

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

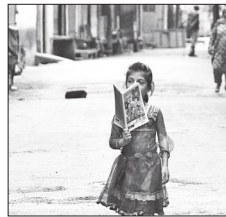
DC SRINAGAR ORDERS MASS VACCINATION OF HOTEL STAFF

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Thursday said that mass vaccination of hotel staff, drivers, houseboat staff and others concerned with the tourism sector as frontline workers shall...

THINK

THE SHADOWS OF CHILDHOOD ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Development is a series of rebirths. The child passes through certain phases during development each of which has its own particular needs. The characteristics of each are so different that the passages....



P5 STATE

ULEMA CONGLOMERATE DEMANDS RELEASE OF MIRWAIZ UMAR

Religious preachers, imams and other Ulema of Jammu and Kashmir under the aegis of Muthahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) on Thursday held a joint press conference...



Quote!

Great Things Never Came From Comfort Zones
—Neil Strauss

NEWS DIGEST

Missing Youth Found Dead

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday recovered body of a missing youth in a forest area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Bilal Ahmad Mir of Shalpora village in the north Kashmir district was found dead by some local women who had gone to collect mushrooms from Baddi Rakh Jugtiyal forest area of Haihama on Thursday morning, reports said. Mir, as per the reports went missing on March 22 following which his family... [More On P10](#)

OGW Nabbed With Heroin: Police

SRINAGAR: Police have seized nine kilograms of heroin worth Rs 60 crore from an alleged overground worker of militants in Karnah area of Kupwara district in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Thursday. "On a reliable information, police have busted a Pakistan sponsored narco-militant module and arrested one militant associate," a police spokesperson said. He said the... [More On P10](#)

Shopian Teenager Goes Missing

SRINAGAR: A teenager has gone missing from south Kashmir's Shopian district triggering fears among his family that he has joined militancy. 14-year-old Faisal Gulzar, a resident of main Chitragam who was studying in class 10th at NIPS Zainapora according to his family went missing on Tuesday and since then there are no whereabouts of him. His family members said that Faisal left home on Tuesday to bring some grocery items but didn't return home. [More On P10](#)

Undertrial Hangs Self In Kathua Prison

JAMMU: A 42-year-old under-trial prisoner from Punjab allegedly hanged himself inside a jail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Thursday, officials said. Rajinder Singh of Kundal village in Fazilka was lodged in district jail Kathua since November 7, 2019 and was facing trial in a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, they said. The officials said... [More On P10](#)

IUST Suspends Classes, Postpone Exams

SRINAGAR: Amid spike in Covid19 positive cases, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in south Kashmir's Awantipora Thursday suspended the physical class work at all the departments on the campus including Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology till April 12. "Online classes for the students shall continue as per schedule. The heads of the... [More On P10](#)

3 Militants Killed, Two Soldiers Injured In Ongoing Shopian Encounter

AGUH Chief Trapped, Operation Underway: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three unidentified militants were killed and two soldiers injured on Thursday in an ongoing gunfight in the main town of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 44 RR assisted by paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Jan Mohalla in Shopian town on Thursday after receiving specific inputs suggesting presence of militants in the locality, an official said. When the joint team launched combing operation, he said, the militants hiding in a residential house opened fire upon them in a bid



to escape from their dragnet.

"The joint team retaliated to the fire setting off an encounter. In the exchange of gunfire,

a soldier was injured. He has been removed to the hospital for treatment," the official said. He said as... [More On P10](#)

Suspected Militant Arrested At Jammu Airport

ED To Quiz Mehbooba's Mother On Apr 15

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday visited People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti's residence here in Srinagar and served a notice to her mother Gulshan Nazir seeking her presence at the agency's office on April 15.

The ED notice has directed Mehbooba's mother Gulshan Nazir, to appear before the probing agency at their Srinagar office on April 15, official sources said.

Pertinently, ED on March 25 had questioned the former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief... [More On P10](#)

Is RTO Authority To Seek Re-Registration Of Outside Vehicles?

HC Seeks Response As Govt Defends Move

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government has defended its order on re-registration of outside vehicles which "remained in the J&K for a period exceeding 12 months" even as J&K High Court asked it to file reply if the Regional Transport Officer has the authority under law to

issue the circular in this regard. Advocate General D C Raina, questioned the maintainability of a petition challenging authority of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, vis-à-vis issuance of a Circular on March 27 last, mandating the vehicle owners who have purchased their vehicles bearing outside registration

number to apply for a new registration as per the provisions of Section 47/50 of Motor Vehicle... [More On P10](#)

HC Puts Physical Hearing Of Cases In Abeyance For Now

Observer News Service

In compliance of the order issued by High Court of J&K, the physical hearing of the cases has been kept in abeyance for the time being and the hearing of the cases in the district and subordinate courts shall be conducted through virtual mode till 18 April, 2021. However, as per an official statement liberty has been granted... [More On P10](#)

Ex-KU VC Prof Riyaz Punjabi Is No More

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Former Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Professor Riyaz Punjabi died on Thursday at his Delhi residence. Prof. Punjabi breathed his last this morning at his Delhi residence after a brief spell of illness.

Prof. Punjabi served as the VC, Kashmir University from 1 January 2008 to 1 June 2011.

He was granted the Padma Shri, one of India's highest

civilian awards, in 2011.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad, Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir and other officers and functionaries of the varsity condoled the demise of Punjabi.

Recalling the contributions of Prof Punjabi as KU Vice-Chancellor as well as his rich academic and literary pursuits, Prof Talat and Dr Mir prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul while expressing their deep... [More On P10](#)

Each Dept To Have Nodal Officers For Media Reports

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has directed the authorities in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to nominate nodal officers in each administrative department for responding to media reports pertaining to their department.

In an official communiqué, the General Administration Department (GAD) has directed the administrative secretaries

that the LG has desired that nodal officers are nominated in each department for responding to various media reports and for furnishing factual position in respect of such issues to the directorate of Information & Public Information (DIPR) for publication through various means of media.

"Accordingly, the undersigned is directed to request all the administrative secretaries to nominate nodal officers (not below the rank of special secretary) additional... [More On P10](#)

Health Dept Disengages Staff Hired To Combat Covid-19

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The health department on Thursday ordered disengagement of medical, paramedics and nursing staff hired last year on contract basis to combat the spread of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a circular issued here on Thursday, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has ordered all the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Medical Superintendents (MSs)

and other territorial offices to disengage the medical, paramedical and nursing staff hired on contractual basis in view of the extraordinary situation that had arisen due to the spread of Covid-19. Pandemic under different orders purely in pursuance to Govt. Order No.347-(K) HME of 2020 Dated: 28.03.2020 shall deem to have been disengaged from their contractual appointments and from their respective place of postings forthwith... [More On P10](#)

MeT Predicts Mainly Dry Weather In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for dry weather, the minimum temperature across Kashmir Valley remained below normal with Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, recording minus 2.4 degree Celsius, officials said.

A meteorological department official said that the minimum temperature was minus 2.5 degree

Celsius below normal for this time of the year in Gulmarg.

He said that the mercury settled at 5.5 degree Celsius against 5.2 degree Celsius on the previous night in Srinagar. The temperature in summer capital which received 0.4mm of rain in last 24 hours till 0830 a.m., was minus 1.4 degree Celsius for this time of the season. Qazigund, the... [More On P10](#)

Highway To Be Closed On Wednesdays

Authorities have notified all upcoming Wednesdays till end of the next month shall be "traffic dry days" for the repairs and maintenance on Jammu... [More On P10](#)

‘Shroud Stealer’ Returns In Kashmir’s Swoop Series

Zaid Bin Shabir

Growing defection and disintegration of his patron's party has left Mushtaq Amin bitter. In the troupe retreat rendering ranks of his outfit hollow, this city foot-soldier sees the resurrection of the bygone tribe known for their riggings and regroupings.

"If our ship is sinking today," Amin says, "the blame goes to those 'Kafan Chuurs' (shroud stealers) who once used to break bread with our patron for their political launchpading."

The resounding phrase further resurged in Kashmir talks amid the recent wave of bank robberies in the valley.

"Although these money heists are nothing new, but their frequency in the highly-guarded 'Naya Kashmir' is troubling," says Shariq Mehraj, a banker from south Kashmir. "It seems as if 'Kafan Chuurs' have returned to rob from poor Kashmiris battered by back-to-back lockdowns."

Legend has it that the slang was often used in bygone Kashmir to describe opportunists and aggressors. However, the history behind this name-calling seems stranger than the name itself.

Back in Dogra days, as "patrons of resistance" found themselves hanged from the fabled bridges or jailed in the dirty dungeons for their defiance, one GA Rather of Srinagar, it's said, started spreading the

"Kafan Chuur" connotation.

But this wasn't the first time that Kashmiri locals had come up with this form of resistance against the "band of bandits".

In the early years of Kashmir's subjugated history filled with persecution of the locals, when the Mughals interred their legs in Kashmir affairs—after Yousuf Shah Chak was overthrown and exiled by emperor Akbar—local population was luring through their resources.

But when the crown raised its scorns, even though the economy was profitable, a sense of terror gradually started to instill among the locals resulting into defiance that was soon crushed by the monarchy's musclemen.

The population was barred from challenging the Mughal autocracy, which gradually became the reason for the rise of "Pougi Moa'gal" (Petty Mughal) connotation.

"When challenging the establishment became a crime," says Javed Aziz, a Kashmiri scholar studying Medieval Kashmir, "the physical resistance became extremely difficult. So, such terms that highlighted the ghoulishness of the rulers gained more and more popularity among the locals."

GA Rather had already informed his confidants about the larger consequences of using "Kafan Chuur" against any of the patrolling royal guard, regime's local enforcers.

The hothead, as Rather's son Abdul Ahad terms him, wasn't... [More On P10](#)





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

Friday| 10.04.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER 2

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Kulgam

No.101/5715/MVD/ARTO/ANG

Date:-07/04/2021

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohammad Yousuf Shah s/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/O Tajiward Achabal Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle LMV 800 Car Bearing



Regd. No.JK03D-1244(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nil. and Mr.Ishfaq Nazir S/O Nazir Ahmad Khan R/O Nowdooora Dooru(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 Lal Chowck.

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.

MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Ishfaq Ahmad Khan S/o: Ab. Majeed Khan R/o: Soibugh Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M/ Car. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 3514. Chasis number 37311 Engine no. 88377 Model 2019. in favour of Shri.. Ali Mohammad Dar S/o. Ab. Rehman Dar R/o Hooru Budgam (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd B/U Srinagar.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.110
Dated 06/04/2021
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

The Jammu & Kashmir State Board Of School Education Sub-Office Budgam

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost her original Marks card of class 10th issued by the Jammu & Kashmir State Board of Education with following particulars.

Name : Khushboo Salam
Parentage: Abdul Salam Khan
Class: 10th



Roll No: 12119284 Year/Session: 2021
Now the candidate has applied for the DU-PLICATED MARKS CARD. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with seven days from the date of publication of this note. Besides, the original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary BOSE, Budgam

MCB

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Sha-keela Bano S/o: Tariq Ahmad Bhat R/o: Gariend Khurd Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M/ Car. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 3069. Chasis number 1704563 Engine no. 4464822 Model 2010. in favour of Shri.. Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o. Gh Qadir Sheikh R/o Arampora Dregam Khasipora Budgam (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Bone & Joint Hospital Srinagar.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.138
Dated 07/04/2021
MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Aijaz Ahmad Teli S/o: Gh Qadir Teli R/o: Juhama Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M/ Car. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 5512. Chasis number 268748 Engine no. 7043586 Model 2011. in favour of Shri.. Jan Mohammad Dar S/o. Gh Hassan Dar R/o Taki pora Budgam (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/U Budgam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.184
Dated 08/04/2021
MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

APPEAL TO HON'BLE DIV. COM KASHMIR & DC BARAMULLA

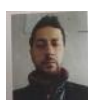
We Gh.Mohd.Shallta and Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi Residents of Arampora Sopore have almost done 80% work on Bugoo Nailah Sopore during heavy rains since last one month when atleast five localities including Shalpora, hanfia Colony, kaboo Mohalla, Hyder Colony and Changa Mohalla which are lying surrounding on this. Bugoo Nailah Due to heavy rains these localities were submerged due to over flow of water into the nailah, keeping on view we had brought machinery on verbally call of ADC sopore and authorities of concerned departments and accordingly started digging and expanding work on this Bugoo Nailah and saved above said localities to submerged, as we had spend lacs of Rupees on our own pockets for th is work. But since last one month no anyone from the administration and the concerned departments bother to visit the Nailah to take a look on progress work, we had yet to receive any payment for this work, we had also met the Hon'ble Advisor to LG Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan. During his visit to fruit mandi Sopore, who assured us that government will pay for your work, now we appealed the Hon'ble Div Com and DC Baramulla to depute the team from concerned departments to ta ke look on our work done in this Bugoo Nailah in order to release the payment for the same in favour of us.

Gh. Mohd. Shallta and
Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi
R/o. Arampora, Sopore

GMS

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Naser Ahamd Shawy S/O Bashir Ahamd Shawy R/O Balgarden Karanagar (Transferor) of Alto car bearing registration No. JK01X-3105 chasis No: 599363 Engine No: 5382800 Model 2015 in favour of Arshad Malik S/O Mohd Sultan Malik R/O Qasimbagh Tangmarg Beerwah (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 437
Dated: 08/03/2021

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Iyan Nazir Mir S/o Nazir Ahamd Mir R/O Firdousabad Batmaloo (Transferor) of Maruti 800 bearing registration No. JK01R-9294 chasis No: 02853140 Engine No: 4496209 Model 2012 in favour of Riyaz Ahamd Thokar S/o Mohammad Baker R/o Paimus Budgam (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 438
Dated: 08/03/2021

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to renew my fertilizer license bearing no CAOBF/FL/2011-12/606 under name and style "Parra Agro Chemicals" .

If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tawseef Farooq Parra
S/o Farooq Ahamd Parra
R/o Parra Mohalla Pattan

bmg



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. IUST/EW/21TEND/ELE/STAGE/01, dated: 08-04-2021.

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K, e-tender is invited on *percentage basis*, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./ CPWD/ Railways/ MES/ or other State/ Central Govt. departments for the following work.

TENDER DETAILS

Name of the work.	Electrical Stage Contract (2021-2022) at IUST Campus Awantipora.
Cost of document.	Rs.1000/- (Non-refundable) in shape of DD only, pledged in favour of Finance Officer Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora.
Bid Security Form.	As per "Annexure A" attached at Page No. 6 of Tender Document.
Class of Contractor.	A-Class Electrical Contractors enlisted with CPWD /MES / Railways / DGBPO and Inspection Agency of J&K PDD.
Documents download start date.	08-04-2021.
e-bid Submission last date.	17-04-2021.
Last date for D.D Submission.	19-04-2021.
Time, Date & Address of opening of technical bid.	Technical bid shall be opened electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement system website http://jktenders.gov.in in Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora on 20-04-2021 at 10:00.
Availability of Tender document.	Tender document can be downloaded from website. (https://jktenders.gov.in .)
Position of Funds	Available.
Bidding process	On-line
Bid Validity	120 Days

Note: Before submitting the e-bids, bidders are requested to go through the tender document. Sd/-
Executive Engineer

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

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

Subject: - Extension in date for submission of online Application Forms for Common Entrance Test (CET) for Engineering Courses, 2021.

Reference: - Notification No. 036-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-03-2021.

Notice No. 39-BOPEE of 2021

Dated: 06-04-2021

In view of the poor response to above referred Notification for submission of online Application Forms for Common Entrance Test (CET) for Engineering Courses-2021, the Board has decided to extend the last date for submission of online Application Forms for the said Courses from 06-04-2021 to 16-04-2021 (mid-night).

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the einformation Brochure and the Notification No. 036-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-03-2021.

E&OE.

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-04/2021
Dated: 06-04-2021

DIPK-NB-103/21

Office Of The Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division Bijbehara, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Contact No/ Fax: - 01932-234398 E-mail:- exenedbij@yahoo.co.in

NIT: - EDB/e-tender/01 of 2021-22

Dated: - 05-04-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (Two-Cover) are hereby invited from Registered Class-A Electrical Contractors (General) Supply of Workshop/Plant materials and Line Material as and when required during first half of 2021-22.

S. No	Name of Work	Est cost. (Rs. In Lacs)	Treasury Receipt/ Challan	Category
1	Supply of Workshop/Plant materials and Line Material as and when required during first half of 2021-22	18.00	1000	Gen

1	Publishing Date & Time	06-04-2021 (1300Hrs)
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	06-04-2021 (1300Hrs)
3	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	06-04-2021 (1300Hrs)
4	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	11-04-2021 (1400 Hrs)
5	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	06-04-2021 (1300Hrs)
6	Bid Submission End Date & Time	22-04-2021 (1300 Hrs)
7	Bid opening date & Time	23-04-2021 (1300 Hrs)
8	Venue of opening Bids	Electric Division Bijbehara

Please Read Document Carefully

Position of Funds: Authorised

The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation upto working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Bijbehara

DIPK-NB-121/21

No: -EDB/TS/71-79

Dated: - 05-04-2021

Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short term E-NIT NO 01 OF 2021-22 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and Eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost In Lakhs	Cost of Tender Doc. In Rs.	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Flood Precautionary Measures on Wankren Nallah, Lar Nallah, Sasara Nallah & Romshi Nallah (04 No. of Flood Beats) including its Tributaries for the year 2021-22. (Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora)	4.86	500/-	DEE	2711- M&R
2	Flood Precautionary Measures on River Jhelum from Goripora to Seerbagh on left side and Kadlabal Pampore bridge to Sempora on Right side (04 No. of Flood Beats) including confluence points for the year 2021-22. (Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora)	6.00	500/-	CEE/ DEE	2711-M&R
3	Flood Precautionary Measures on Rambalara Nallah, Vedji Nallah and Tongri Nallah including other allied nallahs for the year 2021-22.	3.243	400/-	DEE	2711-M&R

Position of Funds: - Budget provision of 2021-22

Position of AAA: - Accorded vide No. SE/Hyd/Spn/01 of 2021-22 dated:- 03/04/2021.

No of works Advertized: - (03) No)

1.The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-04-2021 (10.00 AM)
02	Date of start of downloading.	07-04-2021 (10.00 AM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	07-04-2021 (10.00 AM)
04	Bid submission end date.	15-04-2021 (13.00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	15-04-2021 (15.00 PM)

Special Conditions:-

- The successful (i.e. 1st lowest) contractor shall report to the office of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora immediately after opening the tenders & completing the process of allotment within two days positively, otherwise the details of the same contractor will be provided to District Magistrate (Convener Food Zonal Committee Kakapora) for taking the action against the contractor.
- The Successful contractor (allottee) shall remain in state of preparedness & shall be available for execution of work all times in case of rain/ flood season or as & when asked by the officers in charge & no excuse & lackadaisical approach what so ever be entertained & action against the same will initiated immediately including criminal proceeding as the life and property of the general public is involved.
- The successful contractor shall furnish the details of machinery/ man power, contact details of all concerned incl. himself, so that the same are contacted well in advance in case of floods/ rains. The same details will also be provided to District Administration/ Police authorities.
- The successful contractor has to submit an affidavit in advance duly attested by 1st class Judicial Magistrate stating that he along with his men and machinery will be available all the times & as when the flood alert is sounded or as & when asked by the officer in charge, with the condition that in case he fails, action against him will be liable including criminal proceeding.
- The quantities/ amount mentioned in the rate list/ tender documents are tentative & are subject to actual execution at site during the floods. The same can be nil or just a small if no floods/ little/flood work gets involved.
- The work tendered is for flood precautionary measures during the floods. The restoration works to be executed after receding of floods, when there is no flood threat can be advertised at that time for tenders separately.
- The works advertised are for the jurisdiction of Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora.
- The total cost of work is including Department supply & same shall be deducted at the time of billing.
- RTQ in means rate to be quoted.

