



P3 CITY

IN CITY, SEGREGATION OF SOLID WASTE FROM SOURCE COLLECTED IN ONLY 12% AREAS: COURTESY SMC

In the city of 1.5 million, solid waste in nearly 88 percent of electoral wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC)...

P7 THINK

THE STORY OF BIRYANI IS RICH AND ROYAL. HERE'S A GLIMPSE - AND A RECIPE

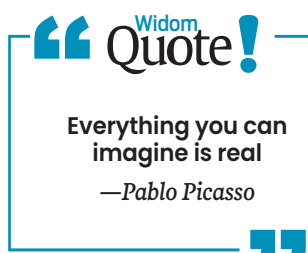
Mumtaz Mahal, the legendary wife of Shah Jahan, was a creative person and truly left her mark on history. Among her many interests, she was an accomplished cook, and as legend has...



P5 STATE

TWO HR SEC SCHOOLS CLOSED IN NORTH KASHMIR AFTER STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS TEST COVID-19 POSITIVE

The authorities on Saturday ordered closure of two Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Sumal...



NEWS DIGEST

Ex-Deputy Director DIPR Mir Gowhar Dies

SRINAGAR: Former deputy director of the information department, Mir Gowhar Ahmad died of coronavirus at a hospital here on Saturday. A 1972 batch officer, Ahmad lost battle with the deadly infection at the Chest diseases hospital here where he was being treated after he tested positive for Covid-19. Ahmad, according to his colleagues, was a diligent and honest officer besides a good writer. He has also served as director of food and • [More On P10](#)

Youth Held Over Rifle Snatching Bid

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested a youth for attempting to snatch the rifle of a bank guard in Shopian district of south Kashmir. Nadish Ahmad was arrested by police when he made a failed attempt to snatch a 12 bore rifle from the security guard at the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Imam Sahib branch on Saturday afternoon, a police official said. • [More On P10](#)

Arms, Ammunition Recovered In Budgam

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition in Khanshib area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Police and army's 53 RR launched a search operation in forest area of village Shanipora in Khanshib on Saturday morning on the basis of a credible input, a police spokesperson said. During searches, he said, the joint team besides incriminating material of Lashker-e-Taiba recovered • [More On P10](#)

Man Charged For Forging Sale Deed

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a photostat shop owner for forging sale deed ascribing to Sub Registrar Srinagar. According to an official spokesperson, the Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday produced a charge sheet against Abdul Rashid Haroon, proprietor of Shaheen Photostat, before the Court of Sub Judge Special Mobile Magistrate • [More On P10](#)

2 Grenade Throwers Held In Sopore: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have cracked a case of grenade throwing in Sopore town of Baramulla district by arresting two alleged militant associates of Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT). Mohammad Asif Najar of Noor Bagh and Sahil Rashid Bhat of Green Town Sopore were detained by police in connection with a grenade attack at the Police • [More On P10](#)

Peace Has Returned To Kashmir: LG

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asserting that peace has returned to Valley after decades and "we must cash in on it," the Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that the administration led by him is committed to take Kashmir tourism to its new heights amid Coronavirus challenges.

"Covid cases are rising in the country and in J&K UT as well. Government here is committed to deal with the challenges and steps are being taken to contain the spread of the virus. At the same time, the UT government is committed to take the Kashmir tourist to its new heights amid Covid challenges," Sinha said while addressing the audience during a festival at famous Tulip garden here on Saturday.

He said that peace has returned to Valley after so many decades and "we must cash in on it."

He urged tourists and people of Kashmir to follow Covid



LG Manoj Sinha (Left) taking a walk inside Tulip Garden with Kerala Governor Arif Khan on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

guidelines in letter and spirit while visiting the garden and other places.

"Prime Minister recently stated that people of India and the rest of the world must visit Kashmir and its Tulip garden. So PM himself is the brand ambassador of tourism promotion of Kashmir. We are hoping for the bumper tourism season in Kashmir this year," the LG said.

He said Covid has been and is again a challenge. "We have put in place hi-tech testing facilities at airports and railways stations. People coming positive for Covid are being put under quarantine," he said.

The LG said that Tulip garden is like an open book of poems and people like "poets and nature lovers can better explain its beauty in their own words." "The garden is • [More On P10](#)

No Dumping Ground Established, HC Raps Baramulla Admin

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Observing that "probably nothing has been done" for establishing dumping ground for the garbage in Sopore, Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought an action taken report from authorities.

Hearing a public Interest Litigation regarding dumping of the waste near

Sopore, a division bench of Chief Justice Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul observed that the District Legal Services Authority vide its report dated 8 February 2021 had suggested three places for establishing dumping ground for the garbage.

"But probably nothing has been done to establish the dumping • [More On P10](#)

501 New Cases, Two Corona Deaths In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Showing no sign of decline, Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 501 new cases of coronavirus, third highest single-day count in three days, even as the deadly infection claimed two more lives in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Among the fresh cases, 108 were reported from Jammu division and 393 in Kashmir Valley, the officials said. Also two more persons succumbed to the virus, taking the total toll due to



the pathogen to 2005 in J-K—740 in Jammu and 1265 in the Valley.

Providing district-wise details, they said that Srinagar reported 207 cases, Baramulla 89, Budgam 35, Pulwama 14, Kupwara 12, Anantnag 11,

Bandipora 8, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 9, Shopian 3, Jammu 69, Udhampur 5, Rajouri 4, Doda 1, Kathua 18, Samba 8, Poonch 1, Ramban 1 and Reasi 1.

Moreover, they said, 140 more patients have recovered • [More On P10](#)

Dr Farooq Hospitalized Days After Testing Positive

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah was hospitalized on Saturday, few days after he tested positive for the novel coronavirus. "Based on the advice of doctors to enable them to better monitor my father, he has been admitted to hospital in Srinagar," Omar Abdullah, his son, tweeted. "Our family remains grateful to • [More On P10](#)

Mercury Dips In Gulmarg As J&K Braces For Wet Spell

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As weatherman has forecast a wet spell next week, the night temperature fell below sub-zero level at several parts in Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 3.5 degree Celsius, officials said on Saturday. A meteorological



department official said that the mercury settled at 2.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.8 degree Celsius in Srinagar. The temperature was below 3.4 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said. Qazigund recorded a low of 1.0 degree Celsius against 4.7 degree • [More On P10](#)

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detention Orders

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders against two persons and asked authorities to release them forthwith if not required in any other case.

Quashing detention order of one Zubair Ahmad Laway from Kulgam, a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal said that he was ordered to be detained on the basis of three FIRs registered in 2016 but nothing has been stated if he indulged in any illegal activity till 2019 when PSA order was passed by the deputy commissioner.

"The perusal of the grounds of detention reveal that all these three FIRs pertain to year 2016, and thereafter in the grounds of detention, there is no whisper that after the year of 2016, the petitioner has • [More On P10](#)

Highway Reopens Today After 2 Days

The Srinagar-Jammu highway will reopen for one-way traffic on Sunday after being closed for two days in view of maintenance. According to an official spokesperson, traffic will be allowed on the • [More On P10](#)

SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER

Commandoes Rushed To Track Militants

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Army on Saturday rushed its elite Para commandoes to a forest area in south Kashmir's Shopian district following an encounter with militants who are believed to be on the run.

The special operations group (SOG) of police and army on Saturday morning launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Choor ki Gali, a forest area in Sedow-Hirpora belt of Shopian on the basis of inputs suggesting presence of militants in the woods, officials said. As the combing operation in the forest area was in progress, the officials said militants opened fire upon the search team triggering off an encounter.

"Encounter has • [More On P10](#)

10 Arrested For Pulwama Clashes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested ten youth for their alleged involvement in Friday's clashes near the encounter site in south Kashmir's Kakpora town on Friday in which eight people, including a woman was injured.

According to a police spokesperson, some "miscreants" from Samboora had shouted anti-national slogans and attempted to disrupt state forces by pelting stones on them near Kakpora when the encounter in the area was going on. The miscreants, he said, were video graphed on spot and later on identified by police.

"Acting swiftly • [More On P10](#)

Ex-J&K Bank CMD Parvez Ahmad Arrested Accused Of Tender Fraud In Housekeeping

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Saturday arrested former chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Parvez Ahmad Nengroo in connection with a case of tender fraud in housekeeping.

Nengroo, former Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank was arrested for causing a loss of crores to the bank with illegal allotment of tenders for housekeeping to a Mumbai based company SILA, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. He said that the ex-CMD had not followed proper tendering norms as provided in the contract to the firm despite not falling into the criteria of any such allotment and his arrest was executed in connection with investigation of a case registered by the agency last year.



"Due to not following the proper tendering processes, improper ATM cleaning, undue addition of the management fee and other omissions and commissions detected during the course of investigation, the J&K Bank has suffered losses worth crores of rupees from the date of award of contract," the ACB spokesperson said.

Besides this case, he said, charge sheets have also been filed before the Anti Corruption • [More On P10](#)

No Trade With India Possible This Time: Pak PM

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan decided that Pakistan cannot go ahead with any trade with India under the current circumstances after holding consultations with key members of his Cabinet on importing cotton and sugar from the neighbouring country, a media report said on Saturday.

The prime minister after consultations on Friday instructed the Ministry of Commerce and his economic team to immediately take steps to facilitate the relevant sectors, value added, apparel and sugar, by finding alternative cheap sources of import of the needed commodities, the Dawn newspaper quoted sources as saying.

Various proposals have been presented to • [More On P10](#)

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CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE SERVICE
IN SRINAGAR

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL

9484-100-200; 0194-240-4000



Kashmiri American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education and Research (KASHMER)

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: IIT Kanpur Department of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur invites applications for IIT Kanpur Department of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from BTech/MTech degree holders. The fellows have to work on a SERB sponsored project at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. The position is temporary and on a contractual basis.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a BTech/MTech with minimum 75% marks or equivalent. Preference will be given to candidates with good C/C++ programming skills and those who have experience in MPI programming (Message Passing Interface). GATE qualification is preferred.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month
Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2021
Application mode: Via email only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EJF7

Scholarship Name 2: HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECS Scholarship 2021-22

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

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be studying in any of the standards between Class 6 to 12, Diploma, Undergraduate or Postgraduate (including



professional and non-professional courses) level. For merit-cum-means based scholarship, the students must have passed their previous qualifying examination with at least 55% marks and their annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 lakh. However, for a need-based scholarship, the students must be facing a personal or family crisis that has occurred during the past three years, due to which they are unable to continue bearing the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out.

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

Scholarship Name 3: IIFL Scholarship 2020-21

Description: IIFL Foundation, a CSR arm of IIFL Group invites

scholarship applications from girl students of Class 9 to Graduation level to provide them with financial support for their studies. The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students coming from financially weaker sections of the society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for girl students only. They must be studying in Class 9 to graduation level. The applicants are required to have scored more than 50% marks in their previous examination. The annual family income must be less than INR 3,00,000 (3 lakh) from all sources. Candidates who are currently Samasta Microfinance customers or prospects only are eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 5,000
Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IIFL1

Green Valley Public School Dhoiwan Kunzer Tangmarg Baramull

Fee Structure for the year 2020-21

S. No	Class	Monthly Fee
01	Nursery	700
02	LKG	700
03	UKG	700
04	1st	750
05	2nd	750
06	3rd	750
07	4th	800
08	5th	800
09	6th	900
10	7th	900
11	8th	1000

Principal
Green Valley Public School
Dhoiwan Kunzer

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have purchased a Vehicle bearing Regd No; JK19-2793 From one namely Mushtaq Ahamd R/O Gool Sangaldan . Now I inform General Public , If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact below given address within a period of seven days .

Ghalum Mohammad Shah
S/o Ghalum Mohideen Shah
R/O Saidapora Shopan

tas

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education Branch Office, Magam

NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is given is claiming to have lost his/her marks card/s with the following particulars issued by the J&K State Board Of School Education:-
Name : Mubeena Akhter
D/o GH Nabi Bhat
R/o Dhoiwan



Details Of Marks Certificate Lost
Secondary School Examination (10th class)
Roll No 985530 year and Session Annual/Pvt (2011)

The said candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate marks certificate/s in this office. Before the same is processed and issued to the candidate, any body having any objection in this regard may file the same in the Board Branch Office Magam within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, Besides the original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Asstt. Secretary,
Br. Office, Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

In School records the name of my son has been wrongly written as Shahid Ferooze while his correct name is Mohd Shahid Wani 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_r

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Information & Public Relations Jammu.

NOTICE

Subject : Fresh empanelment of newspapers/publications/journals in terms of Media Policy-2020.

Attention of all newspapers/publications/journals is invited towards this office notice issued vide endorsement No: INF/K-1755- 1759/2021 dated: 05-03-2021 where under they were informed to submit necessary documents for fresh empanelment to this office up to 03-04-2021.

Please note the date for submission of the documents is extended up to 20-04-2021.

Haris Ahmad Handoo (KAS)
Joint Director Information
Kashmir

DIPK-109/21

No.INF/K- 13-17/2021 Dated: 03-04-2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO.II, SGR.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.03/CDII/68-78 of 2021-22

DATED: 01.04.2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement / Upgradation of L.P Bund road surface from Bakshi Stadium to Abdullah Bridge by way of P/L 25mm thick semidense in patches/ stretches on the eve of Dabar move 2021 (Machine mix to be laid manually).	4.87	200/-	05 Days	3054 M&R	Registered Hot Mix Plant Owner
2.	Improvement / Upgradation of road surface of Gupkar road upto Grand Palace junction by way of P/L 25mm thick semidense in patches/ stretches on the eve of Dabar move 2021 (Machine mix to be laid manually).	2.16	200/-	05 Days	3054 M&R	Registered Hot Mix Plant Owner
3.	Improvement / Upgradation of road surface from Jan Bakers Dalagata to Ghat No.6 by way of P/L 25mm thick semidense in patches/ stretches on the eve of Dabar move 2021 (Machine mix to be laid manually).	1.55	200/-	05 Days	3054 M&R	Registered Hot Mix Plant Owner

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds: Available

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	03.04.2021 from 10.00 AM
3. Bid submission Start Date	03.04.2021 from 10.00 AM
4. Bid Submission End Date	08.04.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.04.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2 nd , Srinagar

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No.68-78
Dated:01.04.2021

DIPK-85/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Construction Division IInd
Srinagar

JAMMU & KASHMIR HOUSING BOARD Office of the Deputy General Manager Housing Unit-II, Bemina Srinagar.

E-mail: jkbh2sgr@gmail.com

Fax No
Srinagar: 0194-2493249

Head Office
Jammu : A/D Block, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar,
Srinagar: Habitat Centre, Building Bemina Bypass Srinagar

Phone No
Srinagar: 0194-2490715
Srinagar Unit Office
Habitat Centre, Building Bemina, Bypass Srinagar

Fresh Tender Notice No.01 of 2021-22(e)

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board, e-tenders are invited from Registered/approved / reputed PWD/CPWD/MES contractors/firms/companies having sufficient experience for the work listed below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Time of Comp.	Class of contract	Tender fee /Cost of tender document
01.	Construction of Balance work for Girls Hostel at Government Degree college Women Bemina Srinagar. (Part A)	420Lacs	18months	AAY/ Special	Rs.6000/-
02.	Construction of Balance work for Girls Hostel at Government Degree college Women Kupwara.(Part A)	192Lacs	12months	AAY	Rs.3000/-

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per the scheduled date given below:-

Online Bidding schedule:

01. Date of issue of tender Notice.	02.04.2021
02. Start date for downloading of bidding documents.	03-04-2021 (10.00 AM)
03. Bid submission start date	03-04-2021 (2.00 PM)
04. Bid submission end date	22-04-2021 (4.00PM)
05. Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting	12-4-2021 (11AM) at DGM office Habitate centre Bemina Srinagar
06. Date and time of opening of Technical bids	24.04.2021 (2.00PM)
07. Date and time of opening Financial bids.	To be notified latter
08. Tender inviting authority.	Deputy General Manager Unit 2 nd Habitate centre Bemina Srinagar
09. Tender opening/receiving authority.	Managing Director J&K Housing Board Bemina Jammu
10. Tender fee to be drawn in favour of	Director Finance J&K Housing Board Bemina Jammu

The cost of bidding document must be credited in the following account through cash, RTGS/ NEFT and the proof of the same must be uploaded.

Name of the Bank: J & K Bank Ltd. Branch: Board of School Education Bemina Srinagar
Account Title: Director Finance, J&K HB Account No:1206040500005049
IFSC Code: JAKA0EXAMBR

- In pursuance to Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/1 Dated:- 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department of J&K, there is no requirement of submission of Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). However, every bidder has to furnish an undertaking/ declaration accepting that if it withdraws or modifies its bids during the period of bid validity or if it fails to sign the contract or fails to submit an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security within 07 days of opening of price bid, if they are awarded the contract, they will be suspended from participating in any tender process in future till 31st March, 2022. Aforementioned undertaking/ declaration needs to be furnished as per format in Annexure "A" and same must be uploaded.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site by the Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-II Srinagar
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders manual Kit" on website <https://jktenders.gov.in> to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
 - The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Deposit Receipt pledged to Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-II Srinagar (Tender receiving authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - Price escalation and taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion 3 of the work unless otherwise specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B E-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
 -
 - The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
 - All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No: HU-2nd/Sgr/22-31
Dated: 01-04-2021

DIPK-NB-59/21

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager
Housing Unit 2nd J&K Housing Board sgr.

In City, segregation of solid waste from source collected in only 12% areas: Courtesy SMC

Agencies

Srinagar: In the city of 1.5 million, solid waste in nearly 88 percent of electoral wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is not being segregated from source while in only four administrative wards, the process is in place.

According to the news agency, there are as many as 35 administrative wards in Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) out of which segregation of solid waste from source is being carried out in only four administrative wards.

The officials of the Corporation said that among the four

administrative wards wherein the solid waste is being collected from the source includes Ward-Humhama, Karanagar, Nishat Shalimar and Lal Bazar ward.

