Officers To Complete Jamabandi Exercise In Time



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner, Anshul Garg Friday convened a meeting of revenue officers and field functionaries to review the progress of Jamabandis writing in the District.

ADC (Law and Order) Ghan-sham Singh; ACR Jammu, Vijay Kumar Sharma; Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Girdawars, Patwaris, besides other functionaries of Revenue department were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed detailed progress of documents, including writing of pending Jamabandies, status of mutations etc.

While reviewing the progress of writing Jamabandies, the DC directed the concerned to complete the exercise within the given timeline. He emphasized to expedite the up-dation process and scanning/ quality check of

revenue records as per the targets.

The DC directed the concerned officer to speed up the pace of writing of pending jamabandis to achieve 100% target. He set a deadline for completing the pending jamabandis by or before April 30.

The Deputy Commissioner exhorted upon the officers and field functionaries to work as a team with closed coordination for better results and public service delivery to the people.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed issues related to mining clearance in some areas of the district at a meeting with the concerned officers. The DC directed them to conduct a joint inspection for the demarcation of allotted blocks to resolve the issues. He impressed upon the concerned officers to remove the bottlenecks, if any and make the blocks fully functional within 2 to 3 days.

Owner Moves Court As Cops Reject Vehicle Papers In Digital Mode

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A private vehicle owner in Srinagar moved to court after police allegedly refused to accept his vehicle documents through the government-recognised mparivahaan, mobile application.

The Union Transport ministry in December 2019 had asked States to facilitate acceptance of driving license and other documents like vehicle registration certificates in electronic format by enforcement agencies.

"Vehicle owners can also show their documents like driving license, RCs and insurance certificates through mobile apps like Digilocker and mParivahan app," the Road Transport and Highways Ministry had said.

However, as soon as Showkat Ahmad, a resident of HMT Srinagar was stopped by the police for vehicle and document checking near Parimpora area of Srinagar, he said that he provided the documents to the authorities in a digital format through mparivahaan, a designated mobile application.

Ahmad said that the officials present on the checking point refused to accept his documents through the application and claimed that they will not accept the documents through the mobile application.

He said after refusing to accept



the document, his vehicle was not seized by the concerned police station and provided him a court challan.

Soon after the incident took place, the commuter moved to the court to challenge the action against him.

"I have filed my case in the court now to see how and why my vehicle was seized despite following the government procedure," he said, adding that he has every document of his vehicle and also a driving license, but it is unfortunate that his vehicle has been seized despite carrying the documents.

Meanwhile, Station House Officer (SHO) Parimpora, Parvaiz

Ahmad said that the police did not refuse to accept the documents through the government designated mobile application, but the fact is when someone is violating the law and has no hard copy of documents available, the vehicle has to be seized.

"If someone is carrying a hard copy of documents with him/her and has violated the traffic norm like not wearing a seatbelt and using mobile phones while driving, we can provide him/her a challan on that particular document. But, when a commuter is carrying a mobile application with him, there is no other option else than seizing the vehicle," he said—(KNO)

LG Doubles Annual Grant-in-Aid To J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Land To Be Allotted For Establishing Two Training Centres



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday announced that the J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides will get an annual Grant-in-Aid to the tune of Rs 20 lakh from now on, which is double the amount of the previous grants.

He was speaking at the Jammu & Kashmir Bharat Scouts & Guides' Rajya Puraskar Award Ceremony at Convention Centre, where he felicitated the Cadets from various schools with Rajya Puraskar Award Certificates.

The Lt Governor directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to complete the process of identification and allotment of the land for establishing two Training Centres of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, one each in Jammu and Srinagar, as soon as possible.

In order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the organization, the Education department is also

being pitched in with financial support, he added.

During his address, the Lt Governor, who is also the Chief Patron of Jammu & Kashmir Bharat Scouts & Guides, lauded the cadets, trainers, officials and every individual associated with the Scouts and Guides movement for working at the forefront during COVID pandemic; in environment protection programmes, Blood donation, Disaster Management etc.

Growth and development of society depends more on character development of the individuals rather than the development of intellect, said the Lt Governor.

Bharat Scouts & Guides is keeping forward the principles of Unity in Diversity, Character building, environment protection, compassion, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which also finds a high place in its training modules. These are the values which gave a

different identity to the organization, he maintained.

The Lt Governor lauded the Bharat Scouts & Guides organization for imbibing the spirit of AtmaNirbharta and selfless service in its cadets, and termed its role as important in effective implementation of New Education Policy.

Addressing the issues of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides, the Lt Governor assured full support of the J&K Administration to Bharat Scouts and Guides movement. All the genuine issues of the organization would be resolved at the earliest, the Lt Governor maintained.

Later, the Lt Governor handed over a cheque amounting to Rs 50,000 to the organization.

On the occasion, the Badge of Bharat Scouts & Guides was pinned to the Lt Governor. Quarterly magazine of the organization 'News Reporter' was also released by the Lt Governor.

Three Persons Fall Unconscious While Digging A Well In Handwara

Observer News Service

HANDWARA: Three persons including two siblings fell unconscious while digging a well in Warpora Magam area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

An official said that they were digging a well when they felt unconscious and have been rushed to District Hospital Handwara for treatment.

He said all of them are out of danger as they have been given the required medical attention and are under the observation now.

The official identified two sibling as Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh and Shabir Ahmad Sheikh—sons of Mohammad Subhan Sheikh and Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh—all residents of Warpora Magam—(KNO)

Youth Dies In Budgam Road Mishap

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A 24-year-old youth died after a load carrier he was travelling in met with an accident in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Officials said the youth, who was travelling in a load carrier bearing registration number JK04D-1741 met with an accident at Kutbal Chadoora. The tyre of the load carrier got damaged following which the vehicle got unbalanced and turned turtle, resulting in severe injuries to the youth. The injured youth was taken to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora where he was declared brought dead. He was identified as Bilal Ahmad, son of Nazir Ahmad of Kutbal Chadoora.

However, the driver of the load carrier has received minor injuries and is stated to be stable—(KNO)

Body Of Pattan Man Exhumed After Family Suspects Murder

Observer News Service

PATTAN: Body of a 32-year-old man Muhammad Altaf Malik a resident of Rangi Pattan, who was found dead under "mysterious circumstances" in his village in Baramulla last month, was exhumed Friday.

The body was spotted outside the house of his in-laws early morning last month and it was assumed a case of Heart Attack.

A Police team had taken the body and pressed for postmortem, however, then his family and his in-laws did not allow it and buried the body. According to locals, the deceased was living with his in-laws and now the family of the deceased suspect murder of their son and asked police to investigate the cause of death.

Accordingly on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, it was ordered to reopen the grave and ascertain the facts of cause of his death, officials said. According to police officials, the medico-legal formalities have been conducted and specimens sent to FSL for further investigation. (KNS)

PDP Demands Rollback Of Vehicles 'Reregistration Order'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: People's Democratic Party Friday staged a protest demonstration against the governments order demanding reregistration of outside vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir, and demanded its immediate roll back.

The protest was organised by Abdul Hameed Kohseen, Rouf Bhat, Arif Laigaroo, Haji Parvez, Abdul Hameed, Manzoor Ahmad, Qayoom Bhat, Shafi Kundangar and many other PDP leaders also participated in the protest at PDP Party headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, Rouf Bhat asked the Government to 'revisit' its decision of Reregistration of outside vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rouf also said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered heavily over the years and it would be inappropriate to leave them 'over burdened' under present fragile economic conditions.

"I appeal Govt to roll back on its most unfair and unjustified decision as people are already suffering due to economic crisis amidst Covid-19 pandemic," he added. (KNS)

Man, Woman Found Hanging From Tree In Jammu, Suicide Suspected

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A 19-year-old man and a woman were found hanging from a tree in the outskirts of Jammu on Friday, with police suspecting it to be a case of suicide.

The bodies of Som Nath and Usha Devi (20), both residents of Makwal, were recovered from Phalain Mandal and sent for post-mortem, a police official said. He said preliminary probe suggests the duo, believed to be lovers, have ended their own lives.

No suicide note has been recovered and further investigation is underway, the police official said. (PTI)



DDC Shopian For Effective Measures To Check Illegal Extraction Of Minerals

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Friday chaired a District Level Task Force Committee meeting to devise a strategy for effective enforcement of measures to check the menace of illegal extraction of minerals in the district.

The meeting discussed various preventive measures to control and curb the illegal extraction of Minerals including sand and bajri from nallahs across the district.

On the occasion, DDC said that in view of complaints being received by the administration against illegal material extraction in the district, the administration is going to act tough against the violators.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that no illegal mineral extraction activities are carried out in the district and stressed for Zero tolerance and said that coordinated efforts are required to curb the menace of illegal extraction of minerals in the district.



The DDC gave directions to Police and other concerned departments to give full cooperation and support the Geology and Mining Departments in

controlling illegal extraction of minerals from nallahs and stressed for inter-departmental coordination to curb this menace forever.

He said that field work by all stakeholders is must to make preventive measures much more successful.

The DDC said that the developmental works should not suffer and in this regard the extraction of legal mining shall be allowed that too after proper permission from the authorities.

He stressed for proper checking at all vulnerable sites to curb and stop the illegal mining.

The DDC directed ACR and SDM, Zainapora to monitor and ensure that no illegal extraction takes place anywhere and that the concerned Tehsildars, Police and other concerned officers are informed well before the legal extraction of mining.

It was also decided that the Geology and Mining department shall conduct a comprehensive drive in the field and install sign boards at all vulnerable sites, where illegal extraction is done during night hours which is completely banned and the need of the hour is to monitor the process strictly.

KU WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY Speakers Call For Ending Stigmatisation Associated With Autism

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir on Friday organised a programme to observe the World Autism Awareness Day.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad presided over the day-long event, organised by the varsity's Department of Social Work (DoSW) in collaboration with Learning Edge, Centre for Autism and Early Intervention.

Prof Talat called for doing away with any kind of stigmatisation and discrimination associated with autism.

He said the Autism Awareness Day is observed across the globe with the objective of raising awareness about the need to improve the quality of life of those with autism so that they don't feel dissociated from society.

"This ongoing pandemic has taught the world the importance of living together, understanding each others' needs and aspira-



tions. It's therefore important to make people with autism an integral part of our society so that they don't feel isolated or excluded in any manner," he said.

KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, who was a guest of honour on the occasion, said it is important to have policies that ensure equal opportunities for—and equal participation of—people with autism to make them realise their aspirations.

Director, Composite Regional Centre Srinagar Dr Mir Zafar Iqbal

welcomed the initiative of observing the World Autism Awareness Day. He highlighted various services available for PWDs at the CRC Bemina.

Shafaqat Gillani, Vice-Chairperson, Autism Welfare Trust and Learning Edge, highlighted the role of the organisation and the need for care and protection of children with autism.

In his welcome address, Co-ordinator DoSW Dr Adil Bashir highlighted aims and objectives of the programme.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

NO HOLDS BARRED



Looking at the distribution of tickets by main parties in Jammu and Kashmir, it appears that they give very few tickets to women candidates as a token gesture. The total number of women that have contested Lok Sabha polls since 1967 from the state is 36

Poor Representation of women in J & K Elections

HARIS RASHID

This percentage of elected women in parliaments has been steadily rising over the years, globally as well as in India. Unfortunately, for Jammu and Kashmir, it has decreased over the years. The highest number of women its assembly ever saw was in 1972 when 4 women were elected to the state assembly of 75 members

Since 1967, the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has sent a total of 82 MPs to Lok Sabha. Women have been represented only five times. Akbar Jahan Begam of J&K National Conference (JKNC) first represented the Srinagar constituency in 1977 and then Anantnag constituency in 1984. Parvati Devi of the Indian National Congress (INC) represented Ladakh in 1977 while Mehbooba Mufti of J&K Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) represented Anantnag constituency first in 2004 and then in 2014. In the Jammu region, no constituency has ever been represented by a woman in Lok Sabha. As far as J&K State Legislative Assembly is concerned, there have been a total of 822 members since 1962 and women have been represented only 15 times. In the last three state assembly elections held in 2002, 2008 and 2014, there have been two, three and two women MLAs respectively out of a total of 87 for each assembly. This data paints a dismal picture of women representation in the elected bodies of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Almost half of the population of the state is not represented properly in elected bodies.

Looking at the distribution of tickets by main parties in Jammu and Kashmir, it appears that they give very few tickets to women candidates as a token gesture. The total number of women that have contested Lok Sabha polls since 1967 from the state is 36. More than half, 19, were independents. Major parties like JKNC, JKPDP, INC and BJP, have given a total of 1-3 tickets to women in all these years. In State Assembly elections, a total of 173 women have contested elections since 1962 of all the 5850 candidates. 59 women were independents. No major party has given more than twenty tickets to women.