Other Conditions of the NIT:-

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0070-OAS Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e- mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
- 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 web site www.jktenders.gov.in in acquint 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 financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-3.
Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
c. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No:-FCDDK/Camp/ 65-87
Dated:- 06-04-2021

DIPK-243/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division
Kakapora

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



A GROUP OF WOMEN rowing their boats laden with Weed in Srinagar's Dal Lake. KO Picture By Abid Bha

CB Files Chargesheet Against Six Srinagar Residents In Forgery Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday filed a charge sheet against six persons involved in a forgery case before the Court of Forest Magistrate Srinagar.

Crime Branch Kashmir in a statement said "The Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday produced charge sheet in Case FIR No. 55/2016 U/S 420, 468, 471, 120-B RPC against six persons, before the Court of Forest Magistrate Srinagar."

"The accused six persons are Mymoona Wife of Javid Ahmad Shah resident of Shalteng at present posted as clerk in Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Ghulam Mohidin Dar son of Abdul Rahim resident of Urpash Ganderbal,

Mohammad Amin Shora son of Ali Mohammad Shora resident of Darish Kadal Safakadal Srinagar, Bashir Ahmad Najar son of Ali Mohammad Najar resident of Shalteng Pathpora Srinagar, Mohammad Shafi Batloo son of Ghulam Mohammad Batloo resident of Zaldagar Srinagar and Ghulam Nabi Wani son of Ali Mohammad Wani resident of Shaheed Gunj Srinagar.

They said, "The Crime Branch Kashmir had received a written communication, which inter alia revealed that Divisional Planner SMC Srinagar had detected four building permission cases (fast track), wherein the signatures of issuing authority have been forged. It is further alleged that

the Health Officer SMC has noticed that the date of birth certificates are fake. Subsequently, a Preliminary Verification was initiated at Crime Branch Kashmir."

"During the course of investigation, it surfaced that the building permissions and DOB certificates have been issued fraudulently after resorting to forgery. These acts of omission and commission on the part of the accused persons, prima facie discloses commission of offences Punishable U/S 420, 468, 471, 120-B RPC and accordingly the instant case FIR No.55/2016 was registered," it added.

The court sent all the six accused persons to judicial custody who have been lodged in central jail Srinagar, reads the statement.

LAWDA To Install Bio-Digesters On Houseboats

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Days, after the government directed the authorities to speed up the installation of bio-digesters in houseboats, the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) Tuesday, said that the process to be completed after the end of the tourist season.

A total of 910 will have the bio-digesters soon, an official of LAWDA said, adding that the installation process will be started soon after the tourist season culminates in the Valley.

"We have installed six bio-digesters on pilot basis last year. We have to monitor the results for a year. If it will be successful then we will go for the next step," LAWDA said.

He said that the tourists are currently staying in the houseboats, thus the process for the installation of bio-digesters has got delayed a bit. "We will have to wait for the results till the results come out," he said, adding that the further steps in this regard would be taken only after

the culmination of the tourist season.

"There is another issue of space in some cases as some houseboats are lacking the space as well. We have to manage it accordingly and experts are visiting again to check and resolve the issues," he said.

"The bid-digesters will have to be ready for all the 910 houseboats following which it would take very less time to complete the process," he said.

Pertinently, Bio-digester is a decomposition mechanised toilet system which decomposes human excretory waste in a digester tank specific high-graded bacteria.

The process has been getting delayed since last year. Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Bas-eer Ahmad Khan on March 26, chaired a meeting of officers and took review of the status of Bio-digesters in Houseboats in Dal Lake, at SKICC here.

In the meeting, the Advisor exhorted on the VC, LAWDA to install Bio-digesters in the Lake in a time bound manner—(KNO)

SMC Conducts Anti-Encroachment Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Committee's Anti Encroachment and Anti Polythene Squad Thursday visited various areas including Fateh Kadal, Babadem, Batamalo, Bypass, Bemina and its adjoining areas to conduct anti Encroachment and anti Polythene drive.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Chief Anti Encroachment Officer Umar Din Who was accompanied by the Anti Encroaching squad.

An action against encroachments along mains roads and markets was taken during the drive by seizing and removing goods displayed by street vendors and shopkeepers outside their shops on spot with the recovery of fine against the violators.

The anti Encroachment squad has been reorganised to ensure effective strategised and sustainable enforcement on ground to remove encroachments for smooth flow of traffic and pedestrian movement in the city said Commissioner SMC Athar Amir Khan.

Noorbagh Crewel Artisan Cluster Gets Coveted Certification

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards the self-reliance of the artisan's clusters developed under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project, Crewel/ Chain Stitch Artisan Cluster at Noorbagh, which was one of the first artisan clusters developed under the project has been registered as the "Producers Owned Company " by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The artisan cluster has been issued the certificate of incorporation by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the name "NOORAARI CRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED".

With the Artisan Craft Cluster obtaining the coveted registration from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the artisans associated with the cluster now see a renewed hope in being associated with the traditional crafts of crewel/chain stitch.

"Divorced with 2 kids I was totally dependent on my relatives financially, but after having received the skill enhancement training at the Noorbagh artisan cluster, I am now able to earn Rs 800-1000 per day which is enough for me to sustain a family of three without being dependent on any of my relatives," Shaheena, one of the artisans at the cluster, said.

About 600 artisans associated with the Crewel/ Chain stitch Cluster at Noorbagh developed under Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project see it as an achievement of one of the major milestone towards the development of the first artisan owned producer company in the valley.

Conceived and developed under the component of the restoration and strengthening of the livelihoods of the JTRP with the objective of reviving the traditional crafts and providing them gainful employment opportunities to youth.

The artisan cluster which is now in its three years of existence after initial skill assessment of the artisans associated with the crafts of crewel and chain stitch have been focusing on imparting the artisans with the much-

needed skill enhancement in the areas of the product development- developing the new prototypes, use of latest colour schemes, utilisation of newly developed good quality raw materials, new techniques besides honing the managerial skills of artisans and providing the marketing linkages for their products.

"I had given up the craft owing to its diminishing economic returns and exploitation of the middlemen but after having received training in product development which made artisans aware about the latest design trends in the market and also with the assured market support for our products I see a lot of hope in the craft," Maimoona another artisan associated with the cluster said.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTRP said for the holistic development of the artisans, craft clusters under JTRP are designed in such a manner so as to bring a group of scattered artisans under one umbrella and impart them with as many skill sets related to their craft.

"It is indeed a moment of immense satisfaction to see the Noorbagh Artisan cluster registered as a producer-owned company," Shah said.

"Under JTRP we have also taken up the development of more clusters for different traditional crafts like Papier Machie (Zadibal), Willow wicker (Ganderbal), Wool and Pashmina (Bandipore) to provide the artisans with skill enhancement, product development training and develop market linkages for their products," he said.

One of the significant aspects of the cluster has been the developing of market linkages to the craft cluster for marketing of its products and for that the consultancy has been set a target of providing the cluster with a business of at least Rs 1 crore.

Over the last year the Noorbagh cluster has produced and sold products worth around Rs 30 lakh, and are presently working on the consignment of products for FAB India and are also negotiating with another marketing giant IKEA group for the marketing of its products—(KNO)

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1691 - French troops occupy Mons
- 1772 - Philosopher and mathematician Jean-Baptiste Le Rond d'Alembert becomes permanent secretary of the French Academy of Sciences
- 1864 - Battle of Pleasant Hill LA, 2870 casualties
- 1869 - Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada
- 1917 - Battle of Arras begins
- 1928 - Turkey passes separation of church & state
- 1942 - Battle of Bataan; US-Filipino forces overwhelmed by Japanese at Bataan
- 1945 - Battleship Admiral Scheer sunk by RAF bombing in Kiel
- 1945 - Liberty ship at Bari Italy carrying aerial bombs explodes, kills 360
- 1947 - Atomic Energy Commission confirmed
- 1947 - Tornadoes striking West Texas & Oklahoma kill 169, injuring 1,300
- 1948 - Massacre at Deir Yassin.
- 1949 - UN International Court of Justice holds Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel and awards Britain damages
- 1955 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1959 - NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project Mercury
- 1960 - South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd survives an assassination attempt by David Pratt despite being twice shot in the face
- 1963 - Winston Churchill becomes 1st honorary US citizen
- 1967 - 1st Boeing 737 (a 100 series) makes its maiden flight
- 1972 - USSR & Iraq sign friendship treaty
- 1975 - 24 OECD members sign an agreement to establish a \$25 billion lending facility to provide assistance to industrial nations hurt by high oil prices
- 1976 - US & Russia agreed on size of nuclear tests for peaceful use
- 1977 - Communist party in Spain allowed legally after 40 years
- 1980 - Soyuz 35 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6
- 1983 - 6th Space Shuttle Mission-Challenger 1 returns to Earth
- 1988 - US imposes economic sanctions on Panama
- 1991 - Georgia SSR votes to secede from USSR
- 1992 - John Major elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after his Conservative Party wins the most votes in British electoral history
- 1994 - STS-59 (Endeavour) launches into orbit
- 1999 - Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara, President of Niger, is assassinated.
- 2002 - Funeral of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother at Westminster Abbey UK. More than a million people line the streets
- 2003 - Baghdad falls to U.S. forces, ending the invasion of Iraq, but resulting in widespread looting
- 2013 - 37 people are killed and 850 are injured after a magnitude 6.1 earthquake strikes Iran
- 2013 - The French Senate approves a bill for same-sex marriage
- 2017 - Two Egyptian coptic churches in Tanta and Alexandria attacked by suicide bombers leaving at least 44 dead
- 2017 - Suicide car bombing in Mogadishu, Somalia kills at least 17, Al-Shabaab group claim responsibility
- 2017 - Twitter footage of passenger forcibly removed from United Airlines flight in Chicago after flight overbooked causes outrage



HIJRI CALENDAR

25

SHABAN -UL- MUAAZZAM

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 42

ZUHR 12: 32

ASR 5:07

MAGRIB 7:00

ISHA 8:24

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his 10th class Marks certificate/s issued under S.No/s 2565 as per below mentioned details:-

Name Gh Mohd Bhat

Father's Name Mohd Anwar Bhat

Roll No/s :- 12786 Year & Session Oct-Nov 1977

Date of Birth:- 15-03-1961

Residence:- Wandakpora Pulwama



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

(Besides the above referred " Marks Certificate/s" bearing S.no 2565 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: Dated 08-03-2021

rko

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that I Mohd Iqbal Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohamad Bhat R/O Telipora Chee Anantnag I have applied for Fertilizer License under name and style M/S Iqsafo Agro Inputs. If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard He/she may object his objection in Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will entertained.

Mohd Iqbal Bhat

S/O Ghulam Mohamad Bhat

R/O Telipora Chee Anantnag

MJA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that I Mohd Iqbal Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohamad Bhat R/O Telipora Chee Anantnag I have applied for Pesticides License under name and style M/S Iqsafo Agro Inputs. If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard He/she may object his objection in Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi Srinagar, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will entertained.

Mohd Iqbal Bhat

S/O Ghulam Mohamad Bhat

R/O Telipora Chee Anantnag

MJA

Medical Aid Camp on 10th April 2021

A mega medical aid camp is being organised on 10th of April 2021 in the college campus of Beljiyara in which 250 wheel chairs,150 crutches, 230 hearing aids, 200 Walker-and 200 walking sticks, will be distributed to the deserving specially abled people . Concerned persons can contact 6006124823 for more details.

mja

Jammu and Kashmir State

Industrial Development Corporation Limited

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

IGC, Lassipora, Pulwama. E-mail:-estateigclassipora@gmail.com,01933248066

AUCTION NOTICE

Sub:-Auction of 04 kanals of land at IGC Lassipora, Pulwama.

Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (SIDCO), a J&K Govt Undertaking invites fresh sealed offers for auction of 4 kanals of land along with civil structures constructed on said land bearing plot no. 375 located at IGC Lassipora, Pulwama on "as is where is basis" for allotment of the said plot/land on lease basis for setting up of an Industrial Unit to be registered with the Concerned Registering Authority of DI&C Kashmir. The Industries/Entrepreneurs have to set-up unit within 2 years and make it operational within 3 Years from the date of execution of lease deed, failing which J&K SIDCO will resume the land for its further allotment.

The Interested Participating Persons/Firm/Company shall submit their offers in a sealed envelope superscribed as "offer for auction of Plot" addressed to the Manager Estate, J&K SIDCO, IGC Lassipora, Pulwama to reach his office by or before 18th of April 2021 upto 2PM.The offers will be opened in the Office Chambers of Manager Estate on the same day or in the event of holiday/strike, the next working day or any other convenient day by a committee Constituted for the purpose which shall be communicated. The offers shall be accompanied with the earnest money of 10% of the bid amount in the shape of CDR pledged to Manager Estate, J&K SIDCO, IGC Lassipora.

S.No.	Plot No	Area in Kanals	Minimum Reserve Price for Four Kanals	Minimum Reserve Price of civil structures (Rs. in Lacs)	Total Reserve price (Rs. In lacs)
1	375	4	24.00	61.20	85.20

The allotment will be made to the bidder bidding the highest bid in the Auction to be conducted by J&K SIDCO provided that the highest bid so obtained is higher than the 'minimum Reserve Premium' fixed for the Plot. Any change in land use pattern other than as specified in terms and conditions will not be allowed. The Interested participating bidders can visit the site during office hours and get all the information/clarification/details from the office of Manager Estates IGC Lassipora.

For Further details Manager Estate, SIDCO Industrial Growth Centre Lassipora could be contacted on any working day upto 4.30Pm, to obtain the copy of Terms and Conditions against the cash payment of Rs.500/-. The Corporation reserves the right either to accept or reject any or all offers or postpone/withhold or cancel the auction of the industrial land/Plots without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

Manager Estates

DIPK-NB-146/21

From KO Archives

WAR OF A DIFFERENT KIND BREAKS OUT ON LOC

Observer News Service

KAMAN POST, (LOC) -India and Pakistan for a change engaged in a different game other than cricket on Thursday when the passengers from both the parts of divided Kashmir crossed sides at the Aman Sethu (Peace Bridge) here.

Besides the 49 passengers from – 19 from India and 30 km Pakistani part of Kashmir- a large number of media persons gathered from across the globe, leaders of some political parties and of course the soldiers saw the two countries lock horns -in a poster and banner battle.

"Pakistan se rishta kya...la-ilaha-il-Allah" read a huge hoarding erected just

across LoC "Mazhab nahin Sikahat Aapas Mein Bair Rakhna" countered a banner from India. Then there was one from j Pakistan which read. "We welcome our Kashmiri brethren". "Every Step on April 7 will strengthen the bonds between India and Pakistan," was the Indian reply.

However Pakistan gavel an edge over India in display of flags. While the tri-colour was not at all seen at the last Indian military outpost, the green and white dominated the entire area: across the border. Hundreds of Pakistani and 'Azad Kashmiri flags were seen on the other side.

The other count where Pakistanis seem to have scored over India was the erection of a signboard indicating direction and distance to various cities. While the Indian sign showed the distance to Srinagar: the Pakistani one indicated direction to Islamabad, Tehran and Makkah.

The Jammu and Kashmir government presented a memento to the passengers on board the "karvaan-e-aman (Caravan of Peace)" from India and also to those from Muzaffarabad. ' The wooden memento had carvings of two Kashmiris embracing each other. Bouquets were also presented to them.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 April, 2005)

Major Powers Meet Separately With US, Iran On Nuclear Deal



Former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal, which lifted economic sanctions on Iran in return for curbs to its nuclear program.

Diplomats from major powers met separately on Wednesday with Iran and the United States to discuss how to bring both back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal that Washington abandoned three years ago.

Neither the United States nor Iran expect fast breakthroughs in the talks that began in Vienna on Tuesday, with European and other diplomats acting as intermediaries because Tehran rejects face-to-face talks for now.

Former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal, which lifted economic sanctions on Iran in return for curbs to its nuclear program. He reimposed US sanctions, prompting Iran in turn to violate the accord's atomic limits.

The deal's remaining parties - Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia - agreed on Tuesday to form two expert-level groups whose job is to marry lists of sanctions that the United States could lift with nuclear obligations Iran should meet.

Diplomats said the working groups, which are chaired by the

European Union and exclude the United States, met on Wednesday and suggested they would know in a matter of weeks whether they might bear fruit before Iran's June 18 presidential elections.

US officials said they had been briefed on the meetings.

"The team on the ground in Vienna has had consultations with our European allies as well as with our Russian and Chinese partners. They in turn have met with the Iranian delegation," US State Department spokesman Ned Price said in Washington.

The talks would be hard because of the indirect format, the history of US-Iran mistrust and the complexity of the issues, Price said.

He also suggested Washington might be willing to ease some sanctions on Iran beyond those whose removal was mandated by the original nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but gave no details.

"We are prepared to take the steps necessary to return to compliance with the JCPOA, including by lifting sanctions that are inconsistent with the JCPOA. I am not in a position here to give you chapter and verse on what those might be," he said. **Reuters**

Syria Blames Israel For Missile Attacks Near Damascus

Agencies

A missile attack near the Syrian capital of Damascus has wounded four soldiers, according to Syria's state media which blamed Israel for the attack.

Syria's state news agency SANA, quoting an unidentified military official, said Syrian air defences were able to shoot down most of the missiles before they hit their targets on Thursday.

Damascus residents reported hearing at least one explosion.

The missiles were fired from the direction of neighbouring Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, state television said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, reported that military posts near Damascus were targets, but gave no further details.

Al-Manar TV, of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, said one of the Syrian air defence missiles exploded near the Lebanon-Syria border and was heard in parts of southern Lebanon.

It later said the missile crashed near the Lebanese border village of

Houla.

'Israeli aggression'

Israel has launched hundreds of attacks against Iran-linked military targets in Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations.

In February, Syria's army said the country's air defences intercepted "Israeli aggression" over Damascus. The attacks killed at least nine pro-government fighters, a Britain-based war monitor said at the time.

Israel views Iranian entrenchment on its northern frontier as a red line, and it has repeatedly struck Iran-linked facilities and weapon convoys destined for Hezbollah.

Western intelligence sources say Iran's military influence has expanded in Syria in recent years, prompting Israel to escalate its campaign to prevent Tehran from establishing a significant military foothold along its border.

Iran's proxy militias, led by Lebanon's Hezbollah, now hold sway over vast areas in eastern, southern and northwestern Syria, as well as several suburbs around Damascus. They also control Lebanese border areas.



AstraZeneca Blood Clot Worries Could Set Back Vaccinations Worldwide

Agencies

Growing worries that AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 vaccine causes rare blood clots could hinder immunization campaigns across the world, from London to Seoul.

Reviews by U.K. and European Union regulators finding potential links to the unusual side effects are another blow for the shot, a cheaper and easier-to-deploy product that many nations are counting on in a bid to end the pandemic.

Safety concerns following increasing reports of blood clots in people who received the inoculation could shake confidence in it, even though regulators have agreed that the benefits outweigh the risks. Although many regions are turning their attention to vaccines from Johnson & Johnson and developers in China, Russia and elsewhere, they're in a difficult position with demand for doses far outstripping supply.

"Better Astra than nothing," said Michael Kinch, a drug development expert and associate vice chancellor at Washington University in St. Louis. "In an under-vaccinated country, I think you have no choice but to take it."

Scrutiny of the vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, has been particularly intense in Europe, where skepticism about shots was already running high in places such as France and Poland. The U.K. on Wednesday recommended that people under the age of 30 should be offered alternatives to Astra's vaccine, and



countries across the EU have also imposed age restrictions.

High Stakes

Governments and regulators elsewhere are watching closely, too, and in some cases taking action. There's a lot at stake, with AstraZeneca's shot accounting for almost a quarter of the total supply deals signed for 2021, according to Airfinity Ltd., a London-based research firm.

Covax, an initiative designed to level global access that's backed by groups including the World Health Organization, is highly reliant on the AstraZeneca vaccine. Shots from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. are more expensive and harder to store.

Even before the results of the latest reviews in Europe, South Korea moved to temporarily suspend AstraZeneca vaccinations for people under 60.