“The process of segregation of these wards was started on 10th of March, 2021 on pilot basis,” the official said.

The SMC officials also claim that in coming months the segregation of waste will be expanded across all wards of the city so that the collection part will be taken care of.

SMC Commissioner, Athar Amin Khan said, “We are planning to expand the segregation part throughout the city and



we will be having 12 garbage transfer stations here where the waste will be decentralized and then moved to final site for

disposal.”

“At final site, a proper mechanism would be followed where biodegradable waste can

be composted, non-biodegradable will be recycled and non-recycled will be shredded and put in use in various factories like cement factories where RDF is used. This all process is done with the existing waste,” he said.

He also said that as of now SMC is in a mechanism where we plan to segregate the old waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable by the process of bio-mining and bioremediation and the waste is taken out and put in segregators, after separation different components are taken out like RDF and that site gets cleared after all this process—(KNO)

Four months on, Smart City Ltd yet to approve Smart House Numbering

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities of Smart City Srinagar are yet to approve the proposal of providing smart addresses to the residents in Srinagar city.

In December last year, the Mayor of Srinagar city Junaid Matoo had formulated a proposal in December 2020 and forwarded it to Srinagar Smart City Ltd but no response has been given from the authorities since then.

Srinagar Mayor Junaid Matoo had convened a meeting of top Srinagar Municipal Corporation Official's and approved a Project of Smart House Numbering for Srinagar city and then Joint Commissioner (Admin) S.M.C

formulated a Proposal and sent it to Srinagar Smart City Ltd for approval so that they can get funding under Smart City Mission but still till date no response has been received from Srinagar Smart City Ltd due to which the project is pending.

Scores of people have even approached the Smart City authorities and even registered their grievances on JK Governor's Grievance cell regarding house numbering but still they are unmoved.

When contacted SMC Commissioner Athar Amin, he said, "Contract has been awarded to Bharat Electrical Limited (BEL) Survey and GIS mapping will start in some days."(KNS)

Poor Health infrastructure at SMHS, attendants face hardships: Traders Body

Srinagar: Expressing concern over the dilapidated condition of hospitals, Kashmir Trade Alliance said that the matter would be taken up with the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Ajaz Shahdhar President, Kashmir Trade Alliance, termed the lack of infrastructure and necessary equipment in the hospitals of the Valley, especially in the SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, as playing with the lives of the patients.

In a statement issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS) he said that the President was adamant about the posting of only one nurse in the Medical and Surgical Emergency ward of Hospital and administration and the authorities were directly endangering the lives of the patients.

"The Glucometer meter is not available and there is no equipment to hang glucose and other

medicines along with the beds, due to which the attendants have to hang glucose bottle in their hands as a human hangar" Shahdhar said.

Ajaz shahdhar said in a questioning manner that the authorities and hospital administrators never tire of announcing that crores of rupees have been released to the health sector, but even the most important things are not available in the hospitals at the ground level.

He said only one nurse is available for the two wards, which is not only a source of contention for the nurse, but also a major problem for the sick and the needy people. He said that the matter would be taken up with the Provincial Commissioner Kashmir soon so that hospitals especially SHMS should be improved.

M Raju reviews Darbar Move arrangements at Sgr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary Estates and Jal Shakti, M. Raju today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements put in place for Darbar Move 2021 at Civil Secretariat here.

The Commissioner Secretary enjoined upon all the concerned officers to ensure that all civil and other allied works are completed in a time bound manner. He emphasised upon the officers that all employee colonies should be properly cleaned and comprehensive face-lifting should be carried on in a planned manner well before the opening of

offices in Srinagar.

M Raju asked the concerned officers that special focus should be given to ensure that the drinking water tanks at Civil Secretariat as well as the residential areas should be cleaned scientifically. He stressed on them to sensitize the management of the private hotels and ask them to put all measures in place for the cleanliness of rooms and surroundings especially in view of the COVID- 19 pandemic.

The Commissioner/ Secretary inspected the ongoing works in Civil Secretariat and directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the pace of works.

LG, Governor Kerala inaugurates 2-day Tulip Festival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Kerala Governor Arif Muhammad Khan Saturday jointly inaugurated the two-day Tulip festival at the Tulip garden located in the foothills of Zabarwan Mountains overlooking famous Dal Lake in Srinagar.

Hundreds of people including dignitaries from various parts of India, top officials of police, administration and the tourism department besides a large number of tourists are present in the garden. Tourism department has organized a series of musical and cultural shows to enthrall the audience in the garden, officials told the news agency.

LG Sinha and Kerala Governor Khan inaugurated the Tulip festival by cutting the ribbon and lighting a candle. Earlier, LG Sinha laid the foundation stone of Ornamental Cherry Theme Garden in the rear side of the garden. At least 15 lakh Tulip bulbs are in full bloom at Asia's largest Tulip garden spread over 35 acres of land.

The LG said that Tulip garden is like an open book of poems and people like "poets and nature lovers can better explain its beauty in their own words." "The garden is not all about flowers, it is about throwing open job opportunities to people and providing livelihood to hoteliers, restaurant owners and footpath vendors," he said.

He said that Indian film industry, especially South Indian film makers have evinced interest in shooting in Kashmir and that he has personally met some filmmakers recently. "I am hopeful to see the entire Bollywood industry shooting in Kashmir including the Tulip garden. Government will ensure elaborate security for the Bollywood filmmakers and actors," LG Sinha said.

He also hoped that international cargo services will start at the Srinagar International airport soon so that Kashmir products reach the international market within the shortest possible time. (KNO)



Idea of India's age-old tradition, ethos flows all the way from Kashmir: Kerala Governor

Agencies

Srinagar: Stating that there is no place more beautiful than Kashmir in the world, Kerala Governor Muhammad Arif Khan Saturday said that its beyond doubt that the idea of "continuous tradition and age old ethos" prevailing in India has come all the way from Kashmir a place also known as Resh Vear—the land of Reshis and Sufis.

"It is beyond doubt that Kashmir is the most beautiful place in the world. People of Kashmir are beautiful, their thoughts are beautiful and their vision is beautiful. This is the people's legacy which they have inherited from the great Reshis as the Valley is the land of Sufi Reshis who have given Kashmiri people a rich culture, tradition and ethos," he said addressing the audience on the eve of inau-

guration of two-day Tulip festival at Tulip garden in Srinagar.

Khan said he has no hesitation in stating that even though people of Europe and Egypt once enjoyed a great culture, tradition and ethos, which no more exists now.

"Look at India. It's a country with continuous tradition and ethos. Idea of India's age-old culture, tradition and ethos flows all the way from Kashmir—the land of Reshis and Sufi saints," Khan said, adding that Kashmir is India's crown and will remain so.

He said there is no match for Kashmir's hospitality. "I first came to this place in 1980 and I came to know one should not leave his place empty even after eating stomach full. Leaving your plate empty will get you more food in Kashmir, so never leave your plate empty," he said in a lighter vein, while highlighting the hospitality of Kashmiri people—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES, KASHMIR

Tel/Fax: 0194-2470970, email:- ddestsgr@gmail.com

e- Tender Notice No.: 03 of 2021 dated. 03-04-2021

Re-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders are re-invited in double cover system are hereby invited by Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir from registered/approved contractors/dealers/firms and SSI unit holders for execution of the following jobs/supply of items at Srinagar. The tender documents alongwith list of items with specification can also be downloaded from the website <https://jk tenders. gov. in> from 04-04-2021 to 10-04-2021 (4:00 Pm) for which the cost of tender documents in the shape of DD of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) for each work/job in favour of Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir or G.R. to be remitted in treasury under M.H. 0216-Housing is to be uploaded with tender documents.. The earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir as per the details shown against each items of work is to be uploaded with tender documents. The tenderers should submit the tender form in two parts i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid separately. The financial bid shall be opened only after the bid documents of intending tenderers are found technically qualified. The intending tenderers should quote rates including GST and other taxes if any.

S.No.	Name of work/items	Amount of earnest money	Annexure
	Supply of Sundry items.	Rs. 10,000/-	A
	Supply of Plastic items.	Rs. 20,000/-	B
	Supply of heating gadgets	Rs. 25,000/-	C
	Supply of Furnishing Items.	Rs. 1,50,000/-	D

Tender documents should be deposited in electronic format on the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in> alongwith Registration Card/SSI unit, Registration certificate/GSTIN registration documents. The tender (technical/financial bid) shall be opened on 12-04-2021 online or on any other subsequent date which may be convenient to the Regional Level Purchase/Contract Committee in presence of tenderers willing to be present in the office chamber of the Undersigned. The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions of the contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:

Date of issue of Tender notice:	03-04-2021
Period of downloading of tender documents	04-04-2021 (10:00 a.m.) to 10-04-2021 (4.00 p.m.)
Bid Submission start date:	05-04-2021 (10:00 a.m.)
Bid Submission end date:	10-04-2021 (4.00 p.m.)
Date and time of opening of bids (online).	12-04-2021 (10.00 a.m.) in the office of Dy. Director Estates, Kashmir.

Further details can be had from the office of Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir at Pratap Park, Kashmir during office hours and on contact Nos. viz: 8825035734, 9419484179, 7006583794.

The Regional Level Purchase Committee shall reserve the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir

(Converner)

Regional Level Purchase/Contract Committee,

DIPK-119/21

Date: 03-04-2021

No: DDES/NIT/2021-22/846-54

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
20 SHABAN
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 50
ZUHR 12:34
ASR 5:05
Magrib 6:56
ISHA 8:19

This Day In History

- 1944 - Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000
- 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day)
- 1947 - Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect
- 1947 - Largest group of sunspots on record
- 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation Organization forms
- 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement
- 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty signed in Washington DC
- 1960 - Senegal declares independence from France
- 1968 - Apollo 6 launched atop Saturn V; unmanned
- 1968 - US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
- Marine clay under houses liquefies in St-Jean-Vianney, Quebec, 31 die
- 1972 - 1st electric power plant fueled by garbage begins operating
- 1975 - 130 killed as USAF plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crashes
- 1975 - USAF transport carrying orphans from Saigon crashes killing 155
- CommunicationFounding of Microsoft
- 1975 - Microsoft is founded as a partnership between Bill Gates and Paul Allen to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800
- 1979 - Ex-President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan is executed.
- 1980 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalatinsk USSR

From KO Archives

Basketful of apples to say thank you

SRINAGAR - Apple growers of Kashmir have sent a gift of 12 cartons of apples to Pakistani and Indian leaders with a message "From Kashmir with Love."

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress party president and Chairperson of the National Advisory Council, Sonia Gandhi will be among the recipients.

Apple growers are sending mix cartons of the world famous apples to Pakistani leaders as a thanksgiving gesture for starting the bus service' between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on April 7, which will link divided parts of Kashmir for the first time in 58 years.

Six other cartons are being sent to New Delhi for Dr. Singh and Mrs.Gandhi before both leave for Srinagar to inaugurate the historic bus service next week.

The bus service is being seen as one of the most tangible signs of a fledgling peace between the nuclear rivals after decades of enmity. It will travel 170 km on the highway between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad in the Pakistani sector.

Apple growers say a carton each will be gifted to Musharraf and Aziz, while the other four will be given to other political leaders.

Ghulam Rasool, the President of Fruit Growers Association here, said with the opening of the bus service, there it hope it would revive trade links.

"Kashmir is known in, the world for its fruits. So this time we will gift baskets of apple to Pervez Musharraf, Shaukat Aziz and the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan. When we had a good trade in apples 1947 the wholesale market was in Rawalpindi and we used to send apples to Amritsar, Delhi Karachi etc front there and when we heard about this (the bus service), we decided then itself that we will give six basket of apples to Pakistan and seven basket of apples for our Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders which includes Ghulam Nabi Azad and Sonia Gandhi," he said

India had said on Friday it hoped free trade with its nuclear-armed neighbour Pakistan would happen within one to two years, as their sluggish peace process moves forward.

Around 600000 families' arc directly involved in the valley's fruit business and if the market opens for their produce in Pakistan, growers are optimistic that both the countries could overtake Gulf countries. Ghulam Mohammed, a senior member of Fruit Growers Association, said fruit trade via Pakistan could also solve the unemployment problem.

"A lot of unemployment problems will also be solved. More youths will be engaged in the work as there is no other viable industry and only Fruit industry is the living industry," said Rasool. With 1.2 million metric tonnes of apple production, Kashmir is the biggest producer of apples in India. Barriers to commerce cemented by more than a half-century of hostility mean companies selling everything from wheat to tyres to Pakistan arc forced to make costly detours into countries like Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Trade is on course to rise more than 150 percent in the financial year which ended in March to about \$500 million, but businessmen predict it could reach 10 billion dollars within five years of signing a free trade agreement.

Pakistan, with 66 million dollars worth of exports to India in the eight months to November, were dwarfed by imports of 315 million dollars. (ANI)

(Kashmir Observer, 04 April, 2005)

Iran Says 'No Step-By-Step Plan' For Lifting US sanctions



Agenceis

TEHRAN, IRAN: Iran's foreign ministry has said there will be "no step-by-step plan" to lift layers of American sanctions and restore the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"The definitive policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the lifting of all US sanctions," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told state-run PressTV on Saturday.

He said that includes all sanctions imposed and reimposed by former US President Donald Trump.

Trump in 2018 unilaterally abandoned the nuclear deal, also signed by China, Russia, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, and imposed harsh economic sanctions that have only escalated since.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman's comments come as US State Department deputy spokeswoman Jalina Porter said on Friday the focus of in-person talks in Vienna next week on reviving the nuclear deal would be on "the nuclear steps that Iran would need to take in order to return to compliance".

Iran had previously said it was open to a step-by-step approach, but changed its position after US President Joe Biden refused to lift any sanctions for months, insisting Iran would need to act first to come back into full compliance with all its commitments under the deal.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has since said Iran's "definitive policy" on the nuclear

deal is the US will need to lift all sanctions, after which Iran will "verify" their lifting and reduce uranium enrichment and remove the several cascades of advanced centrifuges it has deployed.

Iran is "in no hurry" to have sanctions lifted, the supreme leader has said.

'Rapidly finalise sanction-lifting' Shortly after Friday's virtual nuclear deal joint commission meeting, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told state TV Iran requires no road map to restore the deal.

"In our view, there is no step-by-step plan. We only have a final step that the US needs to take to lift the sanctions it has imposed, reimposed, or relabelled during the past four years. We will verify and then Iran will return to its commitments," he said.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also said on Friday there will be no direct or indirect meetings between Iran and the US during the Vienna talks, calling it "unnecessary".

He said in a tweet the aim of the talks will be to "rapidly finalise sanction-lifting and nuclear measures for choreographed removal of all sanctions, followed by Iran ceasing remedial measures".

Last week, President Hassan Rouhani said Iran has seen "no serious efforts" from the US to lift sanctions.

"The Americans are lying that they require time [to lift sanctions]. They can do it in an hour and we will only need a moment. There are a few screws we need to twist and untwist," he said.

IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS NO STEP-BY-STEP PLAN. We only have a final step that the US needs to take to lift the sanctions it has imposed, reimposed, or relabelled during the past four years. We will verify and then Iran will return to its commitments."

7 Deaths In UK From Blood Clots Among Millions Who Got AstraZeneca Shot

Agenceis

LONDON: The UK medical regulator said Saturday that out of 30 people who suffered blood clots after receiving the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, seven have died.

The British acknowledgement of deaths comes as several European countries have paused the use of the AstraZeneca jab over a potential link to blood clots.

The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said in a statement that "Out of the 30 reports up to and including 24 March, sadly 7 have died."

The Netherlands on Friday halted vaccinations with the AstraZeneca jab for people under the age of 60 after five new cases among women, one of whom died.

Germany took a similar decision earlier this week.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), which like the World Health Organization previously declared the AstraZeneca vaccine safe, is expected to announce updated advice on the issue on April 7.

The EMA said again on Wednesday it believes the vaccine is safe and that experts have found no specific risk factors such as age, gender or medical history.

The UK regulator said that the



30 reports of thrombosis, submitted by medics or members of the public via a government website, came after 18.1 million doses of the vaccine had been administered in the country.

Most of the cases (22) were cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, a rare condition when a blood clot forms in the brain.

Eight other cases saw people suffer thrombosis and low levels of blood platelets, which help blood clot.

There were no reports of blood clots from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine it said, adding that "our thorough review into these reports is ongoing."

The regulator's website says that

on the basis of current data, the benefits of the vaccines against COVID-19 "continue to outweigh any risks".

AstraZeneca said last month following US efficiency trials that its vaccine is 79 percent effective at preventing the disease and does not increase the risk of blood clots.

The UK has administered more than 31 million first vaccine doses, using both the Oxford-AstraZeneca and the Pfizer-BioNTech jabs. People cannot choose which one they get.

The UK in June 2020 ordered 100 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and supported its development. It also ordered 30 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine the same year.

Fully Vaccinated People Can Travel If They Take Precautions: US Health Body

Agenceis

Washington: Fully vaccinated people can start traveling again if they take precautions such as wearing a mask and observing social distancing, US health authorities said Friday.

Within the United States, vaccinated people will not have to quarantine or take a Covid-19 test after traveling, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

But international travelers headed to the United States should have a negative Covid-19 test before they get on the plane, be tested after arrival, and must quarantine if local authorities in the United States require it, the CDC said in a statement.

Vaccinated travelers can go abroad without getting a Cov-



id-19 test before travel unless it is required by the international destination, the new guidelines say.

They were released as travel is picking up again in the US, especially due to spring break and Easter trips, after all but shutting down completely in the early months of the pandemic. A person is consid-

ered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine, the CDC said. That means the second shot for vaccines that require two jabs.

More than one in five adults in the United States is now fully vaccinated, CDC director Rochelle Walensky said at a briefing.