In 2008 elections alone, 67 women



contested of whom 21 were independent. Three women won in 2008, two from JKNC and one from JKPDP. Only two women from JKNC had contested the election and they both won while JKPDP had fielded 9 women candidates. Meanwhile, all but two women candidates who have ever contested the assembly elections independently lost their deposits. Further, half of the total of JKNC's (7) and JKPDP's (5) women candidates have lost their deposits. For JKPDP, all the women who lost deposits are from the Jammu region and none from Kashmir. In the 2008 elections, JKPDP fielded a total of 9 women candidates of whom all the 5 candidates who contested in the Jammu region lost their deposits. In 2014, JKNC fielded 6 women candidates in total, two from Kashmir and four from Jammu. Just like PDP in 2008, all its women candidates who contested in the Jammu region lost their deposits.

According to Inter-Parliamentary Union, the average percentage of women in national parliaments

across the globe for the month of January 2021 was 25.5%. For Asia, this figure stood at 20.4%. As far as India is concerned, there are currently 78 elected women MPs in Lok Sabha out of the total of 540 (14.4%) and Rajya Sabha has 27 women members out of the total of 241 (11.2%). This percentage of elected women in parliaments has been steadily rising over the years, globally as well as in India. Unfortunately, for Jammu and Kashmir, it has decreased over the years. The highest number of women its assembly ever saw was in 1972 when 4 women were elected to the state assembly of 75 members. A total of 6 women had contested the elections- two independents and four from INC. All the four INC women candidates had won.

Participation of women in policy-making decisions in parliaments and state assemblies is necessary because it gives women the opportunity to be heard. This also improves the quality of decision making by bringing different perspectives to the table

on the basis of different gendered experiences. Further, several studies prove women tend to legislate differently than men because they focus on and care about different issues than those of their male counterparts. Such issues often include health care, social welfare and services, gender discrimination, and women, family, environment, and children's issues.

For political institutions to be democratically legitimate and responsive, their composition must mirror the diversity in their societies. They must be inclusive of the plurality of the groups that exist in their populations. Since women make up half of the population, their gendered experiences and voices should not remain unheard and unrepresented in the decision making. It is still unknown as to when the elections will be held to the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory but whenever the elections are held, parties and the general population should make sure that women get proportional representation in the assembly. As a state, we flirted with all-male assemblies and had enough experience with men's law-making process. It is now time to change for the better and give women's experience a chance to be represented in elected bodies. Given the complicated nature of politics in J&K, there are several other representations that go beyond elections and legislative bodies. However, this article is limited to the representation of women in elections and elected bodies that have a state sanction.

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

The author can be reached at haris.rashid_ug22@ashoka.edu

As violence continues to escalate in Afghanistan, a new draft peace plan proposed by the United States – calling for an interim administration to replace the current government, ceasefire, and a UN-sponsored conference of all regional stakeholders – has evoked strong reactions from both the Afghan government and independent experts.

When the Biden administration came into power in the US, there was some hope that it will revisit the Afghan peace process, which was perceived by many as an attempt to inject the Taliban into the Afghan state system, contrary to the will and wishes of the people of Afghanistan.

The peace process was also much criticised because it sidelined the government of Afghanistan in many matters, and allowed for the US and other international powers to negotiate directly with the Taliban.

The Biden administration's new proposal does very little to dispel these notions.

Afghanistan has come a long way since the Bonn conference in 2001. The Afghan civil society has flourished significantly in the last 20 years, and showed that it has the potential to craft a better future for the country if it is provided with the right tools and opportunities. Despite endless statements to the contrary, however, the Afghan people have never been given the opportunity to fully take control of their future.

The US and regional powers have long been claiming that only an "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" process can be successful in bringing sustainable peace and stability to Afghanistan. However, these claims appear to be little more than lip service – over the years, all external players who have a stake in Afghanistan have tried to impose their own version of peace on the country, driven by their agendas and priorities, without considering the will of the Afghan people.

The new proposal signals that under the Biden administration's leadership, external actors will continue to try and impose their

will on the people of Afghanistan.

Another problem with the new US proposal is its apparent insistence on putting the burden of achieving peace solely on the Afghan government.

Peace talks can succeed only if all involved parties act in good faith, and demonstrate their commitment to peace not only with their words but also their actions on the ground. However, target killings, bomb blasts and violence continued unabated since the beginning of the Afghan peace process. The Taliban did not stop using violence as a tool to maintain and expand its influence over the country.

The Taliban is unwilling to turn the page on violence because it is the group's defining feature. Despite this, the new US proposal, like others before it, expects the Afghan government to assume responsibility for the stalling of peace talks, and make concessions to an inherently violent group that continues to kill innocent Afghan civilians on a daily basis.

Another fundamental issue with the new US proposal is that it fails to address the complicated relationship Afghanistan's neighbours, chiefly its eastern neighbour Pakistan, have with the Taliban.

Over the years, Pakistan has carried out several military operations against armed groups, including the Taliban in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The region, which has been

merged with the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018, has long been used as a base by the Taliban, the Haqqani network and other local and international armed groups, including al-Qaeda.

While the state of Pakistan claims that it has been successful in its military operations, the region remains volatile as groups allied with the Taliban continue to

not only exist and operate in these areas within Pakistan, but also carry out operations like before across the border in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's preference to turn a blind eye to, and at times tacitly support, certain actions of the Taliban in an effort to expand its influence in Afghanistan and the wider region is a very well-established and

The many pitfalls of the new US proposal for Afghan peace

Biden administration's new draft proposal fails to address many fundamental issues stalling the Afghan peace process.

MOHSIN DAWAR



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, center, meets with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, center left, and their delegations, at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 21, 2021. Austin arrived in Kabul on his first trip to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief, amid swirling questions about how long American troops will remain in the country. (Presidential Palace via AP)

documented fact, commonly referred to as Pakistan's "strategic depth policy". Pakistan's military has said that it has shifted its policy on Afghanistan, and is no longer following the "strategic depth policy", but there has not been much indication of this on the ground. The Quetta Shura, the Haqqani network, and other important forums of the Taliban continue to be based in Pakistan. Despite all this, the international community, including the US, continues to give Pakistan a significant role to play in Afghanistan.

This has come at a cost mostly for the Pashtuns who live in Pakistan, especially for the Pashtuns of the former FATA region who have suffered greatly due to the actions of the Taliban and the Pakistani government over the decades. They have witnessed violence, similar to the levels experienced by Afghans, at the hands of the Taliban. Many members of Pakistan's security forces have also fallen victim to armed groups affiliated with the Taliban that are active in the former FATA region. The state of Pakistan, which is supposed to protect its citizens, however, has looked the other way, accepting the loss of innocent lives in the thousands as necessary collateral damage.

It would be essential for any proposed framework for peace in Afghanistan to address the significant issue of dismantling the vast infrastructure and bases of the Taliban in Pakistan. As long as the Taliban continues to be used by Afghanistan's neighbours and some of the regional powers to further their own interests, sustainable peace will be difficult to achieve. The will of the people of Afghanistan and the sovereignty of the state will not only need to be taken into account but will need to be respected for any hopes of embarking on a meaningful struggle for peace – for Afghanistan as well as the region.

Al Jazeera

Want To Reduce Your COVID-19 Risk? Get Some More Sleep.

A new study found every extra hour of sleep at night was associated with 12% lower odds of a coronavirus infection.

NATASHA HINDE

An analysis of sleep studies found sleep problems affected approximately 40% of people in the pandemic – and those who caught COVID-19 appeared to have a higher prevalence of sleep problems.

If there's one thing that's become clear as the pandemic has stretched on, it's that there's a lot to be explored in the relationship between COVID-19 and poor sleep.

We already knew the two were linked. An analysis of sleep studies found sleep problems affected approximately 40% of people in the pandemic – and those who caught COVID-19 appeared to have a higher prevalence of sleep problems.

Now, a study suggests if you had sleep problems prior to getting coronavirus, or suffered daily burnout, you have a heightened risk of not only becoming infected with the virus, but also having more severe disease.

Every one-hour increase in the amount of time spent asleep at night was associated with 12% lower odds of becoming infected with COVID-19, according to the study published in the online journal *BMJ Nutrition Prevention & Health*.

What happened in the study?

Disrupted sleep and work burnout have historically been linked to a heightened risk of viral and bacterial infections, which is why researchers wanted to explore whether there was a link between COVID-19 and sleep issues, as well as stress.

For the study, researchers drew on responses to an online survey for healthcare workers repeatedly exposed to patients with COVID-19 infection. The survey ran from July to September 2020, and was open to workers in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK and the United States. Some 2,884 healthcare workers responded, 568 of whom caught the virus.

Personal details that were shared included: lifestyle, health, use of prescription medication and dietary supplements, plus information on how much sleep they got at night and



in naps over the preceding year; any sleep problems; burnout from work; and workplace exposure to coronavirus.

Infection severity was defined as:

- very mild - no or hardly any symptoms;
- mild - fever with or without cough, requiring no treatment;
- moderate - fever, respiratory symptoms and/or pneumonia;
- severe - breathing difficulties and low oxygen saturation;
- critical - respiratory failure requiring mechanical assistance and intensive care.

What did researchers find?

On average, respondents were getting between six and seven hours sleep a night. Around one in four of those who'd tested positive for COVID-19 reported difficulties sleeping at night compared with around one in five of those without the infection.

One in 20 (5%) of those with COVID-19 said they had three or more sleep problems, including difficulties falling asleep, staying asleep, or needing to use sleeping pills on three or more nights of the week, compared with 3% of those without the infection.

Compared with those who had no sleep problems, those with three sleep issues had 88% greater odds of COVID-19 infection. Every extra hour of sleep at night was associated with 12% lower odds of COVID-19 infection.

Workers with daily burnout were around three times as likely to say that their COVID infection was severe and that they needed a longer recovery period.

The study was observational so can't establish a cause – and there were a few limitations to it, including that assessment of exposure levels, sleep issues, and infection severity, were all subjective (so might've been misremembered) and the sample only included cases of very mild to moder-

ately severe COVID-19.

Why might lack of sleep be linked to COVID-19?

It's not clear why insomnia and burnout are linked to increased COVID severity, however researchers hypothesized that lack of sleep and sleep disorders may adversely influence the immune system by increasing pro-inflammatory cytokines and histamines, which could in turn increase disease severity.

They also pointed to studies linking burnout to a heightened risk of colds and flu as well as long term conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disease and death from all causes. Such studies have suggested that burnout may directly or indirectly predict illnesses by occupational stress impairing the immune system and changing cortisol levels.

Minha Rajput-Ray, medical director of NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition & Health, which co-owns the journal *Nutrition Prevention & Health* with BMJ, said: "This study spotlights an often neglected area of wellbeing: the need for quality sleep and re-charge time to prevent burnout and its consequences.

"A better understanding of the effects of shift work and sleep is essential for the well-being of healthcare staff and other key workers.

"Disruptions to the sleep-wake cycle can affect metabolic, immune and even psychological health. And sleep deprivation can make calorie dense foods, higher in fat, sugar and salt, more appealing, particularly during times of stress and/or difficult shift patterns, all of which takes a toll on overall health and well-being."

Huffpost

How do we know the COVID vaccine won't have long-term side-effects?

SAMANTHA CARLSON | CHRISTOPHER BLYTH
LUCY DENG | MARGIE DANCHIN
NICHOLAS WOOD

As Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout begins this week, many people still have questions about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, both in the short and long term.

As vaccine experts, we hear these concerns all the time, and it's normal to have questions about a vaccine.

The good news is that scientists have already been testing COVID-19 vaccines for months. For starters, serious side-effects are very, very rare. And, together with what we know about previous vaccines, if side-effects are going to occur, they usually happen within a few months after getting a vaccine. This is why international medical regulators, including Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), require the first few months of safety data before approving new vaccines. This, plus information coming from vaccine recipients in the northern hemisphere, gives us confidence that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

In fact, most side-effects occur within the first one or two days. And most of these are minor, such as pain at the injection site, fatigue or fever – which are signs your immune system is building a response against the thing you've been vaccinated against.

What do we know about long-term side effects?

Since December, more than 200 million people have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine worldwide – more than the total number of people who have been infected with the virus (112 million).

Given the sheer number of vaccines administered to date, common, uncommon and rare side-effects would have been detected by now. What's more, we've been testing these vaccines in clinical trials since mid-2020, and both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines have shown excellent safety results.

This gives us confidence the vaccines that'll be used around Australia are safe.

We've also seen some people raise concerns online about mRNA vaccines, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, being a "new" technology. mRNA (or "messenger" RNA) is found in all living cells. mRNA is a message that tells cells how to make proteins that trigger the immune response inside the body. That immune response is what protects against infection if an individual is exposed to the virus. mRNA is not the same as DNA (your genes), and it cannot combine with our DNA to change our genetic code. mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with DNA in any way. So we can be assured there'll be no long-term DNA-altering effects from these vaccines.

What's more, checking the safety of the vaccines doesn't just stop after they've been registered for use. Once a vaccine has been introduced, ongoing monitoring of its safety is a crucial part of the vaccine development process.