Authorities in Canada, meanwhile, are reviewing the new guidance, as well as information submitted by AstraZeneca, and will determine further steps later, federal health ministry spokesperson Anna Maddison wrote in an email. Canada had suspended plans in late March to give the vaccine to people below the age of 55, citing blood clot concerns. Regulators believe the vac-

cine is safe and effective and are leaving it up to individual countries to make their own decisions, according to Anthony Harnden, deputy chair of the U.K.'s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization. There aren't a lot of options for many countries.

"This is important for the whole world," he said.

Countries in Africa, such as Namibia, Ivory Coast and Senegal, said they'll go ahead with plans to administer the doses as they arrive, pointing to comments backing the vaccine from regulators and the WHO. Cameroon had previously stopped Astra inoculations.

"For Namibia this changes nothing," Namibian health minister Kalumbi Shangula said. "It has not been conclusively demonstrated in clinical settings. We still plan to administer the vaccine when we get it."

Link Likely

The U.K.'s move to avoid giving the shots to young adults follows an evaluation by the country's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency that evidence of a link between the vaccine and the sometimes deadly clots is "stronger, but more work is still needed."

FOR NAMIBIA THIS CHANGES NOTHING," NAMIBIAN health minister Kalumbi Shangula said. "It has not been conclusively demonstrated in clinical settings.

Eleven Killed As Myanmar Protesters 'Fight Soldiers With Rifles'



Agencies

At least 11 people have been killed in a northwestern town in Myanmar, local media reported, as security forces cracked down on anti-coup protesters who fought back with hunting rifles and firebombs.

The Myanmar Now and Irrawaddy news sites said on Thursday that six truckloads of troops were deployed to quell a huge protest in the town of Taze on Wednesday. When the protesters fought back with guns, knives and firebombs, five more truckloads of troop reinforce-

ments were brought in.

Fighting continued into Thursday morning and at least 11 protesters were killed and about 20 wounded, the media said.

There was no word of any casualties among the soldiers.

That would take the toll of civilians killed by security forces to over 600 since the Myanmar military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

Taze is near the town of Kale, where at least 11 people

were killed in a similar clash on Wednesday, according to news media and witnesses. Security forces fired live rounds, grenades, and machine guns on protesters who were demanding the restoration of Aung San Suu Kyi's government, AAPP said.

In Yangon, the country's biggest city, activists placed shoes filled with flowers to commemorate dead protesters.

The military, which is hunting some 120 celebrities for speaking out against the coup, arrested a prominent actor, singer and model, according to his sister. Paing Takhon, 24, was taken from his mother's home in the North Dagon area of Yangon early Thursday, his sister Thi Thi Lwin posted on Facebook.

"As he's seriously ill, they arrested him calmly without violence. We do not know where he's taken," she added. Thi Thi Lwin said the actor had been suffering from malaria and a heart condition.

Facebook Has Weathered Social Media Turmoil, Says Survey

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Facebook usage has held steady in the United States despite a string of controversies about the leading social network, even as younger users tap into rival platforms such as TikTok, a survey showed on Wednesday.

The Pew Research Centre survey from early 2021 found 69 per cent of American adults use Facebook, and 72pc used at least one social media site, levels which have been stable for the past five years.

"While there has been much written about Americans' changing relationship with Facebook, its users remain quite active on the platform," the researchers wrote.

"Seven-in-ten Facebook users

"WHILE THERE HAS been much written about Americans' changing relationship with Facebook, its users remain quite active on the platform," the researchers wrote.

say they use the site daily, including 49pc who say they use the site several times a day."

The report suggests Facebook's US usage has weathered a spate of controversies in recent years including the Cambridge Analytica scandal in the 2016 election, which involved the accessing of the personal data of millions of users without their consent, and concerns over disinformation and privacy.

Even with Facebook usage steady, the report showed a varied social media landscape with



growth in Snapchat, Facebook-owned Instagram and TikTok among those under 30, and broad use of the Google-owned video-sharing platform YouTube.

Some 81pc of adults said they used YouTube, up from 73pc in 2019.

In the first Pew survey on TikTok, 21pc of all adults - including 48pc of those under 30 - said they had used the Chinese-owned video app which has come under national security scrutiny.

Among younger adults age 18-29, Instagram was massively popular at 71pc, along with Snapchat (65pc). Facebook usage in this age group was in line with the general population at 70pc.

Twitter, which has struggled to expand beyond its core base, was used by 23pc of Americans including 42pc of the under-30 age group.

Nextdoor, the social network focused on local communities, was used by 13pc of adults, according to Pew's first survey on the platform.

Reddit, the online bulletin board at the centre of a controversy over stock-trading forums, saw its usage rise to 18pc of adults from 11pc in 2019, according to the survey.

The findings were based on a survey of 1,502 US adults from January 25 to February 8 by cell-phone and landline phone, with an estimated margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

New Zealand Stops Entry Of Travellers From India Amid Covid Surge



the peak of the first wave seen last September.

The suspension will start from 1600 local time on April 11 and will be in place until April 28. During this time the government will look at risk management measures to resume travel.

"I want to emphasize that while arrivals of COVID from India has prompted this measure, we are looking at how we manage high risk points of departure generally. This is not a country specific risk assessment..." Ardern said.

New Zealand has virtually eliminated the virus within its borders, and has not reported any community transmission locally for about 40 days.

But it's been reviewing its border settings as more people with infections arrive in New Zealand recently, majority being from India.

Ardern said the rolling average of positive cases has been steadily rising and hit 7 cases on Wednesday, the highest since last October.

New Zealand on Thursday also reported one new locally infected case in a worker who was employed at a coronavirus managed isolation facility. The 24-year-old was yet to be vaccinated. **Reuters**

WE ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING entry into New Zealand for travellers from India," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said in a news conference in Auckland.

NEWS MAKERS

Police Arrests Mrs World After Crown-Stealing Incident

Colombo police Thursday arrested the current "Mrs World" on charges of assault over an on-stage fracas in which she pulled the crown off the head of the new "Mrs Sri Lanka."

Caroline Jurie yanked the crown off Pushpika de Silva minutes after she was declared "Mrs Sri Lanka 2020" at a Sunday gala at Colombo's Nelum Pokuna theatre.

Jurie was previous year's "Mrs Sri Lanka" and had gone on to win the "Mrs World" competition organized by a California-based company.

Pushpika de Silva needed hospital treatment after the incident, seen by stunned spectators in a packed theatre as well as a live social media audience.

"We have arrested Jurie and (her associate) Chula Manamendra in connection with a charge



of assault and causing damage to Nelum Pokuna (theatre)," senior police official Ajith Rohana said.

De Silva told reporters outside the Cinnamon Gardens police station in Colombo Thursday that she was ready to drop charges if Jurie made a public apology, but she had refused.

"I tried to end this out of court,

but she has refused," de Silva said. "I can forgive, but not forget."

There was no immediate comment from Jurie or her lawyer.

Police sources said a court hearing was likely next week and Jurie and her associate who crashed onto the stage on Sunday could be granted bail later Thursday.

Jurie had claimed that de Silva

was divorced and therefore ineligible for the prize.

To qualify for the title, contestants must be married. De Silva is estranged from her husband, but they are still legally married.

Organizers said they were claiming compensation from Jurie for damages to the stage and backstage dressing rooms where several mirrors had been smashed.

Jurie has also been accused by organizers of bringing disrepute to the event.

The local franchise holder for the pageant, Chandimal Jayasinghe, said they were "deeply disturbed and sincerely regret" the behaviour of Jurie.

Social media calls have been mounting to strip Jurie of her "Mrs World" title, with one meme calling for her to be re-branded as "Mrs Under World."

Swiss Students In Hot Water After Virus Hoax Led To Quarantine

ZURICH: Students in the Swiss city of Basel falsified positive COVID-19 results in a bid to skip school, resulting in the entire class being put in quarantine, and now disciplinary measures against the perpetrators after the hoax was discovered.

Three students in Basel's Kirschgarten High School falsified SMS messages from Switzerland's COVID-19 contact tracing app, the Swiss newspaper Blick reported.

That forced about 25 classmates to be confined to their homes for some 10 days. Several teachers were also affected by the incident just before spring break in March.

"This is not just a child-



ish prank, this is a serious incident," Simon Thiriet, a spokesman for Basel's education department, told Blick.

The school plans to pursue criminal charges for falsifying "health-relevant docu-

ments" though it does not plan to expel them. Thiriet said that students are in a "difficult situation" due to the pandemic, but that doesn't excuse the three-some's stunt. **Reuters**

Massive Fire Leaves Six Kulgam Families Homeless

Observer News Service

KULGAM: At least six families were rendered homeless after a devastating fire turned their residential houses into ashes in Damhal Hanjipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Tehsildar Damhal Hanjipora, Niyaz Ahmad Bhat said that the residential houses belonging to six brothers at Watigam were reduced to ashes after massive fire broke out in one of the houses which rapidly engulfed the nearby house, resulting in complete damage to two structures.

The devastating fire left families of Jahangir Ahmad, Ashraf

Ahmad, Mohammad Aslam, Mohammad Yousuf sons of Abdullah Dar and Mohammad Yousuf, Mubarak Ahmad sons of Ghulam Hassan Parrray of Watigam homeless as their houses were completely damaged in the incident.

They said whatever they had inherited has gone as the fire turned everything into ashes within seconds.

Meanwhile, tehsildar Damhal Hanjipora, Niyaz Ahmad Bhat along with other officers took stock of the damaged structures and assured affected families of providing all possible help for immediate relief—(KNO)

CUK, RRU Commemorate Signing Of MoU



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) Thursday commemorated the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, through online mode.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Dean SLS, thanked Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, CUK Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, RRU Vice Chancellor and K.V. Ravi Kumar, RRU Pro-Vice Chancellor, for their support in bringing the two institutions together through this MoU. He hoped the MoU will benefit the students of the institutions.

Kumar said the MoU provides opportunities not only for the students, but also for the faculty members. He said collaborative activities in the academic areas of faculty and students' exchange, research projects, holding of lectures, training programmes, seminars and conferences should be undertaken

under this MoU.

Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, who was the Chief Guest assured the CUK faculty and students that RRU is a global academic platform and the resources and the academic network which it has created shall be available to the students and faculty members of Department of Law, SLS. He highlighted other areas like Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Machine Learning, International Law etc on which both universities can collaborate.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir thanked Prof Bimal N. Patel for his academic patronage that he has been offering to the law students in general and law students from Kashmir in particular. He invited the faculty members of RRU through Prof Bimal N. Patel to visit CUK and engage in workshops and teaching assignments. He said that "by pooling resources, we shall be indeed in a better position to deal with the challenges of modern legal education as well as the contemporary issues and problems."

Ulema Conglomerate Demands Release Of Mirwaiz Umar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Religious preachers, imams and other Ulema of Jammu and Kashmir under the aegis of Muthahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) on Thursday held a joint press conference demanding the release of Hurriyat Conference (M) chairperson and Kashmir's Mirwaiz, Umar Farooq.

The heads and representatives of various religious and social organisations addressed the press conference including Moulana Rehmatullah Mir Qasmi of Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya Bandipora.

Addressing the media, the participants said that the meeting was called to reiterate to the authorities to release Mirwaiz immediately, especially as the holy month of Ramadan was about to commence. The leaders expressed dis-



may that despite the passing of more than 20 months and repeated appeals, the "arbitrary" house detention of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir continues, which is a matter of grave concern for the religious fraternity of the valley and has anguished people.

Appealing to the administration to release Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, they said that the pulpit of the Jamia Masjid, Srinagar has fallen silent and wears a deserted look, which otherwise

reverberated with Qaal Allah Wa Qaalal Rasool (SAW).

"This is deeply disturbing to the people and religious fraternity of the valley who crave for the presence of their beloved religious leader in the historic Jamia Masjid," they added. "It is also direct state intrusion in the religious rights and affairs of the Muslims of J&K."

The meeting also appealed to the authorities that in view of Ramadan, all political prisoners and youth in jails across J&K and outside should be released on humanitarian grounds.

The meeting said that all Ulema, Aimams and Khateeb of Jammu and Kashmir will continue to demand for the release of the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir before the holy month of Ramadhan, and in their Friday sermons tomorrow will raise the issue forcefully

CB Files Supplementary Chargesheet In Multi-Crore Cooperative Fraud In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday filed a supplementary charge sheet against a couple here for duping people of nearly Rs 2.93 crore in the name of a co-operative with the promise of providing higher rates of interest.

The charge sheet was filed in a local court against Surjeet Singh, the then chairman-cum-managing director of Rural Development Multipurpose Cooperative Limited and his wife Jyoti Pawar in the case filed in 2019 against them under various sections of Ranbir Panel Code and the Banking Regulation Act, a spokesman of the Crime Branch, Jammu said.

He said a written complaint was lodged in the Crime Branch, Jammu wherein several complainants had alleged that a credit society, registered with the cooperatives department, was operating in different districts having 72 branches since 2015.

The employees were assigned targets of taking cash from the people in the form of fixed deposit, recurring deposit, saving accounts, share capital and nominal membership, the spokesman said.



He said a preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima-facie substantiated and it was also found that the accused did not abide by the directions of the court and also without having any valid permission or licence from the RBI and from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, J&K, collected money from the public and consequently cheated them.

A large number of complaints of similar nature were also received against the accused during the course of inquiry and were clubbed together for a thorough probe, he said.

The investigations revealed that the accused had sought permission for running the cooperative in Jammu district from the office of Registrar of Companies, Jammu by submitting forged documents and the accused with criminal intention illegally indulged in operation of 72 such branches across five districts -- Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi and

Udhampur, the spokesman further said.

The accused, in the garb of a cooperative, kept on minting money from the people in the form of cash deposits with false promise of providing huge interest on them. The accused being the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the cooperative (RDMLC) used to take all the cash from different branches of the so-called Rural Development Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. without any accountability, the spokesman said.

He said the investigation found that the accused diverted the money for his personal gain, which included payment of his housing loan, purchase of luxurious vehicles besides using a large chunk of deposited money on outsourcing printing press for publishing two of his newspapers.

The accused also managed to procure licence from the office of excise commissioner for sale of liquor. The investigation conducted so far has established involvement of the accused in duping the people of Reasi and Udhampur districts to the tune of about Rs 2.93 crore, the crime branch spokesman added.

Abducted CRPF Commando From Jammu Released By Naxals

Press Trust Of India

BIJAPUR: CoBRA commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, who hails from Jammu and was abducted by Naxals after the last week's fierce gun-battle in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, was released on Thursday, police said.

Manhas, who belonged to the 210th battalion of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), an elite unit of the CRPF, had gone missing after the gunfight on Saturday and later reported to be in the captivity of the Naxals.

The Naxals handed over the CRPF personnel to a group of facilitators in the forest along the Bijapur and Sukma border in the



presence of a large number of villagers, police said

"At around 4.30 pm, the abducted personnel returned to Tarrem Police Station safely along with the facilitators and were inside the jungle to trace out his location," Inspector General of Police

(Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

He is being admitted to Basaguda field hospital for medical examination and treatment, he said.

Some media persons accompanied the facilitators and recorded the video of his release. The visuals showed some armed

Naxals, with faces covered, freeing the jawan tied with ropes.

The team of facilitators included Padma Shri awardee Dharampal Saini from Mata Rukhmani Ashram, Jagdalpur and Telam Boraiyya, senior leader of tribal community in Bijapur. Local journalists Ganesh Mishra and Mukesh Chandrakar also played an important role in his release, police said.

Manhas was part of a squad that had gone for an anti-Naxal operation in the jungles on the Bijapur and Sukma border on the night of April 2, hours before the deadly ambush.

The gunfight had broken out between the security forces and the ultras between Tekalguda and Jonaguda villages, in which

22 troopers were killed and 31 others injured.

On Tuesday, the outlawed CPI (Maoist) had issued a statement in Hindi saying its cadres had abducted Manhas from the site of the ambush and demanded that the Chhattisgarh government appoint mediators to ensure his safe release.

The Maoists, however, had not raised any formal demands for the release of the commando.

Out of the 22 martyred personnel, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) lost eight personnel, including seven CoBRA commandos and one jawan of its 'Bastariya' battalion, eight from the DRG and six from the Special Task Force.

14-Year-Old Goes Missing In Shopian Village

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: A minor who is a lone brother of four sisters has gone missing in Chitragam Kalan area of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Faisal Gulzar (14) a resident of main Chitragam who was studying in class 10th at NIPS Zainapora according to his family went missing on Tuesday and since then there are no whereabouts of him.

His family members said that Faisal left home on Tuesday to bring some grocery items but didn't return home.

"We tried to contact him via phone, however, his phone was repeatedly switched off following which we contacted every relative, neighbours and his friends but couldn't get any clue about him," they said.

After failing to get any clue from any side, the family has filed his missing report at concerned police station and requested them to help them in tracing their ward.

The family urged Gulzar to return home and requested militant organizations that if he has joined them, then return him back as he is the lone son of Ganaie family with four sisters.

"We don't have anyone without him and he must be returned at the earliest, his missing has left whole family shattered," they said.

Meanwhile, a police officer while confirming that his missing report has been filed said that there are chances that he might have joined militants ranks but efforts are on bring him back—(KNO)

IUST Initiates Village Adoption Programme

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised village adoption programme during which two villages Anghazipora and Padgampora were adopted. The programme was organised with the aim to develop and design an integrated approach towards health care with a special focus on training of rural youth, school teachers, environmental sanitation, drug de-addiction, maternal and child health, awareness regarding prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases and new health schemes, girl child education, school health camps & ASHA training. The programme was initiated by a team led by Principal SMMCNMAT Asmat Parveen and included faculty

members Mubashira and Ulfat along with the B.Sc Nursing interns under the mentorship of Asst. Professor Anjum Khurshid.

In the first project, vaccination drive against Covid -19 has been initiated. An intensive door to door survey has been conducted in which the high-risk group and population above the age group of 45 were identified. The target population was provided awareness regarding vaccine so as to motivate them to undergo the vaccination. The vaccine against covid-19 was arranged for the target population at PHC Chersoo in coordination with the Block Medical Officer Tral Dr. Bashir Malik and Medical Officer IUST Dr. Zahida Rasool. Meanwhile Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign was also organized by the college at Anghazipora village.

Issued through Public Relations

Adv Bhatnagar Reviews Arrangements For Yatra In Baltal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Thursday visited Sonamarg and chaired a meeting of officers to review the ongoing arrangements for the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra 2021.

During the meeting, Bhatnagar took a detailed review of progress achieved on various ongoing arrangements and other facilities that need to be put in place for the convenience of yatrins.

The Advisor also took stock of activities being carried out at Baltal base camp, Domail and Holy Cave in the meeting.

While speaking in the meeting, the Advisor exhorted upon the officers to keep all the necessary arrangements in place on time besides other required utilities should also be established at the camp as well as along the track route.

He directed the officers to ensure clean and hygienic toilet facilities to yatrins and stressed upon all the concerned departments for ensuring proper quality sanitation facility at every camp location and maintaining cleanliness of entire track en-route to the Holy Cave.

The Advisor also directed to put a mechanism in place to ensure quality control of all services including Langer services, bedding, tent services and other

services for the Yatrins. He further directed that tents should be erected as per approved layout plan and keeping into consideration all the safety standards.

Later, Advisor Bhatnagar inspected facilities and activities carried out on Baltal route to have firsthand appraisal of ongoing arrangements made for smooth conduct of yatra.

He directed the officers to ensure all requisite facilities along the track besides proper quality sanitation facilities and cleanliness of entire track en-route to the Holy Cave should also be maintained.

The Advisor impressed upon the officers to maintain constant coordination between themselves and other allied departments so that there are no lapses while making necessary arrangement for safe and successful conduct of yatra.

During the meeting with the senior officers of the district, Advisor Bhatnagar also reviewed progress of several ongoing developmental projects.

Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers to work in synergy with each other to remove any difficulties coming in the way of progress of works.

He exhorted upon the officers to ensure quality and timely completion of all the projects being executed in the district.

