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Sunday| 11.04.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: IIT Kharagpur Centre of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur invites applications for IIT Kharagpur Centre of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) 2021 from BTech degree holders. The candidate is required to work on the project titled, "Unrestricted Grant for Research in Review Mining(URR)".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who Hold a BTech degree with 80% or 7.5 CGPA and a valid GATE/NET score.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month
Last Date to Apply: 25-04-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SEF5

Scholarship Name 2: IIT BHU Varanasi Department of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi invites applications for IIT BHU Varanasi Department of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from Master/Bachelor degree holders. The fellowship requires the candidates to work on the project entitled, "Optimized Fog Computing for Smart Healthcare Application in IoT-enabled Heterogeneous Networks".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold a master's degree in



CSE/IT/ECE in the discipline concerned or in an allied discipline/area. They must have a minimum of 60% marks or 6.0 CPI (on a 10.0 point scale) at the master's degree level. They must have a bachelor's degree and GATE/NET in engineering in the discipline concerned or in an allied discipline/area with a minimum of 75% marks.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month
Last Date to Apply: 24-04-2021
Application mode: Via email only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/VTSS5

Scholarship Name 3: Dr Abdul Kalam Scholarship for Medical/Engineering Aspirants

Description: Buddy4Study India Foundation invites scholarship applications from students ap-

pearing for medical/engineering entrance exams. The scholarship programme is meant to support the higher education of meritorious students who need financial support.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for students from the Economically Weaker Sections, who are appearing for national/state level engineering/medical entrance exams. The applicant must have passed Class 12 examination with minimum 55% marks. Students appearing for the Class 12 exam in 2021 can also apply. However, they will have to present the result-sheet after their results are announced. The annual income of the family should be less than INR 3 lakh from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 20,000
Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AKS2

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal shakti Division Kulgam

Phone: 01931-295109 e-mail: xenphkgm@gmail.com
E-NIT No: 02/EE/PHE/kulgam/2020-21 under endorsement No:PHK/216-26 Dt. 10-04-2021
For & on behalf of Pre' sident of India , e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) "on item rate basis" from Registered contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following works:-

S No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
1	Maintenance and restoration of various water supply schemes of sub-Division Kulgam for the financial year 2021-22 summer stage contract.	6.00	Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized	DEE/-CEE	Summer season	300/=	M&R
	Maintenance and restoration of various water supply schemes of sub-Division D.h.pora for the financial year 2021-22 summer stage contract.	6.00	be attached with the Bid	DEE/-CEE	Summer season	300/=	M&R

Position of AA : Accorded Position of funds: Demanded
1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in
As per the Schedule of dates given below:

I	Publishing date of NIT	10-04-2021	4.00	PM
II	Download start date	10-04-2021	4.00	PM
III	Bid submission start date	10-04-2021	4.00	AM
IV	Bid submission end date	17-04-2021	5.00	PM
IV	Bid opening date	18-04-2021	11.00	AM

- The bidders shall have to upload the following documents with their bid:
 - Scanned copies of Tender Fee & Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the Bid
 - Scanned copies of Registration Card duly renewed & bidders address format.
 - Scanned copies of GST Registration & PAN.
- Bidder shall quote rates on item rate basis in the BOQ.
- The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes as applicable at the time of payment.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The bid documents can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given above
- The Hard copies of technical bid shall have to be submitted by the LI in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Kulgam within three days from the date of opening of bids
- The Service Tax/Income Tax/Cess or any other tax shall be effective @ prevailing rates fixed by the Govt. from time to time and shall be deducted at source from the amount payable to contractor.
- The successful contractor shall draw agreement deed with the department within seven days from the date of issue of LOI or allotment whichever is earlier.
- Any injury/loss of the labourers during execution of work shall be the personal responsibility of the contractor.
- All key construction material i.e. GI pipes/pipe specials/cement/steel/chain link/angle etc. shall have to be arranged by the contractor himself.
- No extra carriage lead or lift of any kind of material shall be paid and the payment shall be made as per actual work done on rate basis as per BOQ.
- The contractor shall have to take photographs of each site of work before execution, during execution and after execution of work.
- GEO Tagging of each work shall have to be done by the contractor and the contractor is advised to quote his rates accordingly
- No payment shall be released to the contractor without obtaining Royalty Clearance Certificate of Sand, Aggregate, Nallah Muck, ordinary earth etc. from the Department of Geology & Mining J&K.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to natural calamities. shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.
- Anything of historical/significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site during execution of work shall be the property of the Government.
- It shall be mandatory for the executing agency/contractor to ensure safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the workmen skilled/unskilled deployed at site of work. Besides, no labour below the age of 18 years should be engaged as per the Labour Law.
- Arrangements for sufficient sanitation facility at site be ensured by the executing agency/ contractor for all the workmen to be mobilized at site, besides, separate toilet facilities be provided for Female workers at the site of work.
- Suitable arrangements for supply of potable water at site for all the workmen skilled/unskilled be made by the agency/contractor just before the virtual start of execution at site.
- Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.
- It is mandatory upon the executing agency to follow the SOP during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Other terms & conditions shall remain in force as per Standard Bidding Document (SBD) attached with the NIT.
- Performance guarantee 3% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer before the allotment is issued which will be released after the successful commissioning of the work.

Position of AAA : Accorded

HEAD OF ACCOUNT 2215 M&R

Signed on behalf of
President of India

Executive Engineer
Jal shakti Division Kulgam

DIPK-392/2

Office Of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Himayalan Motors Tengpora Bye Pass (Transferor) of Marazzo bearing registration No. JK01AL-8606 chasis No: 44480 Engine No: 40969 Model 2019 in favour of Grand Resotes Prop Bashir Ahamd Beigh Address Laripora Pahalgam (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 637
Dated: 10/04/2021

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 Dr Syed Mudasir Ahamd S/O Syed Mohammad Ashraf R/o Ratnipora Pulwama A/P Astanpora Rawalpura (Transferor) of Alto STD bearing registration No. JK01Q-6889 chasis No: 87239 Engine No: 57746 Model 2011 in favour of Ghulam Hassan Mattoo S/o Ali Mohammad Mattoo R/o Near Masjid Sharif Zewan Bala Srinagar (Transferee).

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

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.
NOJK-RTOK 659
Dated: 10/04/2021

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla H.Q. Sopore NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from: Irshad Ahamd Mir S/O Ghulam Mohd Mir R/o Bagh Islam Baramulla (transferor) of vehicle Car bearing Registration No: CH01AN-3227 Chassis No. MAZEVB11501154599 Engine No: FABIN4175710 Model 2011 in favour of Rajinder Singh S/O Lt Sh Gurpreet Singh R/O Gurudwara Sahd Chandigarh (transferee).

Now therefore, it is notified that if any person has any objection in this behalf he / she should filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Baramulla (H.Q. Sopore) within Seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. 175 /ARTO/ Bla.
Dated: 10-04-2021
gms

Sd/ Assistant Regional
Transport Officer
Baramulla H.Q. Sopore

Government of Jammu And Kashmir

General Administration Department

Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Subject: Adoption of Rules and Syllabus for Senior Assistant and Junior Assistant for undergoing J&K Secretariat Assistants Training Course.

Government Order No.318-JK(GAD) of 2021
Dated:08-04-2021

In supersession of all the orders issued with regard to the conduct of Secretariat Assistants Training Course in respect of Senior Assistants and Foundation Course in respect of Junior Assistants, it is hereby ordered that the following shall be applicable for the Training Course:

- The syllabus for both Junior Assistants and Senior Assistants shall be uniform comprising of six papers and the Training is rechristened as "J&K Secretariat Assistants Training Course".
- The Syllabus for the Training Course shall be as indicated in Annexure - "A" to this Government Order.
- The Training Course shall be of two months duration and shall be conducted by the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, Srinagar/Jammu round the year.
- The Junior Assistants appointed/promoted after issuance of SRO-272 of 2008 dated 19th September, 2008, shall have to undergo and qualify the J&K Secretariat Assistants Training Course at the level of Junior Assistant for considering their promotion as Senior Assistant.
- The Junior Assistants appointed/promoted prior to issuance of SRO-272 of 2008 dated 19* September, 2008, shall have to undergo and qualify the J&K Secretariat Assistants Training Course at the level of Senior Assistant for considering their promotion as Head Assistant.
- The Senior Assistants/Junior Assistants shall be nominated/deputed for the Training Course strictly as per seniority by the concerned Head of Departments/offices.
- The period spent on Training shall be treated as on duty.
- During the Training, the trainees shall get their salary and other allowances from the offices/departments wherefrom they are deputed for the training.
- On completion of the Training Course, the trainees shall appear in the J&K Secretariat Assistants Training Course Examination which shall be conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission.
- J&K Public Service Commission shall conduct the Examination at the regular intervals,
- Each paper shall carry 100 Marks and shall be of 3 hours duration. The pass percentage shall be 35% marks in each paper and 40% in the aggregate.
- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Government Order, all activities of the trainees shall be subject to the provisions of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 and J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971,

It is further ordered that the candidates who have already undergone training as per the old syllabus and such candidates who have been exempted from undergoing the Training vide Government Order No. 53-GAD of 2019 dated 01.01.2019 and 346-GAD of 2019 dated 07.03.2019, are allowed to appear in the examination conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission, as per the old syllabus.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

No. GAD (Estt) M-21/2020

Dated: 08.04.2021.

DIPK-333/21

Sd/-(Manoj Kumar Dwivedi) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

Annexure to Government Order No.318-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 08.04.2021

SYLLABUS FOR J&K SECRETARIAT ASSISTANT TRAINING COURSE

Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
a. The Jammu and Kashmir Manual of Secretariat Procedure. b. The Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 as amended from time to time. c. The Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.	
PAPER - II	
Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
A- (J&K CIVIL SERVICES REGULATIONS)	
PART - I PRELIMINARY	
Chapter - I Extent of Application	
Chapter - II Definitions	
PART - II RULES REGULATING PAY AND ALLOWANCES	
Chapter - III General Rules	
Chapter - V Officiating Allowances - General Rules	
Chapter - VII Regulation of pay and allowances in appointment on progressive or Time-Scale of pay.	
Chapter - IX Joining Time	
PART - IV PENSION RULES	
PART - V RECORD OF SERVICE	
PART VII RULES REGARDING TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE.	
B- THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR CIVIL SERVICES (LEAVE) RULES, 1979.	
C- JAMMU & KASHMIR CIVIL SERVICES (MEDICAL ATTENDANCE-CUM ALLOWANCE) RULES, 1990.	
D- Leave Travel Concession (LTC) RULES.	
PAPER - III	
(GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND /GENERAL FINANCIAL RULES)	
Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND	
The General Provident Fund (Central Services) Rules, 1960.	
• Rule-12 (Advances from the fund).	
• Rule -15 (Withdrawals from the fund).	
GENERAL FINANCIAL RULES	
Chapter - I (INTRODUCTION)	
• Rule -1	
• Rule -2	
Chapter - 2 (GENERAL SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)	
• Rule - 7 to Rule 41	
Chapter - 4 (GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS)	
• Rule - 71 to Rule 129	
Chapter - 5 (WORKS).	
• Rule - 130 to Rule 141.	
Chapter - MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.	
• Establishment (Rule-284 to Rule-299)	
• Refund of Revenue (Rule 300 to Rule 302)	
• Security Deposits (Rule 306 to Rule 308)	
• Maintenance of Records (Rule 320)	
• Contingent & Miscellaneous Expenditure (Rule 321 - Rule 324)	

Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
PAPER-IV (J&K BUDGET MANUAL)	
Chapter - 1	Important Budget Related Terms
Chapter - 2	Introduction to the Budget and its importance.
Chapter - 4	Budget Preparation.
Chapter - 5	Estimates of Revenue Receipts.
Chapter - 8	Budget estimates in respect of new services
Chapter - 9	Consolidation of Budget.
Chapter - 10	Passage of Budget in the Legislature.
Chapter - 14	Revised Estimates.
PAPER-V	
KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS/ COMPUTER APPLICATIONS	
Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
1) E-office System	
2) Introduction to Hardware	
3) Introduction to Microsoft Windows and Security Measures (Anti-viruses).	
4) Latest operating System for Computer System with special reference to Windows 10.	
5) MS Office	
• MS Word	
• MS Excel	
• MS Power Point	
6) Introduction to Networking (LAN/Wi-Fi).	
7) Software Installation	
8) Utilities	
• Backing up and restoring data	
• System maintenance	
9) Internet	
• Introduction to Internet	
• Internet Explorer Navigator	
• Browsing with Internet Explorer	
10) E-mail.	
• Downloading files	
• Attaching files	
PAPER-VI	
Max. Marks - 100	Time Allowed : 3 Hrs
(A) Union territory of J&K	
• Physical features	
• Demographic features	
• Agriculture and Horticulture.	
• Forest and Mineral Wealth	
• Sericulture	
• Live Stock	
• Industries Including Handicrafts Tourism	
(B) Right to Information Act and Rules there under.	
(C) J&K Reservation Act and Rules there under.	
(D) Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules there under.	
(E) Constitution of India - Salient features	
(F) An introduction to Fundamental Rights as enshrined in Constitution of India.	
(Reyaz Ahmad Wani) KAS Deputy Secretary To The Government	

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Div Com Stresses On Timely Demarcation Of All Wetlands



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned officers on conservation of wetlands in Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Div Com reviewed the progress made with regard to demarcation, land transfer, installation of boundary walls, geo coor-

dinate, pillars and removal of encroachments of wetlands including Wullar, Hokersar, Gilsar, Anchar, Narkara, and Manasbal lakes.

The Div Com also stressed on the removal of illegal encroachments on Tchount Kul, Brari Nambal, Rakhii Arath and Nalla Amir Khan.

At the outset, Div Com directed concerned DCs to ensure timely demarcation and ensure

removal of all encroachments.

Emphasizing on close monitoring, he instructed concerned to take stringent action including register FIRs against the offenders indulging in repeated illegal activities.

Calling for timely demarcation of all pending area of wetlands besides completion of installation of boundary pillars, Div Com said that the step would prevent illegal encroachments on wetlands.

Stressing on the beautification of wetlands, Div Com directed concerned to ensure immediate removal of already dumped waste from Hokarsar and other wetlands and emphasized that only alternate and shifted dumping sites are in use for dumping purposes.

He also directed concerned to expedite beautification work on wetlands and called for massive awareness generation on the importance of wetland preservation.

Cyber Police Traces, Recovers 30 Missing Phones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar on Saturday said that it recovered 30 missing mobile phones worth lakhs of rupees.

The phones so recovered were handed over to the rightful owners, a police spokesman said in a statement to GNS.

Apart from various cyber crimes which are being reported in Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone on routine basis, applications/reports from various complainants about missing of their cell phones are also received continuously, he said.

"A dedicated technical team of Cyber Police Kashmir under the supervision of In-charge Cyber Police Kashmir are making constant efforts to trace out the missing mobile phones, besides helping the citizens in various cyber related challenges being faced by the citizens in their day to day life."

"Cyber Police Station once again advises the general public to remain extra cautious about strange phone calls and not to share their bank account/credit/ debit card or any other such valuable details with anybody on phone."

ایلیہ مرحوم قاضی غلام محمد انتقال کر گئیں

اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی سوموار کو ہوگی

پیر خیر دھار انیسویں کے ماقدمی حباری ہے کہ عسکری والدہ زوہیرہ مرحوم قاضی غلام محمد سکنہ پورہ سیدہ محلہ لال بازار پنجپورہ 10 اپریل 2021 کو مختصر علالت کے بعد انتقال کر گئیں۔ مرحوم کو اپنے آبائی مقبرہ واقع متصل مغل مسجد محل میں پر دعا کیا گیا۔ موجودہ علالت کے پیش نظر مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی سوموار 12 اپریل 2021 کو صبح 10:30 بجے انجام دی جائیگی۔

موجودہ اران - سر قاضی غلام محمد کا تھاپاں پورہ صاحب محلہ لال بازار سرینگر 7006840695

ادھر تاجب تحصیلدار است ہاگ با اعلیٰ زیر تاجب صاحب

درخواست منہا بن: سارہ بیوہ غلام محمد (ر گل محمد) ساکن اولیوگ ڈاکم تحصیل و ضلع ہت ناگ بغرض حصول وارث جائیز مرثیہ

اشہار عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سالہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول وارث جائیز مرثیہ پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ سے سالہ کا شوہر سکی غلام محمد (ر گل محمد) مورخہ 17/07/2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اور موتی کے وارثان بنیں ہیں۔

نام صاحب کتبہ عدولیت	عمر	رشتہ ہر دوستی	پیشہ
سارہ بیوہ غلام محمد	۵۰ سال	بیوہ دوستی	گھریلو کام
خراج اللہ بن ذار پیر۔۔۔	۵۰ سال	پیر دوستی	سرکاری ملازم
ہلال احمد ذار پیر۔۔۔	۴۷ سال	۔۔۔	دکانداری
عاشق حسین پیر۔۔۔	۴۰ سال	۔۔۔	سرکاری ملازم
چاہد احمد پیر۔۔۔	۳۳ سال	۔۔۔	۔۔۔
زیر بادا دوست۔۔۔	۵۷ سال	دوست دوستی	گھریلو کام
ویدہ گل دختر۔۔۔	۳۹ سال	۔۔۔	آہنگن وادی
نیلوفر گل دختر۔۔۔	۴۰ سال	۔۔۔	سرکاری ملازم

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوہر مرثیہ لکھا جائے کہ اس نے کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر بغرض پیش کریں ورنہ گزرنے میں ایک ہفتہ یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدور تاجب تحصیلدار است ہاگ mja

ادھر تاجب تحصیلدار است ہاگ با اعلیٰ زیر تاجب صاحب

درخواست منہا بن: دہاش احمد ذار ولد گل محمد (ر سارن) اور موتی گل محمد تحصیل و ضلع ہت ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیمر یا مرثیہ 294 SRO

اشہار عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سالہ صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انیمر یا مرثیہ پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ سے سالہ کا شوہر سکی غلام محمد (ر گل محمد) مورخہ 17/07/2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اور موتی کے وارثان بنیں ہیں۔

نام صاحب کتبہ عدولیت	عمر	پیشہ	آبادی
گل محمد ذار ولد گل محمد	50 سال	مزدوری	20000
جوہر دہا نو زین گل محمد	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
ماجد احمد ذار پیر۔۔۔	27 سال	سولہ بن	6000
رونی جان دختر۔۔۔	25 سال	گھریلو کام	
دانش احمد ذار پیر۔۔۔	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ سالہ کا کتبہ جیسے پندرہ سالوں سے ہزارہ میں رہا ہے پیر اور سالہ کی کتبہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی 92000 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوہر مرثیہ لکھا جائے کہ اس نے کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو دو ہفتہ کے اندر اندر بغرض پیش کریں ورنہ گزرنے میں ایک ہفتہ یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدور تاجب تحصیلدار است ہاگ mia

Admin Inspects Petrol Pumps In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, a surprise inspection of Petrol Pumps was conducted in order to ascertain the correctness of deliveries of Dispensing units.