Australia has a robust system for this ongoing



With countries continuing to monitor those who have received vaccines, we should be reassured there are no major safety concerns detected for serious side-effects so far. With millions of people vaccinated already, our confidence about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines is very high.

monitoring. The system was established to detect any unexpected side-effects from vaccines (if they occur) and ensure they're investigated promptly. This type of monitoring is standard practise in Australia for vaccines. The data about COVID-19 vaccination collected in these surveillance systems will be published weekly on the TGA website. This should reassure Australians that if there's a new serious side-effect, we will know about it, communicate it, and act on it quickly.

Withdrawal of vaccines after introduction to the general population is a very rare event. In the United States, a rotavirus vaccine called Rotashield led to a small increase in the number of small intestinal blockages. This prompted its withdrawal in the late 1990s. In Australia, an increased risk of febrile seizures in young children following a specific influenza vaccine was identified in 2010. It was subsequently withdrawn from use in that age group, and we now vaccinate with a different, safer flu vaccine. This vaccine is no longer available in Australia, and has been subsequently reformulated.

Both of these side-effects were observed within weeks of vaccination.

We now have improved monitoring systems in Australia to detect such serious side-effects even sooner, in the general population after clinical trials, than we did a decade ago.

But what about short-term side-effects? Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

The expected side-effects of the Pfizer vaccine have been reported from trials involving roughly 43,000 participants aged 16 years and older from the US, Argentina, Brazil and South Africa. Half of the participants received the Pfizer vaccine and half received a placebo. And as part of COVID-19 vaccine rollouts around the world, millions of people have already been given this vaccine since December, meaning we have safety data now from both clinical trials and two months of "real world" vaccination.

For those receiving this vaccine in the large clinical trials which started in July 2020, about 80% have reported pain at the injection site. Other common side-effects included fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever.

These were most often reported one or two days after the day of vaccination, and typically only lasted about one day. While some vaccine recipients may need a day off work due to some of these side-effects, this does not indicate the vaccine is unsafe.

In trials, no difference was seen in the rate of severe side-effects between the Pfizer vaccine and placebo. Early in the US program, 21 cases of anaphylaxis were reported. It's estimated anaphylaxis occurs at a rate of 11 in every one million recipients (0.0011%) of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Most occurred within 15 minutes, and all patients recovered. This is why it's a good idea though to remain at the vaccine clinic for up to 15 minutes after vaccination so that treatment and care can be provided if necessary.

A further concern was raised in January, after the death of 30 very frail elderly patients in Norway after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. But investigation by the European regulator concluded these weren't related to the vaccine, but rather to underlying conditions present before vaccination.

Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

This vaccine has been tested in ongoing trials with around 55,000 participants from the United Kingdom, Brazil, South Africa and the US. About half received the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and half a placebo. Millions of doses have been already been administered among the general population, particularly in the UK.

Data from four clinical trials which commenced in April 2020 in the UK, Brazil and South Africa, show the most common side-effects were pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache and muscle pain. Similar to the Pfizer vaccine, there was no difference in the rate of reported severe side-effects for the vaccine compared with the placebo.

Just 0.7% of participants (79 people) from the four clinical trials who received the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine reported a serious side-effect after receiving at least one dose, compared with 0.8% (89 people) of those in the placebo group. No additional safety concerns have been identified since the vaccination program began in the UK.

If recommended a COVID-19 vaccine, take it

With countries continuing to monitor those who have received vaccines, we should be reassured there are no major safety concerns detected for serious side-effects so far. With millions of people vaccinated already, our confidence about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines is very high.

In Australia, and internationally, we have robust systems in place to continually monitor vaccine safety, ensuring Australians can be safely afforded the protection that COVID-19 vaccines are designed to provide.

By arrangements with the Conversation

Climate change cut global farming productivity 21% since 1960s

Agencies

Despite important agricultural advancements to feed the world in the last 60 years, a new study shows that global farming productivity is 21 per cent lower than it could have been without climate change.

According to the researchers, this is equivalent to losing about seven years of farm productivity increases since the 1960s.

The future potential impacts of climate change on glob-

al crop production has been quantified in many scientific reports, but the historic influence of anthropogenic climate change on the agricultural sector had yet to be modelled.

"We find that climate change has basically wiped out about seven years of improvements in agricultural productivity over the past 60 years," said researcher Ariel Ortiz-Bobea from Cornell University.

"It is equivalent to pressing the pause button on productivity growth back in 2013 and ex-

periencing no improvements since then. Anthropogenic climate change is already slowing us down," Ortiz-Bobea added.

For the study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the team developed an all-encompassing economic model linking year-to-year changes in weather and productivity measures with output from the latest climate models over six decades.

The researcher said they considered more than 200 systematic variations of the econo-

metric model, and the results remained largely consistent.

"When we zoom into different parts of the world, we find that the historical impacts of climate change have been larger in areas already warmer, including parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia," he said.

Humans have already altered the climate system, the researcher said, as climate science indicates the globe is about 1 degree Celsius warmer than without atmospheric greenhouse gases.



We find that climate change has basically wiped out about seven years of improvements in agricultural productivity over the past 60 years

Signal is fastest growing app as WhatsApp privacy policy inches closer

Agencies

Amid the brouhaha over new and controversial WhatsApp privacy policy that is set to come into force from May 15, privacy-focused messaging app Signal became the fastest-growing app globally, including in India, both in downloads and monthly active users (MAUs) in the first quarter last year, according to a new report.

Another encrypted messaging app Telegram was at the third spot in downloads and number two in MAUs, according to data provided by app analytics firm App Annie.

Signal is gaining immense popularity owing to its simplicity and focus on privacy.

People are switching to Signal in record numbers because companies who sell ads have a harder time focusing on the things that users actually want.



The upcoming WhatsApp privacy policy has actually helped Signal and Telegram grow their user base. Facing a backlash in February, WhatsApp deferred its new data privacy policy by three months that is reported to be sharing users' data with Facebook (which the company

has denied).

According to App Annie, the top apps by downloads, consumer spend and MAU across Apple App Store and Google Play were TikTok, YouTube and Facebook in the January-March quarter.

Homegrown app MX Takatak, a local alternative to TikTok, was also seen as the fastest growing app by downloads in the quarter.

TikTok led the top downloads chart, followed by Facebook and Instagram.

Today, from Edward Snowden to the Black Lives Matter Foundation to Melania Trump, all use Signal. Activists use Signal to coordinate protests, finance professionals to exchange sensitive information, journalists to communicate with sources, etc.

Telegram recently claimed it gained 100 million new users who weren't happy with WhatsApp's upcoming privacy changes in May.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Dr Rehana Majeed D/o Abdul Majeed R/o Anchar Buchpora (Transferor) of Baleno bearing registration No.

JK01AF-4615 chasis No: 365233 Engine No: 136512 Model 2017 in favour of Sajid Hussain S/O Gh Mohi-ud-din R/o Bagh Rahmat Parray mohalla (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 9538 Sd/-

Dated: 02/04/2021 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, BRANCH OFFICE BARAMULLA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Seerat Ali D/O Ali Mohd Malik

R/o Nawlora Pattan

Roll No 3116617

session Bi-Annual Year 2020

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Branch Office Baramulla



bmg

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- , 2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu)

website: <http://www.ikbopee.org>. email: ceoikbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional merit list of the candidates applied for admission to B. Pharmacy Courses 2020 at Prabha Harjilal College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences Madre-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences Jammu and objections, if any, thereof

Reference: i. Notification No.037-BOPEE of 2021 dated 17-03-2021.

ii. Notice No.036-BOPEE of 2021 dated 27-03-2021.

Notification No.049-BOPEE of 2021

Dated: 02-04-2021.

The Board vide Notification No. 037-BOPEE of 2021 dated 17-03-2021 read with Notice No.036-BOPEE of 2021 dated 27-03-2021, invited offline applications from the eligible candidates of UT's of J&K/Ladakh for admission to B.Pharmacy- courses 2020 at Prabha Harjilal College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences Madre-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences Jammu. The provisional merit list in this regard is annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification with deficiencies and is available on official website of the Board (www.ikbopee.org) only. The candidates, if any, who intend to submit representation/ remove deficiency against his/her position can do so up to 6th April, 2021 (04:00 P.M) failing which no claim whatsoever shall be entertained under any circumstances. The interested candidates can deposit their representations at BOPEE Office, Jammu/Srinagar physically within the prescribed date.

Note:

- The representations / deficient documents, if any, shall not be entertained through e-mail.
- The provisional merit list of the candidates has been prepared on the basis of aggregate marks obtained in the qualifying examination i.e. (10+2). In case of tie between candidates, same have been resolved by taking into account marks obtained by candidates in Chemistry first, and for further tie marks obtained by candidates in Physics in the qualifying examination i.e. 10+2 class. In case of further tie, which shall be resolved by candidate's DOB i.e. candidate older in age is preferred first.
- In case no objection(s) are received within the prescribed date and time by the Board, this provisional merit list shall be deemed to be treated as final.
- The candidates who have not submitted their Domicile Certificates as on date are advised to produce the same at the time of admission to the concerned College.
- The other terms and conditions as laid-down in the Notifications/Notices on the subject shall remain the same.

E&OE

DIPK-NB-31/21

(Dr Sunil Gupta)
Controller Of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No: BOPEE/Adm-02/2013 Dated: 02-04-2021

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE ANANTNAG, J&K

(Camp Office : MMABM Associated Hospital, Janglat Mandi Anantnag)

Phone No.01932-227624

e-mail: gmc-anantnag2018@gmail.com

Advertisement Notice No : GMCA 38 of 2021

Dated : 01.04.2021

Application on the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates (In-Service/Non-PSC doctors) for the tenure posts of Senior Residents/Tutor Demonstrator, on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 in the following disciplines initially for a period of one year extendable up-to a maximum of 03 years, subject to good work and conduct of the candidate, during their 1st and 2nd years of engagement which will be certified by the concerned Head of departments after completion of 1st and 2nd year.

S. No.	Name of Discipline	Essential qualification
	Anatomy	
	Physiology	
	Biochemistry	MS/MD/DNB/Diploma in the concerned discipline from a recognised University/Institution and registered with J&K State Medical Council.
	Pathology	Note: Preference will be given to higher qualifications.
	Pharmacology	
	Forensic Medicine	
	Chest Medicine	
	Gen. Medicine	
	Gen. Surgery	
	Obst. & Gynae.	
	Radio diagnosis	
	Pediatrics	
	Radiotherapy	
	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	

Candidates interested in applying for the said posts at Government Medical College, Anantnag can download the application form from www.gmc-anantnag.net or can obtain the application form for these posts from camp office of Associated (MMABM) Hospital Govt. Medical College, Anantnag in Janglat Mandi, Anantnag during working hours and can submit the application form in the office of Registrar Academics, GMC Anantnag within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this advertisement notice. The application forms complete in all respects, should be accompanied with a non-refundable bank draft for Rs. 300/- (Rupees three hundred only) pledged to Principal, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag and payable at collection counter Anantnag.

Terms & Conditions:

- Incomplete application form(s) in any respect or not appended with relevant certificates shall be rejected without further notice.
- Conditions for PSC/Non-PSC candidates.
 - For In-service (PSC) candidates:
 - The in-service doctor shall be paid as per their LPC.
 - Applicants working in Health and Medical Education Department are required to submit their application forms along with No Objection Certificate from their parent Department without which their application forms shall not be entertained as envisaged in Administrative Department order No.164-HME of 2012 dated 02.03.2012. However in the interest of these candidates, for the purpose of scrutiny in anticipation of such NOC from the competent authority, the candidates may submit an advance copy of requisite application forms along with all required documents.
 - For Non-PSC candidates:-
 - Maximum age for eligibility to apply shall be 50 years at the time of submitting application forms.
 - The Non PSC doctors shall be paid stipend as per Govt. Order No.596-HME of 2017 dated 25.10.2017.
 - The application forms should be accompanied with the following self attested copies of the documents:-
 - MBBS from a recognized university/Institution.
 - MD/MS/DNB qualification certificates of the respective speciality.
 - Internship completion certificate.
 - MCI/J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate.
 - Attempt certificate 1st, 2nd, Pre-Final and Final MBBS examination issued by the University concerned.
 - Distinction/National Scholarship/Honours/Medals/Academic Merit Certificates.
 - House Officer (House Job) experience certificate issued by the Principal of the Medical College concerned or equivalent recognized authority.
 - Diploma Certificate/postgraduate degree certificate.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Physical active field service certificate after PG/Rural Service prior to PG certificate issued by the Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir in respect of In-service candidates.
 - Professional publications in a standard medical journal, if any.
 - Non PSC candidates have to produce an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate along with the application form to the effect of being Non-PSC, false information in this regard will be punishable under rules which include confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
 - The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and modification to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice.
 - The decision of the competent authority regarding selection of candidates will be final and no representation will be entertained in this regard.
 - Separate application has to be filed for each post applied and fee has to be deposited separately for each applied post.
 - In case any declaration by the candidates is found to be false or if the candidate has wilfully suppressed any material/information relevant to his/her appointment, his/her selection will be cancelled ab-initio liable and action as Warranted under rules shall be initiated against the erring candidates.
 - Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria and producing all the prescribed documents will be interviewed.
 - The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of tenure, however abandoning/terminating of the arrangement in the Speciality will require one month prior notice on either side failing which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the Department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.
 - The selected candidate has to submit an affidavit to the effect that he/she is not on the rolls of any Medical College/Institutions of the country which is pre-requisite in terms of MCI norms.
 - The Non PSC shall be paid stipend under rules.
 - The selection of the candidates will be made on the basis of combined academic merit and performance at the interview. No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in interview.