Labourer Dies, Another Injured In Srinagar Road Accident

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 17-year-old labourer, a resident of Ganderbal district died in a road accident near GB Panth Hospital in Srinagar on Thursday morning. Omar Qadir Ganai, son of Ghulam Qadir Ganai, a resident of Wakora Ganderbal, died on the spot.

Another youth Danish Ahmed Butt, 22, son of Muhammad Altaf Butt, a resident of Wakura, was injured in the accident.

A senior police official said that a case under relevant sections of the law has been registered to ascertain the cause of the accident. (CNS)

NEWS MAKERS

Police Arrest One Person For Illegal Mining

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Thursday said it arrested one person and seized a vehicle in Handwara over allegations of illegal mining and transportation of raw material.

A police spokesperson in a statement said that officers from police post Langate arrested one person and seized his vehicle bearing registration number JK03G-4560 which was being used to transport raw materials illegally extracted from the Nallah Mawar.

The accused person has been identified as Javid Ahmad Mir son of Nazir Ahmad Mir, a resident of Gulgam Kupwara. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 77/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Handwara and further investigation has been initiated.

IGNOU To Conduct Entrance Test On April 11

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Thursday said that it is conducting Entrance Tests for Management Programmes (OPENMAT-Xlviii), B.Ed. Programme and Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Programme on Sunday, April 11, 2021 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

The Test is being organised at 120

Examination Centres, accommodating 40,170 candidates. Entrance test in Srinagar would be organised in Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

"The Hall-Tickets have already been uploaded on the University website www.ignou.ac.in. The candidates are advised to download the hall ticket by entering the Control No. OR Mobile no. and date of birth and

report to the Examination Centre. In case candidates are unable to download the Hall-Ticket, they can contact the Regional Centre Srinagar and obtain a print out of the hall ticket from the Regional Centre."

The University said that the candidates must report at the Examination Centre 45 minutes before commencement of the Entrance Test.

Anantnag Woman Succumbs To Burn Injuries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A woman from South Kashmir's Anantnag district, who received burn injuries due to leakage in cooking gas cylinder, succumbed to her injuries at the SMHS hospital in Srinagar on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Raja Bano's wife of Abdul Qayyum, a resident of Mattan. She was 54 and had received more than 50 percent burn injuries. Bano died after being under treatment for several days. "Although preliminary investigation suggests it as leak in cooking gas cylinder but we have registered a case to ascertain the facts," said a senior police official. (CNS)

Speeding Truck Crushes Three Dozen Sheep, Goats In Udhampur

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a ghastly incident, three dozen sheep and goats, belonging to a nomadic community, were crushed to death by a speeding truck in Udhampur district, Police said on Thursday. A speeding truck drove through a flock of sheep and goats of a nomadic Gujar near Darso on Dhar road late Wednesday night, causing the on-the-spot death of 36 sheep and goats, a police official said. He said twelve other livestock were also injured in the incident, while the nomad family which was on move from Samba to Kashmir in search of greener pastures during their bi-annual migration escaped unhurt. The erring driver was arrested, the official said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Follow SOP

Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded its highest single-day spike this year as 812 new COVID-19 cases were detected taking the tally to 1,34,827. Six more deaths were also recorded. The toll is now 2,018 with Srinagar district once again at top of the pile with 238 cases, including 57 travellers, followed by 138 in Jammu and 79 in Udhampur district.

With 347 of the fresh cases from Jammu division, the region's gap with Kashmir division is narrowing. This had happened last year also, when Jammu division was late to catch up with the Valley and later briefly overtook it. But Jammu had struggled to cope with the rising infections. One can hope this time around J&K would fare better than last year in terms of response to the surging Covid-19 cases. Since last year, the union territory has significantly bolstered its healthcare infrastructure, albeit, it has fallen short of the soaring cases. Or in some cases, the new equipment has remained unused for want of specialist personnel and the supporting infrastructure.

Going forward, the situation looks unlikely to change for the better. At the current rate, J&K will go past the peak of the last year. The UT had less than 1,000 active cases on March 15 while the number of fresh cases crossed the three-digit mark from March 16. The number of active cases has now breached 5,000 mark again, rising to 5,035. This is going to take its toll on the already overburdened medical infrastructure. On a positive note together with the rise in infections, the recoveries are also increasing. So far, 1,27,774 of 1,34,827 patients have recovered. But considering the dramatic spike in fresh infections, this is cold consolation. The administration is in no position to re-impose lockdown. Two successive lockdowns in the union territory – first, a seven month siege enforced after the erasure of J&K autonomy in August 2019 and second, the extended Covid lockdown since March 2020 have wrecked the economy leaving thousands unemployed.

With the pandemic threatening to overrun us again, the administration's choices are limited. With lockdown ruled out, the enforcement of the Standard Operating Procedure is the key, something that the administration has so far been singularly lax about, and also selective at the same time. Schools have been closed while tulip garden is free to visit for the people. So, the government needs to get its act right.

All the same, it is also incumbent on the people to follow the SOP and avoid gatherings. After a year of dealing with the pandemic, both the administration and the people are expected to be sufficiently experienced and aware about what's needed to be done to prevent the spread of virus.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Covid-19: Five questions about vaccination

Facile comments about making the Covid-19 vaccine available to those who need it, rather than those who want it, hide the fact that India's vaccine strategy needs an urgent reboot, one that requires honest answers to five questions.

Question one — is India staring at a vaccine supply crunch? The simple answer is yes, provided it doesn't approve any more vaccines, and provided the makers of the two currently authorised vaccines do not increase their capacity, for which they have sought government funds. The crunch could mean that the country currently has access to just about 50-60% of the five million doses it hopes to administer every day.

Question two — why, if there was going to be an imminent supply crunch, did the government engage in vaccine diplomacy? Truth be told, only 10.5 million vaccines were given as grants, with 35 million being exported commercially and another 18 million exported under World Health Organization (WHO)'s COVAX facility, but that question will keep being raised till domestic vaccination gets a further boost.

Question three — why are other vaccines not being approved? As sound as the need for a bridging study is for vaccines approved in other geographies, it is hard to ignore the fact that India's drug regulator had no problems approving Bharat Biotech's Covaxin largely on faith (the data wasn't available when it was approved). Approving some of the other vaccines, including Sputnik, could mean a boost in supply. Russia's sovereign wealth fund has already struck deals with Indian manufacturers to make 700 million doses of the highly effective vaccine.

Question four — is an age-based criteria the best way to determine priority for vaccination? After all, the burden of Covid has been, and continues to be, disproportionate in urban areas, and everyone may gain if vaccination were opened up to all in hotspots.

And question five — how serious is India's political leadership about the Covid-safety protocol? They have participated in high-intensity poll campaigning, even though there has been little social distancing in their rallies and road shows.

Only when the government honestly addresses each of these questions responsibly will India be able to battle the second wave.

Hindustan Times



India in NATO?

Is New Delhi ready for such a major shift?

A G NOORANI

China's military spending is three times that of India. India's policy of equidistance, with tilts towards Russia and China, is not viable enough to meet the juggernaut of China's powerpower

WHILE it is not fair to impute motives to a writer, one cannot help wondering if he is flying a kite, especially given his background. A. Wess Mitchell was US assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia from 2007-2019 and co-chair of the Nato 2020 Reflection Process. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, headquartered in Brussels, has long been in a reflective mood regarding its own fatuous irrelevance.

That did not inhibit him from writing recently in an Indian publication: "When the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) leaders meet later this spring, they will debate the recommendations from a group of experts [which Mr Mitchell co-chaired] that advocates, among other things, extending a formal offer of partnership to India. Such an idea has been discussed before but has always foundered on India's aversion to entanglement in rival geopolitical blocs. It's time to overcome this obstacle."

"China's meteoric rise has dramatically heightened India's need for closer security relationships with politically reliable, like-minded states. ...Beijing is increasingly willing to depart from its hide-and-bide strategy to directly challenge even the largest of its neighbours."

China's military spending is three times that of India. India's policy of equidistance, with tilts towards Russia and China, is not viable enough to meet the juggernaut of China's power. Hence its moves for ties with the United States, Japan and Australia in the "Quad". Now for the moth-eaten carnet:

"While Nato partnerships do not carry the Article 5 guarantee of collective defence against armed attack, they nevertheless come with regular defence dialogues, military-to-military planning and joint exercises that improve readiness, interoperability and predictability. In the event of a conflict, India would benefit from having prior planning and arrangements in place for cooperating with Nato and its Mediterranean partners...."

Nato has spread a web of partners, namely Egypt, Israel, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

Now comes the crunch. "However, the obstacles to partnership are

not only on the Indian side; in the past, some Nato allies have effectively blocked discussion of the matter insisting that any offer of partnership to India be accompanied by similar invitations to Pakistan. This may have seemed attractive to some in the era when Nato militaries were mainly focused on conducting operations in Afghanistan. But with the winding down of operations there, Nato has little in common with a Pakistan that is increasingly radicalised at home and aligned with, and beholden to, China.

"... The Nato leadership should extend to India an offer of opening partnership talks. Doing so would signal that it is seriously evaluating all of its tools, including partnerships, according to how well they equip its

of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the party or parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force...."

This is a worthless guarantee as its prime architect, US secretary of state Dean Acheson, had said. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "This naturally does not mean that the United States would automatically be at war if one of the other signatory nations were the victim of an armed attack. Under the treaty we would be bound to make an honest judgment as to what action was necessary to attain that end and consequently to take such action. That action might or might not

Nonalignment is a worn-out misnomer. India's non-alignment did not prevent its first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from seeking covertly -- behind the back of India's ambassador Asaf Ali -- a written alliance with the United States in 1948

members for dealing with a new era of great-power competition....

"In this emerging competition, India is a vital player in its own right and should be treated as such. But Indians should be under no illusions that a truly nonaligned path remains a viable option."

Nonalignment is a worn-out misnomer. India's non-alignment did not prevent its first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from seeking covertly -- behind the back of India's ambassador Asaf Ali -- a written alliance with the United States in 1948.

Note that the Nato partnership is shorn of guarantee of help in Article 5 of the NatoTreaty of 1949, which reads: "The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently, they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51

include the use of armed force."

As Charles De Gaulle remarked, treaties, like roses and pretty girls, last only as long as they last. How did Pakistan's pacts with the United States help, in its moments of crisis in the 1965 and 1971 wars?

Treaties are concluded in the national interest purely. Help is extended in the same spirit. In 1962, it took the US long to support India's case on the border and even that was confined to the McMahon Line; not the Aksai Chin in Ladakh.

India has unwisely let skirmishes on an undefined border rather its dialogue and diplomacy.

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

A. G. Noorani is an eminent lawyer, constitutional expert and political commentator based in Mumbai. The article is reproduced courtesy Deccan Chronicle.



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Beg to Differ with Green Revolution

APROPOS the article titled "Indian Agriculture: Maladies and Remedies" published in this newspaper on 6 April 2021. The author is concerned with the maladies of Indian agriculture but ironically Green Revolution of the 1960s features as a "road to self-sufficiency". Green Revolution has been glorified too much. It was never a solution. It only complicated the problems of agriculture and farmers. Norman Borlaug and Rockefeller Foundation's program to increase food production around the world

was not to end hunger but a war on Communism. Since "no one becomes a Communist on a full belly", increasing food production was the only road to ensure no more nations fell into Communism. A few years ago, during a short speech at an award ceremony, Father of Indian Green Revolution, MS Swaminathan said that Green Revolution was a "historic transition" from "Ship-to-mouth to right to food with homegrown food". In increasing food production through the use of subsidized High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds

of rice and wheat, chemicals, irrigation and mechanization, the green revolution was a success. However, the subsidized HYV seeds led to the extinction of indigenous varieties of crops including some 1 Lakh varieties of rice in India. Also, the production of other food crops ceased as the government encouraged the production of selective crops. The unanticipated harmful effects of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals have wreaked havoc on the environment and decreased soil fertility. The water-intensive farming that

the green revolution introduced has led to over-exploitation of groundwater and depletion of the groundwater table. Right now, the harms of the green revolution outweigh its benefits. It has been a Pyrrhic victory. If the intentions behind the green revolution had been to alleviate hunger, it would have been implemented in a way that did not do more harm than its good. However, it was introduced in a hurry to stop Communism.

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Mindful Fridays

The Shadows of Childhood
on your Mental Health

AAMIR BASHIR AND WASIM KAKROO

Development is a series of rebirths. The child passes through certain phases during development each of which has its own particular needs. The characteristics of each are so different that the passages from one phase to the other phase have been described as 'rebirths'. The tiny child's absorbent mind finds all its nutriment in its surroundings. Here it has to locate itself, and build itself up from what it takes in. Especially at the beginning of life we must, therefore, make the environment as interesting and attractive as we can. The child, as we have seen, passes through successive phases of development and in each of these phases his surroundings have an important – though different – part to play. In none of these phases, are the surroundings more important than immediately after birth.

Child development is interplay of genetic and environmental factors. Genes set limits within which environment influences child's development. For instance, Genes provide the basic framework for brain development; however genes don't design the brain. Environmental influences fine tune how the brain works by shaping which brain connections get used. Together genes and environment build the foundation for all future development. Therefore it is to be understood that positive environment is important for overall development of a child. However, not every child is fortunate enough to have a childhood they would like to remember because of haunting and traumatic childhood experiences, which we call "Adverse childhood experiences".

Adverse childhood experiences:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) refer to some of the most intensive and frequently occurring sources of stress that children may suffer early in life. Such experiences include multiple types of abuse; neglect; violence between parents or caregivers; other kinds of serious household dysfunction such as alcohol and substance abuse; and peer, community and collective violence (world health organization).

As per CDC Kaiser ace study (1995,1997): 10 ACE'S were identified which are Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), Neglect (physical, emotional), Household dysfunction (Mental illness, Domestic violence, Divorce, incarcerated relative, substance abuse).

Risk factors for adverse childhood experiences:**Individual and family risk factors:**

- Families experiencing care giving challenges related to children with special needs (for example, disabilities, mental health issues, chronic physical illnesses)
- Children and youth who don't feel close to their parents/caregivers and feel like they can't talk to them about their feelings
- Children and youth with few or no friends or with



friends who engage in aggressive or delinquent behavior.

- Families with caregivers who have a limited understanding of children's needs or development.
- Families with young caregivers or single parents.
- Families with adults with low levels of education.
- Families experiencing high levels of parenting stress or economic stress.
- Families with caregivers who were abused or neglected as children.
- Families with caregivers who use spanking and other forms of corporal punishment for discipline.
- Families with inconsistent discipline and/or low levels of parental monitoring and supervision.
- Families with high conflict and negative communication styles.
- Families with attitudes accepting of or justifying violence or aggression.

Community risk factors:

- Communities with high rates of violence and crime.
- Communities with high rates of poverty and limited educational and economic opportunities.
- Communities with high unemployment rates.
- Communities with high levels of social and environmental disorder.
- Communities with easy access to drugs and alcohol.

Impact of ACE's on Mental health

Kids who have more supportive experiences during childhood with family, friends, and people in their school and community may be less likely to have psychological or relationship troubles in adulthood, however kids with Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) like abuse, neglect, violence, and parental absence have long been linked to lasting negative effects on physical and mental health. These experiences are potentially traumatic experiences, that can affect children for years and impact their life opportunities.

Following is the mention of the impact of childhood adverse experiences in the different areas of the life of a child who has been through various traumatic experiences:

Brain development:

- Smaller brain size
- Less efficient processing
- Impaired stress response
- Changes in gene expression

Cognition:

- Impaired readiness to learn
- Difficulty in problem solving
- Language delays
- Problem with concentration
- Poor academic achievement

Physical health:

- Sleep disorders

- Eating disorders
- Poor immune system functioning
- Cardiovascular disease
- Shorter life span

Emotions:

- Difficulty in controlling emotions
- Trouble recognizing emotions
- Limited coping skills
- Increased sensitivity to stress
- Feelings of shame and guilt
- Excessive worry
- Hopelessness
- Feelings of helplessness/lack of self-efficacy

Relationships:

- Attachment problems/disorders
- Poor understanding of social interactions
- Difficulty in forming relationships with peers
- Problems in romantic relationships
- Intergenerational cycles of abuse and neglect

Behavior:

- Poor self-regulation
- Social withdrawal
- Aggression
- Poor impulse control
- Risk-taking tendency/tendency to take part in illegal activity
- Sexual acting out
- Drug and alcohol misuse

Mental health:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Negative self-image/low self-esteem
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Personality Disorders
- Psychotic disorders
- Suicidality/self-harm tendencies

As can be understood from the above list, ACEs can affect almost all the important areas of the child's life in significantly negative ways. Therefore, it is helpful in such cases to take help of mental health professionals especially clinical psychologist for mitigating individual psychological harm and to address the social pathways which may mediate the negative impact of ACEs.

Views expressed are the author's own responsibility and are not a substitute for medical advice. These are for educational and awareness purposes only

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Signs you have Health Anxiety

NICOLE PAJER

We're more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, which has altered our health beyond just the virus especially our mental health. One byproduct? Constant and excessive stress over our physical well-being, which can morph into health or illness anxiety.

The issue (often called hypochondria) happens when you begin to irrationally or obsessively worry about your health to the point that it's affecting your daily life. This is something many mental health professionals like Kimberly Presley, clinical director of Taylor Counseling Group in Dallas, have been seeing in their practices during the pandemic.

"It makes sense because, as a culture, we have never spent so much time reading, talking, watching or learning about a specific issue related to our physical health," she explained.

Anxiety is often sparked by fear, and COVID-19 has implanted real fear in many of us in a number of ways, Presley said not to mention we have access to trends, data, graphs and statistics online. The constant influx of information and realization we have little control over the actions of others in helping to curb the virus has been a lot for people to manage.

"And a feeling of helplessness or lack of control coupled with real fear is a perfect recipe for anxiety," Presley added.

Vigilance is good when it comes to preventing COVID-19, but there comes a point when you may overcorrect your behavior or have unhealthy thought patterns. Think you've developed health anxiety during the pandemic? Below, experts share some signs you might be struggling and offer some advice on how to address it.

You're obsessively thinking about the pandemic and having difficulty concentrating throughout the day

"This means that the pandemic is affecting your activities of daily living, making it harder for you to engage in the necessities of life and carrying out your everyday functions," said Judy Ho, a triple board-certified clinical and forensic neuropsychologist.

If you find yourself constantly ruminating over a fear of contracting COVID-19 or any other health-related train of thought, "turn your mind away from your worry by using cognitive behavioral therapy techniques such as thought-stopping," Ho said.

Here's how: Interrupt your thoughts with the word "stop" when you notice your obses-

sive thinking, and then distract yourself with a pleasant activity or something you enjoy doing. Listen to your favorite song, organize a small part of your home, call a friend, engage in a hobby, or read a chapter from a book.

Stopping worries is all about breaking up your stream of thoughts. Even just a few minutes of interruption can help you disengage from this loop, Ho added.

You talk excessively about your health, or about COVID-19, with others

Of course it's OK to talk about the pandemic, but if you find that conversation about COVID-19 is crowding out other important topics in your life or other people's, then it could signify anxiety.

Chloe Greenbaum, a licensed psychologist and adjunct professor at New York University, suggested preemptively starting conversations by saying you're trying to fixate less on COVID-19 and requesting to steer clear of coronavirus talk.

But what if your mother wants you to assure her that she's OK after going to the grocery store double-masked and wearing a face shield? "You have to decide what your boundaries are," Greenbaum said. "If reassuring someone feels OK and doesn't exacerbate your own anxiety, then that can be your boundary that you can be there and support other people and their concerns but you don't voice your own."

But if those comments trigger your own health anxiety, then you need to speak up. Greenbaum said to try: "I'm here for you. But right now I'm really working on reducing my own anxiety about these things. Do you mind if we hold off on talking about COVID for some time?"

You excessively consume news or health information about the coronavirus

Tracking the news is helpful to the extent that it informs you about safety precautions. Beyond that, viewing an endless amount of COVID-19 news might be a cause and effect of health anxiety.

"I recommend regulating the amount and type of news you consume," Greenbaum said. "Only read the news once or twice per day, rather than having CNN on in the background all day long."