The petrol pumps inspected include Rafiquee Filling Station, Sham Lal Filling station, Ahad Filling Station Shalteng, Jay Kay Filling Station Zainakote, Valley Filling station.

During the inspection, it was found that all these pumps are providing fuel accurately. Besides, seals of DU were found intact. The management of the Filling Stations was directed to follow the Oil Marketing Guidelines in letter and spirit.

The consumers can themselves check the delivery of DU with the conical measure that remains available on the station in case they doubt the accuracy of the petrol pump. In case of any complaint of short delivery, the consumer can contact the department on toll-free no 18001807114.

Darul Khair Distributes Relief Among Haft Chinar Fire Victims

Observer News Service

Expressing grief and sorrow over the death of a mother-son duo (wife of Ghulam Muhammad Sheikh and a minor son Muhammad Abbas Sheikh) in a fire incident that devastated six more houses in Haft Chinar area of Srinagar, the Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil stressed upon the immediate rehabilitation of the affected families.

A delegation of the organisation led by Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon visited the affected families and distributed rice, atta, blankets, kitchen kits and other items of basic necessity among them, a statement said.

The delegation also expressed solidarity with them on behalf of the Darul Khair and incarcerated Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, it said.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Electric Division (KPDCL) Ganderbal

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236 E-mail:-edgbl123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER ID

e-NIT no: 02 of 2021-22 dated 07/04/2021

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount	Cost of tender document (DD)	Time of completion	Position of funds
Restoration /Installation of distribution sub stations /Restoration of LT Lines at Helliapad/Ranga morh/Y Junction/Baltal main camp/ Baltal-Domail road/Domail camp/Sarbal ITBP Camps /Army Camps at Baltal and Domail/CRPF Camps /and adjoining areas , after winter breakdown to facilitate Shri Amar Nath Ji	3.77	Bid Security Declaration	Rs 1000/-	15 Days	Authorized

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPDCL or http://jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/Uploading of e NIT Date	08-04-21	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	09-04-21	10.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	09-04-21	10.00 hrs
4.	Clarifications Date End	10-04-21	16.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	11-04-21	10.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	26-04-21	14.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	28-04-21	15.00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

DIPK-NB-173/21

No: EDG/ 257-63 /TS
Date: 07-04-2021

Executive Engineer
ED Ganderbal

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamps worth Rs.6/- (Rupees Six) only are invited from the approved/Registered Consultants having MSME Registration with NABL Accreditation of UT of J&K for framing of DPR's under various sectors and various Major Heads as and when required for the office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

The quotations must reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 15-04-2021 upto 2:00 PM through registered post/insured post in person which will be opened on the same day or any other convenient day in presence of the quotationer's who may like to be present.

1. All Quotationer's 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).

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

- Terms and Conditions:-**
- That the material/paper of superior quality have to be used for the DPR's/drawing/Designs.
 - That the payment shall be made only after the funds are made available by the competent authority.
 - That the Drawings /DPR's /Designs have to be found substandard quality the firm is bound to replace the same and will be liable for suitable penalty.
 - The quoted rates shall be inclusive of GST and all other taxes as applicable under rules.
 - The payment shall be made against the proper bill duly verified by the concerned Engineer in charge.
 - All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in DGS&D rate contract.
- General Conditions**
- The job shall be completed as per the PWD norms and requirements.
 - The time is the essence of the contract and it shall be adhered to.
 - The firm shall have to visit the office / site whenever required by the authority till DPR approved by the authority.
 - The rate is admissible to the above subject to work only.
 - In case the firm fails to fulfill the terms and conditions of the contract the allotting authority reserves the right to terminate the contract after serving due notes to firm.
 - The firm shall have to produce.
 - One soft copy of the project
 - Four sets hard copy of all drawings/BOQ/Related documents of the project.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Ganderbal

No:-259-54
Dtd:-06-04-2021

DIPK-352/21

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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 491 - Flavius Anastasius becomes Byzantine Emperor, with the name of Anastasius I.
- 672 - Deusedit III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1079 - Bishop Stanislaus of Krakow is executed by order of Boleslaw II of Poland
- 1471 - Wars of the Roses: King Edward IV of England conquers London from Henry VI
- 1512 - Battle of Ravenna: French forces under Gaston de Foix defeat Holy League in a major battle of the Italian Wars
- 1564 England & France sign Peace of Troyes
- 1677 -Battle at Montcassel, French troops beat Prince William III
- 1689 - William III & Mary II crowned as joint rulers of Britain
- 1713 -Peace of Utrecht; France cedes Maritime provinces to Britain - English, Prus-sian, Savoiois, Portuguese & French peace treaty
- 1783 - Hostilities formally cease in the American Revolutionary War
- 1814- Napoleon abdicates unconditionally; he is exiled to Elba
- 1848- Hungary becomes constitutional monarchy under king Ferdinand of Aust
- 1856 -Battle of Rivas; Costa Rica beats Wm Walker's invading Nicaraguans
- 1862 - Rebels surrender Ft Pulaski, Georgia-Rebels surrender
- 1863 - Battle of Suffolk, VA (Norfleet House)
- 1865 - Battle of Mobile, AL - evacuated by Confederates
- 1865- Abraham Lincoln urges a spirit of generous conciliation during reconstruction
- 1895- Anaheim completes its new electric light system
- 1898 President McKinley asks for Spanish-American War declaration
- 1899 -Treaty of Paris ratifies ends war; Spain cedes Puerto Rico to US
- 1914 - Mexican President Huerta breaks off diplomatic relations with the US
- 1919 - The International Labour Organization is founded.
- 1921 - Turkestan ASSR forms in Russian SFSR
- 1925 -Abd el-KrimsRifkabylen beats French army in Morocco
- 1939 - Hungary leaves League of Nations
- 1945 - Allied troops liberate Basket-Compasuum
- 1956 - French government decides to send 200,000 reservists to Algeria
- 1957 - Britain agrees to Singaporean self-rule.
- 1970 - Apollo 13 launched to Moon; unable to land, returns in 6 days
- 1976 -The Apple I computer, created by Steve Wozniak is released
- 1979 -Tanzanian army captures Kampala, the capital of Uganda forcing Ugandan dictator Idi Amin to flee into exile in Libya.
- 1983 - NASA launches RCA-F
- 1984- Challenger astronauts complete 1st in space satellite repair
- 1984 - Soyuz T-11 returns to Earth
- 1986- Halley's Comet makes closest approach to Earth this trip, 63 M km
- 2000 - South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje is sacked after admitting dishonesty following match-fixing allegations in India
- 2006 - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announces that Iran has successully enriched uranium.
- 2015 - Barack Obama and Raul Castro meet in Panama, the 1st meeting of US and Cuban heads of state since the Cuban Revolution.
- 2016 - UN-backed ceasefire comes into effect in Yemen conflict between Iranian-backed Houthis rebels and government forces.

PRAYERS

FAJR
4: 40

ZUHR
12: 32

ASR
5:09

MAGRIB
7:02

ISHA
8:26

From KO Archives

'I LIVED LIKE FISH WITHOUT WATER FOR 57 YEARS'

Kashmiri's Wait To Visit Father's Grave Ends

LAWASI (MUZAFFARABAD) - Raja Naseeruddin was just three when his father died in a traffic accident. On Friday, 59 years later, he saw his father's grave for the first time.

Naseeruddin was one of 19 Indian Kashmiris who travelled to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir by bus on Thursday, the first to run across the heavily fortified military line dividing Kashmir in nearly 60 years.

"How can I express myself? I simply don't know how," said a tearful Naseer after offering prayers at his father's simple grave in the mountain village of Lawasi.

" I don't remember my father, I was too young when he died." he said. "Now, at least I feel relief to have visited his grave. I want to come here again."

Naseer's family, like so many others, was split apart by the Line of Control drawn across the scenic valleys of Kashmir.

After his father was killed in 1946 near Muzaffarabad his mother took him to live with relatives near Srinagar.

A year later, with the armies of newly independent Pakistan and India were battling over Kashmir, Naseer was unable to return to his home Village — and so it was until this week.

"Returning to my land, I feel like a fish being thrown back into water." he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 11 April, 2005)

Myanmar's UN Envoy Urges No-Fly Zone, Sanctions Against Junta



Agencies

UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES: Myanmar's envoy to the United Nations, who has rebelled against the junta, on Friday urged a no-fly zone, arms embargo and targeted sanctions in a passionate plea for action. "Your collective, strong action is needed immediately," Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun told a Security Council meeting. "Time is of the essence for us," he said. "Please, please take action." He voiced regret so far at the "lack of adequate and strong action by the international community, especially the UN Security Council."

civilians and he voiced anguish over the deaths of children. "A no-fly zone should be declared," he said, "to avoid further bloodshed caused by the military air strikes on civilian areas." "No doubt that these acts are not acceptable to all of us in this modern world," he said. "I strongly believe that the international community, in particular the UN Security Council, will not let these atrocities keep going on in Myanmar." He also called for an international arms embargo and the freezing of bank accounts associated with members of the military and their families. All foreign direct investment should also be suspended until the restoration of the democratically elected government, the ambassador said.

US, Iran Clash On Sanctions, US Sees Possible 'Impasse'



US and Iranian officials clashed on Friday over what sanctions the United States should lift to resume compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, with Washington predicting an impasse if Tehran sticks to a demand that all sanctions since 2017 be removed. The two nations laid out tough stances as indirect talks in Vienna on how to bring both back into full compliance with the agreement wound up for the week, with some delegates citing progress. The talks, in which European Union officials are shuttling between the remaining parties to the deal and the United States, aim to restore the bargain at the core of the agreement - restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of US and other international sanctions. The United States was the first to renege on that bargain under then-President Donald Trump, who vehemently opposed the deal and sought to wreck it. He pulled out, reimposed the sanctions that were lifted, and brought in many more. Iran responded by breaching many of the nuclear restrictions. "All Trump sanctions were anti-JCPOA & must be removed—w/o distinction between arbitrary designations," Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said on Twitter, referring to the deal by its full name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United States says it is pre-

pared to lift "sanctions that are inconsistent with the JCPOA." While it has declined to elaborate, that appears to exclude sanctions formally unrelated to nuclear issues covered by the deal. A senior US State Department official told reporters the United States had seen some signs of Iranian seriousness about returning to the nuclear pact but "certainly not enough." "If Iran sticks to the position that every sanction that has been imposed since 2017 has to be lifted or there will be no deal, then we are heading towards an impasse," the senior US official told reporters on a conference call. Whether the statements are opening gambits or more firm positions remains to be seen. European officials said Iran was bargaining hard at the outset. The remaining parties to the accord - Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany, and Russia - met again on Friday after talks formally began on Tuesday and they agreed to keep going, Russian and Chinese envoys said. "The #JCPOA participants took stock of the work done by experts over the last three days and noted with satisfaction the initial progress made," Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's envoy to the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said on Twitter after the meeting formally known as the Joint Commission. "The Commission will reconvene next week to maintain the positive momentum." The remaining parties have formed two expert-level working groups whose job is to draw up lists of sanctions that the United States will lift and of nuclear restrictions Iran will implement. Their work continues between Joint Commission meetings. **REUTERS**

Fresh COVID Lockdowns Worldwide As Vaccine Efforts Stumble

Agencies

Fresh lockdowns and curfews have been imposed on tens of millions of people from India to Argentina as COVID-19 infections surged again and vaccine roll-outs were hampered by shortages and fears of side effects. In India, the worst-hit state of Maharashtra was running out of vaccines as the health system buckled under the weight of the contagion, which has killed 2.9 million people worldwide. Having let its guard down with mass religious festivals, political rallies and spectators at cricket matches, the world's second-most populous nation has added more than a million new infections since late March. Every weekend, from Saturday until the end of April, Maharashtra's 125 million people will be confined to their homes unless travelling or shopping for food or medicine. Stay-at-home orders were also set to come into force for the eight million inhabitants of Bogota, as the Colombian capital battled a third wave of infections, adding to curfews already covering seven million across four other big cities. Argentina entered a night-time curfew on Friday, running from midnight to 6am every day until April 30. It will be in force in the country's highest-risk areas, mainly urban centres, where bars and restaurants will close at 11pm. Argentina and Colombia have recorded about 2.5 million coronavirus cases, numbers surpassed only by Brazil in the region. All of France is subject to restrictions of some form, while the German government's attempts to curb movement and



commerce have been stymied by several states refusing to go along with the proposals. Now Berlin is changing the rules to centralise power, adjustments likely to usher in night-time curfews and some school closures in especially hard-hit areas. But some countries were in the process of opening up. Italy was set to end lockdowns from next week for Lombardy, the epicentre of its coronavirus pandemic, and several other regions with improving contagion statistics. Neighbouring Slovenia announced it would ease coronavirus restrictions and suspend a six-month-long curfew starting on Monday. **Shaky rollouts** As in India, Europe's stuttering vaccine rollout faced multiple hurdles on Friday as European Union regulators said they were reviewing side effects of the Johnson & Johnson shot and France further limited its use of the AstraZeneca jab. France has repeatedly changed the rules on AstraZeneca's vaccine, first over doubts

Next Stop, Space: All-Civilian Spaceflight Crew Ready With Tickets, Training



Agencies

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES: Several hundred people have already booked their tickets and begun training for a spectacular voyage: a few minutes, or perhaps days, in the weightlessness of space. The mainly wealthy first-time space travellers are getting ready to take part in one of several private missions which are preparing to launch. The era of space tourism is on the horizon 60 years after Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space. Two companies, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin, are building spacecraft capable of sending private clients on suborbital flights to the edge of space lasting several minutes. Glenn King is the director of spaceflight training at the National Aerospace Training and Research Center, a private company based in Pennsylvania which has already trained nearly 400 future Virgin Galactic passengers for their trips. "The oldest person I trained was 88 years old," King told AFP. The training program lasts two days -- a morning of classroom instruction and tests in a centrifuge. This involves putting the

trainee in a single-seat cockpit at the end of a 25-foot-long (eight-meter-long) arm and spinning them around to simulate gravitational force, or G force. A medical team is on hand at all times. **"Enjoy the view"** NASA's training for shuttle crew members lasted two years but the duration has been drastically reduced by the commercial space industry because of the "numbers of people that want to get up in space," King said. "We can't take two years to train these people," he said. "We've got to get this down to a matter of days to get these people up. "These people aren't crews, just strictly passengers," he noted. "For a passenger, there isn't a lot of work for you to do other than just relax, endure the G forces of launch or reentry. "And then once you're orbital, enjoy the view out the window." King said the pass rate for the training course has been "99.9 percent." The cost ranges from several thousand dollars to as much as \$10,000 if special care or medical monitoring is needed. The single biggest barrier to "spaceflight for all" remains the price tag.

EU Reviews Johnson & Johnson Over Blood Clots, Widens AstraZeneca Probe

Agencies

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS: The EU's drug regulator said Friday it is reviewing possible blood clot cases in people given the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus shot and probing a new condition linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine. Four cases, one fatal, of rare clots with low blood platelets were reported among those vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson shot, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said in a statement. Five cases meanwhile were reported of people suffering a rare condition in which tiny blood vessels leak after getting the AstraZeneca jab, causing swelling and a drop in blood pressure. "It is not yet clear whether there is a causal association" between the two vaccines and the cases, the Amsterdam-based EMA said in a statement. The fresh questions over vaccine safety come after the watchdog said Wednesday it was listing blood clots as a very rare side effect of the shot by British-



Swedish firm AstraZeneca. But the EMA said its safety committee had now turned its attention to US pharma giant Johnson & Johnson, and "started a review of a safety signal to assess reports of thromboembolic events" in people who had received the jab. "One case occurred in a clinical trial and three cases occurred during the vaccine rollout in the USA. One of them was fatal," it said. The EMA has already approved the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for use, but its rollout across the 27-nation EU is not due to start until later this month. The EMA safety committee has also started reviewing "reports of capillary leak syndrome" in people in Europe who have received the AstraZeneca vaccination. "Five cases of this very rare disorder, characterised by leakage of fluid from blood vessels causing tissue swelling and a drop in blood pressure, were reported," it said. Both the Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca jabs use similar adenovirus vector technology. The EMA said that after investigating both of the new reports it would "decide whether regulatory action may be necessary", which usually involves adding a notification about side effects. The EMA said earlier this week that it was aware of cases linked to the J&J vaccine, but gave a lower number of three and did not mention the death. The overall numbers were "extremely small" compared to the 4.5 million Johnson & Johnson shots administered worldwide, EMA safety chief Peter Arlett told a press conference on Wednesday. "This is however under close scrutiny... I think it is fair to say there is intensive monitoring of this issue across the vaccines," Arlett said.