No. GMCA/RA./Adm./SR/2021/938-945

Dated 01.04.2021

DIPK-68/21

Sd/-
(Prof. Shaikat A. Jeelani)
Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College Anantnag

(Government of Jammu and Kashmir)

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE KUPWARA

(Enquiry Officer)

Subject: Conduct of Magisterial Enquiry under Section 176 Cr.PC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned has been nominated as Enquiry Officer vide District Magistrate, Kupwara's Order No: 149/DCK/Adm of 2020 dated 10.12.2020 to conduct magisterial enquiry to ascertain the circumstances which led to the death of a BSF Personal, namely Sudip Sarkar No. 001301748 (Ct/GD) and an unidentified person (Suspect Militant) during the intervening night of 7/8th of November 2020 in the general area of Tower-III.

It is published, for the information of the general public, who are having any knowledge of the incident and are desirous to share the same with the undersigned can attend this office on working days w.e.f 1st of April to 10th of April 2021 during office hours to get their statement recorded.

No: DCK/ADC/2020/6024-25

Dated: 30.03.2021

DIPK-48/21

Sd/-
(Enquiry Officer)
Nazir Ahmad Lone (KAS)
Addl. District Magistrate,
Kupwara

Government Withdraws Cut In Rate On Small Savings Schemes



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: In a relief to savers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government will withdraw orders to cut interest rate on small savings schemes and assured to restore the rates to last quarter of the financial year ending on March 31.

In a jolt to savers, the Finance Ministry on Wednesday had reduced interest rate by up to 1.1 per cent across various small savings schemes, including the National Savings Certificates (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF).

"Interest rates of small savings schemes of Govt shall continue to

be at the rates which existed in the last quarter of 2020-2021, ie, rates that prevailed as of March 2021. Orders issued by oversight shall be withdrawn," Sitharaman said in a early morning tweet.

Interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) was reduced by 0.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent, while National Savings Certificate (NSC) was to earn 0.9 per cent less at 5.9 per cent.

The steepest fall of 1.1 per cent was effected in the one-year term deposit. The new rate was brought down to 4.4 per cent as compared to 5.5 per cent. Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

India Holds World Record For Fastest Road Construction: Nitin Gadkari

Agenceis

LUCKNOW: With the construction of a 2.5 km 4-lane concrete road and a 1-lane 25-km bitumen Solapur-Bijapur road within 24 hours, India has made three world records, said Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday.

"We made three world records this month. India now holds the world record for the fastest road construction. We made it to the Guinness World Records by building a 2.5 km 4-lane concrete road within 24 hours and a 1-lane 25-km bitumen Solapur-Bijapur road within 24 hours," Gadkari said while inaugurating the Tedhi Pulia flyover and laying the foundation stone for the Khuram Nagar flyover in Lucknow.

He further said that the politics of the 21st century is that of progress and the government will build infrastructure worth Rs 111 lakh crore in the next five years.

"21st-century politics is that of progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to make an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. He gave us a mission to make self-reliant India have a \$5 trillion economy. We have to build an infrastructure of Rs 111 Lakh crores in 5 yrs and I have the responsibility of the road sector," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, the ministry of road, transport and highways (MoRTH) in a statement



informed that the construction of National Highways had touched a record 37 kilometres per day in the year 2020-21.

"The ministry has achieved the record-breaking milestone of constructing 37 kilometres highways per day in the year 2020-21, which is unprecedented," it said.

It further said that over the last seven years, the length of National Highways has gone up by 50 per cent from 91,287 km as of April 2014 to 1,37,625 km as on March 20, 2021.

"This would not have been possible without the dedication and teamwork of the officials and other stakeholders. These achievements are unprecedented and have no parallel in any other country in the world," Gadkari had said.

India Asks State Refiners To Review Oil Import Contracts With Saudi Arabia

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Amid tensions with Saudi Arabia over oil production cuts, India has asked its state refiners to review contracts they enter into for buying crude oil from the Middle East nation and negotiate more favourable terms, a top official said.

Keen to break producers cartel dictating pricing and contractual terms, the government has told Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to look for oil supplies from outside the Middle East region and use collective bargaining power to get favourable terms.

India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and is often vulnerable to global supply and price shocks.

When oil prices started to rise in February, it wanted Saudi Arabia to relax output controls but the Kingdom ignored its calls.

This has led to the Indian government now pressing for diversification of the supply base.

"Traditionally, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC producers have been our mainstay suppliers of crude oil.

But their terms have often been loaded against the buyer," the official with direct knowledge of the discussions said.

For one, Indian firms buy two-third of their purchases on term or fixed annual contracts.

These term contracts provide assured supplies of the contracted quantity but the pricing and other terms favour only the supplier, he said.

"While buyers have an obligation to lift all of the contracted quantity, Saudi and other producers have the option to reduce supplies in case OPEC decides to keep production artificially lower to boost prices.

Why should the consumer have to pay for decisions of OPEC? If we commit to offtake, they should also supply no matter what," he said.

More importantly, the buyer has



to indicate at least six weeks in advance of their intention to lift quantity out of the annual term contract in any month and has to pay an average official price announced by the producer.

"In an ideal market, the pricing should be of the day when the loading is taking place. That way we can get the advantage of any drop in international oil rates. But that is not the case.

They (Saudi and other OPEC suppliers) insist on selling at their official selling price only," the official said.

To begin with, Indian refiners will look to reduce the quantity they buy through term contracts and instead buy more from the spot or current market.

Buying from the spot market would ensure that India can take advantage of any fall in prices on any day and book quantities.

"It's like stock market. You would want to buy shares on a day or time when the prices are low. So is the case with crude oil - we would want to buy when we see there is a drop. Term contracts devoid us of that flexibility," he said.

Indian refiners have raised spot purchases from 20 per cent a decade back to 30-35 per cent of the total oil bought now.

"We want pricing flexibility as well as the certainty of supply even during times when production falls due to any reason," the official said adding state-owned refineries have

been asked to coordinate buying and also explore joint strategy with private refiners such as Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy.

India will buy oil when it gets favourable term, he said.

"Choice of time of supply, flexibility on quantity (ability to reduce or increase) and surety of supplies is what we are looking at." Oil producers cartel OPEC output cut to boost oil prices has been at the heart of recent tensions between India and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi and its allies ignored India's call to increase supply last month, prompting Indian state refiners to discuss the possibility of taking less oil in May.

Purchase contracts with Saudi permit refiners to vary volumes by month but the overall annual commitment must be honoured.

India, the world's third-largest consumer of oil, hopes to use the might of its market to change the terms of engagement with big suppliers.

The Middle East accounts for 60 per cent of all oil bought by India while Latin America and Africa are the other big supplier blocks.

In recent months, India has bought more oil from the US and from newer sources such as Guyana, which has a large Indian diaspora.

Due to its geographical proximity, the Middle East can, however, supply cargoes in less time and at low freight rates.

GST Collection Rises To All-Time High Of Rs1.23 Lakh Cr In March

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: GST collection remained above the Rs 1 lakh crore-mark for the sixth month in a row in March, rising 27% annually to record Rs 1.23 lakh crore, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry said the steep increasing trend in goods and services tax is a clear indication of rapid economic recovery post pandemic.

Closer monitoring against fake-billing, deep data analytics using

data from multiple sources including GST, income tax and customs IT systems and effective tax administration have also contributed to the steady increase in tax revenue over past few months, it added.

The gross GST revenue collected in March stood at Rs 1,23,902 crore. Of this, central GST was Rs 22,973 crore, state GST Rs 29,329 crore, integrated GST Rs 62,842 crore and cess Rs 8,757 crore (including Rs 935 crore collected on import of goods). — PTI

6 Out Of 10 People May Lose Jobs To Machines By 2025: Report

Agenceis

Geneva: At least 6 out of 10 people worldwide are likely to lose their jobs by 2025 as humans and machines are probably to spend equal amounts of time at work, reveals a new report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The report was based on a survey of 32,000 workers conducted by the consulting giant PwC across 19 countries, Xinhua reported.

While nearly 40 per cent of workers globally think they would lose their jobs in five years, 56 per cent feel that fewer people would obtain long-term employment in the future, the survey showed.

More than 60 per cent demanded that governments must work to protect their jobs.

The survey also showed that 40 per cent of workers used the Covid-induced lockdown in 2020 to hone their digital skills, while 77 per cent were ready to learn new skills or to retrain.

Further, 80 per cent were confident in their ability to adapt to new technologies.

According to a previous WEF report, the growing reliance on machines and artificial intelligence have increased the risk of loss of 85 million jobs. At the same time, they are also likely to generate 97 million new jobs in such a scenario.

Former RBI Deputy Governor KC Chakrabarty Passes Away



Agenceis

MUMBAI: Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Kamallesh Chandra Chakrabarty passed away in Mumbai last Friday morning following a heart attack.

Chakrabarty, 68 years old, was the Deputy Governor of the central bank between June 15, 2009 and April 25, 2014. He left office three months before his tenure ended. He also served as the Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab National Bank (2007-2009) and CMD of Indian Bank (2005-2007).

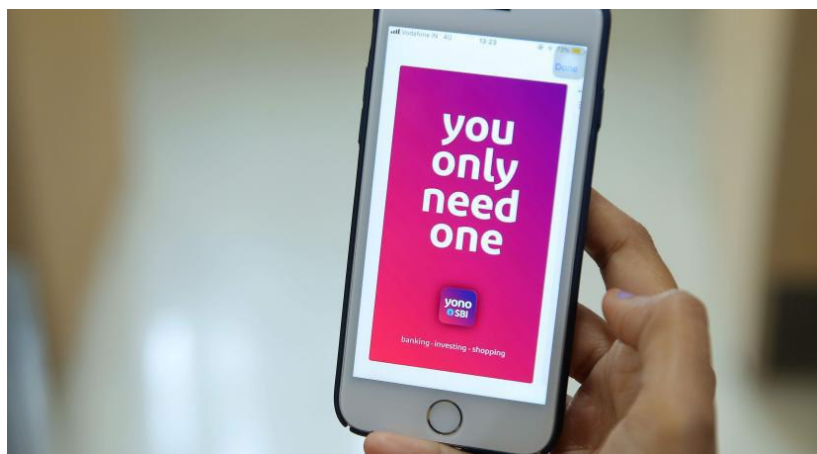
Chakrabarty was candid in his views on various issues related to the banking sector and often dif-

fered from the official stance of the central bank. He was highly critical of the unethical practices and poor risk management systems in Indian banks. He was in the RBI during the governorship of D Subbarao and Raghuram Rajan.

He was noted for his contributions to advancing financial inclusion and financial literacy during his time at the central bank.

He served as the Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab National Bank (2007-2009) and CMD of Indian Bank (2005-2007). He started his career as a banker with the Bank of Baroda where his last assignment was to head the UK operations of the bank between 2001 and 2004.

SBI Internet Banking, YONO App Shut For Maintenance



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Customers of the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), were facing issues with online transactions on Thursday.

With more users taking to social media to report the issues with logging into the bank's flagship mobile app YONO and some unable to transact using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the lender has issued a notice on Twitter.

"We are undertaking maintenance activities between 2:10 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. on 1st April 2021 to provide a better digital banking experience. During this period, Internet banking, Yono lite, Yono and UPI will be unavailable. We regret the inconvenience caused and request you to bear with us," SBI said on Twitter.

However, it did not account for the outage faced in the first half of the day.

According to Down Detector, a website

that tracks internet outage, said user reports related to issues with the SBI platform spiked at around 11 a.m. There were over 200 reports at around 12:21 p.m.

This is, however, not the first time that the customers of the bank have faced service outage. In December last year, SBI's digital banking platform 'YONO' witnessed a technical glitch. Users took to social media platforms to complain about not being able to open the app/login.

Taking note of the repeated glitches by both public and private banks, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had in the past said that there is an urgent need to banks and financial institutions to invest more in their IT system.

The regulator has temporarily barred HDFC Bank from launching new digital banking initiatives after taking a serious view of service outages since 2018.

IndiGo Introduces Door-To-Door Baggage Transfer Service

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: IndiGo on Friday said it has launched a door-to-door baggage transfer service in Delhi and Hyderabad in which customer luggage gets securely picked and transported from the first to the last destination.

In a press release, the airline said it will subsequently launch the facility called '6EBagPort', in partnership with CarterPorter, in Mumbai and Bengaluru. With '6EBagPort', customer baggage gets effectively and securely picked and transported with tracking from the first destination to the last one, it said.

"The '6EBagPort' service can be availed up to 24 hours prior to the departure of the flight and anytime on arrival," it mentioned.