You're experiencing sleep disruption or nightmares

It's normal for people to experience bouts of insomnia or sleeplessness during times of stress. But if you are having more sleepless nights due to worrying over the pandemic or having nightmares related COVID-19 it could very well be an indication that you have devel-

oped significant health anxiety.

"I have definitely noticed an overall increase in pandemic-themed dreams and nightmares with my patients," said Melissa Giuttari, a licensed clinical mental health counselor in New York City.

Some dreams, she explained, are laden with overt expressions of fear around one's safety and health. For example, many people dream about being in a crowd with no mask and feeling vulnerable. Others include more symbolic manifestations of this fear, like contamination-themed dreams.

"Try writing out worries and your pandemic-related dreams, as this helps to externalize them," Giuttari said. "Assess how likely or realistic each worry is and name them as rational or irrational. Find supportive people or a therapist to talk with to process them."

You're avoiding outdoor activities

Are you refraining from approved stress-relieving activities like hiking, cycling or walking where social distance permits? This could be a red flag for anxiety.

"Confinement to your home if you are a healthy person practicing recommended safety measures indicates the kind of excessive catastrophic thinking and behavior typical of an anxiety disorder," said Sam Von Reiche, a clinical psychologist and author of "Rethink Your Shrink."

Avoidance is one of the main reinforcements for anxiety because of the sense of relief it brings. Von Reiche said, "I advise challenging the compulsion to stay sequestered by taking small steps like making sure you go to the mailbox every day, then walk to the end of your block, and so on."

You're not reassured by negative test results

Perhaps even when you get negative test results, you don't feel reassured or you only feel temporarily reassured and it heightens your anxiety. This is common with an anxiety disorder, said Abisola Olulade, a board-certified family medicine physician with Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group in San Diego.

"Often even when tests are negative, then patients may still request more and more tests," she said. "Of course it is important that you don't feel that your symptoms are being dismissed but if you have had several negative tests and a thorough examination, and you still don't feel reassured by that, then this may be a sign of an anxiety disorder." Olulade said, adding that talk therapy can help address these symptoms.

You think every symptom is COVID-related

"With so much talk about COVID sur-

rounding us, it's easy to see how people can start making connections between something like a stress headache and COVID," said Jamie Schenk DeWitt, a licensed family therapist based in Los Angeles.

It's important to remember that many of the symptoms of COVID-19 can also be attributed to other conditions.

"If you are constantly worried about everyday coughs, sneezes, headaches and the occasional aches and pains and if you are obsessively taking COVID tests for reassurance it is time to control your thoughts and not let them spiral into anxiety," DeWitt said.

The next time you think a sneeze is COVID-19, DeWitt said, very compassionately stop and redirect your thoughts to positively reinforce all the ways you have been careful and safe.

"Recognize that what is driving these thoughts is a fear of getting sick and losing control," DeWitt said. "Once you can identify the fear, the better able you are to challenge it with concrete facts."

You're afraid that everyone is going to give you COVID-19

Not every interaction with other people is guaranteed to result in the transmission of the coronavirus. And if fear of infection is keeping you from participating in otherwise safe activities like being outdoors or potentially even running to the store this may also be a sign of health anxiety.

"Remember, your mental health is important too — and being around other people, safely, can be good for your emotional well-being," DeWitt said. "Social distancing, wearing masks, and visiting outdoors have all been shown to be safe ways of interacting with others during the pandemic."

DeWitt added that going for a masked walk outside with a loved one is good for the soul; spring break in Florida is the potential superspreader scenario. This is especially important to remember as more people get vaccinated and reenter daily life.

You're overusing hand sanitizer and other disinfectants

"There is nothing wrong with taking safety precautions, but when you are constantly dousing yourself and your groceries in disinfectant, it demonstrates you don't trust the advice from experts and are being overly cautious," said Dana McNeil, a marriage and family therapist and founder of The Relationship Place in San Diego.

Hygiene is important; hygiene theater especially when it stems from anxiety should be

addressed. When the urge to be overprotective strikes, McNeil said to remind yourself that you're taking the proper precautions already. One good-size squirt of hand sanitizer should remove the germs; you don't need four to five coats to do the trick. If you can't ignore the overwhelming pull to over-clean, it's definitely worth chatting with a mental health professional.

You believe everyone you love will die from the virus

Excessive worry over your health often prompts you to jump to the worst-case scenario. "Having a debilitating fear of doing an activity and only being able to envision a catastrophic outcome from performing the activity is a sign that you have heightened anxiety," McNeil said.

Yes, severe disease and death is an outcome of COVID-19. But there are also other outcomes. Yes, it's possible you can catch the virus at the store. But there are also preventive measures you can take to ensure you're safe.

"You don't need to live in the world, treating yourself as if your worst-case scenario has already happened," McNeil added. "You are punishing yourself with unnecessary pain now and stripping yourself of the ability to be present in the moment so that you can take necessary precautions or to have your wits around you as you enter a potentially unsafe situation."

You're avoiding medical care

"When some people have intense fear of a potential health problem, they may intentionally miss or not schedule appointments, whether it's a routine checkup or a specific health concern, in fear of being diagnosed with a serious illness," said David Harari, a psychiatrist and the director of behavioral health at K Health.

He noted that it's important to keep up with regular visits and to consult with a doctor if you're having a health issue you're concerned about. "Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to your health," he said.

And if any of these warning signs rings a bell, reach out to a mental health professional. It's possible to navigate the pandemic without exacerbating your anxiety, and a therapist can tailor your coping methods to your specific needs.

Experts are still learning about COVID-19. The information in this story is what was known or available as of publication, but guidance can change as scientists discover more about the virus. Please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the most updated recommendations.

Huffpost

Quick morning reflection could make you a better leader, finds study

Agencies

Starting your day by thinking about what kind of leader you want to be can make you more effective at work, a new study held by the University of Florida has found.

"It's as simple as taking a few moments in the morning while you're drinking your coffee to reflect on who you want to be as a leader," said Remy Jennings, a doctoral student in the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business, who authored the study in the journal Personnel Psychology with UF management professor Klodiana Lanaj.

When study participants took that step, they were more likely to report helping co-workers and providing strategic vision than on days they didn't do the morning reflection. They also felt more leaderlike on those days, perceiving more power and influence in the office.

The effects also extended to aspiring leaders.

"Leadership is really challenging, so a lot of people are hesitant to tackle leadership roles or assignments," Lanaj said. "Reflecting a few minutes in the morning really makes a difference."

And unlike being given extra responsibility or lead-



ing a team project, a morning reflection is under the employee's control.

"They're not dependent on their organisation to provide formal opportunities. They don't have to wait until they have that title that says they're a leader to take on leadership in their work," Jennings said.

Want to try a morning leadership boost? Here are some prompts recommended by the researchers.

- 1. What are some of your proudest leadership moments?
- 2. What qualities do you have that make you a good leader, or will in the future?
- 3. Think about who you

aspire to be as a leader, then imagine everything has gone as well as it possibly could in this leadership role. What does that look like?

4. What effect do you want to have on your employees? Do you want to motivate them? Inspire them? Identify and develop their talents?

5. What skills or traits do you have that can help with those goals?

Whether you're the boss or on your way up the ladder, "this is a tool to be more effective at work," Lanaj said. "Just a few minutes can entirely change your focus for the rest of your day."

Agencies

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago analyzed gene expression in fresh brain tissue and found that gene expression in some cells actually increased after death.

In the hours after we die, certain cells in the human brain are still active. Some cells even increase their activity and grow to gargantuan proportions, according to new research from the University of Illinois Chicago.

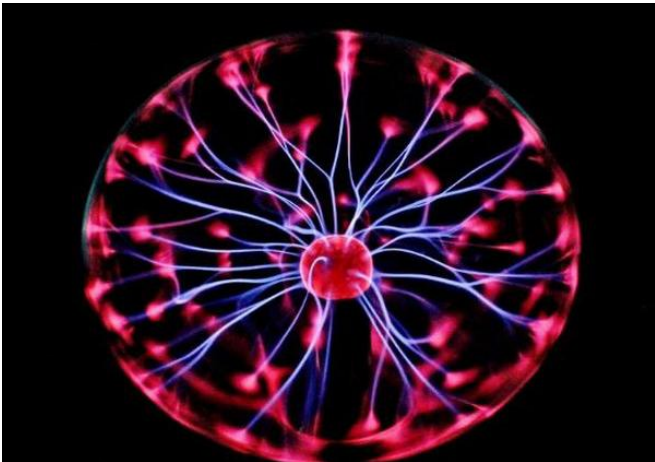
In a newly published study in the journal Scientific Reports, the UIC researchers analyzed gene expression in fresh brain tissue -- which was collected during routine brain surgery -- at multiple times after removal to simulate the post-mortem interval and death. They found that gene expression in some cells actually increased after death.

These 'zombie genes' -- those that increased expression after the post-mortem interval -- were specific to one type of cell: inflammatory cells called glial cells. The researchers observed that glial cells grow and sprout long arm-like appendages for many hours after death.

"That glial cells enlarge after death isn't too surprising given that they are inflammatory and their job is to clean things up after brain injuries like oxygen deprivation or stroke," said Dr. Jeffrey Loeb, the John S. Garvin Professor and head of neurology and rehabilitation at the UIC College of Medicine and corresponding author on the paper.

What's significant, Loeb said,

Research shows some genes come to life in the brain after death



is the implications of this discovery -- most research studies that use postmortem human brain tissues to find treatments and potential cures for disorders such as autism, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease, do not account for the post-mortem gene expression or cell activity.

"Most studies assume that everything in the brain stops when the heart stops beating, but this is not so," Loeb said. "Our findings will be needed to interpret research on human brain tissues. We just haven't quantified these changes until now."

Loeb and his team noticed that the global pattern of gene expression in fresh human brain tissue didn't match any of the published reports of postmortem brain gene expression from people without neurological disorders or from people with a wide variety of neurological disorders, ranging from autism to Alzheimer's.

"We decided to run a simulated death experiment by looking at the expression of all human genes, at time points from 0 to 24 hours, from a large block of recently collected brain tissues, which were allowed to sit at room temperature to replicate the postmortem interval," Loeb said.

Loeb and colleagues are at a particular advantage when it comes to studying brain tissue. Loeb is director of the UI NeuroRepository, a bank of human brain tissues from patients with neurological disorders who have consented to having tissue collected and stored for research either after they die, or during standard of care surgery to treat disorders such as epilepsy.

For example, during certain surgeries to treat epilepsy, epileptic brain tissue is removed to help eliminate seizures. Not all of the tissue is needed for pathological diagnosis, so some can be used for

research. This is the tissue that Loeb and colleagues analyzed in their research.

They found that about 80% of the genes analyzed remained relatively stable for 24 hours -- their expression didn't change much. These included genes often referred to as housekeeping genes that provide basic cellular functions and are commonly used in research studies to show the quality of the tissue.

Another group of genes, known to be present in neurons and shown to be intricately involved in human brain activity such as memory, thinking and seizure activity, rapidly degraded in the hours after death. These genes are important to researchers studying disorders like schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease, Loeb said.

A third group of genes -- the 'zombie genes' -- increased their activity at the same time the neuronal genes were ramping down. The pattern of post-mortem changes peaked at about 12 hours.

"Our findings don't mean that we should throw away human tissue research programs, it just means that researchers need to take into account these genetic and cellular changes, and reduce the post-mortem interval as much as possible to reduce the magnitude of these changes," Loeb said.

"The good news from our findings is that we now know which genes and cell types are stable, which degrade, and which increase over time so that results from postmortem brain studies can be better understood," he added.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENIGNEER
ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-TENDER NIT NO.12/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 04/2021

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate from approved and eligible Registered Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	CDR for Successful Bidder	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Annual maintenance of repairs/renovation of wave/Kent water purifiers fixed at various dwellings Qtrs./Flats/ Bungalows etc. Under the Jurisdiction of Left sub Division Estates Department Srinagar for the year 2021-22.	15000/-	600/-	Financial Year 2021-22	DEE	2216 Non Plan
2.	Annual maintenance of repairs/renovation of wave/Kent water purifiers fixed at various dwellings Qtrs./Flats/ Bungalows etc. Under the Jurisdiction of Right sub Division Estates Department Srinagar for the year 2021-22.	10000/-	600/-		DEE	
3.	Scientific Cleaning and sterilization of Drinking water Storage Tanks using Six Stage Tan clean Methodology at Various Assets (Bungalows/Buildings/Quarters) Under the Jurisdiction of Right Sub Division Estates Department Srinagar.	6000/-	600/-		DEE	
4.	Scientific Cleaning and sterilization of Drinking water Storage Tanks using Six Stage Tan clean Methodology at Various Assets (Bungalows/Buildings/Quarters) except Civil Secretariat and New Assembly complex Under the Jurisdiction of Left Sub Division Estates Department Srinagar.	9000/-	600/-		DEE	

Position of AAA:

Position of funds:

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07.04.2021 from 3.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	07.04.2021 from 3.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	12.04.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.04.2021 at 11.00 AM.

1. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, 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 Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. 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)
3. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce the CDR amount shown in the column-3 of the NIT as performance Security in shape of CDR/ FDR within 02 Days of declaration of 1st lowest and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.
4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- 6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- 6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
9. 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.
10. Price escalation and Taxes:- The rate quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction 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.
11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on Estates e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
12. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
13. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

Sd/-

DIPK-258/21

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/193-02/2021-22 /T-1
Dated: -07-04-2021

Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer, PHE Division Sopore

TENDER NOTICE

GIST.E-NIT No. 02 of 04 / 2021 ,issued under No. 118 -140 Date: 07/04/2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Double Cover System) are invited on item wise from approved and registered Govt contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Technical Sanction No.
01	Composite Tender for Commissioning of water supply scheme, by way of construction and allied items of 0.09 RSFP, OHT for WSS Sadiq Colony Under Langushing.	Rs. 29.00 Lacs	Rs. 2900.00	45 Days	23/04/2021 (11:00 AM)	AAV/BEE	Langushing	Accorded vide No. SE/ Hyd/DB/111-AAA of 2019 Dated 23/09/2019	23 of 03/2021 Dt. 13/03/2021
02	Fresh to ENIT No. 07 of 09/2020 S No. 01 Construction/Successful Testing and commissioning of RCC Pre Settling tank 2" along with washout arrangements /sluice chamber for WSS Ningli Ghat under Langushing	Rs. 20.29 Lacs	Rs. 2000.00	45 Days		BEE/CEE	Langushing	Accorded vide No. CE/ PHE/DB/96 of 09/2019 Dated 16/09/2019	21 of 03/2021 Dt. 03/03/2021
03	Fresh to ENIT No. 11 of 12/2020 S No. 01 Testing commissioning of RSFP by completion of balance work, construction of desludging sump/pump house, construction of sluice chamber incl. Laying and fitting of supply mains/distribution network for WSS Muqdamyari Bakshibal under NABARD	Rs. 55.00 Lacs	Rs. 5500.00	45 Days		AAY	NABARD	Accorded vide No. CE/PHE/DB/58 OF 02/2018 Dated 03/02/2018	SE Hyd/DB/TS/23 of 03/2020-21 Dated 27/03/2021
04	Fresh to ENIT No. 11 of 12/2020 S No. 03 Balance work for completion of 0.08 MGD RSFP incl. Allied works for WSS Batgund.	Rs. 11.27 Lacs	Rs. 1100.00	15 Days		BEE/CEE	Langushing	Accorded Vide No. 104-AAA of 2019 Dated 23/09/2019	01 of 04/2021 Dated 06/04/2021

The N.I.T of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Bids must be uploaded on Jketenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore (tender inviting authority)

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

01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice .	07/04/2021 (06:00 PM)
02	Start of Downloading	08/04/2021 (09:00 AM)
03	Bid Submission Start Date	08/04/2021 (09:00 AM)
04	Bid submission end date	22/04/2021 (04:00 PM)
05	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	23/04/2021 (11:00 AM)

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jketenders.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 the Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore. (Tender receiving authority) The opening authority may reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

1. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids
2. The tenders who wish to participate shall have to submit/upload the Bid Decleration form stating their in that, if he is declared L1, after opening of final bid, he will submit the Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as required under rules strictly in accordance to the advertised cost of each work/works.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

- a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- 7.Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 1-1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - 1-2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
 - 1-3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - 1-4 /Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - 1-5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Beside , original/Photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted by L-1 after opening of financial bid.
 - 1-6 The ENIT No. advertised cost and S No. of the work shall be written on the e-challan/treasury receipt and date of e-challan/treasury receipt shall be after date of issuance of tender notice without which no tender document shall be accepted and is liable to be rejected.
 - 1-7 No Extension of date shall be considered henceforth with respect to depositing of earnest money / E-Challan/Treasury Receipt as enough time is made available from the date of issue of NIT up to last date for submission of bids.
 - 1-8 The bidders who do not qualify as per above terms their price bids would not be opned up and would be declared as disqualified one.
 - 1-9 The successful bidders are bound to attend the divisional office of the opening authority within two days positively for issue of necessary allotment order and fulfillment of other codal formalities laid down in the said NIT.
 - 1-10 The successful bidder if fails to adhere the instructions within the stipulated time as are given to him for fulfillment of the contract, the work be allotted in favour of the next lowest bidder at his risk and cost and has bear cost differentiation and forfeiture of CDR of has to face blacklisting.
 - 1-11 Executive Engineer is authorized to accept /reject any or all tenders with out assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Engineer,
PHE Division Sopore

DIPK-253/21

No. EE/PHE/CIVIL/SPR/118-140
Dated: 07/04/2021

Kashmiri Artisan Gets Registered As "Producers Owned Company"

JAMMU: In a significant step towards the self-reliance of the artisans of Jammu and Kashmir, many clusters were developed under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) with an objective of reviving the traditional crafts and providing gainful employment opportunities to youth.

One such cluster, Crewel/Chain Stitch Artisan Cluster at Noorbagh, first artisan clusters developed under the project, has been registered as the "Producers Owned Company" by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

The artisan cluster has been issued the certificate of incorporation by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the name "NOORAARI CRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED".

With the Artisan Craft Cluster obtaining the coveted registration from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, GOI, the artisans associated with the cluster now see a renewed hope in being associated with the traditional crafts of crewel/chainstitch.

About 600 artisans associated with this cluster see it as an achievement of one of the major milestones towards the development of the first artisan owned producer company in the Valley.

"For the holistic development of the artisans, craft clusters under JTFRP are designed in a such a manner so as to bring a group of scattered artisans under one umbrella and to impart them with as much skillsets related to their craft as possible and also to develop their managerial capabilities", Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTFRP, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said.

He added that such clusters would enable them to function as sustainable and profitable artisan owned business enterprises and uplift them economically.

Dr. Abid said that it is moment of pride and immense satisfaction to see the Noorbagh Artisan cluster registered as a "producers owned company".

He added that under JTFRP we have also taken up the development of more clusters for different traditional crafts like Papier Machie (Zadibal), Willow wicker (Ganderbal), Wool and Pashmina (Bandipore) to provide artisans skill enhancement, product development trainings and develop market linkages for their products with an objective of promoting the sustainable livelihoods under the traditional cottage industry sector.

It has been conceived and developed under the component

of the Restoration and Strengthening of the Livelihoods of the JTFRP with an objective of reviving the traditional crafts and providing the gainful employment opportunities to youth.

"Divorced with 2 kids, I was totally dependent on my relatives financially, but after having received the skill enhancement training at the Noorbagh artisan cluster, I am now able to earn 800-1000 per day which is enough for me to sustain a family of 3 without being dependent on any of my relatives," says Shaheena, one of the artisans at the cluster.

Another artist Maimoona associated with the cluster says, "I had given up the craft owing to its diminishing economic returns and exploitation of the middle men but after having received training in the product development which made artisans aware about the latest design trends in market and also with the assured market support for our products I see lot of hope in the craft".