Battle For Yemen's Marib Heats Up, 53 Dead In 24 Hours

Agencies

Fighting for the key Yemeni region of Marib has intensified, with 53 pro-government and Houthis rebel fighters dead in the past 24 hours, loyalist military officials said on Saturday. The Houthis have been trying to seize oil-rich Marib, the government's last significant pocket of territory in the north, since February. "The rebels have managed to seize a bit of territory" in the latest fighting northwest of the city, a pro-government military source said, adding that they did not threaten the city of Marib itself. The same source said 22 government soldiers including five officers had been killed, along with 31 rebels. The Houthis rarely announce casualties on their own side. The Iran-backed rebels in 2014 overran the capital Sanaa, 120 kilometres to the west of Marib, along with much of northern Yemen. That prompted a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year to prop up the government. Loyalist military officials said on Saturday that coalition aircraft had carried out strikes against the rebels, but the



Houthis had pushed on with their offensive. The rebels have stepped up missile and drone strikes against neighbouring Saudi Arabia in recent months, rejecting a Saudi proposal for a ceasefire. The loss of Marib would be a heavy blow for the Yemeni government, currently based in the southern city of Aden, and for its Saudi backers. It would also threaten a humanitarian disaster, as at least a million civilians displaced from fighting elsewhere have sought refuge in Marib camps. The conflict in Yemen has killed tens of thousands of people and pushed millions to the brink of famine, according to aid agencies. The United Nations says Yemen is suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

NEWS MAKERS

The Epic, Unlikely Love Story Between Queen Elizabeth And Prince Philip

Looking back, their love story was both royal and implausible. She was the daughter of King George VI. He was the nephew of a deposed king of Greece. Her family owned majestic castles. His family was living in exile. Her father helped rally Britain over the Germans in WWII. His sisters had connections to the Nazi party. Also, they were cousins - distant, but still cousins. But when they strolled out of Westminster Abbey in 1947 as husband and wife, Princess Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, who died Friday at 99, embarked on a love story for the ages. Married 74 years, their royal matrimony weathered her unexpectedly early ascension to Queen, after which his Royal Navy career took a backseat to her duties as



head of state - her weekly audiences with prime ministers, the gilded life of the Sovereign. Though the popular Netflix show "The Crown," portrayed Prince Philip as unhappy in those early days, the truth is that "Prince Philip took on the unlikely role of champion to his wife and became both mother and father to their children, al-

lowing the Queen to deal with the requirements of her position," according to royal biographer Ingrid Seward's 2018 book on their marriage. "Even after seven decades," Seward wrote, "the Queen's face lights up when Philip enters a room." They first laid eyes on each other in 1939.

She was 13, prim and proper. He was 18 and unrefined - a dashing cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College. Europe was months away from being consumed by World War II. Margaret Rhodes, the queen's cousin, wrote in her 2011 autobiography, "The Final Courtsey," that "Elizabeth was truly in love from the very beginning." During the war, the two exchanged letters. Philip served in the Royal Navy while she was shuffled from palace to palace as Britain was being bombed. She eventually was settled with her younger sister, Margaret, at Windsor Castle. Marion Crawford, who served as their governess, wrote in her memoir, "The Little Princesses," that Elizabeth was smitten with Philip's arresting blue eyes and Viking good looks.

Mrs. World Gives Up Crown After Onstage Melee In Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: The reigning Mrs. World has relinquished her title while defending her decision to pull the crown off the head of this year's Mrs. Sri Lanka title holder, whom she claimed was unqualified to take part in the contest because she is divorced. Caroline Jurie, the winner of Mrs. World 2020, has been accused of injuring Pushpika De Silva, who was crowned Mrs. Sri Lanka on Sunday at a televised pageant in Colombo. Jurie was arrested on Thursday and later released on bail. In a video statement Friday, Jurie said she stood against "injustice" and said the pageant was "tainted". "My only intention was to stand up for the injustice caused to the competitors throughout this competition,



which was tainted with heavy politicisation," she said. Jurie added she wanted to ensure that every contestant had an equal opportunity, because she had seen "from the beginning" that the contest was corrupted. She stressed she did not favor anyone. "I am now ready to hand over

the crown," she said, before removing the crown from her head. Following Sunday's bust-up, De Silva clarified that she is separated, but not divorced, from her husband. Mrs. Sri Lanka belongs to the Mrs. World beauty contest for married women. De Silva said: "Being apart is one. Divorce is something else",

in a statement on Facebook. But on Friday, Jurie said: "How I see it is, the purpose of Mrs. World is to celebrate all women who are married and still strive to conquer their dreams, despite the commitment and responsibilities a married woman strives to fulfill." She said the pageant was not meant to discriminate against divorced women, "but to celebrate the dreams of the married woman". Jurie, who is also Sri Lankan, faces allegations that she injured De Silva during Sunday's on-stage melee. Moments after De Silva won the title, Jurie came on stage and snatched the crown from her. Jurie then handed the crown to the first-runner up, declaring that woman the winner.-AP

No Kashmiri Member In PCC Reflects Discriminatory Mindset: Tarigami

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The recent decision of the Union Government to downgrade J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) to Pollution Control Committee (PCC) is shocking and people in the region perceive such decisions as reflection of discriminatory mindset, CPI(M) leader Yousuf Tarigami said on Saturday.

On March 25, the government of India issued a Gazette Notification for downgrading J&K PCB to PCC which has a chairperson and 13 members. The members include Administrative Secretaries of Industries, Housing & Urban Development, Health & Medical Education, Transport, Jal Shakti, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, MS GMC Jammu, some NGOs from Jammu like National Development Foundation etc.

However, there is no mention of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Urban Environmental Engineering Department Kashmir (UEED), Wullar Conservation Authority, Environment & Ecology Department, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority or

any NGO's from Kashmir valley.

Tarigami said as there is already confusion about many changes happening post abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, this development has added more disappointment to people.

"With Kashmir already under onslaught and exploitation of natural resources going unabated, this step has not only disappointed the people at large but the concerned environmentalist and civil society too."

He said there are renowned environmental experts in Kashmir, who have been completely ignored. There is also no mention as to what will be the fate of the erstwhile PCB employees.

"The decision to downgrade the PCB to PCC has also come at a time when environmental issues are a priority world over. Instead of strengthening such institutions which safeguard the environmental concerns, the government of the day is out to demolish these which is highly unfortunate. There is a need for sustained efforts for environmental conversations, an issue that concerns the entire world."

DIC Budgam Organises Seminar For Civil Services Aspirants



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: To guide the recent pass out graduates of Sheikh-ul-Alam Government Degree College, Budgam regarding the civil services, the District Information Centre (DIC) Budgam Saturday organised a counselling programme cum seminar in the conference hall of DIC.

The programme was also organised keeping in view the lack of proper guidance, proper counselling and strategy about how to go for these exams for the aspiring and enthusiastic students.

Speaking on the occasion, Nuzhat Qureshi, ACD Budgam enlightened the Civil services aspirants about the strategy to

be adopted for cracking civil services IAS/KAS. During the program, Qureshi shared her experience with participants and urged them to work with zeal and dedication for cracking any competitive exam.

Ifam Shah while sharing her experiences with the students in detail presented the curtain raiser about how one aspiring student shall prepare for this coveted exam. She said nothing is impossible but there is a need for strong commitment, resilience and proper approach.

She said every goal is achievable; every student shall feel that he can do it, those who have already succeeded are not from any other universe, they are also amongst you.

Woman Commits Suicide, Family 'Torches' Her In-Laws House In Rage

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The family of a woman, who hanged herself to death Saturday morning in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, allegedly set the house of her in-laws ablaze.

An official said that the woman ended her life by hanging herself at her home in the Mominabad area of the district Saturday morning.

The official said the deceased woman's family from Kulgam later set the house of her in-laws on fire in a fit of rage alleging that the in-laws of their daughter had forced her to take the extreme step.

Scores of the relatives of the woman who committed suicide on Saturday staged a protest in Chawalgam market of Kulgam district, demanding stern punishment to the "culprits".

A police officer said they are investigating as to what led the woman to take such an extreme step adding they will take strict action if the allegations are found to be true.

Earlier on April 1, a 32-year-old and a mother



of two from Aishmuqam area lost her battle with life at SKIMS, Soura after being "burnt alive" allegedly by her in-laws in Aakhoora Mattan area of Anantnag.

In yet another incident, recently a CRPF man from outside J&K strangled his wife at the rented accommodation inside a camp at Andernag Sherbagh.

More than nine per cent of women between 18 and 49 years of age experienced domestic violence in Jammu

and Kashmir in 2019-20, National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has revealed.

The survey report, released in 2020, claims that 9.6 per cent of women in the age group 18-49 experienced domestic violence in 2019-20.

"Around 11 per cent of rural women between 18 and 49 years have witnessed domestic violence whereas in urban areas 5.9 per cent of women have been victims of domestic violence in 2019-20. 5 per cent of rural women of age group 18-29 have experienced sexual violence at the age of 18 while 1.4 per cent of urban women have faced sexual violence at the age of 18," the survey has found.

Kashmir-based women's rights activist Ezabir Ali said that the custom of giving gifts to a daughter getting married as a form of affection has turned ugly over a period of time as it has become rigid - a symbol of social status and family prestige

"Every woman in Kashmir has a story to tell but lips are sealed due to family pressures, social stigma or honour involved," she said—(KNO)

MORE THAN NINE PER CENT OF WOMEN BETWEEN 18 and 49 years of age experienced domestic violence in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019-20, National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has revealed.

Contempt Petition: HC Asks Director Colleges To Appear In Person

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Saturday sought personal appearance of Director Colleges Jammu and Kashmir for not utilising the services of college contractual lecturers.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey while dealing with a contempt petition filed by college contractual seeking implementation of court orders said Director Colleges Pirzada Mohammad Yusuf shall appear before the court on April 12 and ensure that college contractual are not stopped from entering the college premises.

The college contractual of Kashmir province had filed a petition that they are not being allowed to dispense their duties despite the clear directions from the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

A spokesperson of the college contractual association said they were working on academic arrangement basis in different colleges of J&K.

"We have given our best in all the ways still in return we are on the verge of begging and



our families are at the verge of starvation. If it continues like this it will affect and will definitely have its repercussions as 2300 people will be forced to take any untoward step.

Education quality has been affected to the extent that students in colleges are without teachers but the authorities are playing mute spectators," the spokesperson said.

"Our brothers and sisters are without salaries since August 2019, which highlights the gross violation of court orders. Why is the higher education department not obeying the court orders?" the spokesperson asked.

They said authorities in

higher education have completely sabotaged the minds of highly qualified youth of J&K.

"We are still waiting since February 2021 that our services be utilized as director colleges has given a written affidavit that the status quo is maintained and our services will be utilized," they said.

"Even they need staff in colleges, they are not utilizing our services and in this way, students have suffered a lot," the spokesperson said.

They have also requested Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Advisor Higher Education Department to look into the matter. (Agencies)

Pulwama's Zahid Bagh Village Lacks Basic Facilities, Residents Aghast

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: A village in litter tehsil of South Kashmir's Pulwama district is craving for basic facilities as authorities aren't paying attention to the village's plight.

Locals from Zahid bagh village said that their area falls on the boundary of Pulwama and Shopian district and lacks all basic facilities.

They said that a water supply scheme along with a filtration plant was constructed in the area around a decade but it was yet to be made functional.

"From last 10 years, we are forced to drink contaminated water and despite repeated pleas to the concerned authorities no attention is being given towards our issue," they said.

They further said decayed poles and low lying electric wire is posing threat to the local residents.

"The government middle school in the village is also craving for the infrastructure as it is cramped in just three rooms," they said.

Locals further added that the inner roads and the main road from Rakh-Zahidbagh are also in dilapidated condition and hasn't been macadamized.

"This village has a population of around 10,000 people but has been neglected by successive governments," they said.

Locals requested governor lead administration to look into the matter and direct concerned officials to provide basic facilities to the area at the earliest so that they can heave a sigh of relief. (KNO)

Five Drug Peddlers Arrested, Contraband Recovered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Saturday arrested five drug peddlers in Budgam, Anantnag and Sopore. A huge quantity of contraband substances was also recovered, a police spokesperson said.

In Budgam, officers at a checkpoint established at Nagam Chadoora intercepted two persons riding on a motorcycle bearing registration number JK01R-1045 identified as Mush-taq Ahmed Khanday resident of Badipora and Irshad Ahmed Yattoo resident of Nagam Chadoora.

On their personal checking, officers were able to recover 480 capsules of banned drugs and 03 bottles of codeine from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to PS Chadoora where they remain in the custody. Officers have also seized the motorcycle involved in the commission of offence. Accordingly, case FIR number 35/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Chadoora and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Similarly in Anantnag, a Police party from PS Anantnag under the close supervision of ASP Anantnag Nikhil Borkar-

IPS established a checkpoint near Shahi Bakery Bus stand, intercepted a person riding on a motorcycle bearing registration number JK18-0757 identified as Younis-ul-Islam Magray resident of Manghal Anantnag. During checking, officers were able to recover 20 bottles of Codeine phosphate from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 81/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Anantnag and investigation has been initiated.

In Sopore, on specific information, officers from PP Bus Stand Sopore established a checkpoint at Kupwara Crossing and intercepted two persons identified as Tariq Ahmad Ganie resident of Bohripora and Mukhtar Ahmad Parray resident of Saidpora Sopore. During checking, officers were able to recover 19 grams of Heroine from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 87/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Sopore and further investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Teenager Found Dead In Naidkhai

Observer News Service

SUMBAL: A teenager was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his home in Pushwari village of Naidkhai in Sumbal division of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday morning.

A Police official said that 18-year-old Abdal Ahmad, a class 12 student did not wake up at the usual time after which the family members went to wake him up.

The family later broke the lock of the door to find Abdal lying dead in his bed, the official said.

Station House Officer, Sumbal said that a police team arrived at the spot to verify the cause of the teenager's death. (CNS)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236 E-mail:-edgbl123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER ID
e-NIT no: 12 of 2021-22 dated 08/04/2021

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Hotel/Restaurant Owners/ Established Catering Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC/MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Rupees)	Cost of tender document (DD)	Time of Supply	Position of funds
Providing of Meals for the inspecting officers- officials at Different locations in Baltal, Domail and Nilgrah, Rayilpathri and Brarimarg and Transit Camp Manigam staff to facilitate Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra 2021.	4.32	Bid security Document	Rs 1000/-	Within 10 Days	Authorized

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPPD or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT	09-04-21	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	10-04-21	10.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	10-04-21	10.00 hrs
4.	Clarifications Date End	12-04-21	16.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	13-04-21	10.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	27-04-21	14.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	29-04-21	15:00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

Executive Engineer
ED Ganderbal

No: EDG/ 365-71 /TS
Date: 08-04-2021

DIPK-NB-154/21

اڙتياڙت
بڙتياڙت
مضمون کا نفاذ درخواست خجانب
محمد سلطان ذکر ولد عبدل العزیز ذکر سرگامک بڙتياڙت
عطا یگی ڈیپنڈ سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO 294
استیاد برادر اگای ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑا یاری حالت سے رپورٹ منظور کیا رڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موصی بڙتياڙت میں ہالیش پڑی ہے اور کہہ پڑیل افرد پر مشتمل ہے
رہبر یگیتم زویہ عبدل العزیز عمر سیدہ 65 سال
عفران احمد ذکر 23 SPO
شاکستہ اختر عبدل العزیز گھر پلوکام 25
سریر اختر گھر پلوکام 20
اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا نذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ادر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے معیار نہ کرے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا
نائب تحصیلدار
SULT

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Seed License . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection officer Lalmandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bashir Ahamd Bhat
S/O Gh Nabi Bhat
R/O Waripora Bangil

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving License bearing dl no: JK0920120071563 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection inthis regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office RTO Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Feroz Ahamd Shah
S/O Bashir Ahamd Shah
R/O Langat Handwara

SULT

Office Of The Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

No.101/6023/MVD/ANG Date:-10-04-021

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Abdul Majeed Magray S/O Abdul Qayoom Magray R/O Rahu Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No. JK03E-5204(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Syed Mudassir S/O Syed Javid R/O Chachu Magam Taika Magam(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 Ashajipora. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Army 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 Anantnag

No.101/6024/MVD/ANG Date:-10-04-021

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Abdul Hamid Allie S/O Ab Samad Allie R/O Kulgam(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Sumo Bearing Regd. No. JK03A-9198(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Danish Ahmad S/O Abdul Gaffar Allie R/O Chachitil Ramber(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 DH Pora. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Army 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

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“With the real faces and real people featured on their business social media accounts; each wedding has become an advertisement. It is quite disappointing that people find it acceptable to have their private life being used as a means to market

A Little Too Much On Extravagance in Kashmiri Weddings

HIRRA SULTAN

“Many people justify this because they are affluent. They justify it by saying that one should spend as per their means and show their affluence as a form of gratitude to the Lord. Hence, this is not to be considered extravagance; this is merely spending as per means.

Weddings are once in a lifetime events. Things that don't usually occur twice. As such, the couple and their families have a lot of “dreams” associated with it. From “Sarnie pritchav” (Invite one and all) to designer dresses, people tend to feel that this is one time when all wishes and daydreams can be fulfilled without feeling guilty or without having to answer anybody. Add to this the fact that many of the brides earn themselves so they spend on the wedding themselves as well. Having their own earnings and savings gives them a different sort of freedom to choose what they want —the best.

This has created an industry out of this event. The Band Baja Barat of Kashmiri weddings is on an unmitigated and hysterical spree, where those who can, are adding anything and everything to put up a good show. From things that should be served to how the house should be decorated, to how many people would attend the functions, what would constitute the bride's trousseau; everything has been changing. Everything is being done at a larger scale.

Many people justify this because they are affluent. They justify it by saying that one should spend as per their means and show their affluence as a form of gratitude to the Lord. Hence, this is not to be considered extravagance; this is merely spending as per means. This comes directly from the book of the Lord. “Let the rich man spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him” (65:7 Quran)

However, for anyone who talks about religion and hence the permissibility of luxurious weddings, these ayahs should be enough for the Lord neither likes the miserly nor the spendthrift. This does not merely apply to money matters or weddings only. God likes those who do everything in moderation.

“And He it is who causes gardens to grow, [both] trellised and untrellised, and palm trees and crops of different [kinds of] food and olives and pomegranates, similar and dissimilar. Eat of [each of] its fruit when it yields and give its due [zakat] on the day of its harvest. And be not excessive. Indeed, He does not like those who commit excess.” (6:141)

“And render to the kindred their due rights, as [also] to those in want, and to the wayfarer: But squander not [your wealth] in the manner of a spendthrift.” (17:26)

“And eat and drink, but waste not in extravagance. Certainly He [Allah] likes not those who waste in extravagance.” (7:31)

If we were to put religion aside though and talk merely about human desire and nature, we would abhor these ostentations all the same. When we go for a lavish wedding, parents of the ones yet to be married feel pressured to make



similar or better arrangements because this is the new trend and this is how weddings are being conducted these days.