This facility also includes a service insurance of Rs 5,000 per bag-

gage item for the contents and container, it said.

Gulberg Collections

ME & MY HOME

AN ONLINE STORE

PAINTINGS,
HOME DECOR,
COMFORT &
GIFT ITEMS,
WOMEN &
KIDS WARE



SELECT ONLINE &
PAY AT YOUR DOORSTEP



Gulberg
Collections
ME & MY HOME

gulberg@gulberg.net
Cell: 7006034174

www.gulberg.net

3 Militants Killed

after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Ghat Mohalla in the district's Kakapora area, a police official said.

During searches in the area in south Kashmir, the militants fired on the security forces, who retaliated, and an encounter ensued, he said.

Three militants were killed, the official said. Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said that two of the three slain militants were involved in Thursday's attack on BJP leader Anwar Ahmad's residence in Nowgam area of the city, in which a policeman, Rameez Raja, was killed.

The two were part of a group of four militants who had attacked Anwar Ahmed's residence on Thursday, officials said, adding that the other two are at large.

Kumar said the attack in Nowgam was carried out jointly by four militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Al-Badr outfits, and an SLR rifle snatched from policeman Raja on Thursday was recovered from the encounter site at Ghat Mohalla.

Addressing a press conference at the police control room here, the IGP said that the security forces solved the case in less than 24 hours.

Kumar said police have arrested three persons in connection with the attack on Ahmed.

"Police pursued a lead and arrested an OGW (over ground worker) Ishfaq Ahmed, who provided names of two more persons. We arrested both of them as well. On further questioning, we got to know that three militants were hiding inside a house in Ghat Mohalla. A cordon was laid and at 4:35 am and firing started," he said.

The IGP said the militants refused to surrender and took four to five civilians hostage.

"That is why the operation got delayed. We took the hostages out and then the encounter started in which three militants were killed. The slain militants were identified as Suhail Nisar Lone and Yasir Wani, both residents of Khrew area of Pulwama, and Junaid Ahmad from Prichoo, Pulwama. All the three had joined (militants ranks) this year -- two in February and one in March," he said.

Kumar said that two of them were involved in Thursday's Nowgam attack along with two others from Srinagar.

"Lone was the one who was wearing a 'burqa' on Thursday (during the attack). Two of them were affiliated with the Al-Badr outfit. We recovered one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and the SLR rifle from them. This is the same SLR that was snatched during the Nowgam attack which proves they were involved in yesterday's attack," he said.

He said the two militants, who were part of the Nowgam attack and are on the run, are of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and hail from Srinagar.

"Efforts are on to trace the two Srinagar-based militants. We will get them soon," he said.

The IGP said a vehicle used by militants in the attack has also been seized.

"The vehicle was found outside the house where the encounter took place (on Friday). It belongs to the house's owner. We will arrest him under UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act)," he said.

Asked how many militants were active in Srinagar, the IGP said there were six of them including the two who are wanted in the Nowgam attack case.

"We are working on leads and very soon they will either be arrested, killed or brought back," Kumar said, adding "we will not allow the situation in Srinagar to turn bad".

Woman Among

disperse them. In the clashes that continued for several hours, reports said, at least eight people were injured, including a young woman identified as Ishrat Jan. Many of the injured were removed to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Pampore for treatment. However, the doctors there referred them to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for specialized treatment.

"Eight people were brought to the hospital for treatment for bullet and pellet injuries. A girl had sustained bullet injuries in her thigh, while seven others were injured by pellets," SMHS Medical Superintendent, Dr Nazir Choudhary told Kashmir Observer.

"Primary surgery was performed on the two youth who were hit by pellets in the eyes. The girl hit by a bullet is also stable," he said.

Earlier, addressing a press conference at the police control room here, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said that a woman suffered a bullet wound in her leg during cross-firing near the encounter site, while three civilians suffered pellet injuries. "All are stable," Kumar said.

VIP Security Cover

was killed.

Addressing a press conference at the police control room here, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said leaders from all political parties face threats in the Kashmir Valley, but some of them like those from the BJP are more vulnerable.

"The BJP leaders face more threat, and that is why I along with a DIG and the SSP took a review of the security cover of BJP and Apni Party leaders across the city yesterday. We checked where the deficiencies were, where is the need for improvement or increasing manpower or making bunkers stronger," he said.

We are on it and we are also increasing the morale of police personnel deployed for security duties. We will accordingly take concrete measures to ensure fool-proof security cover to those facing threats from militants. I assure you if there is another attack, it will be foiled and our jawans will neutralise the militants, Kumar said.

The IGP said that new standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be put in place to strengthen the security cover to "vulnerable" politicians.

"Our men deployed on duty for protected persons will get fresh training sessions, and new SOPs and advisories will be put in place. Local personal security officers of protected persons will be changed as they leave for their homes early if they belong to the same area where the protected person is living, he said.

It is a challenge to provide security, but the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) is taking all measures to strengthen the security system, Kumar said.

"Many changes will take place, there will be re-vamping in the PSO (personal security officer) system. Protected persons or the JKP jawan are vulnerable as they are soft targets. This is a challenge, but we are taking measures," he said.

"We will get more manpower during the (Amarnath) yatra and complete security deployment, he also said. The 56-day yatra to the Himalayan cave shrine is scheduled to start from the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on June 28 and culminate on August 22. Registration for the pilgrimage began on April 1.

Two of the four militants who attacked Ahmad's residence on Thursday were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district on Friday. The other two are on the run, according to officials.

The IGP said that Pakistani handlers of militants were frustrated after the successful elections to district development council (DDC) polls which remained incident-free.

The DDC elections were incident-free which has frustrated the Pakistan handlers (of militants) and they will attempt to attack public representatives especially of the panchayati raj institutions. But, we are taking measures to beef up their security. We cannot give security to all, but those who face threats, are

vulnerable and consult us, will be provided enough security cover, Kumar said.

India Declines

lifting a nearly two-year-long ban on their import from the neighbouring country.

Asked whether India is planning to restore the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan, Bagchi said he does not have any information on it.

India withdrew the MFN status to Pakistan following the Pulwama militant attack in 2019.

To a question on whether there was any interaction between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart Qureshi in Dushanbe on the sidelines of a conference, the MEA spokesperson said he was not aware of any such interaction with the Pakistani delegation.

Both Jaishankar and Qureshi were at the Tajikistan capital earlier this week to attend the Heart of Asia conference.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process is an initiative aimed at bringing together all the key stakeholders to bring lasting peace and stability in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

J&K Reports

About the 517 new cases of coronavirus detected on Friday, officials said, Kashmir Valley reported 421 and Jammu division 96 cases, including 90 travellers.

Providing district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 173, Baramulla 86, Budgam 88, Pulwama 4, Kupwara 12, Anantnag 12, Bandipora 14, Ganderbal 9, Kulgam 21, Shopian 2, Jammu 62, Udhampur 1, Rajouri 7, Doda 6, Kathua 14, Samba and Ramban 3 each new cases of coronavirus.

This was for the first time that 500-mark was breached in a single day this year. Also, it was for the eighteenth consecutive day that more than 100 cases were reported on a single day in J&K. In all, more than 4000 cases were added to the tally during the time, they said.

Moreover, officials said, 171 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—54 from Jammu Division and 117 from Kashmir Division. There are 3215 covid-19 active cases—765 in Jammu division and 2450 in Kashmir. 126720 people have recovered so far in the J&K, they added. (With GNS inputs)

DMs To Take Call

take a call on the continuation of physical classes in schools in their areas, considering students' safety.

The J&K administration issued the direction after dozens of students and teachers tested positive for coronavirus in different districts, mostly in Anantnag, Kulgam and Budgam over the past couple of days.

All district magistrates / District Disaster Management Authorities' chairmen in J&K shall take a call on the continuation of academic activities i.e. physical classes or online classes in their respective jurisdictions, keeping in view the safety of students and present trend of Covid-19 pandemic in different districts, a government order said on Friday.

The order, issued by Deputy Secretary Umesh Sharma of the School Education Department, said the chief education officer and other authorities would assist district magistrates in taking such decisions.

The order referred to the earlier government orders and guidelines on Covid-19 containment measures and said it has been observed that the surge of

the pandemic has wide variation among districts.

Fast Track Vaccination

the Cabinet Secretary, Rajiv Gauba with the Chief Secretaries of the states and Union Territories in which they were directed to strictly implement test, trace, treat strategy, Covid appropriate behaviour and vaccination to address the challenging situation of sharp rise in the number of cases, an official spokesperson said.

Besides Subrahmanyam, Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Principal Secretary, Home, ADGP (Coordination) and Mission Director, National Health Mission also participated in the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary informed in the meeting that the government of Jammu and Kashmir would be carrying out a fast-track vaccination drive to cover all persons in the eligible age groups in four districts including Jammu, Srinagar, Budgam and Baramulla showing maximum number of Covid cases.

He further said that Subrahmanyam added that through concerted efforts the Government is consistently monitoring the Covid trajectory among its local population with a special focus on districts with an increased tourist footfall.

While reviewing the situation, the Cabinet Secretary, as per the official spokesperson said that the country over the past few weeks has witnessed a sharp rise in cases.

"There has been almost a ten-fold increase in the number of new cases reported in February earlier this year and now," Gauba said.

"Considering the deterioration in the COVID scenario, the Cabinet Secretary emphasised that it is time once again a comprehensive approach of the Governments in the States/UTs is adopted to meet the challenge. Attributing the sudden rise in cases to complacency in the community as a result of slight improvement in the numbers ending 2020, the Cabinet Secretary informed that certain states have already crossed their previously reported peaks in the number of cases," he added.

The official spokesperson said that the Cabinet Secretary reiterated that vaccination alone is no panacea to the problem but needs strictly to go hand-in-hand with testing, tracing, containment and enforcement of COVID appropriate behaviour.

"A clear message needs to go from top level to the entire state machinery that all weapons in the armoury are required to be utilized along with vaccination to deal with the problem," Gauba said, as per the official spokesperson.

He further said that the Cabinet Secretary urged the States/UTs to ensure a multi-sectoral response in addition to swift vaccination drives to cover maximum population of the target age groups to prevent subsequent waves of infection especially in the wake of emergence of mutant strains of the virus.

"He advised the States/UTs to ardently promote COVID appropriate behaviour, improve the rate of testing especially in districts that are falling short of target quotas, increase the share of RTPCR tests viz-a-viz RATs, adopt refocused & stringent containment strategies and undertake priority vaccination with provisions of geographically targeted vaccination in clusters witnessing a surge in COVID cases," he added.

He further said that in a brief presentation during the meeting the Health Secretary informed that there has been a sharp growth in the daily reported cases and the average daily deaths across the country since June last year, it was told that 11 states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab, Chhattisgarh etc., are contributing maximum number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in the country.

"Besides, testing, contact tracing, and containment the presentation also focused on strengthening of public private healthcare resources including isolation beds, oxygen beds, adequate oxygen supply and strengthening of ambulance services. It also

underlined ensuring of COVID appropriate behaviour through legal and administrative provisions. Saturation vaccination of priority age groups in districts reporting surge with a help of time-bound plan was also highlighted," the official spokesperson said.

He said that the States/Union territories were advised to have the district action plans prepared and also to review hospital wise case fatality rate and then to devise a plan to address the issue.

"During the meeting I&B Secretary also gave out a communication strategy to mitigate laxity in observance of COVID-19 precautions, false sense of confidence, vaccine hesitancy and communication fatigue. Various states including Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh etc, also gave a brief on assessment of the situation in their respective states during the meeting," he added.

Hira Nagar Jail

the Foreigners Act.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause(d) of sub-section(2) of section 3 of the Foreigners Act,1946 read with S.O 591 dated 19th April 1958, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs , Government of India, the land bearing bearing Khalsa No. 159 village Dhangroli, Tehsil Hira Nagar , district Kathua and the structures raised thereon is declaring as the "Holding Centre Hira Nagar" for lodging of the illegal immigrants, as defined under section 2(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955," reads the notification.

"Further, in terms of section 3(2) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, all illegal immigrants detected by law enforcement agencies will be lodged in the said holding centre and it shall be ensured that these persons are physically available at all times for their expeditious deportation as soon as travel documents are issued after due process of their nationality verification."

As already reported, administration of J&K last month detained more than 150 Rohingya refugees and lodged them at holding centre Hira Nagar.

The Rohingyas have been described as "one of the world's most persecuted minorities" by the United Nations. (KNO)

HC Refuses

week thereafter to the octogenarian to file rejoinder affidavit.

Farooq, the former three-time Chief Minister of J&K, has challenged the action of the Authorities under the PML Act, among others on the issue of jurisdiction, the applicability of PML Act to the erstwhile State as also on grounds of illegality and procedural irregularities.

The 83-year-old parliamentarian has said his ancestral and family properties in J&K have been illegally attached by ED despite the fact that it had "no jurisdiction to do the same."

Sidharth Luthra, Senior Counsel, representing Farooq Abdullah referred to various provisions of the PMLA and submitted that Farooq can only be proceeded under the PMLA in connection with the scheduled offence as per the Schedule-A of the Act.