The Artisan Cluster which is now in its 3 year of existence after initial skill assessment of the artisans associated with the crafts of crewel and chain stitch has been focussing on imparting the artisans with the much needed skill enhancement in the areas of the product development-developing the new prototypes, use of latest colour schemes, utilisation of newly developed good quality raw materials, new techniques besides honing the managerial skills of artisans and providing the marketing linkages for their products.

JTFRP has engaged the services of the consultancy for the development of the crewel/chain stitch cluster at Noorbagh which has been tasked with the responsibility of developing the capacities of the artisans in all the aspects of skill development, developing managerial skills and developing market linkages for their products and also undertake necessary formalities for the registration of cluster as "Producer Owned Company".

One of the significant aspects of the cluster has been the development of market linkages to the craft cluster for marketing of its products and for that the consultancy has been set a target of providing the cluster with the business of at least Rs 1 Crore and to this end over the last one year the Noorbagh cluster has produced and sold products worth around Rs. 30 lacs approx. They are presently working on the consignment of products for FAB India and are also negotiating with another marketing giant IKEA group for marketing of its products.

Recovery Underway After Worst Global Recession Since World War II: IMF Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The outlook, she asserted, is brighter because millions of people are benefitting from vaccinations and because of further policy support, especially in the US.

Ms Georgieva said this is adding to the exceptional and coordinated actions taken over the past year.

"Without them, without those fiscal and monetary measures, the global contraction last year would have been three times worse. This could have been another Great Depression," she noted.

"We have a good news that there is light at the end of the tunnel. After the worst global recession since the Second World War, the recovery is underway. As you know, yesterday we lifted our global growth forecast to 6 per cent for this year, 4.4 per cent for 2022," Georgieva told reporters at the start of the annual Spring Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank on Wednesday.

Yet, while there is light, the crisis continues to cast a dark shadow. Economic fortunes are diverging dangerously. A small number of advanced and emerging market economies, led by the US and China, are powering ahead. Weaker and poorer countries are falling behind in this multi speed recovery, she rued.

"We also face extremely high uncertainty, especially over the



impact of new virus strains and potential shifts in financial conditions. And, there is the risk of further economic scarring from job losses, learning losses, bankruptcies, extreme poverty, hunger. Policymakers must take the right actions now by giving everyone a fair shot - not just into people's arms, but also in people's lives and in vulnerable," the IMF MD said.

The Global Policy Agenda released by the IMF, she said, focusses on three things: a fair shot at the vaccine, a fair shot at recovery and a fair shot at the future.

"This is perhaps the most consequential decision that any government can make this year. The focus should be on scaling up public investment in green

projects and digital infrastructure, in people's health and education, to ensure that everyone can benefit from the historic transformation to greener, smarter, more inclusive economies," she argued.

"To unlock this potential, countries will need sufficient public revenues, and they would need more efficient spending. In many cases, this will mean more progressive taxation and an agreement on questions like minimum taxation for companies and international tax rights. This has to be coupled with stronger support for poorer countries as they fight the crisis and seek to invest in the future," Georgieva said.

She said the IMF will propose a new Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation of USD 650 billion.

"This will help address the long term global need for reserve assets and provide substantial liquidity boost to all our members, especially the most vulnerable. What this crisis has shown us is just how inescapable our shared destiny is. Now, we must build on this broader sense of common responsibility to foster a fair recovery and a resilient post pandemic world," she said.

Responding to a question, Georgieva said after the global financial crisis, the most important lesson the world learned was that we needed to boost the resilience of the banking system.

WE ALSO FACE EXTREMELY HIGH UNCERTAINTY, especially over the impact of new virus strains and potential shifts in financial conditions. And, there is the risk of further economic scarring from job losses, learning losses, bankruptcies, extreme poverty, hunger.

Hiring Activities Rise In March, Says Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hiring activities rose marginally with job listings rising to 2,436 in March compared to February this year, according to a report. The increase of three per cent in job listings on a month-on-month basis was mainly led by IT-software and retail sectors.

In February, the job listings stood at 2,356.

As per the latest Naukri Job-Speak Index, given the wave of digital transformation, the IT-software sector remains shielded and hiring continued to grow by 11 per cent in March.

The retail sector, which was severely impacted by the pandemic, is also seeing robust revival, with sequential hiring activities seeing an uptick of 15 per cent last month, as per the report.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com website.

Key sectors such as oil and gas (7 per cent), accounting/ taxation/ finance (6 per cent) and telecom/ ISP (5 per cent) showed an uptick in hiring in March compared to February. On the other hand, sectors such as BPO/ITES



(1 per cent) and BFSI (1 per cent) witnessed a flat sequential trend.

With the second wave of COVID, education/ teaching (13 per cent), FMCG (10 per cent) and hotels/ airlines/ travel (8 per cent) sectors experienced a decline in sequential hiring in March, the report said.

All six metros and key tier-II cities witnessed sequential growth in hiring in March, except Kolkata (3 per cent) and Vadodra (2 per cent) that saw a slight decline in hiring.

Ahmedabad registered the highest hiring growth of 13 per cent amongst tier-II cities in March compared to February, the report noted.

Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said that overall hiring activity showed a robust growth of

23 per cent in the January-March 2021 quarter compared to the October-December 2020 quarter.

According to him, the IT sector has been at the forefront of fueling this growth and it is encouraging to see sectors like retail and accounting/ finance also showing promising recovery over the past few months.

"With the economy opening up, recruiters are ready to hire again, and 83 per cent confirmed this in our latest Naukri Hiring Outlook survey," he added.

The demand for professionals in marketing/ advertising (10 per cent) and HR/ administration (8 per cent) roles also saw an uptick in March, while the demand in sales/BD (6 per cent) roles saw a sequential decline.

Choudhary Approves Creation Of Organic Products Certification Agency



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday chaired a meeting of State Seed Sub Committee at Civil Secretariat Srinagar regarding the formulation of nodal agency for certification of organic products in J&K.

After threadbare discussion over the need for creation of certification agency for organic products, Principal Secretary gave his approval for the creation of the agency. A notification to this end will be issued soon.

While giving outline of the agency, Navin Kumar Choudhary said that the agency is known as J&K Organic Products Certification Agency, Kashmir and J&K Organic Products Certification Agency Jammu. He said the agency will certify all the agriculture, horticulture and dairy organic products.

He further said that the agency will be headed by an Agro-Chemist, a Deputy Director rank officer, who will be assisted by at least one district level officer of Agriculture Department and one HDO with expertise in horticulture.

In this regard, he said, Govt will issue a notification giving legal sanctity to the agency. The agency will utilize the infrastructure of agriculture department and agriculture universities of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

Navin Choudhary also said that for effective analysis of products, an assistant professor will also be the member of the agency.

APEDA was nominated as central agency for building the capacity of newly created entities.

The Agency will adopt full process of organic certification as prescribed by National Programme for Organic Production. It was given in the meeting that quarterly review of the functioning of the agency shall be held by Principal Secretary of AP&FWD.

It was also decided that both Directors of Agriculture department will identify at least six organic clusters each where these agencies will start working.

He directed that both Animal Husbandry Directors will nominate well qualified VAS to be included as members of their respective agencies.

Besides, Principal Secretary said that both directors of Agriculture department will contact a reputed agency of the country and organize 14 days training programme for the members of the newly created agencies.

Navin Kumar Choudhary further directed both directors of agriculture for formulation of draft rules, training module and infrastructure requirements for these agencies.

The meeting was attended by members of State Seed Sub Committee including Dir Agriculture, Kashmir; Director Research, SKUAST; Joint Director Agriculture, Extension, Kashmir; Dir Agriculture Inputs, Kashmir; and other members from Kashmir Division.

Secretary, Central Seed Committee cum Deputy Commissioner QC; Dir Agriculture Jammu; Dir, Law Enforcement; Dir Research SKUAST, Jammu; MD, APEDA; Joint Director Agriculture, Extension, Jammu; Dir Agriculture, Inputs Jammu and other members from Jammu Division participated in the meeting virtually.

Mahindra & Mahindra To Launch Premium SUV XUV700 In 2Nd Quarter Of This Fiscal

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd on Thursday said it will launch its premium SUV XUV700 in the second quarter of the ongoing fiscal. The new model, which has been built on the W601 platform, will be manufactured at the company's manufacturing facility at Chakan in Maharashtra, M&M said in a statement.

"The XUV700, one of the most awaited offerings from Mahindra, is sure to hit the sweet spot with customers. Built on the new W601 platform, XUV700 marks the beginning of the next generation of sophisticated and authentic Mahindra SUVs," M&M Ltd CEO—Automotive Division Veejay Nakra said.

It will come with "world class safety features, reaffirming Mahindra's commitment towards safety," the company said.

The upcoming model will



offer both diesel and petrol engines in manual and automatic transmissions, along with optional All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) capabilities, it added.

M&M Chief of Global Product Development R Velusamy said the XUV portfolio has always stood for "creating disruptions and setting new benchmarks" with models such as the XUV500 and the XUV300.

"The XUV700 is built on an all new global SUV platform W601, with expert partners across the world and will boast of first-in-segment technologies and features," Velusamy added. **PTI**

Indian Consumers Foresee A Gloomy Future: RBI Survey



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian consumers have become pessimistic about the current situation and less upbeat about the future, a recent survey by the Reserve Bank of India shows. This, the report adds, will make them less likely to spend big in an economy driven by domestic consumption.

The consumer confidence for the current period weakened in March, the report pointed out. As per the Consumer Confidence Survey, the current situation index dipped further in the negative territory on the back of deteriorating sentiments on general economic situation, income and prices.

Respondents expressed lower optimism for the year ahead, which was reflected in the future expectations index (FEI). However, one-year ahead sentiments on all major parameters except prices, however, remained in positive terrain.

With higher essential spending vis-a-vis a year ago, most consumers reported higher overall expenditure, expected to increase further in the coming year despite continuing moderation in discretionary spending, the report concluded.

Also, the survey pointed to well-entrenched inflation expectations, which is an added challenge for monetary policy makers who were forced to pause interest rate cuts last year because of gains in price-growth. Sticky underlying price pressures since then have kept the rate-setters from resuming the easing, including at their latest meeting that concluded Wednesday.

Households' median inflation perception for the current period as well as for the three-months ahead increased by 50 basis points to 8.7% and by 80 bps to 10.1%, respectively, compared to the January 2021 survey, the RBI said. Median inflation expectations for one-year ahead also remained at an elevated level.

The survey was conducted through field interviews from February 27 to March 08, 2021, in thirteen major cities, viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, and Thiruvananthapuram.

NEWS MAKERS

Luxury Recrafted. The New BMW 6 Series Launched In India

NEW DELHI: German luxury car-maker BMW on Thursday said it has launched the updated version of 6 Series sedan in India with price starting at Rs 67.9 lakh (ex-showroom).

The petrol-powered 630i M Sport is priced at Rs 67.9 lakh, while the two diesel trims—630d M Sport and BM 620d Luxury Line—are tagged at Rs 68.9 lakh and Rs 77.9 lakh, respectively.

"The new BMW 6 Series re-crafts luxury and adds a truly unique dimension to the executive class segment," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said during the launch event.

The model has the practicality of a crossover, the dynamics of a sports car, the silhouette of a fastback and the luxury of a se-



dan, he added.

"The personality of the BMW 6 Series distinguishes it clearly from the crowd and is the reason for its long-lasting success. It is the vehicle of choice for modern leaders who expect the best luxury and comfort when they are at the rear," Pawah noted.

The company will roll out the

model from its Chennai-based manufacturing plant.

The 2-litre petrol engine of the 630i generates a maximum output of 258 hp with 0-100 kmph acceleration in just 6.5 seconds.

The 2-litre diesel engine of the 620d develops a maximum output of 190 hp with 0-100 kmph acceleration in 7.9 seconds.

Similarly, the 3-litre 6-cylinder in-line diesel engine of 630d produces maximum output of 265hp with 0-100 kmph acceleration in 6.1 seconds, making it the quickest car in its segment, the automaker said.

The 6 Series sedan comes with eight-speed automatic transmission and various luxury features like air suspension and rear seat entertainment module. **PTI**

Saudi Crown Prince's Reputation Taints Plan To Open Saudi Economy

On Tahlia Street, a busy commercial boulevard in central Riyadh, a rotating digital billboard shows ads for oud fragrance, white boxer shorts, and a glittering diamond watch. Then comes an image of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman seated at a desk, with one of his latest soundbites: "Saudi Arabia plans to spend more in the next 10 years than it has in the past 300."

The poster went up hours after the prince unveiled new steps to bolster the economy on March 30. These were the latest in a series of initiatives since the beginning of the year that have reminded Saudis who's in charge of the kingdom. The subliminal message is that any mistakes from the past five years are firmly behind the 35-year-old prince.

Yet internationally, the Saudi heir has two stains on his record that he can't seem to make go away: the war in Yemen and the 2018 murder and dismemberment of critic and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. With a less pro-Saudi White House, these threaten to undermine Prince Mohammed's economic transformation plan, which relies at least partly on Western money.

Ministry of Tourism Team To Visit Valley On April 11

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A high-level delegation from India's Ministry of Tourism (MoT) along with the team of Incredible India is scheduled to visit Kashmir for a four-day visit, beginning April 11 to further, enhance the Valley's tourism prospectus.

Secretary Tourism, Government of India, ADG Tourism, senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Incredible India team, Ambassadors

from different countries, members of the India Golf Tourism Association, Trade and Advocacy community, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be among the delegation of over 100 members.

The delegation will also meet with the Government officials of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as senior Tourism officials during their visit.

The high-level delegation under the Theme of "Another Day In Paradise"

during their four-day visit would be tapping the unexplored Tourist potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

An official said that the delegation comprising the senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism, team of Incredible India, Members of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), members of Indian Golf Tourism Association (IGTA) will be on a four-day visit to the valley beginning at 11 April.

While talking about some of the key

events during their stay he said, the experts will touch upon the various strategies on how best in a post-pandemic world the foreign tourists can be increased.

"The panel will touch upon various niche tourism product of the state including the Adventure Tourism, Wedding Tourism, Film Tourism and Golf Tourism, and during their stay the Culture, Heritage and Culinary Tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir will also be showcased," he said—(KNO)

ASI Probe Ordered Into Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanwapi Mosque Dispute

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW/VARANASI: A Varanasi court on Thursday ordered an archaeological survey of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Gyanwapi mosque premises to resolve a lingering dispute involving the two shrines.

The order was given by a senior division civil court on a plea pending before it since 2019, petitioner counsel Vijay Shankar Rastogi said.

Reacting to the Varanasi court order, UP Sunni Central Waqf Board in Lucknow said it will challenge the subordinate court's order in the Allahabad High Court.

In his order, a senior civil judge of the fast-track court in Varanasi asked the Uttar Pradesh government to get examined the disputed premises by a five-member team of the Archaeological Survey of India at its expense.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Three Militants

the gunfight turned intense, another army man sustained injuries in the exchange of fire. Both the soldiers have been shifted to army's Badami Bagh hospital here for treatment.

In a tweet put out on its official handle, Kashmir police claimed killing three unknown militants in the ongoing operation.

In another Tweet, police claimed that Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGUH) chief has been trapped in the village and the operation was underway.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar and GOC Victor force also rushed to Shopian to monitor the encounter and any possible law and order situation.

Suspected Militant

came up during his interrogation.

Both Ali and Naveed were operating from Kuwait, and their involvement in militant activities surfaced during the investigation of a case lodged in Mendhar police station last year following the killing of two Pakistani militants affiliated with the JK Ghaznavi Force in an encounter at Surankote in Poonch on December 13.

After the arrest of Ali in February, the NIA took over the case, the officials said.

Naveed is believed to have been deported from a Gulf country and was brought to India under strict supervision. He was flown to Jammu for handing over to the NIA, the officials said.

A police investigation had revealed that Ali facilitated the entry of the two militants from the Dabbi area of Balakote on the intervening night of November 24 and 25 last year at the behest of Pakistani handler Sultan, the officials said.

Ali headed a network of overground workers who were behind smuggling of arms and ammunition, besides narcotics.

Ali's father Mushtaq Ahmed and sister Raskeem Akhter were arrested by Poonch police on September 11 for receiving the arms consignment from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, and an FIR stands registered in Mendhar in this connection, police had said.

Earlier, five overground workers -- Mushtafa, Mohd Yaseen, Younis, Irfan and Raskeem -- were arrested for their alleged involvement in the militant network led by Ali. A huge cache of arms and ammunition, including five pistols, 13 grenades and one live improvised explosive device (IED), had been recovered from them.

In addition, police had said that over two kg heroin, worth over Rs eight crore in the international market, was recovered from this network.

The money generated from the sale of the narcotics was meant to be used for militant-financing.

J&K Logs 835

to 135662 across J&K, officials said.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 349, Baramulla 74, Budgam 24, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 31, Anantnag 22, Bandipora 18, Ganderbal 7, Kulgam 18, Shopian 4, Jammu 148, Udhampur 35, Rajouri 9, Doda 4, Kathua 20, Samba 8, Kishtwar 4, Poonch 3, Ramban 2and Reasi 47 fresh cases of infection.

Also, one more person— an 80-year-old patient from Singhpora Baramulla—died due to the virus, taking the total toll to 2019–745 in Jammu region and 1274 in Kashmir.

Moreover, officials said, 246 more COVID-19 patients have recovered—22 from Jammu Division and 224 from Kashmir Division. The number of active cases rose to 5623–1688in Jammu and 3935 in Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

Night Curfew Imposed

the Divisional administration to impose Corona curfew from 10 pm to 6 am in the urban areas of 8 districts affected by the recent #COVID spike. These districts are Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Anantnag and Kupwara," tweeted the LG.

"The curfew will be in force in the municipal limits of the Urban Local Bodies of these districts. This will come into effect from Friday, 9 April 2021; 10 pm. Reasi District will be under close observation for any possible spikes in cases."

SC Rejects

the sub-jail in Jammu.

The apex court noted that two serious allegations have been made in the Centre's reply in the matter which relates to threat to internal security and that agents and touts are providing a safe passage into India for illegal immigrants due to the porous nature of landed borders.

The bench also noted the Centre's contention that a similar application challenging the deportation of Rohingyas from Assam was dismissed by the top court in October 2018.

Therefore, it is not possible to grant the interim relief prayed for. However, it is made clear that the Rohingyas in Jammu, on whose behalf the present application is filed, shall not be deported unless the procedure prescribed for such deportation is followed. Interlocutory application is disposed of accordingly, the bench said in its order.

It is also true that the rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 are available to all persons who may or may not be citizens. But the

right not to be deported, is ancillary or concomitant to the right to reside or settle in any part of the territory of India guaranteed under Article 19(1)(e), it said.

The bench also noted there is no denial of the fact that India is not a signatory to the refugee convention.

Therefore, serious objections are raised, whether Article 51(c) of the Constitution can be pressed into service, unless India is a party to or ratified a convention, it said.

But there is no doubt that the national courts can draw inspiration from international conventions/treaties, so long as they are not in conflict with the municipal law. Regarding the contention raised on behalf of the petitioners about the present state of affairs in Myanmar, we have to state that we cannot comment upon something happening in another country, the bench said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the petitioners who are Rohingya refugees, had referred to a recent judgement of the International Court of Justice and said that it has taken note of the genocide of Rohingyas in Myanmar and lives of these refugees are in serious danger, if they are deported.

The petitioners had argued that Rohingyas were persecuted in Myanmar even when an elected government was in power and now the elected government has been overthrown by a military coup, so the danger is imminent.

The bench noted in its order that according to the petitioners, new circumstances have arisen as revealed by media reports to the effect that about 150-170 Rohingya refugees detained in a sub-jail in Jammu face deportation back to Myanmar.

It noted that reports that appeared in the media were relied upon to show that there are more than about 6,500 Rohingyas in Jammu and that they have been illegally detained and jailed in a sub-jail now converted into a holding centre.

The Centre had filed its reply in the apex court saying that persons, for whose protection against deportation the application was filed, are foreigners within the meaning of section 2(a) of the Foreigners Act 1946 and India is not a signatory either to the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees 1951 or to the Protocol of the year 1967.