Police Officer Dead After Vehicle Rams Into Barriers At US Capitol; Driver Shot

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: A police officer was killed after a person rammed his vehicle into barriers surrounding the US Capitol complex, according to authorities. The driver, identified as Noah Green, a 25-year-old man from Indiana, was shot by police at the scene on Friday afternoon and died in hospital, reports Xinhua news agency.

Green is a Nation of Islam follower, according to MSNBC, citing Facebook content that was thought to be posted by him.

The authorities have not yet specified a motive.

The slain police officer was identified by Capitol Police as 18-year veteran William "Billy" Evans.

"It is with profound sadness that I share the news of the passing of Officer William 'Billy' Evans this afternoon from injuries he sustained following an attack at the North Barricade by a lone assailant," acting Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman said at a news conference.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for US Capitol Police," Pit-



man said, noting the attack underscores that the Capitol Hill remains a potential target for violence.

After ramming his car into the barricade, the suspect exited the vehicle with a knife, started lunging at and was killed by the police, he said.

"The suspect entered what we refer to as the north barricade of the Capitol. The suspect rammed his car

into two of our officers and then hit the north barricade barrier.

"At such time the suspect exited the vehicle with a knife in hand. Our officers then engaged that suspect. He did not respond to verbal commands," Pittman added.

The attack occurred about 91 metres from the entrance of the building on the Senate side of the Capitol.

dered the flags at the Capitol to be flown at half-staff to mourn the death of the police officer.

Following the attack, there was a heavy police response outside of the Capitol, including a helicopter landing on the premises.

Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it also provided support to the Capitol Police. The D.C. National Guard also deployed an Immediate Response Force to the complex to support the Capitol Police.

It was the second line-of-duty death in the Capitol Police this year.

Capitol Police officer, Brian D. Sicknick, died a day after the January 6 riot staged by supporters of former President Donald Trump.

He passed away "due to injuries sustained while on-duty".

Two other Capitol Police officers have died by suicide in the wake of the riot. Barbed wire fencing has been set up around the Capitol complex since the riot.

Several thousands of the National Guard troops still remain in Washington, D.C. over security concerns.

NEWSMAKERS

Russian Doctors Complete Open-Heart Surgery As Tsarist-Era Hospital Burns

Agenceis

Russian doctors stayed behind in a burning, tsarist-era hospital in the country's Far East on Friday to complete open-heart surgery after a fire broke out on the roof while they were operating.

Firefighters who took more than two hours to put out the blaze in the city of Blagoveshchensk said they used fans to keep smoke out of the operating room and ran in a power cable to keep it supplied with electricity.

A group of eight doctors and nurses completed the operation in two hours before removing the patient to another site, the emergency ministry said.

"There's nothing else we could



do. We had to save the person. We did everything at the highest level," surgeon Valentin Filatov was quoted as saying by REN TV.

He said it had been a heart bypass operation. The ministry said 128 people were immediately evac-

uated from the hospital as the fire broke out on the roof.

"The clinic was built more than a century ago, in 1907, and the fire spread like lightning through the wooden ceilings of the roof," the ministry said.

SpaceX Rocket Debris Lands On Man's Farm In US

Agenceis

SAN FRANCISCO: In a bizarre incident, a farm owner in the US was left in shock when a pressure vessel from a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket fell on his property in Washington state, leaving a "4-inch dent in the soil".

In a normal course, most second stage parts either hang out in orbit for years or re-enter Earth over the ocean.

The debris was identified as Composite-Overwrapped Pressure Vessel (COPV) from the break-up of a Falcon 9 second stage over Oregon and Washington state on March 26, reports The Verge, quoting local officials.

The stage re-entered the atmosphere in an unusual spot in the sky after sending a payload of SpaceX's Starlink satellites to orbit.



The farm owner in Grant County, Washington state, found the pressure vessel and reported it to the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

"Neither the property owner

Job Loss A Concern For 40% Workers Worldwide: WEF Report



Agenceis

GENEVA: Close to 40 per cent of workers worldwide think their job could disappear in five years, six in 10 are worried that machines would take over their jobs, and by 2025 humans and machines are predicted to spend equal amounts of time at work, according to a report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Based on a survey of 32,000 workers conducted by consulting giant PwC in 19 countries, Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying on Thursday that half of the respondents were optimistic about their future.

The survey also highlighted that 60 per cent of the respondents were worried about the effects of automation and 56 per cent

thought that fewer people would obtain long-term employment in the future.

This prompted 61 per cent of the people surveyed, most of them young, to agree that governments should protect jobs.

The survey also found that 40 per cent of workers used the Covid-19 lockdown last year to hone their digital skills, and that 77 per cent were ready to learn new skills or to retrain.

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

According to a previous WEF report, 85 million jobs may be at risk of disappearance due to the growing reliance on machines and artificial intelligence (AI), but 97 million new jobs might emerge in such a scenario.

Myanmar Protesters Defy Crackdown, Five Killed; Junta Hunts Critics

Agenceis

Myanmar security forces opened fire on pro-democracy protests on Saturday killing at least five people, a protester and media said, as the military reinforced its bid to end dissent with arrest warrants for online critics and internet blocks.

Despite the killing of more than 550 people by the security forces since the Feb. 1 coup, protesters are coming out every day, often in smaller groups in smaller towns, to voice opposition to the reimposition of military rule.

Security forces in the central town of Monywa, which has seen big protests day after days for weeks, fired on a crowd killing at least four people and wounding several, two media organisations said.

"They started firing non-stop with both stun grenade and live rounds," the protester in Monywa, who declined to be identified, told Reuters via a messaging app.

"People backed off and quickly put up ... barriers but a bullet hit a person in front of me in the head. He died on the spot."

One man was shot and killed in the southern town of Thaton, the Bago Weekly Journal online news portal and residents reported. Police also fired in the central town of Bago, wounding one man.

Police and a spokesman for the junta did not answer telephone calls seeking comment.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners activist group, in a statement earlier in the day, said the security forces had killed 550 people, 46 of them children, since the military overthrew an elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The demonstrations that drew tens of thousands of people in the early days of defiance in big cities have become more rare with opponents of the coup adopting "guerilla rallies" - small, quick shows of defiance before security forces can respond.

People also gather at night for candle-lit vigils.

"People are still protesting every day because we believe strongly that this is a fight between good and evil," protest leader Tayzar San said in an audio message to Reuters.

The authorities are also waging a campaign to control information. They had shut down mobile data and on Friday ordered internet providers to cut wireless broadband, depriving most customers of access, though some messages and pictures were still being posted and shared on social media.

Authorities issued warrants for 18 celebrities, including social media influencers and two journalists, under a law against material intended to cause a member of the armed forces to mutiny or disregard their duty, state media reported late on Friday. The charge can carry a prison term of three years.

Actress Paing Phyo Thu, regularly attended rallies in the main city of Yangon in the weeks after the coup, said she would not be cowed.

"Whether a warrant has been issued or not, as long as I'm alive I'll oppose the military dictatorship who are bullying and killing people. The revolution must prevail," she said on Facebook. Her whereabouts were not immediately known.

SILENCING THE VOICES? State broadcaster MRTV announced the warrants for the 18 with screenshots and links to their Facebook profiles.

While the military has banned platforms like Facebook, it has continued to use social media to track critics and promote its message.

The United States condemned the internet shutdown.

"We hope this won't silence the voices of the people," a State Department spokeswoman, Jalina Porter, told a briefing.

The United States and other Western countries have denounced the coup and called for the release of Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her campaign against military rule. She has been charged with violating an official secrets act that is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

try," Grant County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Kyle Foreman was quoted as saying in the report.

A sergeant then called Elon Musk-run SpaceX, which confirmed the remnant of the rocket belonged to the company and dispatched its workers to retrieve the debris.

"Of course, we didn't have a protocol for this, so we just erred on the side of returning someone's property to them," Foreman said.

The COPV is a part of the Falcon 9's second stage, the smaller section of the rocket that detaches from the main stage at the edge of space and boosts satellites farther from Earth.

It stores helium at pressures of nearly 6,000psi, which is used to pressurise the second stage's large tanks of propellant.

PDP Likely To Put Young Faces After Exodus Of Top Members



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Even as the PDP faces crisis of sorts, the party is learnt to be grooming younger faces to create an alternative leadership and fill the vacuum created by the recent exodus of top members. Sources said, that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti is revamping the party's organisational structure by bringing wholesome change.

The party is set to put up new faces in many constituencies and is considered imperative after Centre stripped the former state of its special status and downgraded it into two Union Territories. By bringing political debutants, they said, the party wants to tap "democratic space which is still intact."

Youth remains the driving force and the party has felt that there was lack or inadequacy in the particular space, they said. Political veterans keep calling for millennial to join their political parties in public events but a very few young names are registered.

Even if the young guns do join politics, the chances of them representing their party in Assembly or parliament are low due to the presence of "more experienced" candidates waiting in line for the ticket, and those who do, are either carrying some kind of legacy or coming from an influential background, they said. Nonetheless, it is their potential and attitude that makes a difference to public approach towards them.

In the last several years, world over many dynamic youngsters have become the "voice of the nation" by addressing sensitive issues, the sources said. PDP is going to take credit to put more new young faces for future politics including few from political family back ground, the sources said.

The new faces are expected from many constituencies including Kulgam, Shopian, Baramulla, Sangrama, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Rafi abad and Uri etc, they added.

A PDP leader who wished not to be named said that "these new faces in PDP can bring change and strengthen the party and have potential to become leaders to end dynastic politics of Kashmir," the leader said, adding, "Since 1947, high-profile families brought their children into politics." (GNS)

DC B'pora Urges Religious Heads, Imams To Motivate Public For Strict Adherence To Covid-19 Protocols

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad today convened a meeting of religious leaders to discuss various issues in view of Ramadhan and adherence of SOPs and other Covid-19 mitigation efforts in the district.

The meeting discussed the impact of the process and precautions or measures that need to be taken to the looming threat of spread of the second wave of Covid-19 Pandemic and the SOPs to be followed in view of the upcoming month of Ramadhan.

Speaking on the occasion, DC urged the imams and other religious heads to motivate the people to follow SOPs especially use of face masks and adopting social distancing.

He asked people not to lower the guard and continue to maintain the highest level of alertness to ensure implementation of SOPs to counter the spread of virus. He also asked them to appeal to the people to administer Covid-19



vaccine.

In view of the upcoming holy month, DC asked the concerned officers to ensure cleanliness around religious places and also appealed to the Imams to ensure the SOPs are followed in letter and spirit.

He reiterated that apart from executing proactive measures, mobilization of all resources and man power shall be put on ready gear to enable the administration to tackle any emergencies arising

from the second wave of Covid-19 Pandemic.

Dr Owais called for raising awareness among the masses to persuade the people especially above 45 years of age to go for vaccination.

Later several Imams and religious heads voluntarily received the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine and appealed to the people to receive the vaccine jab at earliest as it is safe and effective.

DC kick Starts Town Beautification Programme

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora today kick started the Town beautification programme here, with Kaloosa Bridge beautification inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad. While briefing the media after formally inaugurating the project at Kaloosa Bridge, the DC stated that different departments are being mobilised, to converge their resources and ideas, to make Bandipora town

green, clean and beautiful. He spoke of pathways, parking areas, walk ways, Solar street lighting etc. being established in the entire town besides, Wall paintings with messages are also being planned to be installed shortly. The Kaloosa Bridge over Madhumati stream however, has been beautified being centre of attraction. The project was conceived and designed by Joint Director Planning who hinted at more such interventions in coming days.

ZEPO Purportedly Calls Bearded Muslim Teacher 'Biggest Militant' In Poonch, Explanation Sought

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A senior officer of Education department in Surankote area of Poonch has purportedly called a bearded Muslim teacher the "biggest militant" and allegedly desecrated the mosque in the vicinity of the school on her visit to the institution.

Sub-District Magistrate Surankote has sought an explanation from the officer for her unwarranted behaviour.

According to the letter the incident took place at Yaseen Public School, Dundhak Khanikhodi on April 1.

"This man is the biggest militant. Just look at his face..." Kumari who is Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO) is seen yelling in the video.

A local Imam of a mosque Farooq Ahmad Misbahi in his address to the media alleged that Kumari besides calling Farooq a militant, she had desecrated the Madrasa and two mosques in the vicinity of the school by going inside wearing shoes.

"If wearing a beard makes you a militant, then even the PM (Narendra Modi) won't escape," Misbahi said.

Saying that all the communities in Poonch district are living with communal harmony, Imam urged DC Poonch and SSP Poonch for strict action against Kumari besides her immediate transfer.

Misbahi said that Kumari is known for her rude behavior in the area.

According to a letter issued by SDM Surankote, Saleem Ahmad, ZEPO has been asked to submit her explanation within two days.

"A video is viral on social media in which you are seen using derogatory language during [a] visit of [the] Yaseen Public School, Dundhak (Khanikhodi) on April 1," reads the explanation letter.



"A deliberate and malicious act, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religious beliefs is not expected from a government officer/public servant," the letter reads, adding, "You are seen uttering, using words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the feelings of a particular person."

It said that Kumari's action "has caused public mischief and enmity, hatred and ill-will in the public at large."

"It is also viral on social media that during your visit to Yaseen Public School, Dundhak (Khanikhodi) on 01/04/2021, you also entered the Mosque without removing your shoes."

The SDM's letter says that the ZEPO also "forced the Head of Institution to open a specific room of school whose keys were lying at Poonch at the head-

quarters of the School".

The letter further alleged that Kumari was not wearing a face mask and violated COVID-19 SOPs.

It said that the ZEPO "harassed the school management on the pretext of inspection and used very harsh and derogatory language against a particular person of school management which has caused hatred and unrest in the society."

The SDM asked the ZEPO to explain her position within two days "as to why disciplinary action may not be recommended against you to the competent authority."

In case of non-receipt of reply within two days, the SDM said that it shall be presumed that she has nothing to say in her defence and "action under rule shall be recommended to the competent authority." (KNS)

Principal Secretary visits Pahalgam, takes stock of Amarnath Yatra preparations



Agenceis

ANANTNAG: Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Shri Nitishwar Kumar, accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Pahalgam and took stock of the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2021 in a meeting here.

The Principal Secretary enquired about the measures being taken for effective execution of the Yatra Plan for the smooth pilgrimage to the Holy Cave.

He impressed upon the officers to take all the requisite steps to ensure proper arrangements and facilities at all transit and base camps, besides halting stations and along the routes to make the journey of Yatris smooth and easy.

To ensure proper healthcare for the pilgrims, he asked the concerned officers to establish quarantine and isolation centres, besides augmenting the ventilator facilities at critical locations.

The Principal Secretary passed directions for proper dress code of Civil De-

fence volunteers deputed for assistance of Yatris so they are easily identifiable, and setting up of special kiosks for Sim cards and other essentials.

At the outset, the Yatra Officer, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla briefed the Principal Secretary about the Yatra Plan vis a vis security, accommodation, healthcare, food, drinking water and other facilities to be made available to the pilgrims.

Assistant Yatra Officer, CEO PDA, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani apprised the meeting about the facilities available on Pahalgam axis, besides the augmentation being made in wake of anticipated increase in number of pilgrims.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Anantnag, Additional ADC (S), Additional CEO Shrine Board, SEs Jal Shakti, PDD, SDM Pahalgam, and other concerned officers of Civil, Security and engineering departments.

Later, the Principal Secretary made an on spot inspection of Nunwan Base Camp where Additional CEO, Shrine Board apprised him about the functioning of the camp.

Thiago Silva Sent Off As Chelsea Slumps To A 5-2 Defeat Against West Brom

Agencies

LONDON: Struggling West Bromwich Albion caused a big Premier League shock on Saturday by winning 5-2 at fourth-place Chelsea after the home team had Thiago Silva sent off in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

The experienced Brazilian defender Silva was back in the side, following an injury absence, for the first time in 10 matches, but was shown the red card in the 29th minute following two bookings. Christian Pulisic had put Chelsea in front two minutes earlier, only to see Matheus Pereira strike twice in two minutes in first-half stoppage time to give second-bottom West Bromwich, which almost needs a miracle to avoid relegation, a 2-1 lead at the interval. Callum Robinson grabbed a third goal for West Bromwich when he swept home a cross from Darnell Furlong in the 63rd minute.

Mason Mount tapped in from close range after good work by Timo Werner to give Champions League quarter-finalist Chelsea hope. But Mbaye Diagne drilled in a low shot to put West Bromwich 4-2 up and Robinson clipped the ball over goalkeeper Edouard Mendy to complete a surprise scoreline in the closing stages.

Two Hr Sec Schools Closed In North Kashmir After Students, Staff Members Test COVID-19 Positive

Agencies

BARAMULLA: The authorities on Saturday ordered closure of two Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Sumal and Sopore area of North Kashmir districts after some students and staff members were tested positive for COVID-19.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the two students were tested positive for COVID-19 at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Sumbal after which the decision to close the school has been taken by the administration. The official said that concerned schools shall remain closed for the next five days from today while the duo infected students will remain in quarantine as per the standard operating procedure.

Similarly, the four staff members were tested positive for COVID-19 at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Sopore in Baramulla district following which it was closed for one week.

The official said that the concerned school shall remain closed for one week from today.

An order issued by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore in this regard, reads that in view of reported COVID-19 positivity of four staff members in Girls Higher Secondary School Sopore and to pre-empt further spread of the virus, the institution will remain closed for a period of seven days w.e.f.03/04/2021.

The order has been issued under the ambit of Disaster Management Act, it added. Currently, COVID-19 cases are increasing for the last one week in educational institutions. In view of this, the authorities in many districts have started closing schools as a precaution. According to an official, the ongoing surge of COVID-19 positive cases has prompted health officials to ask school authorities in Kashmir to keep extra vigil and strictly implement the coronavirus protocol.

Pertinently, in Bandipora district, about five schools have been closed in the last few days after many students were found to be infected with the coronavirus—(KNO)

Seminar On War Against Drugs Held At Al-Saba School Shopian

Agenceis

SHOPIAN: A seminar on war against drugs was Saturday held at Al Saba educational Institute Watchi area Shopian in which hundreds of people participated. As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the seminar was organised by NGO "we helping hand foundation in collaboration with Al-Saba Educational Institute Watchi."