Weddings have always been a show. However, these days the worst that it brings reaches faster and is very difficult to avoid because of social media. The entire entourage from wedding photographers, designers, makeup artists and wedding planners now rely on the easy marketing that comes with the internet. However, with the real faces and real people featured on their business social media accounts; each wedding has become an advertisement. It is quite disappointing that people find it acceptable to have their private life being used as a means to market. Not only this, this cycle also makes every party invested completely insensitive towards the adverse implications of creating a standard of affluence and desirability in weddings. Is this what we stand for?

Collectively we compel a lot of people to spend more than necessary. Sometimes by doing these things ourselves and sometimes by asking people about it. As more and more

people indulge in such lavishness, more people are compelled to follow even if they can barely afford it. We make sure everyone complies.

We should not merely have a huge wedding because it is allowed to spend money or absolutely tell no one because we shouldn't. Both are extreme measures and should be avoided. Instead of merely taking up an ayah and using it to do what we want, we should also think about the impact it has on society, on other parents, on the people to be married. We are making these customs and taunting the ones who don't oblige. And we — all of us, are responsible for all the evil that we see in our society.

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

The author is a Srinagar-based columnist whose work on gender, health and society has appeared in many local publications

After decades of “closed-door” policies that transformed Myanmar from one of Asia's most promising economies to one of its worst performers, a decade of democratization had given the country's young people a glimpse of a brighter future. They will not soon stand by and let it be snatched away.

GENEVA – Half of Myanmar's population is under the age of 30, and many of these young people have benefited from their country's fragile, imperfect democratic transition over the past decade. They know the military's return to power could reverse hard-won gains in human development and fundamental freedoms. Their future is at stake.

So are their lives. On March 27, General Min Aung Hlaing used the occasion of Armed Forces Day to claim that the military would protect the people and promote democracy. In fact, this turned out to be the bloodiest day since the military coup on February 1.

And yet, as a father clutching his dying son poignantly noted, “on this day, both lives and futures are being lost.” With their prospects vanishing before their eyes, tens of thousands of young people have taken to the streets across Myanmar. They are refusing to live without hope.

But the country's backsliding is already being felt acutely. In addition to COVID-19, Myanmar is confronting a compounding economic crisis. The World Bank's recent regional forecast shows GDP on track to shrink by 10% in 2021, compared to 6.8% growth in 2019 and 1.7% growth in 2020, when the country was reeling from the pandemic.

Late last year, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Household

Myanmar's Young

ACHIM STEINER



Vulnerability Survey signaled that poor households are being pushed further below the poverty line, while many vulnerable households are being dragged toward it. Even previously financially secure households are facing massive shocks from business closures and loss of employment.

On the streets of Yangon, Mandalay, and other cities, Myanmar's citizens have come to experience these crises in the starkest of terms, with countless personal tragedies unfolding behind the data. Young people are watching employment opportunities disappear as investment plummets. International buyers and factory owners are questioning

“The suppression of information, free speech, and internet access threatens to push Myanmar back into isolation from the rest of the world. But this is happening at a time when a whole generation of young people have come to know what it is like to enjoy better jobs, freedom of speech, access to information, and improved education

the viability of their local operations, given the lack of worker safety and security. Unable to guarantee continued production and reliable logistics, many businesses have halted operations entirely. With these closures, even more young people will lose their jobs and meager livelihoods.

The internet is the lifeblood of this generation, but it has been restricted severely. The suppression of information, free speech, and internet access threatens to push Myanmar back into isolation from the rest of the world. But this is happening at a time when a whole generation of young people have come to know what it is like to enjoy better jobs,

freedom of speech, access to information, and improved education.

These developments shaped younger cohorts' values and aspirations, instilling them with a sense of civic consciousness. Their expectations reflect the real possibilities that they had previously seen ahead of them: the potential of a different future than the one their parents had known.

History offers stark reminders of what the young are likely to face. In 1950, Myanmar's per capita income was higher than that of Malaysia or Thailand. But the following decades of “closed-door” policies resulted in severe under-investment in the economy and public goods and services, with deep and corrosive effects on human capital. Military rule turned Myanmar from one of the most promising economies in Asia into one of its worst performers.

The parents and grandparents of today's young people know what it was like back then, and their bitter experience has been recounted to their children and grandchildren. Young Myanmar does not want the clock turned back. They will not be silenced. The 19-year-old taekwondo champion and dancer Kyal Sin (also known as Angel) was wearing an “Everything will be ok” shirt when security forces gunned her down in Mandalay. Thousands of young people like her continue to stand on the streets each day, full of defiant optimism as they face the military and courageously demand the country they want and deserve.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed, there is only one way forward. The security forces must stop the violence, the generals must return Myanmar to the democratic path by respecting the results of last year's election (which the National League for Democracy won decisively), and all political prisoners must be freed.

Only then can there be progress on reforms to deliver fair economic development and human rights – including freedom of movement, the right of safe return for refugees and citizenship – and on controlling the spread of the virus. Only a society that invests in its very humanity can be at peace with itself.

.....
Project-Syndicate

Prince Philip, the Man Who Walked Two Paces Behind the Queen

The Duke of Edinburgh understood that the rituals of monarchy were both ridiculous and necessary.

TINA BROWN

In his decades as Elizabeth's consort, Philip continued to seek ways to redefine the relevance of a modern monarchy and support her while carving out a hyperactive commitment to causes and interests of his own

In 1953, in the rustling, ermined silence of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey, the 31-year-old Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, removed his own coronet, knelt at the feet of the young woman he wed six years before, and swore an oath of allegiance. "I, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, do become your liege man of life and limb and of earthly worship ... so help me God."

That Philip kept that oath for the next 68 years is a miracle not only of the modern monarchy but also of modern matrimony.

It wasn't easy to assume a role in which he would always walk two paces behind his wife. Philip was the unsettling definition of a full-on alpha male: devastatingly handsome, vigorously self-assured, impatient with fools — and not just fools. When he leaned from his considerable height and bore down on a recalcitrant fact or factotum, it could be a shriveling experience for whoever had got it wrong.

"The queen must have understood from the beginning that this was a very, very strong character with a ramrod straight backbone, and he wasn't going to be bugged about," Sir Nicholas Soames, a friend of Prince Charles, told me.

This was no contrived union, like the disastrous marriage of Charles and Diana. It was a love match from the start. The queen had been crazy about him since 1939, when she was 13 and Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, an 18-year-old Navy officer cadet, squired her around the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

In time, he fell in love with her, he told her in a 1946 letter quoted in Philip Eade's biography, "completely and unreservedly." When he proposed to her seven years later at Balmoral, neither her father, the king, nor the queen mother thought he was a safe bet. Philip may have been related to half the crowned heads of Europe, but his family had been booted into exile, and he was the penniless prince of nowhere.

From infancy, the trilingual Philip bounced among his European relatives. While at Gordonstoun, the spartan Scottish boarding school to which he was dispatched, he had no idea where he would be spending his school holidays. He signed the visitor's book at country houses with the descriptor "of no fixed abode."

The shy, observant Princess Elizabeth was undaunted. She saw in Philip the unflinching character who would be what she would call on their 50th anniversary "my strength and stay all these years." The two were bonded by a sense of duty and a desire to serve that was framed by the war.

"His generation equated service to country as service to values he believed in,"



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 1951.

Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, a former private secretary to Princes William and Harry, said. Philip's rootless royal past reinforced a conviction that the monarchy's survival is built on and bounded by a commitment to duty.

Coddled by deference, Elizabeth trusted Philip's subversive impatience. Surrounded by excruciating formality, she could always depend on him to make her laugh. His gift to her was the shared secret that the formalities were both utterly absurd and absolutely necessary. "She knew she would always get an honest answer from him," Alastair Bruce, the governor of Edinburgh Castle and a documentarian, told me.

In return, she provided Philip with an emotional safe place his childhood lacked. Though his eye was rumored to rove, his devotion to the queen cannot be questioned. He completed more than 22,000 royal engagements on his own and accompanied the queen on all of her overseas tours. ("Don't jostle the queen!" he would sometimes bark

if the press got too close.)

He made comments that ranged from impolitic ("Your country is one of the most notorious centers of trading in endangered species," he told his affronted hosts when accepting a conservation award in Thailand in 1991) to offensive ("Do you still throw spears at each other?" he asked Aboriginal elders on a trip with the queen to Australia in 2002). But the queen's poker face in public was no guide to how she might have dryly chided him in private.

The marriage succeeded on strategy as much as love. The queen's marital challenge was how to harness her husband's prodigious energies in the service of the crown. The key to that was to avoid making him feel unmanned. There was a difficult passage in the early years, when he learned that his children would take the dynastic Windsor name, not his own. And there were few models then for how to build a marriage in which the balance of power was so

entirely weighted toward a wife, unless you count Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

With her customary quiet savviness, the queen found sly ways to manage her husband while she got on with weighty matters of state. She put him in charge of all the royal estates and houses, which he oversaw — as the queen mother put it sourly — like a "German junker," and she deputed to him the big family decisions.

Elizabeth encouraged activities that made Philip feel autonomous: flying, polo, carriage driving. He drove a four-horse carriage around Windsor Great Park at the age of 97. He had a passion for technology. In more recent years, I am told, he extolled the joys of his Kindle until, disgusted by all the direct marketing of books he didn't want to read, he threw it in the bath.

Philip was determined not to insert himself into the queen's constitutional realm. Instead, he threw himself into a blizzard of nearly 800 charity chairmanships. His passion for conservation was ahead of the environmental curve.

In 2017, at the age of 95, Philip announced he was retiring from royal duties. At a cozy farmhouse on the Sandringham estate he read voraciously and painted watercolors. His withdrawal left a void for the palace as well as for the queen. There are many there who believe that the lack of his decisive presence at the center of the action is a key reason the Windsor family began again to go up in flames — first Prince Andrew's imbroglio with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and then the explosive revelations from Harry and Meghan in exile. But it's hard to imagine that even Philip, the family enforcer, could have quenched this inferno.

For the queen, England's traumatic ordeal with Covid brought an unexpected blessing. She was able to spend a year locked down at Windsor and Balmoral with the love of her life. In public, they permitted themselves no displays of affection, but in private, Mr. Bruce told me, they had a wonderful teasing intimacy. "They play off each other the way two people who love each other do, in a way that makes their inner sanctum very trusting," he said.

In his decades as Elizabeth's consort, Philip continued to seek ways to redefine the relevance of a modern monarchy and support her while carving out a hyperactive commitment to causes and interests of his own. Yet he never forgot his bond of duty. When he finally realized he was running out of steam, the queen's frail liege lord of life and limb formally asked the monarch if she would release him from her service.

Gently, and with love, she let him go.

The Guardian

The Spiritual Checklist: Preparing the Heart for the Month of Ramadan

SEEDS OF SELMA

*Sow the seeds in Rajab
Irrigate the crop in Sha'ban
Reap the harvest in Ramadan*

Ramadan well-prepared for can change your life, in fact I have felt the blessings are limitless, we are reminded this through Quran and Hadith: "He leaves his food, drink, desire for Me. Fasting belongs to Me and I reward for it." (Bukhari). The Sahabah (RA) used to prepare for Ramadan 6 months in advance and we should and can feel inspired to do so too.

The habits that we develop and strengthen in the lead up to and during Ramadan should Insha Allah continue long after the blessed month has ended and according to scholars, this is a sign for us all that our Ramadan will be accepted. We as humans are creatures of habit and the word 'habit' itself comes from the Latin word 'Habitaris' which means to live. Indeed, habits make up a lifetime, and it is up to us whether or not they are conducive to our spiritual growth.

The goal is to always start small, and to not feel overwhelmed, with the intention to stay consistent as according to the narration of Aisha (RA), The Prophet stated that

"The best deeds are those which are consistent even if they are small"

Small pockets of the day can be used to increase us in barakah, protect us from sin, weigh heavily on our scales and keep us connected to our Lord which is the ultimate goal.

It is about setting the spiritual standard and prioritising spiritual health.

The Deen provides us with practical steps to implement, and slowly but surely building yourself up to continue to seek in the path of Allah. If you walk to Him, He comes to you running, all it takes is one step. We often start Ramadan strong and slowly lose momentum over the month, but start working on your spiritual toolkit now, so that your habits will continue long after in sha Allah.

Wudhu

Be mindful when you are performing wudhu,

hu, in fact, start by visualising the water wash away the sins from each part of what is being cleansed. Aim to stay in wudhu so that it pushes you to be mindful of your actions like speech and thus not using harsh words or listening to idle talk, and lowering your gaze to the faults of others.

Salah

Prioritise all of your prayers by aiming to complete them on time each day and with khushoo.

Give yourself a few moments before each prayer to stabilise your breath, clear your mind, set your intentions and ease into salah, we often jump into our salah and bring whatever we were doing into that safe space. Ground yourself in this moment with your Lord and be conscious of your recitation and the movements of prayer. It is a blessing to have another chance to communicate with Allah, to express gratitude and bow in submission and obedience to the Lord of the worlds.

Also aim to pray sunnah as much as possible which help to complete the deficiencies in the fardh prayer; praying the sunnah prayers is akin to building a moat around the fortress of your soul. Go further and seek the blessings and the pleasure of Allah in tahajjud- the blessed time of the last third of the night.

"The Lord descends every night to the lowest heaven when one-third of the night remains and says: 'Who will call upon Me, that I may answer Him? Who will ask of Me, that I may give him? Who will seek My forgiveness that I may forgive him?'"(Bukhari, Muslim)

As well as completing more sunnah prayers, aim to complete the sunnah fasts of Monday and Thursday, to seek the reward of Allah and to also prepare your body for the fasting month, these fast can be carried out through the whole year.

Dhikr, Salawat and istighfar

Do more Dhikr and see the Barakah in your day.

Do Salawat to increase your love for the Prophet .

Do Istighfar to cleanse your soul of the dirt of sin.

Keep your tongue moist and heart open with dhikr and develop these as a habits after praying, during the rest of the day through tasks such as preparing food, completing household tasks, walking, and whenever you remember.

Dhikr carries divine healing energy that protects you against the spiritual ills and toxicities of this dunya. It is a shield that keeps you connected to Allah (SWT) in every moment, with whatever you are doing and wherever you are, you are assured that indeed Allah is near, he is listening, he is your guardian and protector.

Think of dhikr as a thread that keeps you in constant communication with Allah and in sha Allah over time will become the anchor that keeps you rooted in your purpose as a Muslim, and allow you to stand strong despite the endless pulling and tugging of this world.

Cultivate your relationship with Allah

Devote some time to speak to Allah on a regular basis about everything; your hopes, dreams, worries and fears.

Use the names of Allah, the beautiful names to call upon Him and seek different names based on your needs for Allah loves to give.

- Al-Razzak for sustenance in your life and others
- Al-Fatah for opportunities and opening doors with the divine wisdom of Allah
- Al-Wudud, Al-Raouf for improving or strengthening relations with family, a spouse, children, the community

Remember that Allah is sufficient for a believer and we need Allah akin to how plants need sunlight to grow. Our souls wilt and our hearts are lifeless without Allah.

Qur'an

The best advice I ever received was to read and recite Qur'an everyday. Even if it's just one verse a day, start small it will help to cultivate a habit that is grand. Qur'an can be active and come alive in our lives, as we may interpret the words differently depending on our current situation, and we may even see the answers to our concerns reveal themselves to you, and this is Allah comforting you that everything is unfolding as it should- it will lead to stronger

tawwakul, that feeling of trust in Allahs plan.

Listen to your favourite reciters daily, recite with them and develop a love for the words of our Lord. Listen to lectures on Tafsir, you could even explore Qur'an journaling, or take part in online Halaqas or seminars that expand your love for the words of Allah. You slowly start to yearn for the reassurance of the words of Allah and the peace that it brings you and naturally gravitate towards it.

Reflections and mindfulness

We experience a lot of excess noise and distraction which can become suffocating, and it becomes harder to sift through the clutter. We are also suffering from too much access to indulgence, which feeds the nafs.

The nafs (lower self) is like a beast that needs to be disciplined but if you constantly feed it – bear in mind with each time, the desires increase exponentially – it grows and starts to overwhelm and overpower the ruh. In Ramadan we deprive our nafs of the basal desires such as food, intimacy, sleep and instead seek to tend to the ruh which is strengthened by spiritual connection.

Pay attention to what distracts you and leads you away from your spiritual goals and develop mindfulness of your consumption. The heart is a vessel that only pours out what it contains. Ask yourself what sort of content are you feeding your heart? The heart is the sanctuary of Allah, so protect it.

Spend time in deep reflection, ponder on your blessings, the wisdom behind everything in existence, how nothing exists without the will of Allah and how every creature seeks sustenance from Allah ultimately and Allah alone.

Developing an awe and gratitude for the blessing of Islam can really help to increase love for the deen, for me spending time in nature, where the birds and trees are in constant dhikr allow that connection.

Spending time alone is vital for our emotional and spiritual wellbeing as we rediscover ourselves and this reminds me of the fitrah – the preordained nature of each individual – and the reality that the entire journey of the soul is to rediscover it because it knows Allah.

Muhasabah. Go inward – evaluate yourself.

Hold yourself accountable and assess what you're doing well, and what needs work. Umar RA said "evaluate yourselves before you are evaluated and weigh out your scales before they are weighed out for you. It's easier for you to evaluate yourself today before the ultimate hisaab tomorrow". Allah is The most forgiving and the most merciful. The mindset of not being 'good enough' is a lure of the shaytaan often, who strives to stop you from seeking your lord's forgiveness.

The Deen is constantly empowering us, encouraging us to seek betterment of our souls, of our different roles, and our contributions to society.

Intentions

With all that has been aforementioned, I would like to end on a beautiful note that pulls everything together and that is the necessity and power of good intentions. By constantly assessing what you are doing something for, it helps you develop a deeper awareness and conviction with yourself.

Intention is the pillar of worship: I like to visualise intentions as planting a tree.