It had said that since India has open or porous land borders with many countries, there is a continuous threat of influx of illegal immigrants and such influx has posed serious national security ramifications.

The Centre had also contended that decision of the International Court of Justice has no relevance to the application filed in matter.

It had said that the Union of India generally follows the procedure of notifying the government of the country of origin of the foreigners and order their deportation only when it is confirmed by the government of the country of origin that the persons concerned are citizens/nationals of that country and they are entitled to come back.

The bench noted in its order that the petitioners are Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and they are housed in a refugee camp.

It appears that persons similarly placed like the petitioners are housed in refugee camps in New Delhi, Haryana, Allahabad, Jammu and various other places in India, it noted.

The Centre had earlier opposed the plea saying the country cannot be the capital for illegal immigrants.

Violent attacks allegedly by Myanmar army have led to an exodus of Rohingya tribals from the western Rakhine state in that country to India and Bangladesh.

Many of them, who had fled to India after the earlier spate of violence, have settled in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan.

ED To Quiz

Mehbooba Mufti for five hours in Srinagar in a case related to money laundering.

Earlier on March 5, ED had issued summons to Mehbooba asking her to appear before the agency for questioning in a money laundering case in New Delhi on March 15.

ED later asked her to appear at its headquarters in New Delhi for questioning on March 22 after Delhi High Court on March 19 refused to stay summons issued to her by the central agency.

Is RTO Authority

Act 1988 within a prescribed period of 15 days, failing which action as warranted shall be initiated against them.

The Advocate General submitted before a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey that no cause of action has accrued to the petitioner—Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Jawaharnagar Srinagar—with reference to violation of any of his rights as regards the action taken by the officials.

He further submitted that in implementation and adherence to the law and in application of Section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, read with Section 50 and 54, the officials have the authority to seek registration of the vehicle which remained in the J&K for a period exceeding 12 months.

Earlier, Faisal Qadri, senior counsel for the petitioner, invited attention of the Court to section 46, 47 and 50 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, to indicate that the scheme of law provides that when a motor vehicle registered in one State has been kept in another State, for

a period exceeding twelve months, the owner of the vehicle shall, within such period and in such form containing such particulars as may be prescribed by the Central Government, apply to the Registering Authority, within whose jurisdiction the vehicle then is, for the assignment of a new registration mark.

Therefore, he submitted that it is the Central Government which can prescribe the period and form in which the vehicle is required to be registered by the registering authority.

He also submitted that in the event the RTO Kashmir's circular is given effect, it will frustrate the object of Section 47 which is sought to be implemented by the RTO Kashmir.

In support of his submissions, the senior counsel also referred to and relied upon the judgment of the High Court of Karnataka delivered— Jagdev Biradar v. State of Karnataka.

"Prima facie there appears to be a consensus over the fact that while adhering to the provisions of law, the Competent Authority can seek such response from the owners whose vehicle remains in the State other than the one from where the vehicle is purchased for a period exceeding 12 months, but the question is raised as to who that Competent Authority is?"

Subsequently, "feeling it appropriate", the court asked that to file their response so that the controversy is set at rest.

The government has been asked to file the reply by or before April 15.

"The appearance of the Advocate General in the matter is expected to take care of the apprehension that the senior counsel for the petitioner has projected vis-à-vis seizure of the vehicles at the hands of the Police under the garb of the impugned circular." (GNS)

HC Puts Physical

to learned counsel for both the parties for taking up their respective matter through physical mode subject to their consent.

It was given out that on the written consent for physical appearance, (with case details, the name of the court in which case is pending and CNR number of the case) the Presiding officer of the concerned court taking into consideration the urgency involved, apart from virtual hearing, may, where the learned counsel for the parties/parties in person involved give their consent to appear for physical hearing, permit physical hearing in Criminal trials where accused is/are in custody, Matrimonial Cases, Cases under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, Compromise matters or in any other matters, as deemed desirable in the courts under his/her jurisdiction.

With regard to the Motor Accident claims pending before MACT, the parties shall approach the Presiding officer MACT directly through virtual mode for grant of permission for appearance physically.

Besides for filing of the fresh Petitions, it shall be incumbent upon all Presiding Officers to get the Petitions, so received by them through virtual mode, generated at the Institution/Filing counter so that the file is properly diarized on OS.

Meanwhile, for further enquiry regarding written consent for physical appearance, concerned persons may contact any of the officials of the e-court section. Faheem Manzoor, System officer 9906733228, Syeda Tawheed, System assistant, 9596032667, Shaista Jalal, System assistant, 9622673007, Ahmed Hussain, System assistant, 9682191946 and Helpline Zahoor Ahmed 9419344448.

The courts have been directed to function in batches with 25 percent reduction on rotation basis. The roster in this regard shall be formulated by the concerned Presiding Officer of the court. The officials, who as per the roster are not on duty in the office, shall not leave the station and shall remain available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times.

Further, the staff on duty in courts and the counsel appearing physically have been directed to take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of masks and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Government from time to time.

Health Dept

as the tenure of one year stands expired on 31.03.2021 till further orders are received from the higher authorities.

"All the Chief Medical Officers/Medical Superintendents and other Territorial Offices shall ensure that no contractual employee is working at their respective districts from 01.04.2021 and in the event of non-compliance of instructions, the concerned CMO/Medical Superintendent and other Territorial Offices will be responsible for litigation(s), if any, held thereafter," the circular added—(KNO)

MeT Predicts

gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.4 degree Celsius against 5.2 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 1.9 degree Celsius against 1.7 degree Celsius on the earlier night and had a rainfall of 0.4mm during the time, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.0 degree Celsius against previous night's 3.5 degree Celsius and had 0.7mm of rain in the 24 hours, the official said.

Kupwara recorded a low of 2.6 degree Celsius against 4.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

The meteorological department has forecast dry weather for now.

"Mainly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, with very light rain/thundershowers developing towards late afternoon," the weatherman said for the forecast in next 24 hours. For subsequently two days, the official said that the weather will stay "mainly dry". (GNS)

Highway To Be Closed

–Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world. Earlier Friday days used to be dry days for carrying out the repairs on the strategic thoroughfare. As per a communiqué by Joint Director (Plg) PW(R&B) Department to Additional Director General of Police, Traffic, J&K-Jammu, "traffic dry days are for undertaking major repairs and maintenance works on the highway."

"It has been decided that all Wednesday(s) falling on 14th, 21st, and 28th of April, 2021 and 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of May, 2021 would be Traffic Dry Day on NH-44", it reads.

The Joint Director (Plg) PW(R&B) Department, as per the communiqué, has asked Additional Director General of Police, Traffic, J&K-Jammu to kindly advise concerned traffic officers/officials to notify the information for facilitation of the maintenance works on NH-44.

Meanwhile, on Friday (April 9), subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu, a traffic department official said.

Each Dept To

secretary) in their departments for the purpose and share detail with the Information department and the General Administration Department," reads the communiqué from G.L. Sharma, deputy secretary, GAD to administrative departments.

The letter was written to administrative secretaries on March 23, 2021.

Subsequently, the departments have begun the process of appointing nodal officers for responding to media reports about functioning of their departments.

So far, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Industries and Commerce department, Transport department and others have

nominated nodal officers for the assignment.

Ex-KU VC

sympathies and solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief, the varsity said in a statement.

"Prof Punjabi's contributions to the growth and development of this university will always be remembered and recalled," they said.

Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean Colleges, Dean Research, Deans of various Faculties on the campus, Heads of teaching Departments, Officers of the Registry and members from the ministerial staff also condoled the sad demise of Prof Riyaz Punjabi and expressed their solidarity with the bereaved family.

Former VC, Jammu University, Prof Amitabh Mattoo said that Punjabi will be missed for his deep faith in the idea of India.

"Very sad to hear of the passing away of Professor Riyaz Punjabi. Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, larger than life, a friend of friends, one of the strongest defenders of Kashmiriyat, Riyaz Sahib will be missed also for his deep faith in the idea of India," he tweeted.

‘Shroud Stealer’

the originator of these words but had heard them from a local baker who was later hanged from a bridge. "The baker's body was kept hanging for seven days," says Ahad, a retired tourism official.

Whenever these crown enforcers would pass through Srinagar, the defiant Kashmiris hiding inside the serpentine alleys of Dalgate would shout "Kafan Chuur ha draav" (Shroud stealer has set off).

This reciprocation within just a few days of its reuse, spread like a wildfire across the area and made its way into the Maharaja's court.

Nav Narayan, one of the most important people of the regime in the valley, on a pitiful day was called into the courtyard of Maharaja Hari Singh.

Singh's sources had informed him about Narayan's illegal activities of looting from the royal treasure. The monarch, immediately after seeing Narayan in his court, asked the police to lock him in the dungeon. But the monarch's anger turned vicious when Narayan shouted back: "Kafan Chuur"

In return for his challenging words, Nav Narayan was decreed with a death penalty and hanged from the same bridge where he had read the decree for the baker.

"Words like 'Kafan Chuur' stemmed from the suppressive atmosphere of the valley and were enough to anguish and trouble the evil rulers," continues Ahad while reliving his childhood memories.

Even though many considered this a futile way of passing their time while being confined in their houses or in their business, for GA Rather these words represented a full-fledged resistance against the ruthless regime.

While the exact origin of this connotation remains another shrouded chapter in the chequered history of Kashmir, chronicler Zareef A. Zareef believes that "Kafan Chuur" was just a mythological character that had made its

way into the vale's turbulent politics through Persian and Urdu languages.

"There's no concrete evidence in the few shrouded chapters in Kashmir's history," Zareef, seconded by some scholars, says. "The only available evidence one can find, is the word of mouth."

Interestingly, "Kafan Chuur" made its entry into Kashmir at the same time when the population was being fed upon by the regime raised dirty-men, that accustomed a dreadful character that the locals had given a loathsome name, "Mar'ri Watul".

They were a bunch of musclemen, who were patronized by the monarch to instill fear among the masses but as the rumours had it, they were not the only enforcers raised to prey upon the already manhandled locals.

"Whenever a dead was buried inside a cemetery, a person during the ambient darkness would exhume the dead body and remove its white shroud called Kafan in Kashmiri," says writer ZG Mohammad, who had also heard the story of shroud stealers from a word of mouth of his elders.

"The dead body would then be left naked on the ground for the next day until the grave-diggers had informed relatives of the dead."

The same shroud that the dead was robbed of, was later on, sold to a cloth merchant who would have paid a few pennies to the dreadful character.

The obscurity of these "Kafan Chuur" was such that people had already started to imagine that this new dreadful tribe that had unleashed its terror on the dead, was another ghoulous character raised by the Dogras to suppress the Muslim populated region.

But when the Dogra rule perished in the petrifying fall of 1947, many of the regime's dirty men absconded forever but the obscure "Kafan Chuur" had once again made its way into early nineties when an "emergency emissary" arrived in the defiant valley.

Through the dark misty clouds, dense fog and on ground waiting cops, guard of honour and the civil servants, on the night of January 19, 1990, Mufti Sayeed's "go-getter" finally landed in the erstwhile state. Among his host was inspector Shafi.

"When I saw him coming, I told my colleague, 'Kafan Chuur hai aav' (The shroud stealer is here)," says Sheikh, now in his early 70's and retired.

"That reaction wasn't an abrupt resentment but had a long, blurry history that still perennials in Kashmir."

Missing Youth

started searching him frantically.

"The family had been looking for the youth since March 22 and had even filed a missing report at police post Drugmulla", an official said.

"A case has been registered in this regard and the body will be handed over to the family after conduct of medico-legal formalities", the official added. (GNS)

OGW Nabbed With

arrested person has been identified as Mukhtar Husain Shah, Panjtaran in Karnah.

Nine kilograms of heroin, worth Rs 60 crore was seized from his possession.

"The other absconded involved persons have been identified and efforts are being taken to arrest them," he added.

The spokesperson said the module was in close connection with Pakistan based handlers and involved in drug trade and financially assisting active militants of the valley.

Shopian Teenager

"We tried to contact him via phone, however, his phone was repeatedly switched off following which we contacted every relative, neighbours and his friends but couldn't get any clue about him," they said.

After failing to get any clue from any side, the family has filed his missing report at concerned police station and requested them to help them in tracing their ward.

The family urged Gulzar to return home and requested militant organizations that if he has joined them, then return him back as he is the lone son of Ganaie family with four sisters.

"We don't have anyone without him and he must be returned at the earliest, his missing has left whole family shattered," they said.

Meanwhile, a police officer while confirming that his missing report has been filed said that there are chances that he might have joined militants ranks but efforts are on bring him back—(KNO)

Undertrial Hangs

Singh's body was found hanging inside a bathroom around 2.15 am.

He was pronounced dead by the jail pharmacist, they added.

The body of the deceased was shifted to the Government Medical College Kathua for a post-mortem examination, and it will be handed over to his next of kin after completion of legal formalities, the officials said.

IUST Suspend

departments to arrange additional online classes as per requirement during this period," reads a notice issued by Deputy Registrar Academics of IUST.

Besides, all the examinations scheduled till April 12 have been postponed while new dates shall be notified later, separately, the notice adds.

‘My Dream Is To Be The Highest Wicket-Taker For India,’ Says Mohammed Siraj



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Fast-rising pacer Mohammed Siraj is ready to put in the hard yards and make full use of the opportunities that will help him realise a long-cherished dream of becoming India's highest wicket-taker.

The 27-year-old has played five Tests, one ODI and three T20Is for India so far after making his debut in the shortest format against New Zealand in November, 2017.

Siraj, who plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, said he wants to play all the three formats and credited his success to fellow pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma.

"Jasprit Bumrah used to stand beside me whenever I was bowling. He told me to stick to the basics and not do something extra. It's nice to learn from such an experienced player," Siraj said in a video posted by RCB on its official Twitter handle.

"I even played with Ishant Sharma, he has played 100 Tests. It felt good to share the dressing room with him. My dream is to be the highest wicket-taker for India and I will work hard whenever I get an opportunity."

A key pacer for RCB, Siraj, who has captured 39 wickets in 35 IPL matches, said he was low on confidence when he first joined the squad but a good performance against KKR lifted his spirits.

"Last year, when I joined RCB, I was low on confidence. But when I started bowling with the new ball, I was also bowling on a single wicket, which helped me a lot," he said.

"And then the performance against KKR gave me a lot of confidence. The team culture here is so nice that everyone used to get together and discuss stuff like Virat does."

Siraj said he will look to continue his aggressive bowling after getting

a good feedback from RCB's batting consultant Sanjay Bangar.

"I was talking to Sanjay sir. He told me that my rhythm is good. I am meeting you after so long but you are putting in the same effort that you used to put for the Indian team. Your rhythm, aggression and confidence... it's all looking nice, so continue that."

Siraj has been on an impressive run since making his Test debut in Australia last December.

It was an emotional tour for Siraj as he had lost his father while undergoing quarantine in Australia.

"During Australia tour, I was in quarantine and when we came back from practice, I got to know my father passed away. Unfortunately, no one could come to my room," Siraj said.

"I called home and my fiancée, mother were very supportive and they told me that I need to fulfill my father's dream of seeing me play for India."

Talking about his relation with India bowling coach Bharat Arun, Siraj said: "Arun sir treats me like a son. When I talk to him, it boosts my confidence. When he was in Hyderabad, he always told me to focus on line and length."

"I want to play all three formats for India. Whatever opportunities I get, I want to give my 100 per cent and grab them with both hands. There is a series against England after the IPL, I will give my best."

On living inside a bio-bubble, Siraj said: "Bubble life is really difficult because can't step out. But this is helping players become stronger. Now there is more time to think about performance."

"I was working hard on my fitness during the lockdown, when I bowled during the (Australia) Test series, I realised how much it helped me," he concluded.

I WANT TO PLAY ALL THREE formats for India. Whatever opportunities I get, I want to give my 100 per cent and grab them with both hands. There is a series against England after the IPL, I will give my best."

MI VS RCB, PREVIEW

Formidable MI Aim For Hat-Trick, Kohli Seeks To Win Maiden Title

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Rohit Sharma has a legacy to defend, Virat Kohli would be looking to create one while a "been-there-done-that" Mahendra Singh Dhoni seems ready to pull off a fresh trick when the Indian Premier League starts here on Friday, cooped up in a bio-bubble as a raging pandemic wreaks fresh havoc.

Two editions of IPL within a space of five months isn't an ideal situation for all the stakeholders.

But for the fans at large, exhausted by the second wave of COVID-19 with cases going past the one lakh mark daily, watching towering sixes, toe-crushers and new talents unearthed will be a welcome diversion in the next seven weeks.

The opening encounter will be between defending champions Mumbai Indians and under-achievers Royal Challengers Bangalore here and the big-hitters on both sides will ensure that necessary fireworks will be there even if fans are absent from the stands thanks to the pandemic.

The virus has cast its shadow on the league in the build-up stage with some positive cases among both players and support staff. But with a strict bio-bubble in place for the games, the BCCI would be hoping for a smooth run just like the previous edition in the UAE.

If one looks at the bigger picture, the 14th edition of IPL assumes greater significance as it is being held in a T20 World Cup year and that too in the sub-continent.

If Kohli will keep a 'Hawk Eye' on the performances of his probable list of players, it won't be any different for an Eoin Morgan or a Kieron Pollard, who would also be preparing for the mega-event while giving it their all for their respective franchises.

For Rohit, the most successful captain in the 'IPL Universe' with an unprecedented five titles, he could well walk away with a sixth trophy and the first title hat-trick of this league.

Mumbai Indians, perhaps in the near two decade existence of Twenty20 format, is a side that will be remembered for its aura.

If Rohit fails, then Quinton de Kock will certainly succeed. If both fail, Ishan Kishan and Surya Kumar Yadav could scare the daylight out of the opposition.

And if the top-order is blown away, then the indomitable Pandya brothers (Hardik and Krunal) will be on the rivals' case.



On the outfield, Kieron Pollard will save those extra runs apart from the trademark big hits always expected of him and also bring in the change of pace suited for the Chennai track.

Trent Boult, with his swing, and Rahul Chahar, with his googlies, will also test the batsmen.

Mumbai Indians can only lose on their bad days and on good days, they are going to be a nightmare as England captain Michael Vaughan has already warned.

Rohit's opposite number is the national captain, who is ready to open once again but the squad composition of RCB doesn't inspire the highest confidence.

Glenn Maxwell has again been picked for a bomb and New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson has been made an overnight multi-millionaire by the franchise despite him being untested on Indian dust-bowls.

Devdutt Padikkal will be in his second season with teams analysing him way more and Yuzvendra Chahal seems to have lost his mojo.

Mohammed Siraj and Navdeep Saini do not inspire the highest confidence in in white ball cricket at least despite their gutsy performances in Australia early this year.

Amid all this, Dhoni will be quietly smiling and may be planning differently as it will be a placid Wankhede where CSK will be playing Delhi Capitals instead of sluggish Chepaak on Saturday.

The return of seasoned Suresh Raina, which opens up an option to play Imran Tahir in most games, and the presence of Moeen Ali and Sam Curran as floating all-rounders gives CSK a better look than last time.

Dhoni's faith in uncapped Krishnappa Gowtham also needs a bit of validation.

As Dhoni brings on his years of IPL leadership experience, his ardent "fan" and "disciple" Rishabh Pant is ready to chart his own destiny as a Delhi Capitals leader while taking inspiration from his illustrious senior's captaincy.

Pant 2.0 after his Gabba heroics is the most confident man in Indian cricket currently and with a batting line-up that has Prithvi Shaw, Marcus Stoinis, Shimron Hetmyer along with the experience of Steve Smith and Ajinya Rahane, Capitals would like to finish one better than last time.

Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje's cobtribution will be as important as Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra and Axar Patel's bowling.

Sunrisers Hyderabad is one of the most low profile teams which has been known for on-field exploits. A superb assortment of foreign players comprising the prolific David Warner in batting and world's best T20 bowler Rashid Khan along with Kane Williamson, Jason Holder, Jonny Bairstow and Jason Roy makes them a contender.