"The offences under Sections 406 and 409 of RPC are not the scheduled offences and merely for an offence under Section 120-B RPC, the petitioner (Farooq) is not liable to be proceeded with under the PMLA".

Moreover, he said, the Schedule enlists the offence of criminal conspiracy under Section 120-B Indian Penal Code as one of the scheduled offences and does not refer to any offence under RPA muchless under Section 120-B RPC. "The order of provisional attachment does not contain any reason to believe nor does the properties inherited by him or received in gift from his ancestors or any property which has been privately acquired by him are liable to attachment as they are not "proceeds of the crime."

The order of provisional attachment, he said, greatly undervalues the properties attached so as to attach almost all the properties of Farooq. "Therefore, the entire proceedings are without jurisdiction and are malafide."

Solicitor General in defence submitted that the PMPLA has been enacted by the Parliament in view of the political declaration adopted by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly calling upon the member states to adopt national money laundering legislation, "India being the member State accordingly enacted the aforesaid Act extending it to the whole of India," he said, adding, "Thus, it cannot be said that the aforesaid enactment is beyond the legislative competence of the Parliament."

He refers to Section 2(2) of the PMLA to contend that any reference in the Schedule to the Act to any enactment or provision which is not in force in the "area" where it is applicable would be construed as a reference to the corresponding law or the corresponding provision, if any, in force in that "area".

"Thus, as the Act is applicable to the whole of India, it is applicable to the Jammu & Kashmir also and the reference to Section 120-B in the Schedule to the said Act refers to Section 122-B of RPC as they are corresponding and pari materia."

After hearing both sides, the court said that an attempt to rely upon certain precedents which "we need not to discuss as we are not adjudicating upon the various issues raised at this stage without giving an opportunity to the respondents to file their response."

Compensation Yet

that payment of compensation in favor of various categories of victims of the flood in September 2014 was made through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by the DDOs after issuing bank advice along with the details of the beneficiaries.

The banks were required to credit the amount of compensation directly into the bank account of the beneficiaries as per the details communicated in the Bank Advice, the CAG report said.

According to a report, the scrutiny of the records (February 2019) revealed that compensation payments had not been credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries due to incomplete/ incorrect details communicated to the Bank by eight DDOs out of 58 DDOs of revenue department selected for test check.

It said that in some cases, part payments were made to the beneficiaries in place of a one-time lump sum payment.

"As a result, an amount of Rs 5.48 crore was lying undisbursed (March 2019) in the bank accounts of these DDOs apart from interest earned," the CAG said in a report.

Names of areas given by the CAG in its report include Kargil, Jammu (North & South), and Reasi.

Panel Formed To

Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs besides (a) Representative of General Administration Department (not below the rank of Additional Secretary) alongside a Representative of PW(R&B) Department (not below the rank of Additional Secretary) will act as members of the Committee, reads an order.

"The Committee shall be serviced by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction and shall submit its report to the Government within a period of (15) days", the order states further.

Barring Gulmarg

minus 0.4 degree Celsius below normal for this time of the year, he said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 0.7 degree Celsius against minus 0.1 degree Celsius on the earlier night, he said. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.3 degree Celsius against previous night's 6.4 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at 0.5 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 2.0 degree Celsius on the

previous night in the north Kashmir district, the official said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degree Celsius against minus 0.4 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was minus 1.8 degree Celsius below normal for the place during this time of the year, the official added.

In view of a fresh western disturbance affecting Jammu and Kashmir in next two days, the weatherman has forecast fresh rains in plains next week with main activity during April 6 and 7.

"Dry weather is expected till late afternoon/evening of 4th April with chances of very light rain/snow over isolated places of Kashmir Division on April 2," the official said.

"As per present data analysis and synoptic conditions, a fresh WD may most likely affect J&K and adjoining areas from 4th night with its peak intensity during 6th evening to 7th morning and gradual decrease thereafter."

Machine Supremacy

manufacturing of Kashmir textiles with different embroidery techniques. When he joined the business, he started exporting the textiles.

"The integrity of handmade products is very different," admits Naqash who only works in handmade embroidery. He claims that they try to create products that are better than machine-made products and stand out in the market.

Sozni embroidery is considered to be done by the most skilled embroiderers in the valley. Earlier it was a man-dominated field but with time many women have also joined the workforce.

This embroidery technique employs a needle in which identical motifs are created on both sides of the fabric. Sometimes different colors are used for the same motif on the two sides. Two or three artisans work on one shawl and it takes any time between one month and a year to complete depending upon the design.

Since the fiber used to weave Pashmina shawls are made of a fine variant of the animal hair fiber, only fine Sozni embroidery is suitable for them.

The artisans make a stencil of the design on the cloth using "engraved wooden blocks dipped in a watery solution of charcoal powder mixed with a type of binder".

Woodworkers called 'Naquash Gurs' engrave the wood blocks with fine details. Many Sozni artisans are dependent on these blocks because of its fineness and long-lasting impressions.

Once the pattern and colors are decided, each fabric is given to a craftsman because each handwork is distinct. Mostly used motifs are abstract geometric designs, multi-colored flowers, and paisley patterns.

Batin lqbal, who runs Batin Textiles and Handicrafts, has been working on Aari embroidery techniques for a long time.

In this embroidery, a thread of varying thickness and fineness is used and stitched with the help of a hook called Aari, explains lqbal.

The thread used for the embroidery is selected according to the Aari and fineness of the stitches. Each craftsman makes his hook with a steel needle that is attached to a wood handle.

The hook is always under the fabric on which embroidery is done. It moves along the design pattern. The stitch is done from one point. And to create an emboss effect on the fabric the stitch rotates around the point.

Crewel designs are larger than other embroideries and the most common patterns are flowers, birds, and paisley. Each flower is given a name by the craftsman, says lqbal

The crewel work is done mainly on drapes, cushion covers, bedspreas, shopping bags, upholsterys, and handwoven Dasooti (double twist) cloth by the hook.

Two types of crochet hooks – smaller hook and larger hook are used for this embroidery. For fine quality crewel and chain stitch work, smaller hooks are used whereas for quick work, larger hooks are used.

Emmet mentions in her paper that although the crewel embroidery field was dominated by men but currently many women have started working in chain stitch and crewel embroidery as men prefer to get jobs that pay them higher.

"Very few embroiderers are now prepared to do the very fine hook work. It takes a long time to complete limited meterage," notes the paper.

But at the same time, says lqbal, the supremacy of machines is also discouraging many artisans to switch over to other means of living.

"Although most of the Aari work is now carried out by machines," he says, "the finish and quality is better in handmade products."

But, the entrepreneur says, as the demand for production increased, manual and computerized machines have been employed by manufacturers.

"In computerized machines," lqbal says, "one-man can-do work of 20 men."

Owing to the condition in the valley and the evolution of machine-made embroidery, many artisans working in this field are suffering a lot.

When Ajaz Tramboos was 22 years old, he wanted to find a job but his father insisted that he should join their old family business of embroidery work. As a fresh graduate, Tramboos found the work quite interesting and started expanding the business.

"We had many showrooms in Kashmir and outside the valley," says Tramboos. But with machine-made embroidery coming to the market, the handmade embroidery business started facing a crisis, laments the 50-year-old businessman.

Tramboos admits that he also started machine-made embroidery work but he was not satisfied.

"I thought I was going away from the rich Kashmiri culture in which my father has spent so much time," he says. "So I decided to stick to hand-made embroidery."

He says apart from the machine-based embroidery, the turmoil in the valley has affected the business badly. At times, he says, he's not able to send materials to his customers on time due to which they are not satisfied with his service and shows a lack of interest.

"We had three stores in Srinagar but as the conditions in the valley deteriorated our stores were shut down," Tramboos says.

According to Aaditya Kitroo, co-founder of Jos&fine, when machine-made products came in the market, the hand-made products started showing a decline.

In the machine, he explains, the Aari needle fires at a very high speed so the fabric has to be moved quickly and the end-product does not have clean lines unlike in handmade embroidery.

Kitroo recalls a conversation he had with some elder artisans who told him that in the 1990s, each day three trucks full of fabric used to go from Srinagar to Anantnag for embroidery and 1000 people used to work on these fabrics.

"If I compare the condition of handmade embroidery products in the early 90s," Kitroo says, "it is less than 20% of what it was at that time."

Though many artisans are continuing the legacy which their forefathers have started but they are quite uncertain about the future of the legacy.

Naqash feels that after 30 years Kashmir may lose hand-made embroidery technique. He thinks that the new generation of Kashmir has less respect for the embroidery business and they are not interested in carrying it forward. He hopes that with time Kashmiris may realize that they had "something special" which should be treasured.

Unquestionably problems exist for handmade embroidery artisans in the valley but the upcoming younger generation is also working to revive the cultural heritage.

Many young people are seen wearing designer pherans with intricate embroideries and they take pride in wearing the traditional local dress. Young entrepreneurs like Iqra Ahmad are working on the traditional tilla embroidery technique.

Gold and silver tilla threads are used for this kind of embroidery. It is a traditional Kashmiri craft used in pherans, salwar kameez, and other garments. Chinara, lotus, almond are some of the common motifs designed by tilla embroiderers.

No matter what is the financial condition of the family, each bride is supposed to have a tilla pheran or a tilla shawl in her wardrobe.

According to historians, tilla embroidery originated from a remote village of Zari in Iran and it entered Kashmir when Muslim saint-reformer Mir Sayeed Ali Hamadani came to Kashmir along with his associates, the majority of whom were craftsmen. The reformer is being credited for empowering Kashmiris through skill development and created what many call the tribe of "golden hands" in the valley.

Despite many people preferring machine-made embroidery over handmade embroidery, Kitroo believes that due to coronavirus the market has shifted towards conscious consumption and people are looking at handmade products a bit more.

However, people may not buy products like pashmina which are costly but economical handmade products like cushion covers, handmade rugs, and bedsheets will be on their list.

Police Officer

Serigufwara District Anantnag.

"On this issue, complainant was called by the Police Station Serigufwara and was detained for some time. He was released and was directed by the 2nd Officer of the police station to report on next morning. Yesterday the complainant was informed Sub Inspector Gh. Mohammad Bhat, second officer of the said Police Station on phone that few other persons including the complainant are also involved in this case.

The second officer of the Police Station also assured the complainant that if he pays Rs. 7000/- then no further proceedings will be taken against him", the statement maintains.

"On receipt of the complaint, a case FIR No.07 of 2021 under section 7 Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up."

"A trap team was constituted which laid a 'successful trap' and during the process, Sub Inspector Gh. Mohammad Bhat demanded and accepted the bribe through one private person at his instance. The amount of bribe to the tune of Rs. 7000 was also recovered on the spot.

'There Should Be No International Matches During IPL,' Says Kevin Pieterse



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The cricket Boards should realise that IPL is the "the biggest show in town" and no international game should be scheduled during the course of the T20 event, former England captain Kevin Pieterse opined on Friday.

Some of the English players are reportedly in a dilemma about their participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as their two-Test home series against New Zealand starts on June 2, a day after the conclusion of the upcoming IPL.

If the teams they represent reach the business end of the T20 league, they either have to miss the

finale or skip the national duty.

Director of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Ashley Giles has already said that the ECB will not force the English players to prefer national duty over IPL.

"Cricket boards need to realise that the @IPL is the biggest show in town. DO NOT schedule ANY international games whilst it's on. V v v simple!," Pieterse tweeted.

This year, 14 England cricketers, including white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan, Jos Buttler, Stokes, Johnny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Sam Billings, Liam Livingstone and Dawid Malan are contracted to play in the IPL.

'Like Players, Umpires Too Have Form,' Says Nitin Menon



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Nitin Menon, who showed remarkable accuracy in his debut series as an ICC 'Elite Panel' umpire, feels pressure situations bring the best out of him and like cricketers, he too wants to make most of this purple patch.

The 37-year-old from Indore was inducted into the ICC elite panel of umpires in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic in June last year but had to wait till this February for his first major assignment.

With the pandemic forcing the ICC to appoint local umpires in a bilateral series, Menon officiated in all four Tests between India and England besides three of the five T20s and three ODIs. By the end of it, he was showered with accolades for his stellar performance.

Speaking to PTI, Menon, who is now quarantining in Chennai ahead of the IPL, looked back at his grueling assignment with fondness.

"The last two months have been great. It gives one great satisfaction when people notice and appreciate your good work. This series was always going to be a very challenging one because of the hype associated with it - a place in the World Test Championship final at stake, both teams coming back from impressive overseas wins, challenging pitches to officiate on.

"As for the white-ball series, it was between the two top-ranked teams in the world. Taking all these factors into consideration, I am pleased that we did well as an umpiring team," said only third Indian in the ICC elite panel after S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi.

As world's two top teams fought it out in the middle, Menon was an epitome of calmness. Out of the 40 referrals taken against his decisions during the series, only five were upheld. More importantly, only two decisions were overturned out of 35 referrals taken against his lbw decisions.