Deeds that are not done with the purpose of pleasing Allah is like planting a tree with rotten roots, there is no goodness. Only with the right intention can the deed grow into something fruitful that will be of benefit to your soul and those around you. Goodness has a ripple effect, it spreads far and wide in your life and into your akhira, as well as into the lives of others.

May Allah grant us the ability to develop discernment with our souls, constantly strive to do and be better and to positively impact those who we cross paths with whether for a fleeting moment or for a lifetime.

May Allah allow us to live to see another Ramadan, get closer to Him and to purify our souls from spiritual debris.

May Allah make us of those who are beloved to Him

Make a prayer for all those who didn't live to see it.

Amaliah.com

Exercise, healthy childhood diet ensure bigger brains in adults, less anxiety

Agencies

Exercise and a healthy diet in childhood lead to adults with bigger brains and lower levels of anxiety, according to new UC Riverside research on mice.

Though diet and exercise are consistently recommended as ways to promote health, this study is the first to examine the long-lasting, combined effects of both factors when they are experienced early in life.

"Any time you go to the doctor with concerns about your weight, almost without fail, they recommend you exercise and eat less," said study lead and UCR physiology doctoral student Marcell Cadney. "That's why it's surprising most studies only look at diet or exercise separately. In this study, we wanted to include both."

The researchers determined that early-life exercise generally reduced anxious behaviours in adults. It also led to an increase in adult muscle and brain mass. When fed "Western" style diets high in fat and sugar, the mice not only became fatter, but also grew into adults that preferred unhealthy foods.

These findings have recently been published in the journal Physiology and Behavior. To obtain them, the researchers divided the young mice into four groups – those with access to exercise, those without access, those fed a standard, healthy diet and those who ate a Western diet.

Mice started on their diets immediately after weaning and continued on them for three weeks until they reached sexual maturity. After an additional eight weeks of "washout," during which all mice were housed without wheels and on a healthy diet, the researchers did the behavioural analysis, measured aerobic capacity, and levels of several different hormones.

One of those they measured, leptin, is produced by fat cells. It helps control body weight by increasing energy expenditure and signalling that



less food is required. Early-life exercise increased adult leptin levels as well as fat mass in adult mice, regardless of the diet they ate.

Previously, the research team found that eating too much fat and sugar as a child can alter the microbiome for life, even if they later eat healthier. Going forward, the team plans to investigate whether fat or sugar is more responsible for the negative effects they measured in Western-diet fed mice.

Together, both studies offer critical opportunities for health interventions in childhood habits.

"Our findings may be relevant for understanding the potential effects of activity reductions and dietary changes associated with obesity," said UCR evolutionary physiologist Theodore Garland.

In other words, getting a jump start on health in the early years of life is extremely important, and interventions may be even more critical in the wake of the pandemic.

"During the COVID-19 lockdowns, particularly in the early months, kids got a very little exercise. For many without access to a park or a backyard, the school was their only source of physical activity," Cadney said. "It is important we find solutions for these kids, possibly including extra attention as they grow into adults."

Given that exercise was also shown to reduce adult anxiety, Cadney believes children who face these challenges may face unique physical and mental health issues as they become adults in the coming decade.

Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

RESHAM GHAR Colony BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

webiste: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

Email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (F) 2312631

Subject : Written Test for the post of Medical Officer (Allopathic) - Refund of fee remitted against objections filed.

NOTICE - I
DATED: 09.04.2021

Vide Notification No. PSC/Exam/2020/32 dated: 10.11.2019 regarding disposal of objections/representations received against provisional official Answer key issued in Written Test for the post of Medical Officer (Allopathic) which was conducted on 01.11.2020, refund (@ Rs. 500/- per question) was processed in favour of those candidates, objections filed by whom were found to be correct, by way of RTGS/NEFT transfer through J&K Bank Ltd.

But, as per bank report, the refund in favour of the applicants enlisted in the Annexure to this notice could not mature owing to various reasons viz, account no.- title mismatch, wrong Account No./IFSC code etc. The bank details already available with the Commission are also given against each candidate.

Now, it is enjoined upon these candidates, to furnish the correct account details in the format below through email at jkpscmorefund@gmail.com by or before 16.04.2021. No further request in this regard shall be entertained thereafter.

Name of the applicant	Roll No.	Bank & Bank Branch	Bank Account No. & IFSC Code	Amount
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ANNEXURE to Notice - I DATED: 09.04.2021

S. No.	Name of candidate	Account No. furnished	Benef. Bank
1	Kanika Chib	321040100002683	JK BANK
2	Nidhi Mahajan	1490100019631	JK BANK
3	Faheem Ul Islam	342040120001592	JK BANK
4	Shazia Ali	12040100033017	JK BANK
5	QudsiaZeeraak	349040100033479	JK BANK
6	Mehzada Ali	12040100033017	JK BANK
7	Nasir Hamid Bhat	349041000000162	JK BANK
8	Maria Farooq	1206040100002380	JK BANK

No: PSC/Exam/Secy/MO/2020/47

Dated: 09-04-2021

(Vinay Samotra) KAS,

Deputy Controller Of Examinations,

DIPK-350/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory

Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Srinagar

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

Cancellation Notice

Subject: Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Workshop tools and equipments for Mechanical division Srinagar.

References: This Office NIT No: MDS/TS /2020-21/144 /e-tendering ; Dated: 15.12.2020. Tender ID: 2020_PWDJK_111649_1 read with corrigendum issued vide No. MDS/TS-526/6235-39; Dated: 26.12.2020.

Due to administrative rerasons, the above referred NIT issued for the subject work is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division Sgr.

No: MDS /TS-526/274-78

Date: 10 .04.2021

DIPK-386/21

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

JDA Complex Janipur, Jammu

Email: jkslsa1234@gmail.com
Telephone: 0191-2539679 Fax: 0191-2539962

Subject: Syllabus and type of question paper for written examination of Junior Assistants in J&K Legal Services Authority.

- In terms of advertisement notification no. 01 of 2021 dated 08.03.2021, applications were invited for filling up of the vacant posts of Junior Assistants in the pay scale Level-4 (25,500-81,100).
- Whereas, the said posts pursuant to Recruitment Rules, are required to be filled up by direct recruitment on the basis of merit to be obtained in the examination /test.
- Whereas, the test structure, syllabus and type of question paper for the said examination would be as follows.

Test Structure

- The test will comprise of written examination carrying 80 marks;
- The interview shall be of 20 marks;
- The written examination shall be of 80 minutes duration.
- The question paper shall comprise of 80 questions and each question shall carry one mark. Each question will contain multiple choices.
- There will be no negative marking;
- There will be no cut off point or pass marks in the examination, instead candidates shall be called for interview in the ratio of 5:1 i.e. five candidates against one vacancy on the basis of their merit obtained in the written examination.

Syllabus for the Examination:

- The question paper shall comprise of following four parts with breakup of marks given against each part:
- General English = 30 marks.
- General Knowledge/Current Affairs = 25 marks;
- Basic Concepts of Computers = 15 marks;
- Job related awareness = 10 marks.

The syllabus for each part is given as follows:

Part-I General English:

This part shall comprise questions relating to the General English awareness of the candidates, including grammar, with special focus on Articles, Verbs, Tenses, Prepositions, Voice, Synonyms, Antonyms or Punctuations etc., and factual understanding of events, dates, people, idioms or phrases etc.

Part-II General Knowledge:

This part shall comprise questions relating to the current affairs.

Part-III Computers:

This part shall comprise question relating to the knowledge of basic concepts about computer systems.

Part-IV Job related:

This part shall comprise job related questions including the terminologies generally used in the official/court work and types of communications etc.

No:LSA/Estt/04/2021/JA/

Dated :- 09.04.2021.

Sd/-
(M.K. Sharma)
Member Secretary

DIPK-365/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Pollution Control Committee Jammu

winter office: November-April

Parivash Bhawan Gladni Transport Nagar Narwal Jammu (J&K) 180006

Ph Fax 0191-2476925

Summer Office: May - Oct

Sheikh Ul Alam Campus Behind Govt Silk Factory
Rajbagh Srinagar (J&K) 190008 Ph fax 0194-2311165

Email: membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com

Public Notice

Sub.: Public Hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Blocks scheduled on 08.05.2021 for i) Block- 19, ii) Block-20, iii) Block- 23 and iv) Block-27 v) Block-3 for Distt. Kulgam.

As per EIA Notification Rule 7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change GoI vide S.O.1533 dated 14th September, 2006 (as amended till date), Public Hearing of the below mentioned mining blocks for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out.

The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Committee as per requirement of EIA notification. The ToRs (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA vide nos. i) JKEIAA/2020/331/1558-61 dt. 27.12.2020, ii) JKEIAA/2020/332/1554-57 dt. 27.12.2020 iii) JKEIAA/2020/333/1566-69 dt. 27.12.2020, iv) JKEIAA/ 2020/ 334/1562-65 dt. 27.12.2020 v) JKEIAA/ 2020/ 349/1608-11 dt. 08.12.2020 for the said Public Hearing along with draft EIAs/EMPs, which is scheduled to be conducted as per below mentioned details:

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area / Coordinates	Name of Village/Tehsil / District	Location of public hearing Venue (Date and Time)
Sh. Kusrheed Ahmad Mir, S/o Sh. Ghulam Mohammad Mir, R/o Dougham, Kakapora, District Pulwama.	9.52 Hect.	Block -19 having an area 9.52 ha. Area S-Kulgam, Downstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Kulgam, Tehsil and District Kulgam. Coordinates: A 33°38'11.73" - N 75°13'33.46" - E to D 33°38'07.21" - N 75°13'34.57" - E	Vill.: Kulgam, District Kulgam (J&K)	Date : 08-05-2021 Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 am. At Town Hall, Kulgam
Sh. Abdul Rashid Bhat, S/o Sh. Abdul Ahmad Bhat R/o Chatripora, District Kulgam	9.09 Hect.	Block -20 having an area 9.09 ha T-Brazlo Bridge Upstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Brazlo, Tehsil and District Kulgam. Coordinates: A 33°38'29.48" - N 75°02'30.77" - E to D 33°38'15.45" - N 75°02'14.56" - E	Vill.: Brazlo, District Kulgam (J&K)	Date : 08-05-2021 Time : 11.30am. to 12.30 pm. At Town Hall, Kulgam
Sh. Mohammad Yaseen Paray S/o Sh. Mohammad Yaqoob Paray R/o Near Masjid Fasil Chock, Chakpora, Ban Dora, Ashumji, Distt. Anantnag	9.09 Hect.	Block -23 having an area 9.09 ha., W-Ashumji Bridge Upstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Ashumji, Tehsil & District Kulgam. Coordinates: A 33°39'37.52" - N 75°03'54.12" - E to D 33°39'16.19" - N 75°03'33.76" - E	Vill.: Ashumji, District Kulgam (J&K)	Date : 08-05-2021 Time: 12.30 pm. to 1.30 pm. At Town Hall, Kulgam
Sh. Gulam Mohammad Pinchoo, S/o Sh. Mohammad Rajab Pinchoo, R/o Fasil Colony Jawbram, Awantipora, District Pulwama	9.21 Hect.	Block-27 having an area 9.21 ha., Al-Mah Village Upstream, Vishu Nallah, Village Ashumji, Tehsil & District Kulgam. Coordinates: A 33°41'03.98" - N 75°54'45.41" - E to D 33°40'47.55" - N 75°54'24.72" - E	Vill.: Al-Mah District Kulgam (J&K)	Date : 08-05-2021 Time : 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 pm. At Town Hall, Kulgam
Sh. Amit Gupta S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o H No 21, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu	8.41 Hect.	Block-3 having an area 8.41 ha., C-Nehama Bridge Upstream Nallah Vishu District Kulgam, J&K Coordinates: A 33°38'04.33" - N 74°52'41.81" - E to E 33°38'04.04" - N 74°52'29.40" - E	Vill.: C-Nehama District Kulgam. (J&K)	Date : 08-05-2021 Time : 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 pm. At Town Hall, Kulgam

The Executive Summary of EIAs and draft EMPs in English and Urdu of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKPCB i.e. www.jkpcb.nic.in as well as in the following offices:

- The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.
- Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Paryavaran Bhawan, Narwal, Jammu (J&K).
- Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Deputy Commissioner, District Kulgam, Kashmir (J&K).
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Rajbagh Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K).
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Kulgam.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Kulgam.

All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 8th of May, 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivash Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com

The panel for conducting public hearing shall be as under:

- District Magistrate, Kulgam, J&K or his representatives not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.
- Regional Director, JK Pollution Control Committee, Rajbagh Srinagar, Kashmir or his authorized representative.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Kulgam.
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Kulgam.

All interested persons/organizations/groups/stake-holders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the aforementioned date, venue and time and give their suggestions, view/comments and objections, if any, to the authorities, conducting the Public Hearing. Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIAs from Office of District Pollution Control Committee, Kulgam.

B.M. Sharma (IFS)
Member Secretary JKPCB, Jammu

DIPK-NB-187/21

After Facebook, LinkedIn Data Of Over 50 Crore Users Leaked



Agencies

It's been an unprecedented week for privacy, or rather, the lack of it. Close on the heels of the Facebook data breach comes news that more than 50 crore user details of the professional networking platform LinkedIn may have been breached and on sale online. LinkedIn, owned by Microsoft, has denied the news, first reported by CyberNews, which said 50 crore LinkedIn profiles had been put on sale on a popular hacker forum, with some 20 lakh records made public as a sort of proof. Just a few days ago, the data of 53 crore Facebook users were reported to have been breached, including the information of more than 60 lakh Indian users. Facebook responded that the data was scraped two years ago and that it had already fixed the issue. India is one of the biggest markets of Facebook, second only to the US.

"The exposed data was based on an API permission that would allow anyone to query a user's number," Sundar N. Balasubramanian, managing director of Check Point Software Technologies India & SAARC had commented on the Facebook data leak issue,

adding, "It is also not a new trend that (we are) seeing. The main damage is that information (of) about half a billion users has been leaked and is available online, including their phone numbers, email addresses and location data."

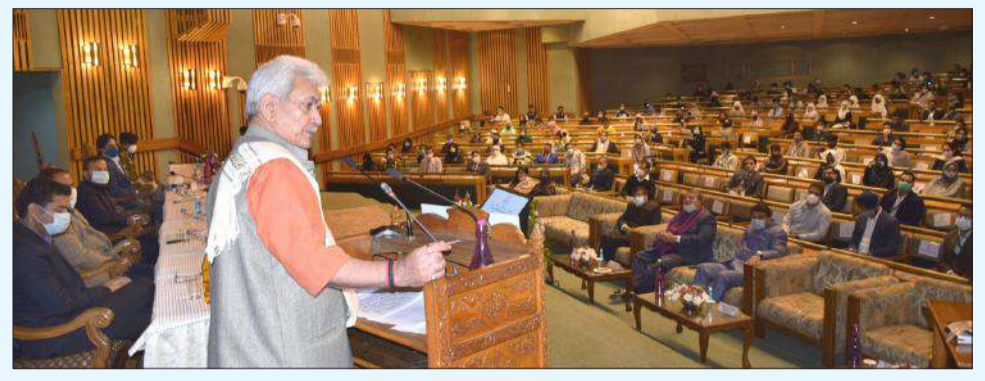
The LinkedIn data breached include user's LinkedIn ID, full names, email addresses, phone numbers, gender, links to profiles as well as other social media profiles, professional titles and more information related to their work.

Indian companies have not been immune to this new wave of attacks. According to the Acronis Cyberthreats Report 2020, companies in India encountered the third-highest number of malware attacks after the US and Japan. Recently, cybersecurity researchers claimed that the data of over nine crore users of Mobikwik, a Gurugram-based fintech platform, was put up for sale—with the data reportedly including phone numbers and bank account details. Last week, the Reserve Bank ordered Mobikwik to undertake forensic data over the incident.

Making the matter worse is that the law barely affords Indians any sort of protection over such incidents. The Personal Data Protection Bill, which is supposed to have provisions, is yet to be passed by the parliament.

Cybersecurity issues have spiked in the age of the pandemic, with incidents of phishing, hacking, ransomware—and now data breaches, shooting through the roof.

Govt To Train 5000 Young Professionals In Financial Services Sector: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Government is working on robust and efficient digital network infrastructure in the hinterland to provide transparent financial services to the people. Our aim is to bridge the gap between Rural & Urban pockets of J&K, and ensure that easy credit is accessible to all those interested in starting their own business ventures.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his address at a day-long conference on "Education to Entrepreneurship" here at SKICC.

The conference was organized by Mission Youth, J&K in collaboration with the Taleem-O-Tarbiyat initiative to promote economic development and encourage sustainable livelihood of the youth in Jammu & Kashmir, with emphasis on education, character building, entrepreneurship, and skill development here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated Sh. Zafar Sareeshwala, Former Chancellor, Maulana Azad Urdu University & Head, Taleem-O-Tarbiyat for taking the initiative to provide insight and the way forward on how to plan future strategies in providing skill development, education and employment opportunities to the youth of J&K.

The Lt Governor observed that the improvement in regulatory environment and business ecosystem is playing a major role in promoting economic growth and financial inclusion in Jammu & Kashmir. We are exploring all the possibilities so that financial inclusion and easy credit is accessible to all people, besides developing skills of the youth in Banking & Financial Services Sector to capitalize on vast opportunities, added the Lt Governor.

A target has been set to develop and train 5000 young professionals this year, and equip them with the requisite skill sets of Financial Services Sector, the Lt Governor maintained.

Terming Skill development as a guiding force for empowering youth and providing them opportunities to become self-dependent, the Lt Governor observed that J&K government has been continuously working on policy and interventions to bridge the skill gaps and create a conducive environment with collaborative efforts to generate employment opportunities in various sectors, said the Lt Governor.

Mentioning a recent report of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the Lt Governor said J&K has less unemployment rate than States & UTs like Delhi, Goa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. He said that the unemployment rate in the UT has gone down to 9% from 16.1% in September 2020 and gave its credit to the people, especially the youth of J&K.

J&K has vast natural resources and immense potential. The UT Government is making every possible effort to ensure optimum utilization of resources and funds to create a business friendly environment, he added.

Paving way for a strong Women Entrepreneur Ecosystem in J&K, the UT Government

has already announced a new scheme – Tejaswini under Mission Youth, through which financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs to the girls between the age group of 18-35 years is provided to start their business, the Lt Governor maintained.