SDM Zainapora Mushtaq Rasool Lone (KAS), Tehsildar Zainapora Fida Hussian, BDO Zainapora Dr Tariq Ahmad (KAS), Naib Tehsildar Watchi Abdul Aziz, SDPO Zainapora Riaz Ahmad (KPS) and several social activists including Chairman "we the helping hand Umar Wani, Dr Tanveer Hayat, Firdous Nabi, Syed Ajiz Kashani were present on the occasion."

Students of the school highlighted the impacts of drug addiction among the youths and their families. During their speeches, they said that as per a survey of United Drug Control, 70,000 people, 4000 of whom are females were addicted in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Zainapora complimented the participants for their active participation and highlighted the need to protect the young generation from the menace and drug abuse poses a serious challenge to the society. He underlined the need to disseminate awareness through different mediums.

Tehsildar Zainapora urged upon different sections of the society to act vibrantly against the issue while assuring every possible initiative from the administration to nip this menace in the bud.

He said that in the last few years, they have worked hard in the area to curb this menace but there is a need to do a lot more.

BDO said that parents had a major role to play in this regard as they act as a friend, philosopher and guide for their wards.

He also stressed upon the parents to closely monitor their children to check whether they are indulged into fallacious activities inflicted upon them through different mediums including mobile phones and internet. He requested the horticulture and agriculture Department to provide an alternative crop to bhung and poppy to the people of Melhoora, Banduna, Watchi and adjacent which is known as the hub of drug addiction in entire Kashmir.

SDPO Zainapora requested locals including preachers and teachers to join hands so that we can unite eradicate this menace from the society. He said that he is going to act against drug peddlers.

Chairman of the foundation Umar Wani said that lack of parental care and affection was the main cause that thrusts our youth towards drug addiction. He highlighted the role of parents and said that parents had a greater responsibility in social development of a child as they act as the first teacher and guide of their wards.

Other personalities who spoke also reiterated the role of the police department and said that stringent actions shall be taken against drug peddlers. They threw light on the importance of life as a precious gift from the creator and the same should be lived with gratitude.

They further requested parents to take care and be conscious towards their wards and aware their children about the ill-effects of drug abuse. Organisers said that the aim of organizing the seminar was to create awareness among the youth and general public about the menace of drugs, the dreadful effects of drugs and the steps to be taken to eradicate this menace from society.

They described the drug menace as an epidemic which is spoiling the future of the J&K as a termite and sought the help of the youth to create awareness among all.

The students and people present on the occasion were briefed about the early symptoms of drug abuse which parents should keep watch of so that they can maintain check at home—(KNO)

Naib Tehsildar Held With Rs 30,000 Bribe



SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday arrested a revenue department official from Tangmarg area of Baramulla district for demanding and accepting bribe. Naib Tehsildar, Bashir Ahmad Hajam was caught red-handed by the personnel of the anti-graft body while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. The ACB, he said, had laid a trap for the corrupt revenue official after receiving a complaint alleging that he was demanding a bribe of Rs 30,000 for issuing revenue extracts to the complainant whose mother had sold six kanals of land from a 12 kanal patch at Chandil, Tangmarg, Baramulla.

On the receipt of the complaint, the ACB spokesperson said that a case FIR No. 05 u/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB North Kashmir.

"Subsequently, a trap was laid and the accused was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe Rs. 30,000 from the complainant. The accused was arrested and taken in custody by ACB," he added.



Two women tourists pose for a selfie inside Srinagar's Tulip Garden on Saturday. KO photo, Abid Bhat

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The first issue that the Congress needs to do, if it is serious about being a serious contender for political power in the country and not just somehow form alliances to cobble a few seats here and there, is to reinstate the system of internal elections

China's Uyghur Debacle

DANIA SHEIKH

Despite the criticism from International organisations and western leaders, the atrocities committed against Uighur's are unabated. What is more appalling is the nonchalance of the Muslim nations who otherwise claim to be the spokespersons and torchbearers of Islam

International brands like Nike, H&M, and UNIQLO are facing a backlash in China after they announced their decision to boycott Chinese cotton which is manufactured by forced labour in the Xinjiang province.

This province is located in the northwestern part of China. It was previously known as East Turkistan and was a Muslim majority region when Mao Zedong invaded it in 1949. The Uighur constituted about 76% of the population of this region, a recent survey shows their population has dwindled to 42%. Uighur's, who are part European and part Central Asian have a distinct culture, language, and cuisine.

According to the Australian Strategic Policy institute, about 82 Global brands including Apple, Nike, H&M, GAP, Adidas, Coca-Cola, and Tommy Hilfiger use raw materials from the Xinjiang province. About 87% of China's cotton comes from Xinjiang province.

The allegations of forced labour and human rights violations in the Xinjiang province by the Uyghur diaspora and human rights activists prompted the US Congress to pass the "Uighur Forced Labour Prevention Act", this act banned the products made in Xinjiang and asked these companies to disclose information related to Xinjiang. This act pressurised the global brands to seek transparency about the supply chains.

The communist party and its mouthpiece Global Times have dismissed the allegations and termed it as a smear campaign against China. Several Chinese actors have terminated their partnership with these International brands as a mark of protest.

However, Uighur's demands to seek independence have been similarly dismissed and crushed by China. China is brutally assaulting basic human rights. This community is being dehumanised



Kemal Aslan/Depo Photos via ZUMA Wire/REX/Shutterstock

to an unimaginable extent especially for their religion — Islam, which is framed as a "mental illness".

The same old trope of Islamophobia is used against them where they're deemed to be radicalised. This prejudice and pretext is then used against them. They are subjected to mass surveillance, forced sterilisation, and detention on the pretext of tackling terrorism.

The abuse doesn't stop there. China is attempting to erase Uyghur identity by adopting settler colonial policies that enable the Chinese Han community to settle in the Xinjiang province and establish their businesses there. The Han community now constitutes 40% of the region's population. Xinjiang is an asset to China as it provides a major chunk of its fossil fuels and raw materials, it is also of strategic importance to China's Belt and Road Initiative, this is why it is

leaving no stone unturned to forcefully assimilate this region with China. New York Times has described Xinjiang as a 'virtual cage and an incubator for increasingly intrusive policing systems'.

Only a handful of leaders have spoken against China's treatment of the Uyghur's. Trump's administration called it a genocide and a systemic attempt to destroy Uighur's by the Chinese party-state. Other western leaders like Boris Johnson and Justin Trudeau have denounced China but refrained from calling it genocide.

Despite the criticism from International organisations and western leaders, the atrocities committed against Uyghur's are unabated. What is more appalling is the nonchalance of the Muslim nations who otherwise claim to be the spokespersons and torchbearers of Islam.

In fact, in October 2020, 39 coun-

tries issued a joint statement censuring China for the Uyghur genocide, these attempts to penalise China were rendered futile by 45 other countries which include several Muslim majority nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, UAE, and Palestinian Authority. These countries backed China, refuted the allegations of human rights violations, and defended China's actions as necessary to thwart terrorism and tackle religious extremism in the country.

The tacit approval of China's genocide by the Muslim world can be explained on account of their economic dependence on China. These countries are indebted to China and benefit from its Belt and Road Initiative.

Even International organisations like UNHCR are incapable of indicting China as it occupies a powerful position in the UN — it is a permanent member of the UNSC and that gives it immense powers to veto any sanction imposed on it.

In this schema, only International retailers are powerful and capable to some extent to reprimand China. Their decision to impose a ban on imports from China will cause some disruption in their supply chains and the angst of Chinese citizens will prove costly as China is a major market for these brands. But the losses China will suffer are much greater. It is the bigger loser here as it will lose out on Foreign Direct Investments which has been the backbone of Chinese economic boom.

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

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Has the Congress Still Got It?

SOMSHANKAR BANDYOPADHYAY



a 'Mahajoti' — a term to denote a motley group of opportunistic regional parties — to prevent the split in opposition votes.

Moving south, in Tamil Nadu, the Congress has been out of power for almost five decades — since 1967. Allied with the DMK, one of the two principal Dravidian parties in the state, it serves the function of a poor cousin, too timid to upset the balance to ensure it gets some seats during the federal parliamentary elections.

In fact, local media reports suggest that the party is in such a state that it does not even have the manpower to place agents across all the polling booths.

Advantage down South?

Kerala, Congress' heir apparent Rahul Gandhi's home constituency, is the only place where the party has a modicum of respectability. The party leads the United Democratic Front, and has alternately held power at the state along with the Left Democratic Front, led by the CPI (M), which is, ironically, and stinking of opportunistic politics, its ally in West Bengal.

However, while chances are brighter in the state, recent opinion polls suggest that the voters may return the LDF to

While there are a number of contenders in the fray for the political rewards that follow the elections, one common theme is apparent across all the states — the virtual disappearance of India's Grand Old Party — the Indian National Congress — from a position of being a serious player on its own merit in any state

power. If that happens, it will be another nail in the Indian GOP's coffin.

Let us take a peek through the pages of history to understand how this situation has come to pass.

During the initial days of the Congress, it was, as the name suggests, a congress — a group of different people with different points of view, with the broader aim of achieving more rights for the natives from the British Empire. There were several people, including promi-

nent leaders, who had their own separate units while remaining members of the Congress. As the independence movement gained momentum, these groups merged into the party, providing the groundswell of support that finally broke the shackles and freed the country from colonial rule.

In the initial period after independence, as it has been observed in other newly-liberated countries as well, the Congress held sway across the country due to the virtual absence of any other political force, barring the Left in some pockets.

At this juncture, the large landowning classes, who were prominent members of the party, provided the backbone of its vote bank. The party consciously allied itself to the dominant castes across the region to ensure success in the polls.

As the country matured politically, these alliances started shifting too. Regional forces, who felt that their issues and problems were not being given due consideration by the federal powers, began to drift away from the Congress.

These parties gradually started gaining prominence, culminating in the first electoral setback of the party in 1967 when the United Front was set up. Atul Kohli's Crisis of Governability, published in 1991, gives us a detailed account of the power shift that was taking place during this period.

A new era of coalition politics began in the country, as the opposition, while gaining prominence, remained fragmented. This culminated in the successive elections and minority governments at the Centre during the 1990s.

As a result of the rise of these regional forces, coupled with the explosion of caste-based politics for which the Congress was itself to blame as it aligned with the dominant castes in the early 1950s, India's GOP, since then, entered into a steady stage of perennial decline, a trend that continues to this day.

The alternatives?

To top this all, of course, is the obsession of the old guard in the party that no one except the 'first family' of the party, the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, can lead it forward. The so-called Group of 23, the senior dissident voices who are calling for change, have remained unheard till now.

This obsession has already cost the party a host of young leaders in the states, who could have been its future faces. But even those losses do not seem to bother those at the helm.

So, what next?

The first issue that the Congress needs to do, if it is serious about being a serious contender for political power in the country and not just somehow form alliances to cobble a few seats here and there, is to reinstate the system of internal elections, free from the nepotism and sycophancy that marks the selection of party officials. This will ensure that the various voices are heard within the party to take it forward.

Next, the Congress will have to seek to create a voter base from scratch, without having to resort to factional and caste politics. This is obviously going to be a long-term project, but can yield results if done properly.

There would still be large number of Indians, in general, who would wish to shun the current trend of divisive politics and give a chance to the politics of inclusion once again.

Also, since the caste-ridden politics of several states are already dominated by regional players, there is not much hope that this form of voters would switch allegiances back to the party they shunned once already.

The Congress once already played this game and lost, when it projected Rahul Gandhi as a 'janaudhari' (one who wears the sacred thread — the symbol of a high-caste Hindu) before the 2019 federal elections.

Thus a new inclusive agenda, bereft of caste, creed and religion, can be the Congress' saviour, if it is scripted and executed well.

But does the Congress have the fire in its belly to go for such a project? Or will it go belly up again? Time will tell.

Gulf News

FAQ: Should You Get an Antibody Test After COVID Vaccination?

What will this test tell you? How will it help? Here's all you need to know.

KAUSHIKY KASHYAP

An essential tool to prevent the spread of coronavirus is to 'test, test, test.'

According to experts, it's essential to test extensively to understand the spread of the disease among the population. New variants of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 vaccines have increased the curiosity around testing for antibodies.

This curiosity around whether we already have COVID-19 antibodies, or to know if the vaccine is effective, has led to an increase in antibody testing. In some cases, elderly patients are being advised to test for antibodies by doctors before taking the second dose.

So, should you get an antibody test done after you take your vaccine jab? What will this test tell you? How will it help?

FIT speaks with Dr Shahid Jameel, virologist and director, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University to understand.

What does an antibody test tell you?

Antibody tests or serological (serum related) tests are done by taking a blood sample.

When infected, our immune system produces antibodies to neutralise the virus in the body. These antibodies remain present in the body for some time even after the virus infection is completely eradicated. This helps doctors identify whether the patient was infected earlier.

A similar reaction occurs in the body after taking the vaccine.

"Whether we have got the disease or not, if our antibody test is positive, then we get to know whether we have come in contact with the virus or not. Our body produces antibodies in response to exposure to the virus," said Dr Shahid Jameel.

Is it necessary to have antibodies after taking the vaccine?

Antibodies are usually prepared in large quantities after taking the vaccine, and after taking the complete dose, you get protection from the disease. It is to be noted that these antibodies will protect against disease and not from infection.

There is a misconception among people that af



antibody test?

Dr Jameel explains, "For example, we conduct a sero survey in some area and we find that antibodies were found in 57 percent of the population there. This does not mean that 57 percent of the people have had the disease, some may have only been exposed to the virus."

Antibody test, on the other hand, consists of qualitative and quantitative tests. The qualitative result indicates whether there has been an exposure to the virus or not. A quantitative test, which is called an ELISA test, tells us if we have developed antibodies and to what extent.

Confused with all this information? Don't be.

Dr Jameel explains, "Viruses have two different types of proteins – spike protein (S Protein) and nucleocapsid protein (N Protein). The S protein is on the surface of the virus and the N protein is found inside the virus. Most vaccines against coronaviruses are based on the S protein. Covishield, the vaccine used in India, is based on the S protein and this vaccine will produce S antibodies. Covaxin, on the other hand, is a whole virus vaccine, so it will produce both S and N antibodies."

But this does not mean that a vaccine that produces both S and N antibodies will offer more protection.

Antibodies neutralise the virus by binding to the surface of the virus. Since the N protein is not present on the surface of the virus, it will not be able to neutralise it.

In addition, there are neutralising antibodies that prevent the virus from binding to the cell. These are a part of the S antibody. Suppose you have 100 molecules of S antibody in the body, then there will be 10 neutralising antibodies in them.

Therefore, it makes little sense to obsess over antibody count and let it impact your decision to get vaccinated. Especially, amidst increasing COVID cases, it is important that the elderly, who are more vulnerable, take the complete dose and don't avoid it. It's important that we get protection as soon as possible, and that will happen only after you've got your two doses.

..
The Quint

ter taking the vaccine, if specific amount of antibodies are not produced, then they'll not be protected from the infection. Dr Jameel says, it's rare for antibodies to not be formed after vaccination, but it's known to happen and can be attributed to some genetic abnormalities.

In an earlier story on FIT, we had explained that there is a threshold of an antibody test.

"Antibodies in the blood are measured in the International Unit (IU). Its range is from 0 to 1,000. Usually 10 IU per ml is considered a cut off. Levels between 10 and 1000 are considered protective. However, it may not always be correlated. People with count below 10 can also avoid the disease through cell immunity which is not measured by antibody test."

The average count comes from 300 to 1,000 after the second shot of the vaccine.

Does a higher count indicate more protection?

Dr Jameel says that whether the count is 100 or 1,000, the vaccine provides equal protection. However, according to the science of vaccinology, for the best response, we should take the booster dose or the

second dose of the vaccine when the antibody level comes close to the baseline.

"For the best immune response, it is advised to allow the antibody to drop after reaching the threshold level 10. The second booster dose is then most effective. Although this applies equally to all people, it is not necessary. Antibody tests are mostly performed commercially in large pathology labs. But in the private domain, its cost is almost double the cost of the vaccine," he adds.

However, Dr Jameel also says that it is not feasible for common people to have their antibody level checked repeatedly after infection, or after taking the first dose of the vaccine and wait for the antibody levels to drop, before deciding to take the second dose. This cannot be recommended at population level.

Can an antibody test indicate the efficacy of a vaccine?

No, vaccine efficacy can only be tested in a proper placebo-controlled clinical trial. No antibody test can measure vaccine efficacy.

What's the difference between a sero survey and an

The Story of Biryani

The Story of Biryani is rich and royal. Here's a glimpse - and a recipe

Mumtaz Mahal, the legendary wife of Shah Jahan, was a creative person and truly left her mark on history. Among her many interests, she was an accomplished cook, and as legend has it she invented biryani.

The story of biryani is rich and royal, and here's a glimpse.

Recent history of biryani dating to the 18th and 19th century tells us many a stories as to how the rice dish gained popularity far and wide in the region.

The story of biryani from the Mughal kitchen to the 21st century and how it gained popularity far and wide in the region

Lucknow was called Awadh and, since the Mughals were ruling at the time, the royal palace introduced the subcontinent to the Awadhi Biryani. And we can thank Wajid Ali Shah, the Nawab of Awadh, for adding the rustic potato to this culinary gem.

The spud is a fabulous addition to the rice dish; it adds texture and a delicious complementary flavour to the meat and rice. Can you imagine, if Wajid Shah had not come up with the potato epiphany, how boring this particular variation of biryani would be?

Despite all the different twists to the dish, such as the Sindhi Biryani with potatoes, the Memoni Biryani with tez masala, the Kachay Gosht ki Biryani that is cooked in garam masala spices without tomatoes and the Bohri Biryani, popular in Karachi and Bombay, it is actually Lucknow that lays the ultimate claim to it.