The DRS, especially the umpire's call, once again was a big talking point through out the series.

In a normal scenario, Menon won't get to officiate in back to back games over two months. So, how did he cope up with high pressure scenarios match after match?

"I believe umpiring is all about mental toughness. More the pressure better is the focus. If we can give our best performances when we are under pressure, that is the true reflection of how strong we are mentally.

"It's not new for me to officiate in back-to-back matches, thanks to the amount of domestic cricket organised in India. On an average, we

do eight four-day first-class games on the trot in Ranji Trophy, with travel in between from one venue to another.

"Even in the IPL, we do around 14-16 games without a break, so all this experience has really helped me in this series. Like players, umpires also have form. I always feel that when in good form, I should do the maximum number of games without any break," said Menon, who played two List A games for Madhya Pradesh and comes from a family of umpires.

With his consistent performances, Menon has got closer than ever to his dream assignment -- the Ashes -- but for that to happen, the COVID related restrictions have to ease.

When at home, Menon likes to watch the game on television and while he is in the middle of the action, he makes a conscious effort to enjoy it even in the tensest of situations.

"I enjoy it thoroughly (in the middle). If I don't enjoy my job as an umpire, then it will reflect on my performance. Enjoying the game is another way of releasing the pressure. We have the best seat in the house to watch the game.

"And whenever I find time, I make it a point to watch international cricket as it helps me professionally. I have particularly enjoyed watching the Ashes since the time I used to play cricket," said the soft-spoken official.

After two months of non-stop umpiring, Menon got only a couple of days at home before he left for Chennai ahead of the IPL, pretty much from one bio-bubble to another.

The bio-secure life has been tough on the players and Menon finds it equally challenging for the match officials.

"It is very challenging. It is tougher on off days because we cannot go out of the hotel. This is where having a good team atmosphere becomes crucial. We are like a family in the bubble. We have to look after each other, make sure our colleagues are in the right frame of mind, help them out, meet as often as possible and spend time together.

Menon also didn't forget to mention the contribution of ICC match referee Javagal Srinath.

"We were lucky to have Javagal Srinath as our match referee, the experience he has as a player and as a match Referee really helped us. Also, not many people know about the contribution of the ICC Umpire Coaches, how they guide and groom us. They often play a crucial role, making sure we remain focused and positive," he added.

Doda Premier League Begins With Kabaddi And Volleyball Matches



Observer News Service

DODA: Doda Premier League, which is part of the J&K (UT) Premier League, commenced today here at Sports Stadium, Doda.

The six-day League is being held under the aegis of Department of J&K Sports Council and was inaugurated by Principal Boys Hr. Sec. School Doda, Tanveer Ahmed Wani. The League includes disciplines of Volleyball, Kabaddi, Football and Hockey.

Baljinder Singh, Manager Bana Singh Stadium, RS PURA, Jammu

and the overall incharge of the Doda District Premier League organized the games under the supervision of Ashok Singh, Divisional Sports Officer, who is also the overall incharge of J&K UT Premier League. In this competition about six clubs in each game of Football, Hockey, Kabaddi and Volleyball are participating.

Matches of Volleyball were officiated by Anayatullah Gattu PET, Zahoor Ilahey PET, Vinod Kumar PEM and Muzamil Rashid REK, while the matches of Kabaddi were officiated by Ifroz Hussain

PET, Ajaz Ahmed PET, Mohd Imran REK and Koshal Kumar REK.

Three Kabaddi Matches were played in which Doda Warrior won by 14 points against Doda Stunner, GDC Bulls won by 11 Points against Bhalessa and Doda Sports Warriors won by 5 points against HSS Doda club.

In the three Volleyball matches played, Brotherhood Club Doda won by 2-0 sets against Bhalessa Volley Ball Club, Trown Club won by 2-0 sets against Doda Warrior and Sinoo Club won by 2-0 sets against Drodhu Club.

Sachin Tendulkar Hospitalised 6 Days After Testing COVID-19 Positive

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Former India captain and batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been hospitalised as a precautionary measure, six days after he tested positive for COVID-19.

The 47-year-old took to twitter to announce the development on Friday.

"Thank you for your wishes and prayers. As a matter of abundant precaution under medical advice, I have been hospitalised. I hope to be back home in a few days. Take care and stay safe everyone," Tendulkar wrote.

Tendulkar had tested positive for the dreaded infection on March 27 and was in home isolation ever since.

The batting great, who was part of India's historic World Cup win in 2011, also wished his teammates on the 10th anniversary of the victory.

"Wishing all Indians & my teammates on the 10th anniversary of



our World Cup win," he tweeted.

Besides Tendulkar, former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan, his elder brother Yusuf and S Badrinath -- all of whom had recently participated at the Road Safety World Series Challenge -- have

so far announced that they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Tendulkar had led the Indian team to victory in the veteran's tournament in Raipur where crowds were allowed inside the stadiums.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Armband Auctioned For USD 75,000 To Help Serbian Baby

Agencies

BELGRADE: The captain's armband that Cristiano Ronaldo angrily threw to the ground during Portugal's World Cup qualifier in Belgrade last week has been sold to an unidentified bidder for 64,000 euros (USD 75,000) at a charity auction, Serbian state TV reported on Friday.

A Serbian humanitarian group put the blue armband up for online bidding to raise money for medical treatment for a 6-month-old boy suffering with spinal muscular atrophy.

The three-day auction didn't pass without controversy as some participants tried to disrupt the process by putting up unrealistically huge sums.

The fake bidding triggered public outrage with authorities pledging to find and punish the culprits.

Moments before last Saturday's match with Serbia ended in a 2-2 draw, Ronaldo walked off the field after his injury-time goal was disallowed. The Portugal great dinked the ball over the Serbia goalkeeper and it looked as if it crossed the line before being cleared by a defender.

While heading to the dressing room before the final whistle, Ronaldo angrily threw down his armband near the touchline. After the match, it was picked up by a firefighter on duty and given to the charity group.

Ronaldo was criticised for his actions and some believe his angry display could lead to FIFA sanctions.

Tashkent To Host 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced on Friday.

AIBA President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.

"I am happy to announce Uzbekistan, the country which has strong boxers and a champion's character, to be the host of the 2023 Championships. I am confident in the high-level organisation, the huge fan's support and spectacular fights," said Kremlev in a statement.

AIBA said a bid was presented by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan,

Ollie Pope Reveals Virat Kohli's Spinning Tracks Warning During First Test

Press Trust of India

LONDON: England batsman Ollie Pope has revealed that India captain Virat Kohli had walked up to him during the opening Test of the four-match series and warned "this is the last of the flat wickets" his team would see on the tour.

Starting the series on a rousing note in February, England succumbed to the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel to suffer heavy defeats in the next three Tests.

"In the second innings the pitch started spinning quite a lot," Pope said during Surrey's pre-season media day at the Oval, according to ESPNcricinfo.

"I remember standing at the non-striker's end and Kohli came up to me and said 'this is the last of the flat wickets'. At that point I knew it was probably going to be quite a challenging rest of the series from a batting point of view."

Having opted to bat first in the series opener, England put up a mammoth first-innings total of 578 owing to skipper Joe Root's 228. Playing in his first Test since dislocating his left shoulder last August, Pope chipped in with 34 from 89 balls.

England won the match by 227 runs, giving little indication of the struggles that awaited them in the next three Tests.

Seasoned campaigners like Root and star all-rounder Ben Stokes felt it was one of the toughest conditions to play in, according to Pope.

"Chatting to the more experienced guys like Joe Root and Ben Stokes, those guys were pretty much saying exactly the same: these are the toughest conditions they've played in," Pope said.

"If those guys are saying it as well, you know how challenging it is.

"I'm not saying (India) felt they had to produce those wickets, but the fact they've gone away from their flat wickets for three days, then spin on day four and five, which is generally the theme out there, it was quite a compliment to us in how we went about our business and a compliment to our bowlers.

"That shot us in the foot a little bit but it's a good compliment to us as a team because they obviously felt they had to change their gameplan."

Back for the pre-season training with Surrey for next week's County Championship opener against Gloucestershire at Bristol, Pope said he is relieved to be out of the bubble lifestyle.

"The Indian bubble was a pretty tough one," he said.

"They were quite business-like hotels so there's not a massive amount going on, there's no real outdoor space to get used to, have a run-around or kick a ball around or anything normal.

"So being back and strolling to go and get a coffee or anything like that, it's just that bit of normality that I think humans need, really."

"It does have its challenges and everyone deals with them in slightly different ways but it is very nice to be out of those bubbles and let free a little bit."

Injured Shreyas Iyer Set To Undergo Surgery On April 8

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India batsman Shreyas Iyer is set to undergo surgery on April 8 for his shoulder injury which had ruled him out of the last two ODIs against England and the entire IPL.

The 26-year old Iyer had suffered the injury during the first ODI against England in Pune on March 23 when he dived on a drive hit by Jonny Bairstow off pacer Shardul Thakur.

He looked in tremendous pain as he left the field clutching his shoulder.

"Shreyas will get operated on April 8 for his shoulder injury," a source in the know of things told PTI.

Iyer is likely to be out of ac-

tion for a minimum of four months. He had signed up with Lancashire but now is unlikely to play for the English county side in their one-day tournament starting on July 23.

"You know what they say, the greater the setback, the stronger the comeback. I shall be back soon," Iyer had tweeted last week.

"I've been reading your messages and have been overwhelmed by all the outpouring of love and support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone," Iyer, who had led Delhi Capitals to the IPL final last year in UAE, was replaced by Rishabh Pant as skipper for the upcoming edition beginning on April 9.

Igor Stimac Wants To Include Overseas Citizens In Indian Football Team

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Beleaguered coach Igor Stimac has dropped enough hints about his inclination to include Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) in the national football team that stands shaken after one of its biggest defeats in years.

An inexperienced India were humiliated 0-6 by UAE in an international friendly in Dubai recently.

"Sometimes I get the impression that we have too much opinion of ourselves when it comes to opponents like Afghanistan or Bangladesh," Stimac was quoted as saying the AIF.

A member of the Croatian team that made the semifinals of the 1998 FIFA World Cup, he added, "Let me remind you that Afghanistan has allowed overseas citizen players to play for the national team. They now have 13 players coming from European leagues."

"They are competing in Germany, Poland, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. They also have two players playing in Australian clubs, and one player in the USA top division. Bangladesh has introduced a 3+1 policy, and their league is extremely competitive too."



The Blue Tigers have won just one match, against Thailand, since May 2019 even though they did manage to push fancied opponents such as Qatar and Oman.

The inclusion of OCI and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) has been a topic of debate in Indian football ever since Stephen Constantine spoke about the need for India to go down that route.

Stimac says he doesn't like the

word experiment, a term that has been often associated with him. He has handed out debuts to 10 players in their friendly against Oman, which took place four days before the UAE game.

"Experimenting is when you play players in positions they have never played or when you switch to a game system that you did not practice in training. Personally, I don't like the word experimentation and it doesn't fit with what we do.

"We didn't bring a single player to Dubai who didn't deserve it with his performances in the Hero Indian Super League. However, due to illness, injury or poor form we could not count on Rahul Bheke, Seriton Fernandes, Ashish Rai, Brandon Fernandes, Abdul Sahal, Udanta Singh and Sunil Chhetri.

"We gave everyone a chance to play in their natural positions -- in the same game system but against far stronger opponents than those they have in the Hero ISL. This was our only chance to see the new boys and work with them before the decisive qualifiers," he said.

The former player added, "We came to Dubai with just one goal, to get an answer to the question of how much the new guys can provide against two tough opponents and whether we will get a few new names for the remaining qualifying matches due in June."

To improve, he said the team will have to take the "difficult" and "painful" route instead of playing against easy opponents. He also believes that the side has got better results under him than his predecessor.

"In the previous 2018 WCO India finished last in the group with seven defeats, one victory, with a total of three points and GD of -13 (minus 13). The Blue Tigers had suffered five losses in the first five games.

"Now, after five games played, with many new players in the team, we have three points and a very solid goal difference, and are on course to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023," Stimac said.

"Not to forget that we held Qatar in Qatar, and that set of players are to play the World Cup next year. The Oman match was close (in the qualifiers), a match which we should have killed. But inexperience cost us.

"And among the two recently played matches, my young set of boys fought gallantly to hold Oman 1-1."

"If you want to compare the recent friendly matches, then you need to take a closer look at teams India has played against before, and with whom since I have been in charge. One heavy defeat will certainly not make us give up and return to the pleasure of defeating opponents who do not pose any obstacle in Asian football."

India's Digital IDs For Land Could Exclude Poor, Indigenous Communities

Agenceis

Plans by the Indian government to assign digital identification numbers to plots of land could exclude rural and indigenous people who do not hold titles, and further marginalize those without internet access, experts said.

The 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) was launched in 10 states earlier this year and will be rolled out across the country by March 2022, authorities at the Department of Land Resources told parliament this week.

The ULPIN will be based on the latitude and longitude of each parcel of land and will rely on surveys and cadastral maps, authorities said. Individual plot

lawmakers digitalizing land records was "a game changer in reducing corruption" as well as land disputes, saying it empowered ordinary people by allowing them to access information online.