During the Back to Village programme, we had set a target of around 9000 youth to be identified for financial support for starting their enterprise. The expected target has been exceeded and 18,500 youth have been extended the financial support and now they are providing jobs to others as well, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor said that the government in consultation with all the stakeholders has developed the best Industrial scheme as compared to other regions of the country. The unprecedented Rs 28,400 crore New Industrial development scheme would further attract a huge investment of Rs 20,000-25,000 crore, besides providing employment avenues and opportunities to around 5 lakh youth, he added. The Lt Governor noted that Two IT Towers, one each in Jammu and Srinagar would be ready in their estimated timeframes. He said that the Government is also working to tap the massive job opportunities in insurance and financial sector.

J&K has a vast pool of talent with majority of its population below 35 years of age. Efforts are afoot to create jobs for the big segment of the population in different sectors. The Government under Mission Youth is aiming to engage 80% youth in livelihood generation by 2025, said the Lt Governor.

India Needs To Grow Faster To Make Up For Contraction During Covid Pandemic: IMF

WASHINGTON:



India, which is projected to grow at an impressive rate of 12.5 per cent this year, needs to grow at a much faster pace to make up for the unprecedented contraction of eight per cent that it clocked during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, according to a senior IMF official.

International Monetary Fund Deputy Chief Economist Petya Koeva Brooks, in an interview to PTI on Friday, also made a strong case for an additional economic stimulus to address the impact of the pandemic on the country's economy.

"When it comes to India there was a major collapse of output last fiscal year and the number as you mentioned is eight.

"So, we are very glad to see the strong rebound this year with projected growth of 12.5 for fiscal year 21-22 and we are seeing also high frequency indicators including PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index), and trade and more mobility indicators which give us a sense that there is continued recovery in the first quarter of this year," she said.

That said, there are some recent emergencies of the new variants in the localised lockdowns that are seen as one of

the threats to this recovery, Brooks noted.

"On the recovery itself, when it comes to level in terms of the level of output, we are expecting that level to return to the pre-crisis one from 2019 to this fiscal year. That is what we have in our projections.

Noting that the Indian government took several steps to address the COVID-19 crisis, Brooks said, "We have seen policy responses, which have been coordinated and in several areas. We have seen that the fiscal support, the monetary easing as well as the liquidity and regulatory measures that were taken."

What makes sense is to maintain the focus on having that coordinated policy response because this is what's going to prevent the long-term damage to the economy. Providing that support to small and medium-sized firms as well as vulnerable houses would be particularly important, she said.

Brooks said the IMF very much welcomes the measures that were announced by India during its budget. It is particularly supportive of maintaining the accommodative fiscal stance and also emphasising expenditures on health and infrastructure. PTI

Indian Consumers Foresee A Gloomy Future: RBI Survey



Agencies

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.

India's Fuel Consumption Declined To A Four-Year Low In Fiscal 2020-2021

Agencies

India closed the financial year 2020-2021 with a nine per cent decline in total fuel consumption over the same period last year. This fall is primarily attributed to Covid-19 lockdowns induced slump in economic activities. According to data shared by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, India's total fuel consumption stood at 194.63 million tonnes (mt) during the year under review, down from 214.13 mt a year ago. This is a four year low with 194.60 mt fuel consumption last reported in fiscal 2016-2017. It is also the first recorded overall decline in the country's fuel consumption.

Petrol consumption stood 6.75 per cent lower from 30 million tonnes in 2019-2020 to 28 mt in 2020-2021. The fall was muted on account of a rise in preference for personal mobility in the later months of the financial year as COVID-19 lockdowns were relaxed.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG or cooking gas) consumption stood at 27.59 mt, almost 5 per cent higher than last year. This growth in consumption is driven by the three free LPG cylinders distributed to each of the 8 crore Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries early in the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

This had also driven up imports of LPG with IndianOil, the country's largest fuel re-



finer, saying that it will be importing about 50 per cent more cooking gas to ensure uninterrupted availability of bulk LPG for its bottling plants.

Oil companies had ramped up imports of LPG in April and May to cover up any shortfall during the course of the pandemic lockdowns. Despite the surge, the additional imports remained within the existing contracts with more quantities being frontloaded at the beginning of the financial year.

A steep decline in diesel consumption over the year pulled down the overall fuel usage the most. India's diesel consumption stood at 72.72 mt in fiscal 2020-2021, down from 82.60 mt a year ago. This means lesser commercial vehicles were on the country's roads compared to last year, a reflection of slowed economic activity. This is also the second straight year of decline in total diesel consumption that stood at 83.53 mt in fiscal 2018-2019. Diesel consumption in 2020-2021 is a five-year low with 69.42 mt of consumption being reported in 2014-2015.

Union Secy Tourism inaugurates 60 ft Shikara at Sgr Airport on his arrival

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A day ahead of the scheduled event in the valley by the Union Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with Tourism Department, Union Secretary Tourism Arvind Singh, on Saturday arrived in the valley.

Singh on his arrival inaugurated the 60ft long iconic 'Shikara' crafted by local artisans, which was then put on a conveyor belt at Srinagar's Sheikh Ul Alam International Airport.

Director Srinagar International Airport Santosh Dhoke, told news agency that the initiative is one of its beautification programmes, and placing of 60ft Shikara on Conveyor belt where passengers take their luggage,



will have the first-hand feel of Shikara at the Airport.

"It will give them an impression of one of the beautiful attractions of the valley and will eventually, be a promotion for the Tourism in

Kashmir," Dhoke said.

On the occasion, Singh lauded and appreciated the Airport Authorities for using modern and creative strategies to promote Kashmir tourism.

SHORT TAKES

Federation Chambers Industries Of Kashmir Inks MoU With CIIT



BARAMULLA: Federation Chambers Industries of Kashmir (FCIK) inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for upskilling and enhancing the skills of industry professionals with the latest technologies at Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT) established at Government Polytechnic College Baramullah. The MoU was signed at FCIK House between Dr. Shafquat Ara Principal, Government Polytechnic Baramullah and Mr. Shahid Kamili, President along with Ovees Qadir Jamie, Secretary-General FCIK. The purpose of MoU between two institutions is to enhance the competency of the industry-sponsored people at CIIT Baramulla by imparting skill training on the latest technologies with the help of faculty from Tata Technologies to enhance the existing skills of the industrial professionals for competency development in modern engineering tools necessary for the product design and development.

The main aim of the MoU would be the application of technology, through digital transformation in accordance with industry 4.0 standards to improve efficiency, maximize revenue growth and reduce operational cost in the industries. Center for Invention, Innovation, incubation & Training will impart trainings in latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Automobile Engineering conforming to Industry 4.0 with the help of subject experts from Tata Technologies Ltd Pune that has been established at an estimated cost of Rs 181 crore.

FCIK has proposed facilities in the various industries for upskilling of Polytechnic students to new technologies in their industries and both institutions agreed to collaborate with each other for the benefit of the students as well as industry sponsored professionals. Er Tahir Wani, Hod GPCB, Er. Ameen Wani lecturer GPCB, Mr. Suhail Nehvi and Ovees Qadir Jamie Secretary General, FCIK were also present on the occasion. (KNS)

Will Bring Bandipora On Tourism Map In Valley: MP Lone

Agencies



BANDIPORA: Member of Parliament from North Kashmir and senior National Conference leader Mohammad Akbar Lone Saturday said that he will provide every support to administration in order to uplift the tourism sector in the district. Lone, as per news agency, said that he will provide all financial support to uplift the tourism sector in the district as it is blessed with natural beauty. He said that Gurez has been all-time favorite tourism area in North Kashmir which requires due attention with regard to its development and tourism attention. Lone also said that Wullar-lake which has been centre of attention all the time has got the full scope of tourism facilities.

"We can promote its beauty and scope so that Bandipora will get due attention of tourists," he said. About Bandipora dilapidated roads Lone said that the repair work will start on where ever needed.

"I have discussed with Deputy Commissioner Bandipora about the Sumbal-Bandipora road which needs immediate treatment and hopefully, the work will be started within a couple of weeks," he said.

Lone today visited the Mini Secretariat Bandipora where he chaired a meeting of various concerned officers and took a detailed review of the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and projects.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE



COVID-19 SOPS GO FOR A TOSS: Violating Covid-19 SOPs, people flock outside the ticket counter of Tulip Garden on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Militant Killed

from militants when they launched a combing operation in the area.

"The joint team returned the fire triggering off an encounter," the official said.

A local news agency quoted official sources as saying that a soldier was injured in the exchange of fire with the militants. The soldier, as per the report has been removed to the hospital for treatment.

However, in a tweet put out on its official Twitter handle, Kashmir police claimed killing of an unidentified militant in the ongoing operation.

Reports also suggested presence of a 14-year-old militant in the besieged area. His family has reportedly been brought to the encounter site by the government forces in a bid to persuade him to lay down his arms.

Meanwhile, another gunfight is underway between militants and state forces in Bijbehara area of neighbouring Anantnag district.

The encounter, an official said, broke out after government forces launched a search operation in Semthan area of the district on Saturday afternoon.

A local news agency reported that two to three militants are believed to be trapped in the area.

Pertinently, the two fresh encounters took place just a day after seven militants including a AGuH Chief were killed in two separate encounters at Jan Mohalla Shopian and Nowbugh Tral on Friday.

Coronavirus Cases

with 492 cases, including 62 travellers, followed by 183 in Jammu and 93 in Baramulla district.

The number of active cases has now reached 6,755 in the UT, while 1,28,691 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The death toll in the UT due to the pandemic is 2,029 as six fresh deaths were reported in the past 24 hours.

5 More Areas

institute of Technology Hazratbal.

The areas were notified as Micro Containment Zones after detection of many COVID-19 positive cases in these areas today.

"People living within radius of 50 to 75 mtrs from reported areas shall restrict their movement as medical teams complete surveillance and testing as per protocol," DC said in a fresh notification issued in this regard.

SKIMS Cancels All

the sanctioned leaves with immediate effect.

"All the sanctioned leaves of the staff of SKIMS and its Medical College Bemina (except leave on extra ordinary grounds) are hereby cancelled with immediate effect in view of the surge of COVID-19 Pandemic cases," reads an order issued by SKIMS Director Dr. A G Ahanger.

The order further directed all the employees to resume duties immediately for maintenance of essential services.

"No fresh case of earned/casual leave shall be entertained," the order adds.

Fear Stricken

hundred employees working in Civil Secretariat have raised concerns over the rising Covid-19 positive cases and the scheduled "Darbar Move" which is also on cards, reports said.

"It is to mention that most Jammu based employees are provided with accommodation in different locations across Srinagar on Sharing basis viz; two employees in each room, if any of the employees becomes infected, then the situation becomes very grim" reads the letter addressed to the LG.

These employees have emphasized and requested authorities to issue directions for allowing these employees to work from their offices at Srinagar as well as from Jammu on "as is where is basis", so that the employees may be able to perform their duties smoothly and look after their families as well in the times of pandemic.

The representation mentions, "As the authorities are aware that all the record of the Civil Secretariat has been digitized and official work has been started through

"e-office" which evidently reveals that the employees can work in the respective offices of the Secretariat at Srinagar and Jammu which will not affect official work in anyway. (KDC)

Two Tuition Centres

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of revenue and police officers sealed the premises of Allen Coaching Institute Sadrabal Hazratbal and Hope classes at Parraypora, Srinagar after three and six covid positive cases respectively were detected in these institutes during random testing of students by the Medical Teams," officials said.

The class work in these coaching institutes shall remain suspended for five days in the first instance, they said.

Furthermore, notices were issued to Career Institute Hazratbal, Takshila Institute and Target PMT for alleged violations of Covid protocols and SOPs, they said."The team also inspected the premises of Akash Institute Hazratbal, KIE Institute Parraypora, Mission Institute Parraypora and Nature Classes Parraypora. The management of these institutes were directed to ensure strict adherence to the guidelines and SOPs issued by the Government from time to time with respect to Covid 19 protocols and in case of non compliance, strict action as warranted under law shall be taken against them."

District Administration Srinagar has said that such inspections shall continue to enforce Covid protocol as per guidelines of the State Executive Committee. (GNS)

6 LeT Workers

in Sopore in which two councillors and a cop were killed. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that the OGW network was busted and the bike used in an attack on Municipal councillors on March 29 was seized by the police.

"After the killing of two Municipal councillors and a Police Man. Multiple CASO's were launched by Police along with other security forces at suspected locations Dangepora, Brath Kalan ,Sidiq Colony Sopore, Model Town , Batpora," the police spokesperson said.

He said many suspects were picked up for the questioning during which an alleged OGW Ashiq Ahmad Pandith of Dangepora revealed that two militants Mudasar Pandith @ Maaz along with foreign militant Asrar had stayed at his residence for three days and had planned the attack.

"Further during questioning name of another suspect namely Junaid Ahmad Shusha of Model Town Sopore came to fore. He disclosed that he came in contact with Pandith in the month of November 2020 at the residence of his cousin, Umair Ashiq in Model Town Sopore," he said.

Pandith, the police spokesperson said along with two foreign militants Ahmad and Abu Sariya stayed for the night on instructions of Sayeed Imran, an OGW of LeT outfit.

"Junaid Ahmad Shusha and Umair Ashiq were convinced by Pandith to work for LeT and they were introduced to Sajid Ali, the handler of LeT in Pck. Upon Imran's disclosure, Umair Ashiq and Sayeed Imran were picked up and confessed that both of them were indeed working for LeT and were providing logistic support to banned organisation to strengthen their network in main town Sopore," he said.

He further added that investigations revealed that a recce was conducted on the directions of Pandith and Sajid before carrying out the attack.

The police spokesperson further said that upon revelations of these suspects, another hardcore OGW , Shakir Yousuf Bhat resident of Batpora was apprehended who further revealed that he is Pandith's cousin and prior to his joining with militants ranks they were working together as mechanic in local workshop at Sopore and was in touch with him since then.

"He told that he used to ferry Mudasar and his associates from Sopore to other places. To execute the militants action which Pandith along with his foreign associate had hatched at the residence of his maternal cousin Ashiq Ahmad during their stay from (March 25 to 28) on the directions of main handler from across

namely Sajid Ali, Maaz activated his OGW network, including Junaid Shusha, Umair Ashiq and Syed Imran. On his directions Umair visited the site and send back his feedback," he said.

Then again on 28th, the police spokesperson said, Ashiq again conducted the recce around the complex.

"In the late evening of 28th March this year, Shakir along with his friend Feroz Ahmed Bhat resident of Batpora Sopore went to Dangepora to bring Pandith and his foreign militant to Batpora, and stayed at the residence of Feroz Ahmad Bhat for the night. From their stay at Feroz's home they again communicated with other OGW's about conducting physical recce," he said.

"He directed Junaid Ahmad Shusha and Syed Imran of Model Town Sopore to remain present near the Municipal office the next day (29th March from 9.00 Hrs) On the next day Shakir took Pandith and foreign militant Asrar on his bike following interiors roads, in order to avoid security check points," he added.

The duo, he said, reached the place of the occurrence where his other associates were waiting for them as per their prior directions. He further said that before entering the complex, Pandith asked the duo to go inside and to get latest information regarding the presence of police personal and counsellors.

"At about 12.48 hrs militants went inside the complex and indiscriminately opened fire upon Police personal and counsellors resulting on spot death of counsellors Riyaz Ahmad Pir & SPO Shafat Ahmad and seriously injuring counsellor Shamus Din Pir who later succumbed to his injuries," the police spokesperson said.

"They then boarded Shakir's bike and escaped into Syedpora orchards using interior roads. Sopore Police along with the sister agencies are working tirelessly to nab or eliminate the dreaded militants," he added.

Shahid Sent to

J&K, against an available vacancy. She has been given the additional charge of Secretary in the Revenue Department to work under Principal Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department.

India, China Agree

Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh," it said.

"The two sides agreed on the need to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols," the Army said in a statement.

In this context, the Army said it was also highlighted that completion of disengagement in other areas would pave the way for the two sides to consider de-escalation of forces and ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity and enable progress in bilateral relations.

"The two sides agreed that it was important to take guidance from the consensus of their leaders, continue their communication and dialogue and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it added.

"They also agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents and jointly maintain peace in the border areas," the statement said.

The 11th round of Corps Commander-level talks took place at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The parleys began at around 10:30 AM and ended at 11:30 PM.

The border standoff between the armies of India and China erupted on May 5 last following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February in line with an agreement on disengagement.

India has been insisting that a resolution of outstanding issues including in Depsang, Hot Springs and Gogra is essential for overall ties between the two countries.

Rainfall Predicted

and "widespread" rains have been forecast on April 15 and 16 respectively.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department official said that the minimum temperature settled at 6.8 degree Celsius against 4.6 degree Celsius on the previous night in Srinagar. The temperature in the summer capital was minus 0.1 degree Celsius below normal for this time of the season.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.2 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum of 0.7 degree Celsius against minus 0.1 degree Celsius on the earlier night.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.8 degree Celsius against previous night's 3.2 degree Celsius, the official said.

Kupwara recorded a low of 3.7 degree Celsius against 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.0 degree Celsius which was minus 0.5 degree Celsius below normal for this time of the year in the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, the official added.

Srinagar To

on vital highway on Sunday. Besides it, the spokesperson said, only stranded vehicles between Jawahar Tunnel and Banihal shall be allowed towards Jammu.

He further said that the traffic control unit (TCU) Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic.

The spokesperson also advised government forces, convoys not to ply against the traffic plan in view of congestion on Jammu-Srinagar highway.

They may ply from Srinagar towards Jammu after confirming the status of the highway," the spokesperson said, adding that there shall be no movement of traffic on April 14 on the highway from the either side in view of maintenance/repairing.

The spokesperson also added that Mughal road remains closed due to snow accumulation.

Tourism Ministry

for leisure, adventure, wedding, films and MICE Tourism," the statement by the tourism ministry said.

Several interesting programmes, discussion sessions, technical tours, exhibitions and interactions will form the part of the event, including a technical visit to tulip gardens for the delegates and a B2B session wherein leading tour operators from other parts of India are expected to participate and interact with their counterparts in J-K. There will also be presentations on the tourism potential of the Union territory, addressed by senior government dignitaries, it said.