Biryani is a celebratory dish in more ways than one; it is cooked at a time of celebration, and when it is cooked it is time to celebrate. Where the variety of pulao dishes are known for their aroma, the different kinds of biryani platters are known for their spices, masala and unique fiery flavour.

Having lived in Karachi all my life, I know the taste of a deliciously spicy Sindhi Biryani and can also distinguish between most styles of biryani. The cooking style is somewhat different from other regional biryanis and there is no use of rose or kewra water, as is common in most Mughlai dishes.

However, the Awadhi Dum Biryani must wear the crown out of the many dozen varieties out there on the desi platter. It was only during Shuja-ud-Daula's, and his successor Asaf-ud-Daula's, reign in the 1750s that Awadh's dastarkhwan was overwhelmed with culinary delights and money was being spent voraciously in lieu of sublime grandeur in culinary delights.

The royal paraphernalia included half-a-dozen kitchens, where hundreds of chefs drained the royal exchequer preparing hundreds of meals. Thus emerged the Awadhi variety of biryani from long experiments of experienced chefs.

We may rightfully conclude here that, while the Nawabs drained the treasury in lieu of extravagance while playing chess, of course, the Europeans aimed at, and were successful in taking over the subcontinent. And a century later, when Wajid Ali Shah, sacked from his throne, was sent to Calcutta by the



imperialists, his entourage brought the Awadhi Biryani to the city of palaces.

The Calcutta Biryani's defining mark is the invariable chunk of a large potato. There is really no documented evidence, but it is assumed that with rising expenses, over generations, meat was reduced and potatoes added.

A true biryani lover today would rightfully complain if a plate of Kolkata Biryani, like the Sindhi Biryani, was served without the potato chunk.

Biryani reached Hyderabad Deccan with Aurangzeb's southern aspirations. He had left behind Nizam-ul-Mulk as his representative in the Ara Kadu area. It is said that the Nizam's chefs developed 47 varieties of biryani, and among them is the famed tahrir.

We can safely assume here that the meatless biryani may be a result of forced austerity. However, today I share a sublime biryani fare, one that is bound to leave a mark. Here it is, from my kitchen to yours.

Kachay Gosht Ki Biryani

Ingredients

3 to 4 lbs. mutton (leg meat)
3 mugs basmati rice
6 oz. to 10 oz. oil
3 to 4 large onions, sliced
4 teaspoons freshly chopped garlic and garlic
Salt to taste
Red chilli powder to taste
10 green cardamoms
½ to ¾ teaspoon, peppercorns
½ to ¾ teaspoon, cloves
2 to 4 cinnamon sticks
5 black cardamom pods

16 oz to 20oz yogurt
6 to 8 green chillies
½ bunch coriander leaves
Orange food colour (a pinch)
8 oz to 16 oz water
Dash of lemon juice
Ingredients to be added to boiling rice:
Salt to taste
4 bay leaves
4 cinnamon sticks
3 black cardamom pods
¼ teaspoon black peppercorns
¼ teaspoon cloves

Method

Heat oil and add meat, one-and-a-half sliced onions, ginger-garlic paste, salt, red chillies and whole garam masala. Cook until half done, adding brown onions (fried earlier) yogurt and lemon juice. Once meat is tender, set it aside. The biryani masala is ready.

In a separate pot (colander) boil water adding whole garam masala and bay leaves. Once water comes to boil add pre-soaked rice, keeping the rice to a tender crisp phase, since we only cook the rice completely in the dum phase. Drain rice; layer the pot with rice, topping with a layer of biryani masala, adding a second layer of rice. Top with fried onions, sprinkle food colouring, cilantro, mint, a pinch of garam masala powder and two teaspoons kewra. Seal pot with foil and lid. Keep full heat for five minutes and medium to low heat for 15 minutes, to complete the dum. Let sit for 10 minutes, mix and serve.

Garnish with green chillies, mint and chopped cilantro. Serve with a side of kachumer (chopped onion, tomato and green chillies salad) and raita.

Dawn

BISMA TIRMIZI

Biryani is a celebratory dish in more ways than one; it is cooked at a time of celebration, and when it is cooked it is time to celebrate. Where the variety of pulao dishes are known for their aroma, the different kinds of biryani platters are known for their spices, masala and unique fiery flavour

Study on Covid-19 mask finds layering, material choice matter

Agencies

Wearing a face mask can protect yourself and others from Covid-19, but the type of material and how many fabric layers used can significantly affect exposure risk, found a new study from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The study measured the filtration efficiency of submicron particles passing through a variety of different materials. For comparison, a human hair is about 50 microns in diameter while 1 millimetre is 1,000 microns in size.

"A submicron particle can stay in the air for hours and days, depending on the ventilation, so if you have a room that is not ventilated or poorly ventilated then these small particles can stay there for a very long period of time," said Nga Lee (Sally) Ng, associate professor and Tanner Faculty Fellow in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

The study was conducted during spring 2020 when the pandemic triggered a global shutdown of most institutions. Communities faced massive shortages of personal protective equipment, prompting many people to make their own homemade masks. Georgia Tech quickly set up the study since it already had "a great system for testing filtration efficiency using existing instruments in

the lab," Ng recalled.

The study's findings were used to shape homemade face mask recommendations here last April, with the comprehensive study findings published on March 22 in the journal Aerosol Science and Technology.

In all, the researchers tested 33 different commercially accessible materials not limited to cloth fabrics, including single-layer woven fabrics such as cotton and woven polyester, blended fabrics, nonwoven materials, cellulose-based materials, materials commonly found and used in hospitals, and various filter materials.

"We learned there was a lot of variability in filtration performance even in the same type of material," Ng said.

"We found commercially available materials that provide acceptable levels of submicron particle rejection while still maintaining airflow resistance similar to a surgical mask," said Ryan Lively, an associate professor and John H. Woody Faculty Fellow in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. "These materials combine fabric fibre density, a maze-like structure, and fibre surface chemistry to effectively reject submicron particles."

The best-performing materials for homemade masks were blackout drapery and sterilization wrap widely used for packing surgical instruments. Both materials are



commercially available.

The researchers said people should avoid using filters such as a HEPA/MERV or vacuum bags unless they are certified to be fibreglass-free since often such filters

on their own may release glass fibres that can be inhaled. Other materials to avoid for masks include loose-knitted material, batting fabric, felt, fleece, or shiny, reusable shopping bags.

Multilayered samples performed much better than single-layer samples, but people should pay attention to breathability. The two-layered and three-layered samples tested show an overall filtration efficiency of about 50 per cent for submicron particles. Mask fit is also important since particles can easily escape through gaps at the nose or through the sides of the mask.

The analysis showed that properly fitted and multilayer masks reject 84 per cent of particles expelled by a person when one person wears it. Two people donning these types of masks reduces particle transmission by 96 per cent.

A final takeaway of the research was the importance of universal mask-wearing.

"The best way to protect ourselves and others is to reduce exhaled particles at the source, and the source is our face," Ng said, adding, "That really gets amplified when everyone starts wearing masks."

She expressed optimism that the findings will motivate people to more widely embrace mask-wearing if they are sick and need to be in public.

"Not everyone understands the importance of airborne virus transmission, and the importance of wearing a mask," she said.

She concluded, "I hope that the practice will continue to help reduce the release of these viral particles into the environment and help protect others."



Google Maps brings back compass on Android

Agencies

Google has announced that it is bringing back the compass widget within Maps on Android devices.

In a support post, Google said it has decided to bring back the compass due to "overwhelming support" for the feature.

"We are excited to announce the return of the compass on Maps for Android. The compass was removed from Maps for Android in early 2019 in an effort to clean up the Navigation screen but due to overwhelming support it's back," the company said.

"When you use Maps on Android to navigate to a destination, the compass will, again, be featured as one of the widgets on the right side of the screen. As you rotate, the red arrow will indicate which direction is north," it added.

This feature is available for all Android users who have updated to version 10.62 globally. For Google Maps users on iOS the compass was not removed and will continue to be available, the company said.

Last month, Google Maps rolled out dark theme on its Android app for users around the globe.

The Google Maps in dark model features a super-dark shade of grey for the map background. The street names come in a lighter shade of grey, allowing users to easily spot the important landmarks and roads.

'Health technology in mobiles can be helpful for adults with heart disease'

Agencies

Mobile health technology including fitness apps have become a popular tool to track calories, weight loss, sleep, and even menstrual cycles, and now another benefit of using these applications has come to light.

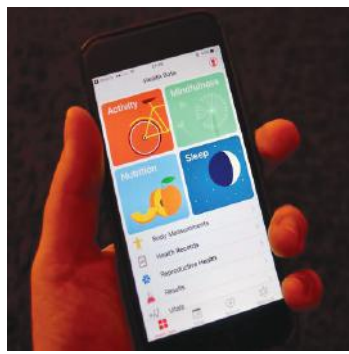
According to a new study, mobile health technology can be beneficial in encouraging lifestyle behaviour changes and medication adherence among adults aged 60 and older with existing heart disease.

The findings of the study were published in the American Heart Association journal 'Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes'.

Mobile health technology -- the use of mobile and wireless technologies to support the achievement of health objectives -- can include voice and short messaging services (text messaging), global positioning systems (GPS) and bluetooth technology, as well as wearable devices that can monitor and inform the user about specific health measures or behaviors to improve health.

"Over the last decade, mobile health technology, especially the wearable technology and mobile health application markets, has grown substantially," said the chair of the statement writing committee Erica N. Schorr, PhD, B.S.B.A., R.N., FAHA, an associate professor in the Adult and Gerontological Health Cooperative at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

Schorr added, "There is, however, a common mispercep-



Over the last decade, mobile health technology, especially the wearable technology and mobile health application markets, has grown substantially

tion that mobile health technology use is lower among older adults, when in fact most Americans aged 60 years and older own a cell phone and spend a significant amount of leisure time in front of a screen. This statement highlights the potential benefits that mobile health interventions can provide for monitoring, prompting, encouraging and educating older adults with cardiovascular disease."

An estimated two-thirds of all people with heart disease are 60 years old and over, and the prevalence of physical activity

declines with aging, particularly in people who have heart disease.

People who have experienced a major cardiac event, such as a heart attack or stroke, are at 20 times the risk for future cardiac events compared to people without heart disease, therefore more research is needed to identify strategies to slow the progression of heart disease - secondary prevention strategies - in this population.

The scientific statement highlighted research from 26 studies from the past 11 years that examined mobile health technology for secondary heart disease prevention in adults ages 60 and older with existing heart disease.

Studies that incorporated text messaging and website resource information showed improvements in people's physical activity and other lifestyle behavioral changes after three months of enrollment and led to an increase in medication adherence among study participants.

Significant improvements in medication adherence have also been noted in some trials when study participants used a mobile app or received a text messaging reminder. A large systematic review showed that successful mobile health interventions include frequent, personalised, two-way messaging.

"We know that controlling blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol are essential secondary prevention strategies and often require medication management," added Schorr.

Public Notice

I want to renew my Fertilizer License bearing No: CAO B 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name of my daughter from Aamina Arshad To Aamina Arshad Tramboo. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Presentation Convent School Raj Bagh Srinagar within a period of three days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshad Tramboo
F/O Aamina Arshad Tramboo
R/o Kalashpora Shamswari

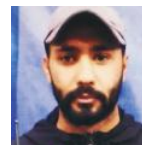
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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

No.101/5846/MVD/ANG

Date:-03/04/2021

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Junaid Nazir Bhat S/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/O Lalchowck Sheikhul alam (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller)



Owner of the Vehicle Motor Cycle Bearing Regd. No. JK03G-2458 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill . and Mr.Yashir Arfat Beig S/O Khursheed Ahmad Beig R/O Shaigund Shangus (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Nill. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

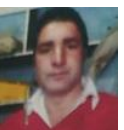
mja

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

No.101/5856/MVD/ANG

Date:-03/04/2021

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Iqbal Dar S/O Mohd Shaban Dar R/O Aramgund Bijbehara Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller)



Owner of the Vehicle Taveera Bearing Regd. No. JK03B-8425 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A . and Mr.Shakeela Banoo W/O Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie R/O Ganie Mohalla Vailoo Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Zirpora Bijbehara. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

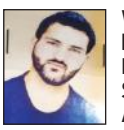
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/5841/MVD/ANG

Date:-03/04/2021

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Umar Rashid S/O Ab Rashid Sheikh R/O Magraypora Achabal Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the



Vehicle Maxi Cab Bearing Regd. No. JK03D-6991 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A . and Mr. Mohd Akbar Sheikh S/O Gh Mohd Sheikh R/O Khanabal Zadipora Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with N/A. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

mja

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

No.101/5777/MVD/ANG

Date:-31/03/2021

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Jabbar Parry S/O Gh Ahmad Parry R/O Jablipora (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Alto



Bearing Regd. No. JK03H-9264 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill . and Mr.Waseem Ahmad Allie S/O Bashir Ahmad Allie R/O Malanag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

mja

از نیابت سو پور

مضمون کاغذات درخواست غلام حسن کور و ولد عبد العزیز گور و ساکنہ سیر جاگیر تحصیل سو پور ہمبر اوعطائیکی وارث جائز

اشتہار ہمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہائیں زیر کاروائی ہے سائل کا والد عبد العزیز کورو جو کہ مورخہ 07-06-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس سلسلے میں پنڈاری حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ سائل موضع سیر جاگیر میں رہائش پذیر اور کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام سربراہ	تفصیل افراد	پیشہ	عمر
غلام حسن کور و ولد عبد العزیز کورو	مزدوری	52	سال
غلام الدین کور و ولد عبد العزیز کورو	پرائیڈ ملازم	42	سال
ابجا ز احمد و ولد عبد العزیز کورو	زیمینداری	40	سال

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے اور سر تقیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہڈائیں اندر سات یوم پیش کر یں بعد معیا د کدر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

ams نائب تحصیل

Surge In Commodity Prices To Impact India's Economy, Says Ind-Ra

Agenceis

Further surge in global commodity prices will have serious implications for India's economy which is still struggling to come out of the Covid-19 impact, ratings agency Ind-Ra said.

As per Ind-Ra, a higher retail inflation not accompanied by a commensurate increase in wage growth will adversely impact the consumption demand and in turn investment revival in the economy.

"Though a spike in global agricultural commodity prices could benefit India, it may not move the needle favourably because India, despite the world's biggest exporter of Basmati rice, exported just \$6.59

demand, the stimulus measures announced by the US, the roll out of Covid-19 vaccine and ultra-low interest rates are fuelling the surge in commodity prices.

Consequently, energy commodity prices over the past six months have increased by 55.4 per cent, the increase in non-energy commodity prices is 19.3 per cent.

Among the major non-energy subgroups, agricultural commodities rose by 16 per cent, fertilisers 30.2 per cent and metals and minerals by 25.1 per cent. On a more disaggregated level, the prices of copper, aluminium, tin, nickel and zinc have gone up by 26.3 per cent, 19.2 per cent, 46.6 per cent, 25.1 per cent and 12.4 per cent respectively.



billion worth of cereals and imported vegetable oil and pulses worth \$9.66 billion and \$1.44 billion, respectively, in FY20."

"On the other hand, India's import bill on oil, coal and nonferrous metals was \$129.86 billion, \$22.45 billion and \$13.14 billion, respectively."

According to the agency, a faster-than-expected recovery in

In addition, it warned against a commodity super cycle.

This phenomenon occurs as a "long-term, above-trend movements in a wide range of base material prices, driven by a structural change in demand".

The last such super cycle started in early 2000 and lasted till the global financial crisis of 2008.

Govt Allows Further Operational Flexibility To GST Filers



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The government has allowed further flexibility to tax filers operating under the Quarterly Return Filing and Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP) scheme of GST. These tax filers will now be permitted to declare invoices pertaining to movement of goods and services in their quarterly return form GSTR 1 to be filed in the last month of each quarter.

As per an advisory issued by the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the taxpayer must ensure that any saved but not Filed/Submitted IFF (Invoice Furnishing Facility) records for the first two months of the quarter i.e. month of Jan-2021 or Feb-2021 must be deleted using RE-SET button before filing GSTR-1 for Jan-Mar-2021 quarter.

The advisory added that the deleted records should be added in GSTR-1 for Jan-Mar-2021 quarter after deleting the saved records from IFF. In future this may not be

required as invoices already saved in any of the months on the quarter may be either deleted/moved to quarterly GSTR-1 by a functionality to be introduced shortly.

The advisory also said that any submitted but not filed IFF for the month of Jan-2021 or Feb-2021 must be filed before filing GSTR-1 for Jan-Mar-2021 quarter. The advisory has been issued for filing quarterly GSTR-1 for January – March 2021 under QRMP scheme.

The taxpayers under QRMP scheme have a facility to file Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF) in first two months of the quarter and file Form GSTR-1 in third month of the quarter. As IFF is an optional facility it cannot be filed after the end date (13th of the month succeeding the IFF period). The document saved in IFF, where taxpayer has not filed by the end date, cannot be filed anymore.

Hence taxpayers have a been asked to declare such document in the GSTR-1 for the quarter.

THE ADVISORY ALSO SAID THAT ANY SUBMITTED but not filed IFF for the month of Jan-2021 or Feb-2021 must be filed before filing GSTR-1 for Jan-Mar-2021 quarter. The advisory has been issued for filing quarterly GSTR-1 for January – March 2021 under QRMP scheme.

Govt Working On Options For Promoting Horticulture Products In Global Markets: LG



Observer News Service

- **LG Felicitates Progressive Farmers; Releases "Krishi Calendar"**
- **Stresses for adopting Integrated, Organic & Sustainable Farming for better remunerative prices**

BARAMULLA: Right Marketing, Packaging, and Branding of Horticulture produce at different forums is being done for getting appropriate dividends for farmers and other stakeholders associated with the sector.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his visit to Baramulla where he inaugurated a Mega Farmers and Growers Mela that was organized by the Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare department as a part of the ongoing Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations.