Kolkata Knight Riders would expect that Andre Russell gets his six-hitting prowess back while Varun Chakravarthy is more than a one-season wonder. Eoin Morgan, the best white ball international skipper on view, would look for a settled batting order while praying that Sunil Narine isn't again called for a suspect action.

For Punjab Kings, the owners would hope that change in the name brings about a change in luck but a lot would depend on skipper KL Rahul's performance.

He wouldn't mind another 'Orange Cap' while Mohammed Shami would like to make a roaring comeback in international cricket. Chris Gayle, in between, is sure to provide entertainment but the team is certainly not title contender to start with. For Rajasthan Royals, the absence of Jofra Archer first up will certainly rob them off initial momentum and with another wobbly Indian line-up under an inconsistent Sanju Samson at the helm, the heavy-lifting is going to be done by Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Chris Morris. Still, a play-off berth looks highly unlikely as of now.

IPL 14

A List Of Top 5 All Time Individual Records In Indian Premier League



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Premier League is into its 14th season and here's a look at the important statistical records through the past 13 editions.

ALL TIME TOP 5 BATTING RECORDS

Highest Run Scorers
Virat Kohli (RCB) - 5878 runs
Suresh Raina (CSK) - 5368 runs
David Warner (SRH) - 5254 runs
Rohit Sharma (MI) - 5230 runs
Shikhar Dhawan (DC) - 5197 runs

Most Number of 100s
Chris Gayle (Punjab Kings) - 6
Virat Kohli (RCB) - 5
David Warner (SRH) - 4
Shane Watson (Retd) - 4
AB de Villiers (RCB) - 3

Most Number of 50s
David Warner (SRH) - 48
Shikhar Dhawan (DC) - 41
Rohit Sharma (MI) - 39
Virat Kohli (RCB) - 39
Suresh Raina (CSK) - 38

Most Number of 6s
Chris Gayle (Punjab Kings) - 349
AB de Villiers (RCB) - 235
MS Dhoni (CSK) - 216
Rohit Sharma (MI) - 213
Virat Kohli (RCB) - 201

Most Number of 4s
Sikhar Dhawan (DC) - 591
David Warner (SRH) - 510
Virat Kohli (RCB) - 503
Suresh Raina (CSK) - 493
Gautam Gambhir (KKR) - 491

Best Strike Rate
Andre Russell (KKR) - 182.33
Nicholas Pooran (Punjab Kings) - 165.39
Sunil Narine (KKR) - 164.27
Hardik Pandya (MI) - 159.26
Moeen Ali (CSK) - 158.46

Highest Individual Scores
Chris Gayle (Punjab Kings) - 175

(66 balls) for RCB vs *PWI
Brendon McCullum (KKR) - 158 (73 balls) vs RCB
AB de Villiers (RCB) - 133 (59 balls) vs MI
KL Rahul (Punjab Kings) - 132 (69 balls) vs RCB
AB de Villiers (RCB) - 129 (52 balls) vs *Gujarat Lions

ALL TIME TOP 5 BOWLING RECORDS

Highest Wicket-Taker

Lasith Malinga (MI) - 170
Amit Mishra (DC) - 160
Piyush Chawla (MI) - 156
Dwayne Bravo (CSK) - 153
Harbhajan Singh (KKR) - 150

Best Match Figures

Alzarri Joseph (MI) - 6/12 vs SRH
Sohail Tanvir (RR) - 6/14 vs CSK
Adam Zampa (RPS) - 6/19 vs SRH
Anil Kumble (RCB) - 5/5 vs RR
Ishant Sharma (*DC) - 5/12 vs *KTK

Best Economy Rates

Rashid Khan (SRH) - 6.24
Anil Kumble (RCB) - 6.57
Glenn McGrath (DD/*DC) - 6.61
Muttiah Muralitharan (CSK) - 6.67
Roloef van der Merwe (RCB) - 6.74

Best Bowling Averag
Kagiso Rabada (DC) - 18.09
Doug Bollinger (CSK) - 18.72
Dimitri Mascarinas (*KXIP) - 18.73
Ferveez Maharoof (DD*) - 19.25
Lasith Malinga (MI) - 19.80

Most Number of Dots
Harbhajan Singh (CSK) - 1249
Ravichandran Ashwin (DC) - 1170
Bhuvneshwar Kumar (SRH) - 1164
Lasith Malinga (MI) - 1155
Piyush Chawla (MI) - 1148
* Denotes teams whose names have been changed or now-defunct

(Compiled as per records on IPL t20.com)

Tendulkar Discharged From Hospital, To Continue COVID Recovery In Home Isolation



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India captain and batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, who was hospitalised as a precautionary measure after testing positive for COVID-19, was on Thursday discharged and is now recuperating in home isolation here.

The former player, who will turn 48 later this month, posted a statement on Twitter to confirm the development.

"I have just come home from the hospital and will remain isolated while continuing to rest and recuperate. I would like to thank everyone for all the good wishes and prayers. Really appreciate it," Tendulkar said. Tendulkar also thanked the medical staff for taking care of him during the hospitalisation.

"I remain ever grateful to all the medical staff who took such good care of me & have been working tirelessly for over a year in such difficult circumstances," said Tendulkar.

Tendulkar was hospitalised on April 2 as a precautionary measure after testing positive for the dreaded virus on March 27. However all his other family members have tested negative.

The legendary right-handed batsman had taken part in the Road Safety World Series Challenge veterans' tournament in Raipur last month. He had led the Indian team to victory in that event.

After Recovering From COVID-19, Sunil Chhetri To Lead Bengaluru FC In AFC Cup

Press Trust of India

BAMBOLIM: Talismanic India captain Sunil Chhetri has returned to action after recovering from COVID-19 and will lead Bengaluru FC in their AFC Cup preliminary stage two match here on April 14.

The Bengaluru-based side on Thursday named a 29-member squad for the match against Nepalese side Tribhuvan Army FC, a day after three COVID-19 cases were detected among the players and staff.

Five reserve team players were named in the team as head coach Marco Pezzaiuoli prepares for his first game in charge of the Blues.

"Skipper Sunil Chhetri will lead the side into a seventh season of continental football, with the 36-year-old having joined the side in Goa where preparations for the campaign are well underway," the club said in a statement.

Chhetri had tested positive for coronavirus on March 11 and announced that he had recovered from the infection on March 28. He missed India's two international friendlies against Oman and the UAE in Dubai due to the COVID-19 infection. India had drawn Oman 1-1 while they suffered an embarrassing 0-6 drubbing at the hands of the UAE.

Gabonese defender Yrundu Musavu-King is the newest addition to the Blues' foreign contingent as he joins Juanan Gonzalez, Cleiton Silva and Erik Paartalu in the squad for the qualifying campaign.

The graduates from the club's reserve side include goalkeeper Sharon Padattil, midfielders Damaitphang Lyngdoh and Muhammad Inayath, as well as strikers Akashdeep Singh and Sivasakthi Narayanan. The match at the GMC Stadium here will be played behind closed doors due to the pandemic.

On Wednesday, the club announced that three individuals have tested positive for the virus during the camp, which began on April 5.

The squad:

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Lalthuammawia Ralte, Lara Sharma, Sharon Padattil.
Defenders: Rahul Bheke, Pratik Chaudhari, Juan Gonzalez, Wungngayam Muirang, Ajith Kumar, Ashique Kuruniyan, Joe Zoherliana, Parag Shrivats, Yrundu Musavu-King, Biswa Darjee.
Midfielders: Erik Paartalu, Suresh Wangjam, Harmanjot Khabra, Namgyal Bhutia, Emanuel Lalchhanchuaha, Damaitphang Lyngdoh, Muhammad Inayath.

Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Edmund Lalrindika, Udatra Singh, Cleiton Silva, Leon Augustine, Naorem Roshan Singh, Sivasakthi Narayanan, Akashdeep Singh.

Mbappé Stars As PSG Defeat Bayern Munich 3-2 In Champions League Quarterfinal

Agencies

PARIS: Kylian Mbappé scored twice to lead Paris Saint-Germain to a 3-2 win at defending champion Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal.

Mbappé was a constant threat while Neymar had two assists as the French champion responded to its 1-0 loss to Bayern in last year's final by seizing the advantage going into the second leg in Paris next week.

Marquinhos scored the other goal as the visitors went 2-0 up inside the first half hour, but the PSG captain went off injured shortly afterwards and Bayern responded through headers from Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Thomas Müller.

Mbappé sealed the win with his eighth goal of the competition in the 68th. The visitors had four shots on target altogether.

"I think it was efficiency. We managed



to score with almost all of our opportunities, and we managed to defend well as a team, even if it's difficult against Bayern Munich," Mbappé said.

"But there's a second round at home and we'll have to win again if we want to

qualify for the semifinals."

Bayern had 31 efforts at goal and clearly missed Robert Lewandowski's accuracy. The Poland star is the Bundesliga's top scorer with 35 goals in 25 appearances, but he returned from the international

break with a knee injury. Bayern was also without forward Serge Gnabry because of a positive COVID-19 test.

"Unfortunately it wasn't as decisive in front of goal as we normally are," said Bayern coach Hansi Flick after his first Champions League defeat since taking over in November 2019.

"The efficiency wasn't good. But still I'm very satisfied with the performance of the team, the way they played."

The visitors also had absences due to COVID-19, with Marco Verratti and Alessandro Florenzi both infected. Coach Mauricio Pochettino was also without forward Mauro Icardi and the suspended Leandro Paredes, as well as Layvin Kurzawa and former Bayern player Juan Bernat.

In Wednesday's other quarterfinal, Chelsea beat Porto 2-0 in a game played in Seville, Spain, because of travel restrictions.

Bayern made a good start amid heavy

snowfall with Choupo-Moting hitting the crossbar with a header from a corner in the second minute.

Mbappé scored the next minute, set up by Neymar on a quick counterattack, when his shot from the right squirmed between Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's legs.

The visitors had the ball in the net again in the 12th, but Julian Draxler's goal was ruled out through VAR as Mbappé was just offside in the build-up. Bayern responded with sustained pressure. Keylor Navas was alert to deny Leon Goretzka in the 19th, then Benjamin Pavard a minute later.

Choupo-Moting went close from another corner before Marquinhos scored with the visitors' second legitimate effort on goal. Neymar beat Bayern's offside trap with a brilliant ball over the top for his Brazilian compatriot to make it 2-0 in the 28th.

Rohingya Refugees In Jammu Not To Be Deported To Myanmar Without Due Process: Supreme Court

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today said that Rohingya refugees detained in Jammu shall not be deported to Myanmar without following the prescribed process.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde passed the order on a plea seeking immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and a direction to restrain the Centre from deporting them to Myanmar.

The Centre had earlier opposed the plea saying that the country

cannot be the capital for illegal immigrants.

During the arguments, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, had said that Rohingya children were subjected to killing, maiming and sexual exploitation by the Myanmar military which has failed to respect international humanitarian law.

Violent attacks allegedly by Myanmar army have led to an exodus of Rohingya tribals from the western Rakhine state in that country to India and Bangladesh.

Refund Passengers Who Cancelled Flights In Last Year Lockdown: Govt To Airlines

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has expressed dissatisfaction over airline companies defaulting on refunds to passengers over flight tickets that were booked for travel during the coronavirus induced nationwide lockdown last year but got cancelled.

"MoCA Secretary has chaired the meeting today with all the airline companies regarding credit shells refund and expressed dissatisfaction towards airline companies who did not refund the money. GoAir and IndiGo have submitted their undertaking to the ministry that they have refund all the credit shells to the passengers", an official told ANI.

A credit shell is a credit note created against a cancelled PNR and can be used by the passenger for a future booking.

India's largest domestic airline IndiGo has refunded about

1,030 crore to customers. "IndiGo completes disbursement of 99.95% customer credit shells and refunds," the airline operated by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd had said in a statement.

India's low-cost airline SpiceJet wasn't able to refund credit shells to the passengers. National carrier Air India is also yet to refund total credit shells to the passengers.

Air Asia and Vistara is also yet clear the credit shell to the passengers.

The Supreme Court in September 2020 had directed airlines to immediately refund fares booked for travel until 24 May 2020. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had separately issued a notification on 16 April, ordering airlines to immediately refund tickets booked during the first phase of the lockdown from 25 March 2020 to 14 April 2020. The apex court had also approved a credit shell scheme which was valid till 31 March 2021.

Matrimonial Row Can't Be Reason To Revoke Passport, HC Tells Centre

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A matrimonial dispute cannot be the reason to revoke a person's passport without giving him any hearing, the Delhi High Court has said. Justice Pratibha M Singh said that revocation of passport was a strong measure, and it cannot be done without even hearing the person affected.

"A matrimonial case can't stop his passport forever. It is only a matrimonial dispute. Why don't you restore his passport," the court said, adding "it is too unfair what you (Centre) people are doing. Why are you taking sides?" The observations by the court came on a man's plea seeking setting aside of a May 2020 order upholding the revocation of his passport.

The Centre contended that once a passport is revoked it cannot be

restored and the petitioner would have to apply afresh for a new one.

While the man claimed he was given no prior notice nor an opportunity to plead his case, Centre said he was given a chance to place his stand before the Indian Mission in Houston, Texas in the USA.

The court directed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to file an affidavit stating whether the man was given prior notice and an opportunity to be heard by the Indian Mission, before his passport was revoked.

The court said if no affidavit is filed before the next date of hearing on April 23, then a senior official from the Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Division of MEA shall join the proceedings before it.

"Revoking a passport is a strong measure. You cannot do it like this," it added. — PTI

COVID-19: India Reports Highest Daily Spike Of Over 1.26 Lakh New Cases



Agenceis

India registered a record single-day spike of 1,26,789 new COVID-19 cases, pushing its infection tally to 1,29,28,574, while the number of active cases too went upwards to breach the nine lakh-mark again, Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday showed.

The death toll due to the disease in the country increased to 1,66,862, with 685 new fatalities being reported in a day, according to the data updated at 8 am.

Registering a steady increase for the 29th day in row, the count of active cases has gone up to 9,10,319, which is 7.04 per cent of the total infections, while the country's recovery rate has dropped to 91.67 per cent, it stated.

The active COVID-19 caseload in the country was recorded at its lowest of 1,35,926 on Febru-

ary 12, comprising 1.25 per cent of the total infections.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,18,51,393, while the case fatality rate has dropped to 1.29 per cent, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7 last year, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28 last year, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 25,26,77,379 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the country so far, including 12,37,781 on Wednesday.

The 685 new fatalities include 322 from Maharashtra, 62 from Punjab, 53 from Chhattisgarh, 40

from Uttar Pradesh, 35 from Karnataka, 22 from Gujarat, 20 from Delhi, 17 from Tamil Nadu, 16 from Kerala, 13 from Madhya Pradesh, 12 from Rajasthan and 11 each from Andhra Pradesh and Haryana.

A total of 1,66,862 deaths due to the disease have been reported so far in the country. This includes 56,652 fatalities from Maharashtra, 12,821 from Tamil Nadu, 12,731 from Karnataka, 11,133 from Delhi, 10,363 from West Bengal, 8,964 from Uttar Pradesh, 7,278 from Punjab and 7,262 from Andhra Pradesh.

The Union Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

India's Proposal Of Restoring Status Quo Of April 2020 In Eastern Ladakh Could Be Discussed: China

BEIJING: China on Thursday said India's proposal for the restoration of the status quo of April 2020 at eastern Ladakh could be discussed at the next meetings between the two countries.

China also said there is no delay in holding talks with India to discuss the disengagement of troops from the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, amid reports about the likelihood of the 11th round of corps commander-level talks on Friday.

Asked to confirm the date for the 11th round of China-India Corps Commander-level meeting to discuss further disengagement in eastern Ladakh, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "China and India are in communication on the holding of the 11th round of talks."

"As for the specific date for the upcoming talks, I have no information," he said.

The spokesman also denied any delay in holding of the 11th round of talks when pointed out that it is going to be about two months since the first disengagement has taken place and a month since the 10th round of talks on the disengagement of troops.

"There is no delayed meeting as you cited. I want to stress that the merits of the situation at the India-China border are very clear and the responsibility does not rest with the Chinese side," Zhao said.

"We hope the Indian side will work with China to follow through the important consensus of our two state leaders, abide by relevant agreements and treaties to de-escalate the tension at the border," he said.

He also said India's proposal for the restoration of the status quo at eastern Ladakh could be discussed at the meetings between the two countries. About India's stand that the status quo of April 2020 should be restored and whether China would consider such a proposal, Zhao said, "for the proposal, you mentioned I believe it should be talked in the meetings and I already made clear my position on the border issue just now."

Media reports from Delhi said the corps commanders of both the militaries are likely to meet on Friday to discuss the disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

India was expected to insist on early disengagement of troops in Gogra and Hot Springs besides pressing for resolution of pending issues in Depsang plains, the reports said.

Chhattisgarh: Naxals Free CRPF Jawan Abducted After Encounter



Agenceis

Abducted CRPF commando Rakeshwar Singh Minhas has been released, Chhattisgarh police said on Wednesday. He is expected to reach a security camp near Basaguda in Bastar

region, police said.

Manhas belongs to the 210th CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) battalion, an elite unit of CRPF. He went missing after the April 3 gunfight between Naxals and security personnel near Sukma-Bijapur border.

Man On AirAsia Flight Took Off Clothes, Misbehaved With Crew: Report

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: AirAsia passengers on Tuesday witnessed an unprecedented incident on i5-722 Bengaluru to Delhi flight when an unruly passenger stripped naked onboard.

A passenger who was onboard told ANI: "Firstly, the unruly passenger started a heated argument with the cabin crew about life jackets. He later misbehaved with the crew onboard and suddenly took off all the clothes in the flight."

Confirming the incident, AirAsia India spokesperson said: "An inebriated guest onboard i5-722, from Bengaluru to New Delhi on April 6, 2021, behaved in an inappropriate manner including with a cabin crew on duty inflight. The guest was advised repeatedly and paid heed only after multiple requests by crew members," AirAsia India Spokesperson said.

A crew member of AirAsia somehow controlled the unruly passenger onboard with the help of co-passengers and informed

the pilots about the unwanted incident, following which the pilot of the aircraft informed Delhi's Air Traffic Controller (ATC) about the incident and sought priority landing. Just after landing, the passenger was handed over to police with help of aviation security CISF.

The spokesperson of the airline further said: "The matter was reported on landing at Delhi Airport to the police and necessary action has been initiated by AirAsia India based on regulations governing the safety and well being of aircraft and passengers under the disruptive passenger handling policy. As an airline that has consistently emphasised and worked towards the security and well being of our guests and crew, we have a zero-tolerance approach to disruptive behaviour on our flights and strongly condemn incidents of such nature."

The Delhi police have registered a case against the passenger under the appropriate section. The airline is yet to put him on the no-fly list. Further investigations are under process.



French 4,000-Year-Old Carving Is Oldest Map In Europe, Study Shows



Agenceis

BREST, FRANCE: A Bronze-age slab first uncovered in 1900 in western France is the oldest map in Europe, according to a study released this week.

The 4,000-year-old object, known as the Saint-Bélec slab, is engraved with markings that represent part of the Black Mountains region of western France, said Yvan Pailler, an archaeologist and one of the authors of the study published in the Bulletin of the French Prehistoric Society.

"Today, it is the oldest map of a territory in Europe," he said.

"You can see on the slab carvings which, at first sight, are not understandable.

"You must really take your time to start to comprehend the way the motifs are organised and structured and the way they

are interlinked through lines."

Archaeologist Paul du Châtellier discovered the slab at an ancient burial ground in Finistère in 1900, and it was stored for decades at one of his properties.

Researchers only began to study the rock -- which measures 2.2 metres by 1.5 metres and weighs a ton -- in 2017.

The repeated motifs joined by lines represented a territory 30 kilometres long and 21 kilometres wide and may signify the ownership of the land by a prince or a king, the researchers said.

"If we could decipher what these symbols mean, we would know what the map represents," Pailler said, adding that the slab raises many questions.

"Can we still talk about societies where writing didn't exist and of pre or protohistory when you can produce a map with a caption?"

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