Plenary sessions on April 12 will include four panel discussions on the subjects-- Taking Kashmir to the next level as preferred tourist destination, Making Kashmir more eventful, Showcasing the Diverse Tourism Products of Kashmir and Wazwan, Zaffran, and Shikara: The story continues -- and a Chair Pe Charcha' with Master Chef Pankaj Bhadouria.

"The Department of Tourism, Government of J&K will also organise a laser show at the famous Dal Lake followed by a cultural programme. A golf tournament is also being organised at the picturesque Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar for important invitees, including diplomats from Kenya, Vietnam and Georgia, and other leading golfers in the country," the statement added.

10,000 Surgeries

"I used to stay in Pahalgam huts for three straight months every year. That's where my love for this piece of marvel, along with its lovely natives, generated."

For Dr.Sood, skills and results are the reason for the trust of his visitors over him. In what he terms as 'a family bond', the 'vision guard' has already operated on more than 10,000 patients in the snow-capped valley.

"And now," he says with a smile, "I am bringing the latest and most advance eye-checking technology in our hospital as a tribute to my Kashmiri people."

Dr.Sood is coming up with the biggest eye-care hospital in J&K, an initiative he personally terms as a state-of-the-art service center for eyes. The hospital is coming up in Srinagar and shall possess

the potential of operating more than 500 patients at a time.

"With the inauguration of my new hospital, I'll be opening two more in this paradise; one at Anantnag and the other one at Baramulla," he says.

"By doing so, I shall ensure that my Kashmiri brethren from southern and northern parts of the valley don't need to travel miles to visit an eye care facility."

The locals forming more than 90 per cent of his staff, he says, "treat me like a father, a brother, a son and what not. The love I've received here in the mountains is unmatched."

Over the differences between the two regions he operated at, the eye-specialist says his Kashmiri patients don't have trust issues.

"Tell them anything, and they'll abide by you," he says with a smile on his face and a mark of tension on his forehead. "Unfortunately, it's not the case in Delhi where people check 100 alternatives even before taking the medicines."

Being a regular visitor to the valley, Dr.Sood calls himself a failed linguist for his inability to learn Kashmiri language.

Nonetheless, he proudly boasts of completely comprehending the Dardic language helping him to understand his patients better.

"I've noticed four common eye ailments in the valley," he says. "There's too much of trachoma, diabetes affecting the eyes, refractive errors, and leroatoconus found in Kashmiris."

As per the leading eyes surgeon, he has noticed these four grave eye diseases more in the Dardic mountainous people of Kashmir than anywhere else in the world. A fact he wants people to take seriously.

"Because of these diseases, I advise every single Kashmiri to ensure a yearly eye check-up," he says.

For his compassionate equation with his patients, they hail him as their 'life support'.

"I get to hear beautiful words from my clients almost every time I visit Srinagar," Dr.Sood says with joyfulness.

"Now you can imagine the love and the affection I enjoy here!"

With his ever-prospering eye-care empire turning into a grandiose each passing day, the doctor from the capital is making no bones about his trust with Kashmir's "enforced darkness".

"I managed to ensure eyesight restoration of 75 per cent of the pellet victims I operated on," he says.

"But, I have a strong regret over the cases where I wasn't able to restore the eyesight of around ten victims because of the amount of damage inflicted on their eyes."

Union Secretary

measures are being taken to revive the tourism industry and socio-economic development of all those associated with the sector by providing them with better avenues and livelihood opportunities," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Tourism, J&K and Dr. G N Itoo, Director, Tourism, Kashmir were also present on the occasion.

Teacher Killed

investigations taken up, the official added. (GNS)

Two Arrested For

questioned, they said. Based on leads found during the investigation, Mohammad Farooq and Abdul Aziz of Dandote Budhal were apprehended, the police said.

Clothes used in the offence have been recovered from their possession, the police said, adding further investigation was underway. PTI

2 Killed After

of Seripora, Tethara and Mohammad Rafiq son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat and the injured trio as Jahangir Ahmad son of Abdullah Bhat, a resident of Bandhan Sangaldan, Mohammad Waseem saon of Mohammad Ramzan, a resident of Bada Kund Ashmar Sangaldan and Sajad Ahmad son of Mohammad Sultan, a resident of Bandhan Sangaldan.

The injured persons were evacuated to District Hospital Ramban for treatment.

IPL 2021

COVID 'Certificate' Needed To Watch Cricket Matches In Wankhede



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Cricket Association has asked its Apex Council members to produce a COVID-19 negative certificate in order to enter the Wankhede stadium, which will host 10 matches of the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League.

The first game at the iconic stadium in South Mumbai will be held on Saturday evening when Chennai Super Kings square off with Rishabh Pant-led Delhi Capitals.

"Dear Apex Council members. As per BCCI's protocol, all the officials who would be attending the IPL 2021 matches at Wankhede Stadium are required to produce a Negative report of RT-PCR test conducted within 48 hours of the match day," MCA secretary Sanjay Naik, wrote in a note to all the members.

"The tests are mandatory even

for those who have been vaccinated. The report will have to be produced at the time of entry to the stadium on each match day.

"Hence you are requested to get yourself tested at your end and carry the negative report to the stadium on match day."

In the build-up to the IPL, 10 groundsmen at the Wankhede stadium had tested positive for COVID, but most of them had later tested negative.

Then two more groundsmen, and a plumber had tested positive for COVID-19. Maharashtra and its capital Mumbai are worst affected by the infectious disease and the state government has imposed weekend lockdown.

Mumbai's COVID-19 case count has crossed the five lakh mark with 9,200 new cases on Friday, while the death toll rose to 11,909 as 35 patients died.

KKR VS SRH, PREVIEW

Eoin Morgan-Led KKR Open IPL 2021 Campaign Against Consistent SRH

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to strike a perfect balance under the astute leadership of Eoin Morgan when they open their IPL campaign against a consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

One of the best in business in the white-ball format, Morgan took charge of an ordinary-looking KKR under Dinesh Karthik midway into the last season held in the UAE.

Running against time, Morgan-led side finished on same points with SRH and RCB but the two teams advanced on better run-rate as KKR missed the playoffs for the second time in succession.

In his first stint as full time captain, all eyes would be on the ODI World Cup-winning English skipper who will look to transform the misfiring army of cricketers and bring back the glorious days of two-time IPL champions.

In Shubman Gill, they have a fantastic young top-order batsman who can easily shift gears, while the likes of Rahul Tripathi, Nitish Rana and veteran Karthik, who's free from the captaincy burden, can form the core of their Indian batting.

Then there is the skipper Morgan who will look to bat through the overs while hoping that 2019 MVP Andre Russell gets back his explosive touch after a quiet season.

Russell had the worst season by his standards averaging 13 in nine innings without a single match-winning performance as the over-dependency on the Jamaican cost KKR dear last season.

Another West Indian who flopped big time in the UAE was Sunil Narine. Whether it was his suspect bowling action or his failing against the short ball, Narine, who was instrumental in their twin triumphs in 2012 and 2014, looked a pale shadow of his past.

It's time that they think beyond the Trinidadian and try out Shakib Al Hasan, their buy in this year's auction.

On the slow Chepauk strip, all eyes would be on the new 'Knight' and 40-year-old Harbhajan Singh, who will aim to make maximum impact in what could be his last IPL.

They also have a mystery spinner in Varun Chakravathy who struck it rich in absence of Narine last year but his fitness remains a concern.

One of the more consistent sides of IPL, Sunrisers Hyderabad lost before the final hurdle, going down to runners-up Delhi Capitals in the Qualifier 2 last year.

SRH will be bolstered by the return of senior India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar who played just four games in last year's IPL in the UAE due to a hip injury.

Fresh from his fine form during the white-ball leg of the England series at home, Bhuvneshwar will spearhead their attack with yorker specialist T Natarajan by his side.

Add Afghan star spinner Rashid Khan to the bowling lineup and the 'Orange Army' looks pretty balanced in their attack.

But the real strength of SRH will be their destructive top-order with the duo of David Warner and in-form Jonny Bairstow. They also have Kane Williamson and Manish Pandey, forming a solid top four.

Wriddhiman Saha also opened for SRH last year as the wicket-keeper-batsman and will look to prove a point after being sidelined because of Rishabh Pant's heroics in the national team. Buit remains to be seen who will play the role of the finisher for the SRH as they seem to lack muscle power teams badly need in the last five overs.

KKR have a slight edge head-to-head as the Purple Brigade lead 12-7 against the Orange Army and last year they won both their matches against them.

'Water Sports Academy' Inaugurated At Dal Lake

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, along with Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju today inaugurated Khelo India Centre of Excellence, "Water Sports Academy" at Nehru Park in world-famous Dal Lake.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor expressed his gratitude towards Shri Kiren Rijiju and thanked GoI, for adopting the Water Sports Centre as Khelo India Centre of Excellence.

The inauguration of the Khelo India Centre of Excellence is a moment of great happiness as the state-of-the-art centre of Excellence would give wings to the potential of many athletes. It is because of the immense potential of local athletes that the Central Government decided to develop this Water Sports Centre under Khelo India Centre of Excellence Scheme, said the Lt Governor.

Dedicating the Water Sports Centre of Excellence to public, the Lt Governor observed that the new facility will add another feather to the already existing infrastructure of water sports. The aim of Khelo India is to convert the basic structure of sports centres into a state-of-the-art sports facility with modern equipment, top-class coaches so that in the next 10 years, India would reach top ranks in Olympics, he added.

The Lt Governor said that the second Water Sports Centre is coming up at Ranjit Sagar Dam in Kathua to promote water sports in Jammu division, and hoped that it would also be adopted as the Khelo India Centre of Excellence.

"J&K is best in the country in terms of modern water sports equipment. Last year, we launched International Standard Water Sports Equipment which will enable the athletes from the region to improve their performance and show great results in the national and international competitions," added the LG.

Terming sports activities and their promotion as an important tool for social change, the LG called upon the sportspersons to be the ambassadors of the country and its development.

"Jammu and Kashmir sportspersons are the brand ambassadors of India's growing strength, its soft power, and the ambassadors for development and peace. As a symbol of youth power, our players are giving the message of peace and progress. Our water sports athletes will work towards peace, progress, and social harmony with this spirit," observed the LG.

Highlighting the measures taken by the Government for the promotion of sports in the region, the Lt Governor said that last year, despite the challenges of the Corona epidemic, a number of sports tournaments were held, following all protocols, "to provide a platform for the talents in our UT."

"We are aiming to provide high



standard training to young boys and girls of Jammu and Kashmir in all 53 disciplines of Olympic Games this year. At least 15 lakh youth of J&K would get opportunities to participate in various sports activities," observed the Lt Governor.

"Around 8500 players are estimated to participate in the upcoming Premier League in four disciplines – Football, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Hockey," he added.

Underscoring the significance of Monitoring and Mentoring in water sports, the Lt Governor remarked that "Our responsibility in water sports is not limited to just providing resources but constant monitoring, world-class training and evaluation should also be done, with research activities added to it."

"Nature has endowed Jammu and Kashmir with a number of lakes and rivers and our athletes have taken full benefit of it. Our Athletes winning more than 100 medals at National level in last three years itself speaks about the kind of talent and ability they possess," he added.

"Open water is a highway to adventure, best travelled by a Kayak. Many of our young sportspersons of Canoeing and Kayaking have proven their mettle at the International platforms. "Renowned sportsperson and famous kayaking and canoeing coach Ms. Bilquis Mir is a source of inspiration for young sportspersons. She has made the nation proud at many national and international events. With the coming up of Centres of Excellence, more such examples would come up," said the Lt Governor.

He also mentioned Cyclist Adil Teli, who recently made a world record in cycling from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Adil's passion has brought him to that position today and he has become an inspiration for youngsters all over the world.

Speaking on the budgetary provision for sports, the Lt Governor maintained that in the recent budget, an amount of Rs 513 crore has been kept for Youth Empowerment and Sports.

"We are working at many levels in the field of sports in Jammu and

Kashmir. Our foremost aim is to identify the grassroots talent, then provide them with right training and environment, and select promising players in a transparent manner for national and international tournaments."

"Promotion was needed to adopt sports as a career along with curriculum at the school level," the LG said.

"Therefore, it was decided that sports kits worth Rs 20,000 would be given to children in all 4290 panchayats. Today, I can say with great pride that J&K is better equipped with sports infrastructure and facilities than many other states and UTs," said the Lt Governor.

"With a view to honing the skills of local talent, Jammu and Kashmir administration signed an MoU with former International player Suresh Raina to find young talent from small towns and villages," added the LG.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju assured full sport of Union Ministry in development of sports in J&K. "For the promotion of football amongst the women folks, we are planning to conduct Women Football League in the region," the Union MoS said.

Sh. Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh. Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Sh. P.K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sh. Vijay Kumar, IGP, Kashmir; Sh. Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Tourism; Sh. S N Meena, Senior Director SAI; Sh. Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Sh. Rahul Pandey, Director Information & PR; Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; President Water Sports Association, and other officers besides, Sports personalities were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, various water Sports activities, demonstrations showcasing water sports talent of J&K including kayaking, Surf Riding, Canoe Slalom, Dal lifestyle, Water skiing, Canoe Sprint Race, swimming, besides, cultural programmes were presented to mark the event.

Degree College Kokernag Organises 'Road Race'

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In order to boost health and dynamism of the young budding generation, the Department of Physical Education, Government Degree College (GDC) Kokernag today organised a road-race for both male and female students of the College.

As many as 31 male students and 17 female students took part in the race. Prof. M. Shafi Malik, Principal of the College flagged off the race for Male students while Prof. Nazir Ahmad Wani, senior-most faculty of the College flagged off the

race for female students.

For male participants, the race started from Zalangam, Kokernag and culminated within the premises of the College while females started racing from Kokernag Garden up to the College premises.

The participants were received by the Principal of the College. Dr. Aqib Fayaz, Medical Officer SDH Kokernag apprised the students/participants about the health cum psychological benefits of such events and how these events are beneficial for the society in the long run. He also gave demonstration about

CPR technique for the benefit of the participants.

Later, during the reception cum award distribution ceremony Principal of the College distributed trophies and cash prizes among the winners.

Burhan Wani (Semester III), Adil Hussain (Semester V) and Muneer Aslam (Semester V) respectively got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions among the male students, while as Ulfat Shareef (Semester II), Shazia Rashid (Semester II) and Suraya Farooq (Semester II) respectively got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions among the female students.

RCB Skipper Kohli Praises Harshal Patel Says, 'His Spell Made The Difference' Against MI

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli was all praise for Harshal Patel's match-winning bowling performance here on Friday, terming him their designated death bowler in this edition of the IPL.

Harshal's 5 for 27 was the reason RCB were able to restrict MI to 159 for nine in the IPL opener, which is something that even losing captain Rohit Sharma admitted.

"We brought Harshal in a trade from Delhi. He is relishing the responsibility and is clear with his plans. He was the difference today. He is going to be our death bowler. As a captain you want players with clarity, and he

the score wasn't something we were happy with. We were 20 short," Rohit said after his team's ninth opening round loss.

"We made some mistakes, those are bound to happen. We need to move on. When you look at the situation with four overs left they had AB and Christian, that's why we went with Bumrah and Boult to try and get them out. "Definitely not an easy pitch to bat on, the odd ball was gripping," he said.

The MI captain was all praise for de Villiers.

"De Villiers batted really well and got them home. We haven't had much time together as a group and it was totally opposite in Dubai, where we began prepara-



has that," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

About AB de Villiers' 48 off 27 balls, Kohli said that the South African still intimidates the opposition.

"The opposition gets nervous about AB. We have depth in the batting which we want to utilize. AB is probably the only one in the team who is so versatile. And he does it on slow wickets what not many can do."

MI captain Rohit wouldn't mind losing another opening game as long as his team goes on to win the tournament, but admitted that they were 20 runs short.

"Winning the championship is important, I guess, not the first game. It was a great fight and we didn't let it go easily. Although

tions a month before," Rohit said.

The MI skipper didn't want to give any excuses for the defeat.

"... But that's how the IPL has been played over the years, you just got to get in the game as quickly as possible. It can be difficult for teams that have great home records, but that is what sport is, you've got to go away and win. We are fortunate that we're even on the park."

De Villiers, whose exploits won the game for RCB, was also very pleased with his effort.

"It was an incredible game of cricket, always seems to be against Mumbai. We obviously came in knowing it wasn't going to be easy. I knew halfway it was going to get tough, it's one of those pitches that gets harder as the game goes on," de Villiers said.

'I Knew My Role For RCB From The Time I Was Traded By DC,' Says Harshal



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Harshal Patel was told well in advance that he will be death overs' "pointsman" for Royal Challengers Bangalore, a role he played to perfection in the IPL opener against Mumbai Indians.

Harshal's career-best 5 for 27 was one of the two match-winning performances for RCB with the other coming from AB de Villiers.

"When I was traded from Delhi Capitals, I was told what role I will play for the franchise, the Haryana pacer said at the post-match press conference on Friday.

He was brilliant at the death and just like skipper Virat Kohli said, Harshal also knew that he is expected to perform the tough job for which he had planned meticulously.

"There were clear instructions that I will be bowling in the last two overs (he bowled 18th and 20th). That gave me a lot of clarity. It helped me prepare certain plans against batters and kept my preparations concise."

Harshal said that change of pace and the slow yorkers have been his biggest strength.

"The ball started reversing at one stage. It was important to bowl the Yorkers and slower balls," he said.

According to Harshal, he has been bowling those slower yorkers that got rid of Ishan Kishan and Marco Jansen, for almost two seasons now.

"Just that when you don't get wickets of slow yorkers, people don't tend to see that. I always had the yorker but earlier couldn't take it into the game."

He did a lot of simulation of bowling yorkers during training session to get it right during the match. "In the past 15-20 days, I was trying to put myself into situations."

Having played a lot of IPL cricket, he understands how situation can turn from good to bad.

"You always want to start well. I am in my 10th season and I know that how a season can quickly go from good to bad."

FC Goa Eager To Showcase 'Indian Brand Of Football' On Their AFC CL Debut

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: FC Goa is set to make its debut at the AFC Champions League Group Stage and its players feels it is not only a huge achievement but also an opportunity to showcase the "Indian brand of football" to the world.