The Lt Governor also launched a Massive High Density Plantation drive which is aimed to introduce high yielding horticultural varieties for getting enhanced outputs in horticulture production.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor asserted that the High Density Plantation along with value addition of agricultural and horticultural produce is the most viable option for getting better outcomes.

Several novel initiatives are being taken by the present dispensation at the central as well as the regional level for connecting the farming sector with the global market chain, added the Lt Governor.

Focus is being given to aggressive marketing, branding, packaging, distribution, and promotion of the local Horticulture produce in the International Circuit. GI Tagging and organic certification has been done to promote the products of J&K at the global market, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor observed that the High Density Plantation drive will go a long way in enhancing the quality and quantity of Horticulture produce,

besides doubling farmer's income.

While expressing his satisfaction over an overwhelming participation of Farmers in the programme, the Lt Governor said that the Farmers of Jammu & Kashmir are progressive and adaptive to new farming techniques. He emphasized on adopting integrated farming which has the potential to explore more agro-based livelihood opportunities.

"The income of the Farmers will triple even quadrupled with the adoption of all modern, latest and scientific know-hows based on changing circumstances in agricultural fields", the Lt Governor observed.

The Horticulture sector is the backbone of our economy and about 30 lakh population is associated with it directly or indirectly for their livelihoods, said the Lt Governor, adding that Rs 2008 Cr in the recently passed UT budget was earmarked for the agriculture sector which is the highest ever allocation till date.

Enlisting various farm centric initiatives that were taken by the government, the Lt Governor said that the Government is sensitive towards issues of the farmers. Several laws have been relaxed wherein farmers can now avail benefits from different government sponsored welfare schemes and programmes which were previously not available owing to restrictive enactments, added the Lt Governor.

He also said that testing labs based on international standards shall be established for welfare of the farming community, adding that strict legal action shall be taken against all those stakeholders/dealers involved in the sale of spurious pesticides and fertilizers.

On promotion of High Density Plantation, the Lt Governor observed that the Agriculture Department has signed MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) wherein high density horticultural varieties like Apple, Walnut, Mango, Strawberry, and Litchi shall be developed on about 5500 hectares of land.

'High Density Plantation, A Way Towards Doubling Farmers Income'

Agenceis

PULWAMA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary today said that optimum High density plantation will help in doubling the farmers income besides boosting the Horticulture sector in the district.

The DC said this during the launch of High density plantation drive by him under 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' campaign here in presence of District Horticulture officer and other concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said the launch of plantation drive will be a watershed for farmers/orchardists switching over to the High density plantation having high yield potential and minimal inputs.



The DDC assured that district administration will take all steps in equipping farmers with modern technology besides hand-holding of young entrants into the farm sector. He urged upon the farmers to avail the benefits of government schemes so that self reliance is achieved.

Later, the DDC flagged off an awareness rally from the DC office complex here. The rally was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in which scores of students and departmental officials participated. The rally went through the main market of Pulwama town with an aim to create awareness among people to Save Water. District Sports Officer and other officials were present on the occasion.

He further said that the institutional credit mechanism has been strengthened and farmers are being given loans under the KCC scheme so as to insulate them from the clutches of private money lenders.

The Lt Governor also emphasized for promoting organic products, agro-entrepreneurship and stressed that the farmers should brand their products and adopt cooperative based market linking so that the agriculture sector is made remunerative.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor distributed felicitation awards and farming machinery among the progressive farmers of the district. Pertinently, these farmers have excelled in several agro based sectors using modern farming techniques.

He also released the 'Krishi Calendar' at the event which highlighted the achievements recorded by the Agriculture Department.

At the outset of the event, the Lt Governor inspected various stalls that were installed by the Agriculture and allied departments displaying different farming schemes/programmes and other useful farming machinery and equipment. In addition to that, some stalls were also installed by private entrepreneurs associated with the farming sector.

Sh. Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department presented the valedictory address wherein he gave a brief description of various schemes and programmes sponsored by the agriculture department. Such events are being organized to acquaint the farmers regarding the latest technologies and giving exposure to them by bringing farmers, agriculture scientists, and other stakeholders on a common platform, he added.

Sh. Sanjay Kumar Chadha, Managing Director, NAFED also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the key features of High Density Plantation.

Sh. Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, Director, Agriculture, Kashmir delivered the welcome address while Sh. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director Horticulture Kashmir presented the Vote of Thanks.

Petrol, Diesel Prices Revision Unchanged For 4Th Consecutive Day

Agenceis

Oil marketing companies on Saturday continued on the pause mode and decided against revising the petrol and diesel after cutting its retail rates on Tuesday.

Accordingly, pump price of petrol and diesel remained at previous days level of Rs 90.56 and Rs 80.87 a litre respectively in the capital.

Petrol and diesel fell by 22 paise and 23 paise per litre respectively on Tuesday in the wake of global softening of oil prices. OMC has decided to pause price revision as crude has again gained and climbed up to close to \$65 a barrel from a lower \$ 60 a barrel earlier.

Across the country as well, the petrol and diesel price remain static on Saturday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of local

during the period crude jumped to over \$70 a barrel only to start falling the after to touch close to \$ 60 a barrel and is now slightly up at \$ 63.5 a barrel. It was cut for the first time this year on March 24 and 25 before revision being put on hold again.

Sources said that oil companies took time to revise petrol and diesel prices downwards earlier as they were covering up for losses incurred on its sale when crude was high and retail prices remained static. Some indications suggest that their was a loss of Rs 4 and Rs 2 per litre on sale of diesel and petrol respectively earlier that had now been more or less covered.

The current reduction in retail prices has not helped in bringing down fuel prices that have crossed Rs 100 per litre (petrol) mark in several parts of the country and continues to remain above the levels even now.



levies on respective states.

In Mumbai petrol continues to be priced at Rs 96.98 a litre and diesel at Rs 87.96 a litre. Premium petrol, however, continues to remain over Rs 100 a litre in the city as is the case with several cities across the country.

The OMCs went on price cut for the first time this year on two consecutive days – March 24 and 25 after keeping oil prices steady for past 24 days. It again reduced the price on March 30.

Petrol and diesel prices were last revised upwards on February 27 and ever since then retail prices remained unchanged even though

Since the beginning of February crude has gained more than \$7 per barrel that pushed OMCs to increase fuel prices on 14 occasions raising the prices by Rs 4.22 per litre for petrol and by Rs 4.34 a litre for diesel in Delhi.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre respectively so far this year. This is for the first time it has fallen this year.

Officials in public sector oil companies said that retail price may rise again if crude and product prices pick up but for now it will fall over the needy few days.

India Pitches For Easing Cuts In Crude Oil Production



Agenceis

India on Friday strongly pitched for easing cuts in crude oil production saying high oil prices are hurting the consumption-led recovery of several countries including it.

Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi also said that crude supply should be market determined rather than artificially managed.

At the same time, he said India has noted announcements by OPEC and OPEC Plus to effect a slight easing of crude production cuts.

The OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is an influential entity that plays a key role in policy formulations relating to crude production.

The OPEC Plus comprises the OPEC countries, Russia and several

other crude producers.

"India has been appealing to crude oil producing countries – OPEC and OPEC Plus, since the beginning of the year, to ease crude oil production cuts announced last year, as high crude prices hurt the consumption-led recovery of several countries including India," Bagchi said.

"Crude supply should be market determined rather than artificially managed," he added.

The MEA spokesperson said the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is reviewing closely the global crude supplies and price situation.

"We have noted that OPEC and OPEC Plus have announced last week a slight easing of crude production cuts, even though it is still far below the originally announced schedule of cuts," he added.

NEWSMAKERS

Google Wifi App Getting Rolled Into Google Home App: Report

SAN FRANCISCO: Google is reportedly shutting down its dedicated Google Wifi app for managing its routers and rolling that functionality over to the Google Home app to help users control and manage all their connected products in one place.

The switchover to the Google Home app will come in two phases first, Google will disable most of the functionality of the Google Wifi app on May 25, The Verge reported on Friday.

Starting then, users will only be able to view the current status of their networks, but any changes, including adding new routers or access points, will have to be done in the Google Home app.



Then, Google will remove the Wifi app from the Play Store and iOS App Store, funneling all users to exclusively use the Google Home app in June, the report said.

Google has been working on this

change since 2019, when it launched the Nest Wifi routers, which could only be configured in the Google Home app.

Google points out that migrating existing Wifi setups to the Google Home app will offer some new benefits, including the ability to use Google Assistant for things like pausing the Wi-Fi connection, testing your current internet speed, and showing a guest Wi-Fi password on a Google Nest Hub or Nest Hub Max display.

Migrating a network setup seems to be a relatively simple process, although Google's how-to warns that once a user switch over to the Google Home app, they can't go back.

Govt 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 con-

tinue 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.



Chenab Bridge Project In J&K On Course, Construction Of Arches To Be Completed Soon: Officials

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The construction of the iconic Chenab Arch Bridge, which will soar 359 metres above the bed of the river and will be 30 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, will reach another milestone with the completion of its majestic arches in a couple of days, officials said on Saturday.

Recently, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the bottom ends of the main arch were connected. With the completion of the upper arch, the two will now be closed.

Next, the tracks will be laid. The bridge, which will be the world's highest bridge once completed in December, will provide all-weather connectivity to Kashmir with the rest of the country seamlessly.

It is part of an ambitious 272-km rail link project in Kashmir, which is being constructed by the Northern Railway at an



estimated cost of Rs 28,000 crore to connect the valley to the rest of the country.

Railway officials said the bridge can withstand earthquakes with a magnitude of up to eight and high-intensity blasts.

It will have a design speed of around 100 kilometres per hour with a lifespan of 120 years.

It will include a 14-metre-wide dual carriageway and a

1.2-metre-wide central verge. The bridge will include 17 spans with a 469-metre main arch across the Chenab river and viaducts on either side and according to officials, steel was chosen to construct the bridge as it will be more economical and able to resist temperatures of minus 20 degree Celsius and wind speeds of above 200 kilometre per hour.

Preparations for a rail link

in the Kashmir valley began in 2002 when the government planned to connect Baramulla, Kashmir's northernmost city, to New Delhi. But despite being prioritised by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government as a "project of national importance", the construction was delayed. The biggest setback was the construction of the Chenab bridge, which faced several delays, mostly due to inclement

weather conditions and contractual issues.

While the work on the bridge started in July 2017 with a target of completing its construction by the end of 2019, it came to a halt due to contractual issues in 2018. The revised deadline is now December 2021. The cost of constructing the bridge is Rs 1,300 crore.

With the threat of terrorism to be considered, the bridge, which is located just 60 km from the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, was planned in such a way that even if one of the 17 piers supporting it were to be blown up, it will not collapse. Officials said a ring of aerial security is also a part of the plan along with online monitoring systems.

The last remaining section of the rail link, Katra-Banihal (111 km), is currently under execution. It is targeted for completion in December 2022. Work on 126 km of the 174 km of tunnels on the section has already been completed.

COVID VACCINATION

Govt Asks States/UTs Not To Allow Fresh Registrations Of Healthcare Workers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday directed the states and UTs that no fresh registrations of healthcare and frontline workers will be allowed since some ineligible beneficiaries were getting their names enlisted for vaccination against COVID-19, under this category, in violation of rules.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in a letter, said registration of persons aged 45 years and above will continue to be permitted on Co-WIN portal, and asked the states/UTs to ensure universal vaccination of already registered healthcare workers (HCWs) and frontline workers (FLWs) at the earliest.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with HCWs getting inoculated and the vaccination of FLWs started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19

vaccination commenced from March 1 for those over 60 years of age and for people aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

In the letter, Bhushan said all efforts have been made in close collaboration with states and UTs to saturate vaccination of HCWs and FLWs.

While tracking the progress, timeline for completing vaccination of all HCWs and FLWs with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine has been extended multiple times and was finally fixed at February 25 for HCWs and March 6 for FLWs, he stated.

Around one month has elapsed since these timelines and even after starting the vaccination of the population above 60 years, provision was made to register and vaccinate HCWs and FLWs with a view to ensure optimal coverage, he underlined.

Row Over 'Two Shots' Of Covid Vaccine To Woman In One Go, Officials Deny Possibility

KANPUR (UP): After a controversy arose over reports of a woman purportedly getting two shots of an anti-Covid vaccine in one go at a primary health centre in Akbarpur area of Kanpur Dehat district, health officials claimed that only one dose was administered. The condition of a woman, who was allegedly administered two shots of the vaccine is stable, officials said here.

A senior official, meanwhile, ruled out the possibility of two

doses being given in one go.

"It is technically not possible to administer two shots to anyone back to back," Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told PTI in Lucknow after reports emerged that the auxiliary nursing midwife (ANM), who gave the shots, was on a phone call leading to the goof-up.

After the administration of one dose of the vaccine, the syringe and needle have to be disposed of

as the "auto-disable syringe" cannot be reused, Prasad explained after reports about the alleged negligence went viral on TV channels.

Kanpur Dehat's Chief Medical Officer Rajesh Katiyar, meanwhile, said Officiating Medical Superintendent I H Khan, who was asked to probe the incident, met the woman, Kamlesh Kumari, to know the facts and she denied that she received two shots of the vaccine.

Chhattisgarh: Five Jawans, One Naxal Killed In Encounter

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: Five security personnel were killed and 12 others injured on Saturday in an encounter with Naxals in a forest along the border between Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh, police officials said.

The body of a woman Maoist was also recovered from the encounter spot, they said.

A senior police officer claimed, prima facie, Maoists have suffered a "huge loss" in the gunfight.

"Separate joint teams of security forces, over 2,000 in number, had launched a major anti-Naxal operation from Bijapur and Sukma districts in the South Bastar forests, considered as the Maoist stronghold, on Friday night," state's Deputy Inspector General (anti-naxal operations) OP Pal said.

The personnel belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), the District Reserve Guard (DRG)

and the Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation launched from five places - Tarrem, Usoor and Pamed (Bijapur) and Minpa and Narsapuram (Sukma), he said.

"At around 12 noon on Saturday, an encounter broke out between the patrolling team that was dispatched from Tarrem and ultras belonging PLGA (Peoples' Liberation Guerilla Army) battalion of Maoists near Jonaguda village under Jagargunda police station

area (in Sukma)," Pal said, adding the gunfight lasted for about three hours.

As per the information received so far, five security personnel have been killed and 12 others injured, he said.

"Of the martyred personnel, one belonged to the CoBRA unit and two each were from the DRG and the 'Bastariya' battalion of the CRPF," the DIG said.

He said a woman naxal was also gunned down in the encounter.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Peace Has

not all about flowers, it is about throwing open job opportunities to people and providing livelihood to hoteliers, restaurant owners and footpath vendors," he said.

He said that Indian film industry, especially South Indian film makers have evinced interest in shooting in Kashmir and that he has personally met some filmmakers recently. "I am hopeful to see entire Bollywood industry shooting in Kashmir including the Tulip garden. Government will ensure elaborate security for the Bollywood film makers and actors," LG Sinha said.

He also hoped that international cargo services will start at the Srinagar International airport soon so that Kashmir products reach international market within shortest possible time.

Commandoes Rushed

started at Choor ki Gali Sedaw area of #Hurpora_Shopian. Police and Army are on the job. Further details shall follow," Police wrote on its official Twitter handle.

However, a local news agency KNO quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that after brief exchange of fire, militants are believed to have escaped from the spot as there was no fresh exchange of fire. However, the officer said that search operation was still underway in the area.

The official said that helicopter and Para commandos were also pressed into the service but so far no fresh with the militants has been established.

"Given the dense forest area and no mobile connectivity, the operation in the area is very tough and as of now searches are underway," he added.

10 Arrested For

police station Pampore arrested 10 identified miscreants and booked them under relevant sections of law. Efforts are on for the arrest of others involved persons and they will be booked accordingly," he said.

Warning stern action against the stone pelters, the police spokesperson said that these incidents will not be tolerated and parents should refrain their children from indulging in such activities.

Pertinently, three local militants were killed by government forces in an encounter in Kakpora area of Pulwama on Friday. Police had claimed that two of three killed militants were involved in an attack on a BJP leader's house in Nowgam area of Srinagar a day earlier in which a policeman was killed.

The killing of militants had set off violent protests near the gunfight site in Kakpora leaving at least eight people injured with pellet and bullet injuries, including a woman.

Ex-J&K Bank

Court against Nengroo in another case registered against him in 2019. He further said that J&K Bank had suffered a loss of over Rs 250 crore on account of salary paid to the illegally appointed employees over the period.

"Further investigation in the case is in progress," he said.

Pertinently, Nengroo has also been accused of conferring undue benefits to an insurance company where his close relative was working.

In 2019, ACB filed a case against Nengroo for resorting to the acts of favouritism and abuse of official position as Chairman J&K Bank by facilitating appointment of his close relative Asif Manzoor Beig in connivance with MD IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company, against annual salary package of Rs 19, 28,886 which is approximately 2.5 times higher than that of the package given by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company where the

accused beneficiary was functioning as deputy manager.

The ACB had said that J&K Bank had entered into insurance deal in violation of norms, with IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company in which Nengroo's relative was working.

No Trade With

the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) which considers these suggestions from an economic and commercial point of view. After consideration by the ECC, its decisions are presented to the Cabinet for ratification and final approval, the report said.

In the present case, a proposal was presented to the ECC to allow the import of cotton, cotton yarn and sugar from India keeping in view domestic requirements, it said.

With regards to the ECC decision to allow import of sugar, cotton and cotton yarn from India, Khan held consultations with key members of his Cabinet on Friday and decided that Pakistan could not go ahead with any trade with India under the current circumstances, it said.

The ECC had decided on commercial grounds to recommend these imports for the Cabinet's consideration.

While the decision was not on the formal agenda of the Cabinet meeting, the issue was brought up by Cabinet members and the prime minister instructed that the ECC's decision be deferred and immediately reviewed, the report said.

The Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Khan on Thursday rejected the proposal of the high-powered committee to import cotton from India, with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi asserting that there can be no normalisation of ties until New Delhi reverses its decision in 2019 to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's U-turn on Thursday came a day after the ECC, under newly-appointed Finance Minister Hammad Azhar, recommended importing cotton and sugar from India, lifting a nearly two-year-long ban on its import from the neighbouring country amidst tensions over the Kashmir issue.

India has said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of "terror, hostility, and violence".

The ECC's decision had raised hopes of a partial revival of Pakistan-India bilateral trade relations, which were suspended after the August 5, 2019 decision of New Delhi to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

In May 2020, Pakistan lifted the ban on the import of medicines and raw material of essential drugs from India amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 angered Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad. Pakistan also snapped all air and land links with India and suspended trade and railway services.

No Dumping Ground

ground nor any steps have been taken by the Deputy Commissioner to ensure that the Municipal Corporation works effectively for lifting the garbage," the court observed.

B. A. Dar, senior AAG, submitted that recently the new Deputy Commissioner Baramulla has taken over the charge and, as such, he may be allowed some more time for taking action in regard to the matters connected in this PIL.

"In view of the above, we direct B. A. Dar, learned Sr. AAG to submit a fresh action taken report regarding the establishment of the dumping ground for the garbage and for cleaning and lifting of the garbage from the town of Sopore," the court said "He may file the report

within one month supported by affidavit of the Deputy Commissioner himself," the court added.

During a previous hearing, the High Court banned constructions within 200 metres of the boundaries of the Wular Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes of Asia.

The court had also directed authorities to ensure that no garbage was "at all" dumped within the boundaries or within such distance of the Lake as is mandated by the law as well as the International and National Protocols for such area.

Rejecting the "excuse" by the government that garbage was dumped within the boundaries of the Wular Lake "for want of land for the dumping of the garbage," the court had made it clear that the authorities were "bound to and shall ensure that no garbage at all is dumped within the boundaries or within such distance of the Lake as is mandated by the law as well as the International and National Protocols of the area. "Every step in this regard shall be undertaken to ensure that there is no pollution of the Lake," the court had added. Subsequently various places were identified for the dumping of the waste.

501 New Cases

and were discharged from various hospitals—31 from Jammu Division and 109 from Kashmir Division. There are 3574 covid-19 active cases—840 in Jammu division and 3734 in Kashmir. 126860 people have recovered so far in the J-K, they added.

Dr Farooq Hospitalized

everyone for their messages of support & their prayers," Omar, National Conference vice president and former Chief Minister of J&K.

On March 30, Farooq, who is Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, tested positive for the virus, four weeks after getting covid-19 vaccine jab. Abdullah, 85, was given the first dose of the vaccine at the SK Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura on March 2.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also wished Farooq Abdullah, a speedy recovery. "Praying for the good health and speedy recovery of Dr. Farooq Abdullah Ji. Also praying for your and the entire family's good health @ OmarAbdullah," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday prayed for the speedy recovery of Dr Farooq.

I pray to Allah for his speedy recovery, Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a function at Tulip Garden here.

NC general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Saturday presided over a meeting here at the party headquarters 'Nawa-e-Subha' where he led the party functionaries in praying for the speedy recovery and well-being of the party president.

Sagar thanked everyone for their good wishes and prayers for Abdullah's quick recovery.

I express my earnest gratitude to all socio-political, religious leaders and people from all walks of life for their good wishes for the speedy recovery of Dr Farooq Sahib from COVID-19. The get-well wishes and prayers that have been pouring in from across the country and abroad have comforted us all at this difficult time, he said.

He expressed gratitude to the workers, party functionaries and people for holding special prayers in various prominent shrines and mosques.

On the occasion, Sagar advised party functionaries and workers to exercise caution and refrain from visiting hospitals where the party president has been hospitalised.

Mercury Dips In

Celsius on the previous night. It was 4.1 degree

Celsius below normal for this time of the year in the place, he said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 0.2 degree Celsius against 0.7 degree Celsius on the earlier night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.7 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.3 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at minus 1.5 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 0.5 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 3.5 degree Celsius against minus 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was minus 0.8 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 on Sunday, the weatherman has forecast fresh rains or snow next week with main activity during April 6 and 7.

"Dry weather is expected till late afternoon/evening of April 4," 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."

Highway Reopens

strategic 274km highway from Srinagar towards Jammu if the weather and road conditions are suitable.

"Tomorrow (April 4), subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu on Jammu-Srinagar highway," he said.

"However, TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic," he added.

HC Quashes

indulged in any illegal activity in the year 2017, 2018 and 2019 i.e. till the passing of detention order. Thus apparently there is a delay of three years in passing the order of detention," the court said as per GNS.

"So, once there is a gap of three years in the issuance of order of detention, vis-à-vis last illegal activity attributed to the petitioner, the proximate link between the detention order and the purpose for which

It has been issued is snapped. On this ground only, the order impugned is required to be quashed."

Otherwise also, the court said: "a perusal of the ground of detention reveals that there is no whisper that the petitioner was earlier also detained under the Public Safety Act and his order of detention was quashed by the court vide order dated 31st December 2016 and it is evident that this vital fact has not been brought to the notice of the detaining authority."

It added: "Needless to mention here that notwithstanding the quashing of the earlier detention order, the subsequent detention order can be passed, but the facts remains that the issuance as well as quashing of earlier detention order must be brought to the notice of the detaining authority, that has not been done in the instant case."

The court also quashed detention order, also passed in 2019 by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar against one Bashir Ahmad Bhat.

"Petitioner (Bhat) be set at liberty forthwith from the preventive custody provided he is not required in any other case," the court added. (GNS)

Ex-Deputy Director

supplies department and director handicrafts in the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Meanwhile, the employees of the information department have condoled Ahmad's demise and expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family. They also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Director General of Police, J&K Dilbag Singh has also expressed grief over the demise of Mir Gowhar Ahmed.

The DGP in his message has prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed his sympathy with the bereaved family.

"Mir Gowhar Ahmed was former PRO of Police Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir. He was inducted in Indian Administrative Services and served as Administrative Secretary to different departments," a police spokesperson said.

Youth Held Over

He was arrested on the spot and is being questioned at a police station, he added.

Arms, Ammunition

a concealed bag containing arms and ammunition.

The recovered arms and ammunition, the police spokesperson said, included one Chinese pistol with four magazines, one UBGL with four rounds, 3 Radio Set Antennas, one 9 Volt Battery, three rounds of 7.62mm and 98 rounds of 9 mm besides a bonnet cover.

"Upon this, a case FIR Number 44/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Khansahib and investigation is taken up," he added.

Man Charged For

13th Finance Srinagar, in a case FIR No. 30/2013 U/S 420, 467, 468 RPC filed against him.

"The Crime Branch Kashmir had received a communication from the Sub Registrar Srinagar with an enclosure comprising of a partnership deed which inter alia revealed that the office of Sub registrar Srinagar has received a letter from J&K Bank Branch Unit Bazar Batmalloo, regarding ascertaining the genuineness of a deed of partnership, alleged to have been registered in the office of Sub registrar Srinagar," the CBK said.

"The communication revealed that some people had prepared the sale deed in a forged manner ascribing it to the office of the Sub Registrar," it said, adding, "Accordingly Crime Branch Kashmir registered an FIR to investigate the matter."

During the course of investigation, it was found that the accused Abdul Rashid Haroon had deceived the victims with criminal intention under the pretext of registering their partnership deeds, it added.

2 Grenade Throwers

Post at the Bus Stand Sopore on December last in which three civilians were injured, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During questioning, he said that the duo confessed that they are working for LeT outfit as over-ground workers (OGWs) and had thrown the Grenade on police post on the directions of LeT militants.

Regarding the incident, he said a case FIR No.349/2020 was registered in Police Station Sopore and investigation set into the motion.

"The duo also confessed that they were desirous to join the militant ranks but before that a hand grenade was handed over to them with the directions to throw it on any security forces/ police establishments in Sopore area," the police spokesperson said.

He said both the alleged OGWs have been formally arrested on April 01 in the case and are presently on Police remand.

"Further investigation is going on," he added.

Despite COVID-19 Spike, Bullish BCCI Wants To Stage IPL 2021 Matches In Mumbai

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is bullish about holding the 10 IPL games in Mumbai between April 10-25 despite an enormous spike in COVID-19 cases in the city, saying creating a bio-bubble at an alternative venue would not be feasible at a short notice.

Delhi Capitals' Axar Patel, 10 members of the ground staff at Wankhede stadium and six event managers, deployed by the BCCI, have added to the growing list of positive cases in the Indian Premier League (IPL), starting April 9. Hyderabad and Indore have been kept as stand by venues for the IPL in case the COVID situation spirals out of control but as of now, the BCCI is confident about holding the games in Mumbai.

"Yes, Hyderabad is one of the stand-by venues but for all practical purposes, we are still not thinking about shifting games from Mumbai. It will be difficult to create another bio-bubble at such short notice," a senior BCCI official told PTI on Saturday.

The organisers are worried about the growing number cases at the Wankhede stadium. The number was 8 till Friday evening but now it's 10.

If that wasn't enough, around six members of the event management team have also tested positive for COVID-19 and have been sent to isolation.

"Yes, it was 8 positive cases yesterday as far as ground-staff are concerned. Today two more positive cases have emerged and all 10 have been sent back home and are isolated.

"We are bringing fresh ground-staff from the Mumbai CA ground in Kandivali for preparations. Also 6 to 7 event management staff hired by BCCI have also tested positive," a senior Mumbai Cricket Association official told PTI.

In the afternoon, Delhi Capitals issued a statement that their spin all-rounder Axar Patel has been shifted to a COVID isolation facility after testing positive.

"Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel has tested positive for COVID-19. He had checked into the team hotel in Mumbai on March 28, 2021, with a negative report. His report from the second COVID test, came positive," the DC statement said.

"He is currently in isolation at a designated medical care facility. The Delhi Capitals medical team

is in constant touch with Axar and ensuring his safety and well-being."

With addition of 47,000 cases on Friday, Maharashtra is looking at a potential situation of a mini-lockdown as indicated by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"...I am giving an indication for a complete lockdown, but not announcing it formally. If things do not improve visibly in a couple of days and if no other solution is found, we will have to announce another lockdown like it is being done globally," Maharashtra CM had tweeted late on Friday.

When a senior BCCI office-bearer was asked about the situation, he admitted that BCCI is indeed concerned but are hopeful of pulling off matches.

"Look, even if there is a lockdown, the teams are in bio-bubble and also it's a closed-door event. So we are still confident that IPL games in Mumbai will be held as per schedule with Delhi Capitals playing Chennai Super Kings on April 10 on the second day of the tournament.

"But Hyderabad and Indore are there on stand-by in case the situation goes out of hand. But if there is lockdown, it is even more easier to hold the games as the crowd factor even around the venue and other paces is taken care of," the office bearer told PTI.

As of now, none of the teams currently in Mumbai -- Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Punjab Kings -- have access to Wankhede.

"Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings for example are taking turns to train at the Brabourne Stadium and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) ground. KKR is training in Navi Mumbai at the DY Patil before they leave for Chennai," the official informed.

It is expected that BCCI's medical unit will enhance the testing rate due to the surge of cases in the state. The event management and operations of IPL till last year, was handled by the IMG but from this year, the board is handling the event on its own.

"We have enough back-up staff to handle as we had factored in that the situation in Mumbai is grim at the moment. But yes, we are closely monitoring the situation," the official added.

Meanwhile, a positive case has also emerged from Chennai Super Kings' media content team. The member isn't a part of the bio-bubble. The team's training schedule remains unaffected.



Budgam Police Felicitates Meritorious Sports Persons Of The District

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Budgam today felicitated meritorious sports persons of district Budgam who have excelled in various sports categories. The event was organised at District Police Headquarters Budgam.

The event was attended by SSP Budgam Shri Tahir Saleem-JKPS, DySP Hqrs Budgam, DySP DAR DPL Budgam and other senior police officers of the District.

SSP Budgam while interacting with the sports persons congratulated the achievers for making the feat and hoped that they would also inspire other youth in engaging them in sports activities. He also said that the sports play an important role in the overall personality development of an individual and is important for channelling of youth energy to keep them away from negative forces.

While appreciating their role, SSP Budgam presented mementos & appreciation letters among the participants. He also emphasised on the youth to take advantage of sports events organised by Budgam Police on a regular basis.

The sports achievers who were felicitated during the event included Parvaiz Ahmad Gajree (Cycling), Adil Teli (Cycling), Mohmiss Ins-mail Wani (Cycling), Suhail Ahmad Dar (Cycling), Mohammad Akbar Khan (Cycling), Anisa Muzaffar (Karate), Burhan Ali (Karate), Mohammad Furqan (SQAY Martial Art), Yameen Hyder (SQAY Martial Art and Skiing), Usman Jan (Taekwondo). The parents of some of the awardees were also present on the occasion.

Indian Army Soldier Eyes Guinness Record By Running Kashmir To Kanyakumari Within 50 Days

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Soldier Naik Velu P is all set to make his 30th birthday memorable as he left for a mission to enter the Guinness Book of World Records by running from Kashmir to Kanyakumari under 50 days.

Last year in June, Naik Velu became the first Indian ultra-runner to complete 1,600 km in just 17 days, a feat which is in the process of being entered as an Asian record.

"Naik Velu, serving as a nursing assistant in the 60 Para Field Hospital, is an ultra marathoner who is attempting a Guinness World Record by running from Kashmir to Kanyakumari covering a distance of about 4,300 km under 50 days," Udhampur-based Army Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lieutenant Colonel Abhinav Navneet said.

To start this epic feat, he said Naik Velu, who is celebrating his 30th birthday on April 21, was flagged off from 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar on Friday with a heart-warming gathering of enthusiasts who accompanied him in his solo run for the initial five kilometres carrying the national flag and boosting his morale.

"To cover this mammoth distance from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in 50 days, Velu would be running 70-100 km per day, cross-



ing major towns, cities and states," Lt Col Navneet said.

The PRO said Velu has already won many ultra-marathons, Tuffman runs and stadium runs across India.

After covering 200 km from his starting point, Naik left Udhampur headquarters at 7 am on Saturday and was given a grand welcome by Brigadier K J Singh, Commandant and all ranks at 166 Military Hospital, Jammu later in the afternoon.

"He is travelling with a message of 'Clean India- Green India' and also as an inspiration to the youth to be a strong contributor in 'Fit India' mission," PRO Defence (Jammu) Lt Col Devender Anand said.

Later, he was flagged off by Brigadier Singh for his journey to Samba district and further onwards.

Born on April 21, 1991 in Krishnagiri (Tamil Nadu), he had earlier represented his state in athletics at the age of 13 and later joined the Army in December 2011. His first achievement in the Army was a gold medal in cross-country 12.5 km run in 2012.

He subsequently shifted his interest to ultra-marathons and brought many laurels to the Army by making many such records.

He represents the Indian team of Athletics Federation of India since 2016 and would be representing India in September for stadium run at the World Championship in Romania, for which he had won a trial run of 24-hour stadium running held in Bengaluru, Lt Col Navneet said.

Hundreds Of French Sports Figures Accused Of Sexual Violence



Agencies

PARIS: A year-long, nationwide French effort to uncover and combat sexual violence in sports has identified more than 400 coaches, teachers and others suspected of abuse or covering it up.

Most of the victims were under 15, according to data released Friday by the sports ministry. The alleged abuse included sexual assault, harassment or other violence.

Sixty people have faced criminal proceedings, more than 100 have been temporarily or permanently removed from their posts, and local investigations are under way into other cases, the ministry said.

The abuse reached across the country and across the whole sector, with accusations targeting a total of 48 sports federations.

Of those accused, 96% are men. Of the victims, 83% were women, and 63% were under 15, the ministry said. The fact-finding probe was

launched in February 2020 after 10-time French skating champion Sarah Abitbol said in a book that she was raped by coach Gilles Beyer from 1990-92, when she was a teen. Beyer was handed preliminary charges of sexual assault and the investigation is ongoing.

In the wake of Abitbol's accusations, more skaters spoke out to denounce alleged sexual violence from coaches. The sports ministry set up a dedicated platform for athletes' testimonies and conducted a year of hearings.

In its statement, the ministry called Abitbol's testimony "a historic moment for French sport" that raised awareness and has pushed authorities to crack down on abuse.

A new law on tougher screening of sports educators, including volunteer coaches, went into effect Friday, and the French government and sports federations have pledged to respond faster and more effectively to reports of abuse.

IPL 2021 Royal Challengers Bangalore - Full Squad List, Strengths, Weaknesses And Form Analysis



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Armed with exciting new recruits, including Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson, perennial under-achievers Royal Challengers Bangalore will hope to battle hard in their bid for the elusive IPL trophy.

Balance issues in the squad, injuries and over reliance on skipper Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers marred RCB's chances to win the title last season. Off to a brilliant start, they ran out of steam towards the fag end of the tournament, losing five in a row to bow out in the Eliminator.

Having released 10 players ahead of the auction, the team management focussed on strengthening the batting and pace bowling units.

Here's is a SWOT analysis of the side that will take on defending champions Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on April 9

STRENGTHS:

RCB have assembled a strong batting line up on paper. Run-machine Kohli, who enjoys an impressive record as an opener in the league, has already confirmed that he will be opening the innings.

Partnering Kohli will be the highly-talented Devdutt Padikkal who impressed everyone last season and is in red-hot form.

Young wicket-keeper-batsman Mohammed Azharuddeen, who had a staggering strike-rate of 194.54 in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, and New Zealand's Finn Allen are other attacking options at the top. De Villiers and Maxwell add the fire-power to the middle-order while Sachin Baby, experienced Daniel Christian and Washington Sundar add to the depth.

RCB possess a potent spin battery and it augurs well for them that they will be playing a major chunk of their matches on the slow tracks in Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has enjoyed a lot of success in the league and will be eager to weave magic with the ball. He will be

joined by the immensely accurate off-spinner Washington, who was Kohli's go to man in the power-plays last season.