About 70% of land in developing nations is undocumented, leaving more than a quarter of the world's population vulnerable to disputes, evictions and encroachment, according to the Washington-based land rights non-profit Cadasta Foundation.

While documenting land data can lead to greater efficiency in land administration and increased prosperity, authorities may not be consulting communities, failing to secure data, or using it to evict vulnerable people, human rights groups say.

Some Indian states have not



numbers will also be linked to bank records and the national ID Aadhaar numbers, they said.

Officials have billed the program as a way to tackle corruption and land disputes, but critics warned of many potential pitfalls - from outdated land registry records to flaws in the Aadhaar database.

Linking land records to Aadhaar requires "extreme caution," said Kanchi Kohli, a senior researcher at the Centre for Policy and Research think-tank, citing frequent cases of mismatched IDs, or a lack of registration in the system.

"It may further complicate existing tensions in creating and maintaining land records and gets particularly exclusionary when land is being used seasonally by pastoral communities or common use for forest produce or fishing," she added.

The land ID scheme is part of a push to digitalize India's land records that began in 2008 and was scheduled to be completed by the end of March this year. It will now be extended to 2024, authorities said.

Land department officials told

surveyed their land in more than a century, and experts have questioned the logic of digitalising existing records and raised concerns over data access and privacy as records are made accessible online.

Pranab Choudhury, convener at the Centre for Land Governance think-tank, said the digital ID scheme was potentially beneficial but could become ineffective "and even highly contested" if it was based on outdated records.

"Many plots have been subdivided since the last survey, yet remain as one plot in cadastral maps. Subdivisions are often not recorded to avoid transaction cost, so ULPIN should be implemented only after a complete resurvey," he said.

In addition, women, Dalits and indigenous people who are often prevented from owning land risk being shut out, he added.

"Implementing ULPIN hurriedly, without addressing legacy issues can seriously undermine citizen trust and may lead to more disputes. The poor and other disadvantaged groups may be further alienated and excluded," he added.



India Pitches For Early Disengagement In Remaining Areas In Eastern Ladakh

Agenceis

India on Friday hoped that China will work with it to ensure disengagement of troops in remaining areas of eastern Ladakh at the earliest, and asserted that de-escalation of tension alone will lead to restoration of peace and tranquility in border areas and provide conditions for progress of bilateral ties.

At a media briefing, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said the two sides continue to remain in touch through military and diplomatic channels on the issue.

He also referred to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's comments that a prolongation of the situation is in neither side's interest.

"We, therefore, hope that the Chinese side will work with us to ensure that disengagement in the remaining areas is completed at the earliest," he added.

This, he said, would allow both sides to consider de-escalation of forces in eastern Ladakh as that alone will lead to the restoration of peace and tranquility and provide conditions for progress of the bilateral relationship.

Bagchi also said that there was

a consensus that the two sides should now quickly resolve the remaining issues in the region.

"The disengagement in Pangong Lake area was a significant step forward and it has provided a good basis for resolution of other remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in western sector," he said.

Bagchi said the two sides had detailed exchange of views on the remaining issues both at the senior commanders' meeting and the discussions held under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs.

Muslim Body In India Seeks End To Dowries, Lavish Weddings

A prominent Muslim organisation in India has released new guidelines, asking the community to shun dowries and extravagant marriages after a woman recently died by suicide due to "dowry harassment".

In an 11-point guideline issued last week, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) asked the Muslims to take an "oath" to refrain from demanding dowry and keep the marriage ceremony simple without "needless rituals, customs and extravagant activities".

The AIMPLB is widely regarded as the representative of Indian Muslims, who constitute more than 14 percent of India's 1.3 billion population. The body's guidelines, contained in a document released for Muslims to sign and follow, were released by AIMPLB chairman Maulana Rabe Hasan Nadvi.

The move comes after a Muslim woman in the western Indian state of Gujarat died by suicide last month by drowning herself in a river, alleging physical abuse over dowry by her husband and in-laws.

Her suicide set off a countrywide debate over social evils associated with marriage among Muslims and other communities.

The AIMPLB said it has launched a 10-day drive to educate members of the community across the country and to raise awareness against such evils.

During the campaign, Muslim scholars and leaders will place emphasis on solemnising marriages according to Islamic customs and minimise spending during weddings.

The new guidelines prohibit wedding processions, fireworks, dancing and lavish feasts, calling them un-Islamic. It only allows "Dawat-e-Walima", a feast served by the groom's family after wedding rituals are completed.



ding rituals are completed.

The Muslim body said invitations for such feasts should also be extended to poor and needy members of the community.

Maulana Umrain Mahfooz Rahmani, AIMPLB secretary, said it is not right to say that measures to end social evils like dowries are being taken suddenly.

"The Muslim Personal Law Board has been working for years to bring about good changes in society and motivates Muslims to end bad practices and customs. As far as marriage is concerned, work has been done on it for years so that the evil practices that have become associated with it could be curbed," he told the Anadolu Agency.

Rahmani said Muslim marriages in India are rarely solemnised in mosques. But now a good change is taking place and a large number of marriages are being performed in mosques and many un-Islamic rituals have ended, he added.

Despite the changes, he said, the "painful aspect" is that many poor women still stay unmarried as their families are unable to spend a lot of money.

"There are many others who are suffering even after marriage as the dowry demand continues and the girl's husband and his family keep pressuring her to bring more dow-

ries," he said.

"Many girls commit suicide as they are unable to bear the physical and mental harassment. To end all these things, a new guideline has been made and it is being worked on all over the country."

Rahmani said AIMPLB members are across the country. "Among them are well-known Muslims from a cross-section of Indian Muslim society such as religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, scholars and other professionals. They have been asked to work on this in their respective areas," he said.

"During the last three Fridays, discussions and arguments took place in the mosques after the Friday prayers and the harms of the dowry system and mega wedding ceremonies were explained to the people. People visiting the mosques for offering namaz [prayers] are being asked to avoid dowries and extravagance."

Zafaryab Jilani, a prominent AIMPLB member, emphasised the Islamic idea that marriage is a contract.

"Our effort is to make nikah [marriage] easy and simple for the people," he said.

"We want them to avoid spending money unnecessarily in marriages so that they can present a good example before society."

Priyanka Gandhi Self Isolates After Robert Vadra Tests COVID-19 Positive



Agenceis

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday self isolated after her husband Robert Vadra tested positive for COVID-19.

In a video message, she said she has been exposed to coronavirus and is accordingly self-isolating. She also announced the cancellation of her poll campaign in Assam on Friday, in Tamil Nadu on Saturday and in Kerala on Sunday.

Priyanka Gandhi has been campaigning for the Congress and party candidates in the states of Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, though she has not campaigned in West Bengal.

"I have been exposed to the coronavirus. Although I have tested negative yesterday, the doctors have advised that I self isolate for a few days," she said in a video message.

"Unfortunately, I have to cancel the programme that were scheduled for me for the Assam

campaign today and for Tamil Nadu tomorrow and Kerala, day after tomorrow," she also said.

"I would like to apologise to everybody for not being able to be there. I wish all the candidates that I was supposed to campaign for the very, very best in the election. I hope all of you do well and the Congress is victorious," she said, while wishing for the party's victory in these elections.

In a separate Facebook post, Robert Vadra said he has tested positive after he came in contact with someone who was COVID positive.

"Hi friends, unfortunately, I came into contact with someone COVID +ve and have tested positive for COVID although I am asymptomatic so far. As per the COVID guidelines, Priyanka and I are self-isolating although she has tested negative," he said in his post.

"Fortunately the kids have not been with us these days and everyone else at home has tested negative too. Hopefully we will all be back to normal life soon," he also said.

In Poll-bound Kerala, PM Modi Mentions 'Seven Deadly Sins' of LDF, UDF

Press Trust of India

KONNI (KERALA): With Good Friday being observed in poll-bound Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi used a Biblical reference for targeting the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress-headed UDF, saying the two fronts have committed the 'seven deadly sins' including greed and lust for power.

"You all have heard of the seven deadly sins. UDF and LDF have committed their own seven deadly sins in Kerala," Modi said at an election rally here on Friday, attacking the two fronts which have been ruling Kerala alternatively over the years.

"The first sin is pride and ar-

hit the previous UDF government of Oommen Chandy, relates to a couple cheating people of crores of rupees by promising to instal solar panels and offering franchise and jobs.

Modi claimed the two fronts were envious, jealous and want to outdo each other in committing wrongs.

"They suffer from competitive corruption. They are jealous if the other alliance makes a paisa more than the other," the prime minister said at the rally at the stadium which was overflowing with people.

The lust for power has made the two fronts to enter into alliances with communal, criminal and repressive elements of soci-



rogance. UDF and LDF feel that they can never be defeated. This has made their leaders very arrogant and disconnected from their roots, while the second sin is their greed for money," he said, referring to the gold, dollar and solar cases, which has tainted the two fronts.

The gold smuggling case is about the seizure of 30 kg of gold worth Rs 14.82 crore from a diplomatic baggage at the Thiruvananthapuram airport in July last year and the dollar case pertains to alleged smuggling of USD 1,90,000 (equivalent to Rs 1.3 crore by a former finance head of UAE consulate).

The Solar panel scandal, which

ety, he alleged.

"What was the stand of the Indian Union Muslim League on Triple Talaq? What are the social policies of Popular Front of India (PFI) and its political arm Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Can their regressive politics be supported? No," he said.

The two fronts were promoting dynasty politics and everything else is a side issue, Modi said.

During an election rally in Palakkad district on March 30, Modi had targeted the LDF over the gold smuggling scam, saying the CPI(M)-led government "betrayed" the people of the state just as Judas did to Jesus for a few pieces of silver. PTI

In Brazil, An Electric Flying Car By Embraer Hints At The Future Of Air-Taxi Transport

What will tomorrow's skies look like?

The dreams of the future were flying over the skies of Sao Paulo state in Brazil this March as Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer—a company that claims that about every 10 seconds one of its aircraft takes off somewhere in the world—showed off its working prototype of the air taxi of the future, a vertical take-off drone-like passenger flying car you can call to you with an Uber-like app.

Uber set up the specs for what the world saw take to the skies of Brazil just last month: An all-electric vehicle with cruising speed of 150–200 miles per hour, a cruising altitude of 1,000–2,000 feet, and able to make trips of up to 60 miles on a single charge.

The working prototype took to air at Embraer's headquarters in Gavião Peixoto, São Paulo, last week. The vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicle looks like an oversized drone, with 10 propellers—8 horizontal and 2 vertical—and is designed to transport passengers in what will eventually be a totally autonomous flight, said the company. Though the prototype was smaller and remote-controlled, it provided a visual of where we are headed and what the future looks like.



The vehicle's vertical take-off also means vertical travel, which means the futuristic vehicles will move along vertical towers, reaching skyports near the functional living and working spaces that give the footprint of the building its population density.

The long road to prepare it for market includes

obtaining eVTOL certification and approval of the urban air traffic management being developed—navigable corridors, the technology to separate aircraft to prevent collisions while organizing and expediting the flow of traffic with data flowing to the automated vehicles.

Our existing methods of transports have reached their limits and humanity needs to find ways to get people to their destination exactly when they need to be there, travelling faster, at a lower cost, and at greater fuel efficiency with less environmental impact, that was the premise that began the long road to this day in personal aerial transport technology.

The project as a whole is part of Eve Urban Air Mobility Solutions, EmbraerX's first spin-off, which aims to develop and shape the urban mobility ecosystem. EmbraerX has been part of the Uber Elevate Network since its inception in 2016.

Since 2018 Uber has had an exclusive Space Agreement with NASA to focus on traffic management technologies and the impacts of urban air mobility. It selected India, Brazil, Australia, Japan, and France as the first countries to receive tests of the new aerial shared transport system it is developing.

Transportation models will be completely transformed in these countries, predicted Uber Elevate head Eric Allison then, touting the expected vertical takeoff and landing features of the vehicle just unveiled in Brazil.

"We see enormous potential in the use of drones,

creating a truly multimodal transportation future," he predicted. Skyports are also being developed for Uber Air in partnership with property companies.

Uber Elevate aims to create aerial urban sharing worldwide. Embraer is its aerospace partner. Eve's aim is "to create a new frontier in transportation with intelligent, environmentally friendly, autonomous-ready aircraft and the associated ubiquitous support and urban air traffic management solutions," according to Embraer CEP Francisco Gomes Neto.

The city of Rio de Janeiro and the State of São Paulo, where Embraer's main global operational headquarters is located, are two of Uber's largest hubs in the world and also, coincidentally, places with large helicopter fleets that provide validation for the air travel concept, and the need for its services.

Are these flying cars a realistic solution?

The unveiling in Brazil is a clear sign that thoughts of flying cars are no longer the stuff of dreams. There is a palpable reality in the works, though the functional prototype is still a remote-controlled, small-scale version with no capacity to carry passengers. But that is the next step, a completely autonomous air taxi.