FC Goa will become the first club from the country to play in the continental club competition on April 14 when they take on Qatar's Al-Rayyan.

India had earlier been granted a direct spot in the AFC Champions League Group Stage and having finished at the top of the Indian Super League table in the 2019-20 season, the Gaurs had qualified for the ACL.

"It's a huge achievement for the state and the country. It's more like



a national representation rather than a club or state," India and FC Goa midfielder Brandon Fernandes

said in an AIFF release.

"The entire nation will be watching us as one and so we ought to

give it our all."

Owing to the ongoing pandemic situation, the Group E matches of the competition will be played in Goa this time, as the state will play host to teams like Persepolis (Iran), Al-Rayyan (Qatar), and Al-Wahda (UAE), along with FC Goa.

Ishan Pandita, who recently made his Blue Tigers debut in the 1-1 draw against Oman in Dubai feels that this is an opportunity to make the nation proud.

"It's obviously a very special feeling. It's a great opportunity that we have to show Asia and the world that India can play good football," said Ishan Pandita, who recently made his Blue Tigers debut in the 1-1 draw against Oman in Dubai.

Goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem, who had represented India in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, said "It's a very important step."

"It's not going to be easy. We are not just representing Goa, we are representing the whole country," he said.

Goa's local lad and India defender Adil Khan described it as "pride and privilege" for the state to host such prestigious matches in such difficult times.

"It is extremely special that for the first time, India is being represented at the biggest football stage in Asia. It is a historic occasion for India, and massive pride and privilege for Goa to represent the country in the Champions League," he said.

ATK Mohun Bagan Sign Liston Colaco For A Record Transfer Fee From Hyderabad FC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Super League side ATK Mohun Bagan has signed forward Liston Colaco from Hyderabad FC for the highest-ever transfer fee for an Indian player.

Hyderabad FC and ATK Mohun Bagan agreed to the transfer for an undisclosed fee, the club said on Saturday. The 22-year-old will join the Mariners with effect from June 1.

"With a focus on long-term sustainability, Hyderabad FC agreed for Liston's move in a deal that fetches the highest-ever transfer



fee received for an Indian player," a statement from Hyderabad FC said.

Liston, who joined the club in January 2020, made 23 appearances for Hyderabad FC in the ISL scoring four goals, while setting up three more. He also went on to make his national team debut after a stellar season with the club.

Top Scientists On Sharp Surge In India's COVID-19 Cases

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Why are India's COVID-19 cases flaring up so sharply? There are no clear answers but top scientists say the complex interplay of mutant strains, a hugely susceptible population made more vulnerable by elections and other public events and the lowering of guard are primarily to blame.

India's COVID tally climbed to 1,32,05,926 (1.32 crore, 13.2 million) with a record spike of 1,45,384, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday, in what many say is a second wave that is surging more powerfully than the first. And just like there were no answers to why there was a slide earlier this year, there is no clarity on why the numbers are rising so sharply.

While there are many imponderables and many things unknown, virologists Shahid Jameel and T Jacob John are agreed that not following COVID-19 protocol, including informing people they must continue with precautions even after being vaccinated, and a sluggish vaccination drive are responsible.

Mr Jameel said the interplay of mutants and vaccines over the next couple of months will decide the future of Covid in India and the world.

"The intensity of the surge also suggests that there were a huge number of susceptible people after the first wave," the director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University in Haryana told PTI.

The Centre warned earlier this week that the next four weeks are critical and people's participation in helping control the second wave of the contagion is pivotal. NITI Aayog Member (Health) VK Paul said the pandemic situation has worsened with a sharp rise in cases and a large part of the population still susceptible to the virus, without giving any clear explanation on why this is happening.

The fact that people lowered the guard and didn't follow Covid protocols after the first wave was over is "certainly one valid explanation" for the surge, Mr Jameel said.

"Everything opening up to pre-Covid levels and behaviour that was no longer risk-averse exposed the susceptible population in a big way. A new factor is emerging mutants -- both imported and homegrown," the eminent virologist added.

John, professor of virology at Tamil Nadu's Christian Medical College (CMC), concurred with Jameel, saying not following COVID-19 protocols is partly to blame for the new wave.

"Lowering of the guard was led by the central government and followed by all political parties, all religious groups, and the public at large. Schools and colleges were opened without vaccinating all staff. This explains partly the second wave," John told PTI.

"Wherever infection was rising, stricter imposition of discipline should have been taken but with the elections ahead, no leader wanted that. Elections during pandemic had to be carefully planned," the renowned virologist told PTI.

The scientist also agreed that variants are the other reason for the second wave, adding that it was too late for India to look for mutants.

The two factors came together and we were leaderless in response at the critical time. The speed of spread in the second wave is twice as fast as in the first wave. Partly due to variants and partly lowering of the guard," John explained.

Referring to a Health Ministry

briefing on March 24, Jameel noted that the UK variants now show up in about 80 per cent of cases from Punjab.

"A new double mutant has emerged in India and is reported in 15-20 per cent of cases analysed from Maharashtra. If this percentage goes up further, it would be a clear indication of its role in the Maharashtra surge," said the virologist.

In India, variants first identified in the UK, South Africa and Brazil have been found.

In late March, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) announced that a new variant had been identified in samples of saliva taken from people in Maharashtra, Delhi and Punjab.

The genome sequencing carried out by Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (IN-SACOG), a consortium of 10 labs in India, identified two important mutations in the variant dubbed as "double mutant".

Explaining that the UK variant is known to be about 50 per cent more infectious, Jameel said one of the two mutations in the double mutant was also found in California, US, where it was associated with increased transmission.

The two experts also discussed the country's vaccination drive.

According to John, the government started the drive too late and no outcome goal of vaccination was defined.

"India started slow vaccine rollout in January third week, but it was first a token reward to healthcare workers who were vaccinated even when there was no need -- and we wasted a lot of vaccines," he said.

"Was advance purchase order given to vaccine companies to get production accelerated during last year itself before approvals were obtained?" John asked.

Jameel said there was "poor communication" by officials to people who were vaccinated on how they must continue with precautions like masks and social distancing.

Describing India's COVID-19 situation as "curious", Jameel said the country was on a falling curve of daily infections when vaccinations started in mid-January.

"For various reasons, those eligible, including healthcare and frontline workers, were hesitant to get vaccines. Those above 60 also did not show enough eagerness even though cases had started going up by early March.

"Now we are on a very fast rising curve with only 0.7 per cent Indians having received both doses and only about 5 per cent having received one dose. That is too low to make an impact," he added.

He noted that there was no way to predict that younger people would be affected in this surge.

"Make everyone above 18 eligible for vaccination in states experiencing the surge, while staying with the 45 plus eligibility in states not experiencing the surge. Vaccinations have to be balanced against the supply of vaccines," Mr Jameel said.

Noting that supply may be an issue, Mr Jameel said India has the capacity to inoculate with 10 million doses of Covishield vaccine per month and three million Covaxin doses per month.

"Supply can also be boosted by giving emergency use approval to Johnson & Johnson vaccine and Russia's Sputnik V vaccine. Both of these have received approvals in other countries and have manufacturing partners in India," he added.

Pentagon Defends US Navy Ship Asserting Navigational Rights Inside India's EEZ Without Permission



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon has defended its Navy asserting its navigational rights within India's exclusive economic zone without taking New Delhi's permission, calling the move "consistent with international law".

In an unusual move, the US Navy announced that on Wednesday it conducted a freedom of navigation operation in Indian waters without prior consent to challenge India's "excessive maritime claims", triggering a reaction from New Delhi, which on Friday said it had conveyed concerns to Washington through diplomatic channels.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also contested the US Navy's 7th Fleet statement of April 7 that the freedom of navigation operation (FONOP) by the guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones "upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses" of the sea recognised in international law by challenging

India's "excessive maritime claims".

When asked about India's reaction over the US Navy's move, Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby on Friday said: "I can tell you is that the USS John Paul Jones, a Navy destroyer, asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the vicinity of the Republic of the Maldives by conducting innocent passage through its territorial sea in normal operations within its exclusive economic zone without requesting prior permission."

Earlier, announcing about the operation, the statement by the 7th Fleet said, "On April 7, 2021 (local time) USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) asserted navigational rights and freedoms approximately 130 nautical miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands, inside India's exclusive economic zone, without requesting India's prior consent, consistent with international law."

Kirby in response to a question from reporters at a Pentagon news conference said: "That's consistent with international law."

"Again, we continue to maintain the right, indeed the responsibility, to fly, sail, and operate in accordance with international law," he said.

Kirby said that it is the responsibility of the US to uphold the freedom of navigation and the rights and freedom and lawful uses of the sea recognised in international law.

The MEA in its statement said: "India's stated position on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is that the Convention does not authorise other states to carry out in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the continental shelf, military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives, without the consent of the coastal state."

"The USS John Paul Jones was continuously monitored transiting from the Persian Gulf towards the Malacca Straits. We have conveyed our concerns regarding this passage through our EEZ to the government of the USA through diplomatic channels," the MEA added.

Mumbai In Lockdown As Vaccines Run Short

Agenceis

India's most coronavirus-hit state Maharashtra went into a weekend lockdown on Saturday as the country battles exploding infection numbers and vaccine shortages.

Having let its guard down with mass religious festivals, political rallies and spectators at cricket matches, the world's second most populous nation has added more than a million new infections since late March.

After a lockdown a year ago caused widespread misery and hit the economy for six, the central government is desperate to avoid a hugely unpopular second shutdown.

But many states are tightening the screw, in particular the epicentre Maharashtra and its capital Mumbai, where restaurants are shut and public gatherings of more than five people are banned.

Every weekend from Saturday until the end of April the state's 125 million people are confined to their homes unless shopping for food, medicine or travelling.

"I'm not for the lockdown at all but I don't think the government has any other choice," media professional Neha Tyagi, 27, told AFP in Mumbai.

"This lockdown could have been totally avoided if people would take the virus seriously."

Cricket is now played behind closed doors -- including the big-bucks Indian Premier League, which began Friday -- and in many states including in the capital New



Delhi a night curfew is in force.

All eight teams in the IPL, which includes the sport's top international stars, are in strict bio-bubbles and four players have so far tested positive. Raipur district, home to the capital of Chhattisgarh state, is under a 10-day lockdown with no one allowed to enter the area unless performing essential services.

India's drive to vaccinate its 1.3 billion people also looks to be hitting problems, with just 94 million shots provided so far and stocks running low. In megacity Mumbai, 25 out of 71 private hospitals administering jabs ran out of supplies Thursday, city authorities said.

The situation at government-run inoculation centres was not much better, with a giant 1,000-bed field hospital turning away people arriving for their first dose on Friday morning.

City authorities tweeted that the shortage was "due to non-receipt of stocks" from the national

government.

The Times of India reported Friday that states on average had just over five days of stock left, according to health ministry data, with some regions already grappling with severe shortages.

But the central government has accused some states -- run by opposition parties -- of "distract(ing) attention from their failures" and playing politics.

"It is not right to say that there is a vaccine shortage. Vaccines have been made available to all states according to their needs," Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

The CEO of the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest vaccine maker by volume, has warned that production capacity is "very stressed."

Poorer countries, as well as some rich nations, have relied heavily on Serum for supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but last month New Delhi put the brakes on exports to prioritise domestic needs.

Political Storm Erupts After 5 Killed During Bengal Poll Including 4 in CISF Firing



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: In the first major outbreak of violence during West Bengal assembly elections, five persons were killed, including four in a firing by CISF personnel, while five candidates were attacked during the fourth phase of polling in 44 seats on Saturday, triggering a political firestorm.

An estimated 76.16 per cent of 1.15 crore voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm, an official said.

Four people were killed as central forces opened fire allegedly after coming under attack from locals, who "attempted to snatch their rifles", in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, police said.

The Election Commission ordered stopping the voting exercise at polling station number 126 of the Sitalkuchi constituency where the incident happened when polling was underway.

"According to preliminary reports, four persons were killed as CISF personnel opened fire after coming under attack in a village."

"A scuffle took place, and locals gheraoed them and attempted to snatch their rifles, following which the central forces opened fire. Further details are awaited," a police official said.

The EC has sought a detailed report on the incident.

According to official sources, the preliminary report submitted by the EC's special police observer Vivek Dubey said a huge mob of around 350-400 people had gheraoed the central forces, following which they fired in "self-defence".

The incident led to violence in the area where bombs were hurled, prompting central forces to baton-charge to bring the situation under control.

In another incident, an 18-year-old voter, Ananda Barman, was gunned down outside booth number 85 at Pathantuli, also in Sitalkuchi, after clashes broke out between activists of the ruling TMC and the BJP.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh had come under attack in Sitalkuchi area earlier this week.

Condoling the deaths in Cooch Behar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi requested the Election Commission to take stern action against those responsible for the incident and blamed the ruling TMC for perpetrating violence during the polls.

He also accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of instigating people against the central forces, sensing defeat.

"What happened in Cooch Behar is unfortunate and sad. I extend my condolences to the bereaved families and urge the Election Commission to take stern action against those responsible."

"Mamata Didi and her TMC goons have become jittery because of groundswell of support for BJP," Modi told an election rally in North Bengal's Siliguri.

The chief minister, who rushed to North Bengal and will meet the bereaved families, demanded the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah and a reply from him on firing by the central forces which led to the death of people "standing in the queue to vote".

Asserting that she had apprehended such an incident all along, Banerjee said, "After killing so many people, they are conspiring to kill people," she said at a rally in North 24 Parganas district. The chief minister said a CID probe will be instituted into the incident.

Meanwhile, a TMC candidate and four BJP nominees were attacked in various constituencies across the state.

At Dinhat in North Bengal, TMC candidate Udayan Guha was attacked by alleged BJP activists.

He received injuries when a scuffle broke out with the saffron camp over allegations that it was not allowing the TMCs polling agents inside booths, a charge denied by the BJP.

In Behala Purba constituency on the southern fringes of Kolkata, BJP candidate and actress Payal Sarkar's car was ransacked by a group of people. She, however, escaped unscathed.

BJP candidate and Lok Sabha MP Locket Chatterjee was attacked allegedly by TMC supporters and her vehicle was vandalised in Chuchura segment in Hooghly district. The ruling party of the state, however, rejected the accusation.

In Bally seat in Howrah district, TMC turncoat and BJP candidate Baisahali Dalmiya's convoy was attacked as one of the vehicles was ransacked by miscreants.

In the Kasba seat in Kolkata, BJP candidate Indranil Khan faced a series of protests by the TMC activists who gheraoed him repeatedly.

At Ganguly Bagan area in the Jadavpur constituency, the booth agent of CPI(M) candidate Sujan Chakraborty was attacked reportedly by a "fake voter", who threw chilli powder at her, officials said.

A central police contingent was rushed to the spot following the incident.

Clashes between workers of the Indian Secular Front, which is part of the Congress-Left alliance, and the TMC were reported from Bangor constituency in South 24 Parganas district, over charges that ISF polling agents were not being allowed to enter booths. PTI

Mass Gatherings For Elections, Religious Events Have Accelerated COVID-19: Sonia Gandhi Chairs Virtual Meeting With Cms Of Congress-Ruled States

Congress president Sonia Gandhi accused the Centre on Saturday of "mismanaging" the COVID situation and creating a vaccine shortage in the country by exporting it, as she called for cancelling all public gatherings and poll rallies in view of the rising number of coronavirus cases. Addressing a virtual meeting with the chief ministers of the Congress-ruled states and ministers of the party in states where it is in power in alliance with others, she said the priority should be to test, track and vaccinate.

She was reviewing the efforts by the states ruled by the Congress to tackle the second wave of the coronavirus infection after the country saw a record 1,45,384 fresh COVID-19 cases and 794 deaths on Saturday. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Punjab counterpart Amarinder Singh and Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel were among those who par-



ticipated in the meeting.

Rahul Gandhi called for putting money in the hands of the poor. While Singh pointed out that Punjab's vaccination stock will last for five more days, Baghel said Chhattisgarh will run out of the vaccine stock in three days. Gehlot said the Centre should not see the states ruled by other par-

ties as adversaries.

The Congress chief also reviewed the efforts to fight COVID-19, including the availability of vaccines, access to medicines and ventilators, chief spokesperson of the party Randeep Surjewala said.

"The (Narendra) Modi government has mismanaged the COVID situation. It has exported the vac-

cines and allowed a shortage to be created in India," the Congress chief said at the meeting. She said all public gatherings and poll rallies should be cancelled as the number of COVID-19 cases is on the rise.

"Mass gatherings for elections and religious events have accelerated COVID for which all of us are responsible to some extent. We need to accept this responsibility and keep the interest of the nation above our own," Sonia Gandhi said. Rahul Gandhi expressed concern over the second wave of COVID-19 hitting the country.

He urged the government to look at new mutations, which are the source of the second wave, and called for joining hands and energies, instead of complacency and premature victories. He also pointed towards a direct connection between the spread of the infection and nutrition and livelihood. He said the virus attacks the poorest and disadvantaged the hardest, as he reiterated his demand for a "basic income sup-

port" by the government. Surjewala said the Punjab chief minister has pointed out a vaccine shortage.

"He candidly points out that the Central government has given no assurance of numbers and supply," he wrote on Twitter. Surjewala also said Gehlot has pointed out that the shortage of the vaccines is a reality that cannot be wished away.

"Pointing to the spurt in infections, he states that the Centre must take States on board as stakeholders and not as adversaries," he said. Quoting Baghel, Surjewala said he underlined the steps taken by the Chhattisgarh government to fight COVID-19 and pointed out that the state has only three days of vaccine stock left.

In her introductory remarks, Sonia Gandhi said the number of coronavirus cases is going up and as the principal opposition party, it is the responsibility of the Congress to raise issues and push the government to move away from "PR tactics" and act in the interest of people.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Tests COVID-19 Positive, Hospitalised



Agenceis

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has tested coronavirus positive and has been admitted to a private hospital in Nagpur,

sources said on Saturday.

Bhagwat was admitted to the COVID-19 ward on Friday, hospital sources said. He is stable and under observation, they added. An RSS functionary also confirmed that Bhagwat has tested positive for the viral infection.