The two will have assistance from Maxwell, who consistently bowls for Australia in white-ball cricket and in the Big Bash League, while Australian Adam Zampa is another available leg spin option.

WEAKNESSES:

The RCB pace department does not inspire confidence. Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj lack the experience of bowling with the white ball and have a propensity of leaking runs.

Jamieson has struggled in T20Is and has no experience of playing in India. Other options include medium pacer Harshal Patel, and the Australian trio of Christian, Daniel Sams and Kane Richardson.

OPPORTUNITY:

The presence of several big-hitters in the team could go in RCB's favour while chasing big totals.

It is also the perfect opportunity for Maxwell to set the tournament ablaze. A proven match winner for Australia, the all-rounder has been a disappointment in the IPL.

RCB have two attacking batsmen in the uncapped Azharuddeen and Sachin, who would be keen to grab on to their opportunities.

THREATS:

Maxwell is a vital cog in RCB's grand scheme of things this season. If he tanks with the bat, it could have disastrous consequences for the side.

The over-reliance on Kohli and de Villiers continued last year despite big signings. The Indian batsmen in the team need to step up to avoid going the familiar route.

Squad: Virat Kohli (c), AB de Villiers, Devdutt Padikkal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj, Kane Richardson, Washington Sundar, Pavan Deshpande, Finn Allen, Shahbaz Ahmad, Navdeep Saini, Adam Zampa, Kyle Jamieson, Glenn Maxwell, Rajat Patidar, Sachin Baby, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Daniel Christian, KS Bharat, Suyash Prabhudessai, Daniel Sams, Harshal Patel.

'Chennai Super Kings Have Got Almost All Bases Covered,' Says Michael Hussey



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey on Saturday said the franchise has got all its bases covered and is looking to start afresh after a forgettable outing in the last Indian Premier League (IPL).

In the 2020 edition, the three-time winners finished seventh in the points table and failed to qualify for the play-offs for the first time in the league's history.

"I feel we have a very balanced squad that has most bases covered and with depth in most areas. The guys are in really good spirits and have been preparing extremely well," he was quoted as saying by CSK website.

Hussey said CSK had a very balanced squad, adding the new recruits Moeen Ali, K Gowtham and Robin Uthappa were "excellent additions."

"I think they are all excellent additions. Moeen is an excellent all-rounder, Robin has a lot of experience and has been a quality performer in the past and Gowtham has some genuine talent that we can look to develop further," Hussey said.

CSK picked up six players in-

cluding Ali and Gowtham at the February auction after buying top-order batsman Uthappa in a trade with Rajasthan Royals.

Hussey said a good start in the forthcoming IPL would be nice because the players will then relax and play their best cricket with confidence.

"A good start would be nice because the players will then relax and hopefully play their best cricket with confidence, otherwise the pressure can build up on everyone involved," the former Australia batsman said.

Hussey said playing a block of matches would help the players settle and build confidence early in the tournament.

"I think playing a block of matches in Mumbai will help the players settle and build confidence early in the tournament," he added.

"The conditions at Wankhede are generally very good for both batsmen and bowlers, so hopefully we can start well and players can feel good about their games," he said.

The Super Kings are currently training in Mumbai where they play their first five matches of IPL-14 beginning with a game against Delhi Capitals on April 10.

Sourav Ganguly 'Obsessed' With Rishabh Pant, Calls Him 'An Absolute Match-Winner'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly says he is "obsessed" with Rishabh Pant's game and calls the swashbuckling India wicketkeeper-batsman "an absolute match-winner".

The former India captain added that he loves watching the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma bat. "There are some fantastic players and I think as President of the Board I should not say who is my favourite player. All are favourite to me but I enjoy Kohli, I enjoy Rohit Sharma," Ganguly said during an interactive session organised by Classplus, a platform for educators to go digital.

"I am obsessed with Rishabh Pant because I think he is just an absolute match-winner. Jasprit Bumrah is good, Mohammed Shami is good, I like Shardul Thakur a lot because he has got the courage and guts.

"There is immense cricketing talent in India. When (Sunil) Gavaskar was there people used to think what will happen after him, then came (Sachin) Tendulkar, (Rahul) Dravid, Anil Kumble. When Tendulkar, Dravid left, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant took over," he said.

"There is so much talent for cricket in India that I think it will



produce world beaters in every generation."

Ganguly, who was picked for India's tour of Australia in 1992 but didn't get a single game, recalled how that experience Down Under and the hard work that followed in the subsequent years made him a better cricketer.

"I consider my 1992 series as a failure. To be honest I didn't get much opportunities to play and I came back from the tour of Australia, but I was young. That (series) actually helped me to become a better cricketer.

"I came back stronger mentally. I was not fitter, I understood what international cricket was all about. I started to train myself over the period of 3-4 years not just physically but mentally also

on how to handle the pressure," he recalled.

"My series in Australia in 1992 actually helped me become a better cricketer. When I went to England in 1996, I was much stronger. I knew what it takes to score runs in international level.

"I had another four years of domestic cricket under my belt where I kept scoring runs. Those four years I think was a blessing in disguise for me. Failures makes you better cricketer."

Ganguly, who underwent two rounds of angioplasty at a Kolkata hospital in January after complaining of chest pain, said he is hale and hearty now.

"I am absolutely fit and fine and back to work, doing everything as I did before."

I CAME BACK STRONGER MENTALLY. I was not fitter, I understood what international cricket was all about. I started to train myself over the period of 3-4 years not just physically but mentally also on how to handle the pressure."

Attack On My Convoy Pre-Planned By BJP Workers: Tikait



Agenceis

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait claimed on Saturday that the attack on his convoy of vehicles in Rajasthan's Alwar was "pre-planned by BJP workers" and said it should serve as a reminder to the farmers protesting against three new agriculture laws of the Centre about the travails and challenges they are going to face in the days to come.

Addressing a "kisan mahapanchayat" at Bhainmalheda village in this Uttar Pradesh district, Tikait said such attacks "are, in fact, strengthening our resolve to further intensify our struggle, which is a battle for our existence".

Talking to reporters after the "mahapanchayat", he said, "We are mentally prepared for more such incidents."

Stones were allegedly pelted at the convoy of Tikait, an influential farmer leader, in Rajasthan's Alwar district on Friday, damaging the rear windshield of his car. Police had detained a student leader, who the BKU claimed belonged to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and accused the saffron party of being behind the attack.

Addressing the "mahapanchayat" here, Tikait issued a call to the protesting farmers to be mentally pre-

pared to continue with their agitation at least till the end of the year, when they would taste victory.

He urged them to be mobile phone savvy so that they can be active on social media.

Tikait, who held a "mahapanchayat" in Aligarh for the first time after the farmers' agitation was launched in November last year, alleged that corporates had fully entrenched themselves in the present ruling dispensation, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

He said how else can one explain the construction of huge grain depots and godowns in several parts of the country "even before the controversial farm laws came to existence".

The BKU leader said this itself provides conclusive evidence of the government's intentions.

He warned the farmers that even more draconian measures are on the anvil as far as the farm laws are concerned, including stringent regulations regarding crop seeds.

Tikait alleged that under the proposed measures, farmers would be liable to be bound by pernicious terms and conditions, which would place them at the mercy of the seed-selling firms.

He said the three laws would make it impossible for the farmers to enjoy the right to use the seeds of their choice and frustrate them to such an extent that they would be compelled to sell their land to corporates.

Study: Sunlight Destroys Covid 8 Times Faster Than Scientists Believed

Agenceis

A team of scientists is calling for further research into how sunlight inactivates SARS-CoV-2 after noticing a glaring inconsistency between the most recent theoretical and experimental results, Science Alert reports.

Mechanical engineer Paolo Luzzatto-Fegiz and colleagues from UC Santa Barbara noticed the virus was inactivated as much as eight times faster in experiments than the most recent theoretical model predicted.

"The theory assumes that inactivation works by having UVB hit the RNA of the virus, damaging it," explained Luzzatto-Fegiz.

However, the inconsistency suggests there's something more going on than that, and figuring out what is necessary as it can help manage the virus.

According to the researchers, there are certain nucleic acid bases in DNA and RNA which can easily absorb UV light or the ultraviolet part of the spectrum. It can cause them to bond in ways that are hard to fix.

However, not all UV lights are effective. Longer UVB waves, called UVA, don't have quite enough energy to cause problems. It's the mid-range UVB waves in sunlight that are primarily responsible for killing microbes and putting our cells at risk of sun damage.

Short-wave UVC radiation has been proved to be effective against viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, even while it's still safely enveloped in human fluids.

But the ozone layer bars this type of UV from coming into contact with Earth's surface.

"UVC is great for hospitals," said co-author and Oregon State University toxicologist Julie McMurry.

"But in other environments – for instance, kitchens or subways – UVC would interact with the particulates to produce harmful ozone."

In July 2020, an experimental study was initiated to test the effects of UV light on SARS-CoV-2 in simulated saliva. They discovered that the virus was inactivated when exposed to simulated sunlight for 10-20 minutes.

"Natural sunlight may be effective as a disinfectant for contaminated nonporous materials," The paper concluded.

Luzzatto-Fegiz and team compared those results with a theory about how sunlight achieved this, which was published just a month later, and saw the math didn't add up.

This study found the SARS-CoV-2 virus was three times more sensitive to the UV in sunlight than influenza A, with 90% of the coronavirus's particles being inactivated after just half an hour of exposure to midday sunlight in summer.

However, in winter light infectious particles could remain intact for days. A separate team of researchers made Environmental calculations and concluded the virus's RNA molecules are being photochemically damaged directly by light rays.

This is more powerfully achieved by shorter wavelengths of light, like UVC and UVB. As UVC doesn't reach

Earth's surface, they based their environmental light exposure calculations on the medium-wave UVB part of the UV spectrum.

"The experimentally observed inactivation in simulated saliva is over eight times faster than would have been expected from the theory," Luzzatto-Fegiz wrote in the paper.

"So, scientists don't yet know what's going on."

The researchers suspect it's possible that instead of affecting the RNA directly, long-wave UVA may be interacting with molecules in the testing medium (simulated saliva) in a way that hastens the inactivation of the virus.

Something similar is seen in wastewater treatment – where UVA reacts with other substances to create molecules that damage viruses.

If UVA can be harnessed to combat SARS-CoV-2, cheap and energy-efficient wavelength-specific light sources might be useful in augmenting air filtration systems at relatively low risk for human health.

"Our analysis points to the need for additional experiments to separately test the effects of specific light wavelengths and medium composition," Luzzatto-Fegiz concludes.

With the ability of this virus to remain suspended in the air for extended periods, the safest means to avoid it in countries where it's running rampant is still social distancing and wearing masks where distancing isn't possible. But it's nice to know that sunlight may be helping us out during the warmer months.

Assam Minister Summoned By Police For Allegedly Threatening Journalists



Agenceis

MORIGAO: Assam minister Pijush Hazarika, who allegedly threatened two journalists, has been issued a notice to appear before police and his call recordings have been sent to forensic lab for examination, officials said today.

Two cases filed at Jagoirad police station by the journalists have been merged, and Mr Hazarika has been booked under Sections 500 (defamation), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 341 (wrongful restraint) of the IPC.

The minister, who is contesting from the Jagoirad constituency where polling took place in the second phase on Thursday, had allegedly threatened the two journalists for reporting about a controversial campaign speech by his wife.

"The statements of the journalists were recorded and a notice was issued to the minister in connection with the case. He has been asked to come to Jagoirad PS for recording his statement," Morigaon District Superintendent of Police Nanda Singh Borkala said.

Mr Hazarika, the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, said he will come to the police station on Sunday to give his statement, the official said.

Mr Borkala said the mobile phones of the scribes and that of Mr Hazarika have been seized and the voice recordings of the conversation sent to a forensic laboratory in Guwahati.

"As per law and procedure, we will proceed in the case," he added.

In the first information report, the two journalists – Nazrul Islam and Tulsi Manta – of Assamese news channels claimed that Mr

Hazarika had threatened them with dire consequences at 1 pm on Thursday, when they were busy in poll coverage of the second phase in Morigaon district.

The police have also provided personal security cover to both the journalists. Meanwhile, the IG (Law and Order) Deepak Kumar Kedia, who is the nodal officer of the state police for the ongoing Assam assembly elections, has sought a report from the district police on the case.

Assam Congress chief Ripun Bora has also filed a complaint with the state's chief electoral officer, demanding Mr Hazarika's disqualification from the polls.

Other opposition parties like the AIUDF, Rajior Dal, Assam Jatiya Dal, AASU, AJYCP and several social groups also called for immediate disqualification of Mr Hazarika from the elections.

The Gauhati Press Club (GPC) condemned the "act of intimidation" by Hazarika.

In an audio clip telecast by an Assamese news channel on Thursday, the minister can be heard threatening the scribes of dragging them out of their homes and making them "vanish".

The minister also said in the telephonic conversation, which has now gone viral, that he was "sad" because the news was related to his wife Aimee Baruah, who while campaigning for her husband a few days ago had made a controversial comment on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Ms Baruah, at a recent public meeting in Jagoirad, had allegedly said the people from the Bengali community will be thrown out of the country if the CAA is not implemented.

CBSE Not To Reduce Syllabus For Students Of Classes 9-12 For Academic Year 2021-22

Agenceis

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided not to reduce the syllabus for the students of classes 9 to 12 for academic year 2021-22, according to the new curriculum.

The CBSE had, last year, rationalised the syllabus by up to 30 per cent for classes 9 to 12 for academic year 2020-21 to reduce the course load of students amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The students who studied the reduced syllabus will appear in exams in May-June.

According to the new syllabus released by the CBSE, the chapters and topics that were slashed in the last academic year have been restored in the official curriculum for the upcoming academic session, 2021-22.

"The board already announced last year that the rationalisation exercise was a one-time initiative as teaching and learning through online mediums or alternative methods was fairly new then," a

CBSE official said.

Schools across the country were closed in March last year, ahead of a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The teaching and learning activities majorly moved online during the lockdown. While a few states allowed a partial reopening of the schools in October, several states are again resorting to online classes in the new academic session amid a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases.

In its syllabus-rationalisation exercise, the board had dropped the chapters on democracy and diversity, demonetisation, nationalism, secularism, India's relations with its neighbours and growth of local governments in the country, among others.

The choice of the chapters dropped from the syllabus drew a backlash from opposition political parties and a section of academicians, who claimed that the move was "ideologically driven", while several school principals welcomed it as a relief to students.

5 Security Personnel, Woman Maoist Killed In Encounter In Chhattisgarh

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: Five security personnel were killed and 12 others injured on Saturday in an encounter with Naxals in a forest along the border between Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh, police officials said.

The body of a woman Maoist was also recovered from the encounter spot, they said.

A senior police officer claimed, prima facie, Maoists have suffered a "huge loss" in the gunfight.

"Separate joint teams of security forces, over 2,000 in number, had launched a major anti-Naxal operation from Bijapur and Sukma districts in the South Bastar forests, considered as the Maoist stronghold, on Friday night," state's Deputy Inspector General (anti-naxal operations) OP Pal said.

The personnel belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), the District Reserve Guard (DRG), the District Reserve Guard (DRG), and the Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation launched from five places – Tarrem, Usoor and Pamed (Bijapur) and Minpa and Narsapuram (Sukma), he said.



"At around 12 noon on Saturday, an encounter broke out between the patrolling team that was dispatched from Tarrem and ultras belonging PLGA (Peoples' Liberation Guerilla Army) battalion of Maoists near Jonaguda village under Jagarunda police station area (in Sukma)," Pal said, adding the gunfight lasted for about three hours.

As per the information received so far, five security personnel have been killed and 12 others injured, he said.

"Of the martyred personnel, one belonged to the CoBRA unit and two each are from the DRG and the 'Bastariya' battalion of the CRPF," the DIG said.

He said a woman naxal was also gunned down in the encounter.

Citing the "ground report", Pal claimed that Maoists have suffered a huge loss in the gunfight.

"Reinforcements were rushed to the spot and the operation was underway to evacuate injured jawans as well as the bodies from the forest through helicopters," he said.

State's Director General of Police DM Awasthi, Task Force Commander of IAF's Anti-Naxal Task Force (ANTF) and senior police officials monitored the rescue operation and the situation from the 'ops room' at the police headquarter, he said.

On March 23, five DRG personnel were killed when Naxals blew up a bus carrying security personnel with an IED in Narayanpur district.

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DMK Chief's Family, Others Raided To Check Illegal Political Cash: Report



Agenceis

NEW DELHI/ VELLORE: The Income Tax Department's raids on DMK chief MK Stalin's daughter Senthamarai and others on Friday were aimed to check "political cash distribution" in poll-bound Tamil Nadu, sources in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

Till now, 28 premises in Chennai, Coimbatore and Karur have been covered as part of the action, they said.

"Several incriminating material on tax evasion have been found so far" during the raids which are underway, claimed the sources in the CBDT, which frames policy for the tax department. The searches are being conducted on three different groups and a few individuals in the state, they said.

Tamil Nadu will vote for its 234-member assembly in a single phase on April 6.

"These groups and individuals are involved in businesses ranging from running distilleries and breweries, real estate, local financing, solar power EPC to handling cash of politically exposed persons

for the ongoing elections," a senior tax department officer said.

"Part of these groups and individuals are alleged to have been actively assisting in political cash distribution. Searches have been conducted to verify and unearth such activities too," the officer said.

The DMK has condemned the central government for this action and alleged that it had a "political objective".

Party general secretary Duraimurugan said when parties are on the verge of completing campaigning and are looking forward to the day of polling, the income tax searches in the residence of Senthamarai was done with a "political objective".

The Centre has made a "wrong calculation" that raids just ahead of the election would shock Stalin, his family and the party, and also weaken poll preparations, he claimed while speaking to reporters in Vellore.

"The DMK is not a party that can be scared by such searches," he said adding that the party had already faced similar instances and it would not be deterred.