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SRINAGAR RED ZONES CONTINUE TO RECORD MOST COVID POSITIVE CASES

Government notified Red Zones in Srinagar continue to record a large number of Covid cases as according to the official figure over 1300 active cases out of total 1500 cases have been detected from...



TAXING TOBACCO

J&K currently ranks 6th among Indian states and UTs in percentage of tobacco smokers. Despite almost everyone being aware of the harms and illness caused by tobacco consumption, a large portion of the population uses tobacco products. According to the Global



P5 STATE

GOVT ASKS FOREST DEPT TO INCREASE FOREST COVER

The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday directed the Forest Department to increase the forest cover through a dedicated Green J&K Drive to plant 1.30 crore saplings...



Quote

"Life often teaches us through our wrong turns and missed possibilities"

Anne Wilson Schaef

NEWS DIGEST

Man Beaten To Death In Rajouri

Jammu: A man was killed by unidentified persons following an argument in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Tuesday, police said. Ajaz Dar, a resident of Rajdhani village in Thanamandi, was injured during the attack near Muradpur, they said, adding he later succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital. An FIR was lodged and investigation was on in the case. (PTI)

Petrol Bomb Thrown On Govt Forces

SRINAGAR: Unknown person on Tuesday lobbed a petrol bomb on government forces near Khanyar Police station in the old city here. A senior Police officer said that unknown persons attacked the forces party by lobbing a Petrol Bomb towards them. However, in this incident, no injury has been reported. (GNS)

2 Minors Among Four Bitten By Dogs

SRINAGAR: A pack of stray dogs attacked and injured at least four persons, including two minors in Ajas village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, reports said Tuesday. 10-year-old Fazil and 11-yearold Reyan and two more people whose identity couldn't be asserted immediately were attacked and injured by stray dogs in Ajas village of the district on Monday, news agency More On P10

Leopard Kills 22 Sheep In Kunzer

SRINAGAR: A leopard killed at least 22 sheep and injured four others in Kunzer area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, locals said on Tuesday. Reports said that the sheep belonging to Mehraj Din Reshi were killed in Rembalpora village of Kunzer last night, according to news agency GNS. "This morning when I went to the animal shed to feed them, I saw 22 sheep killed," Reshi said. More On P10

15 Injured As Bus **Falls Into Gorge**

were injured when a bus they were travelling in turned turtle and rolled down into a gorge near Baba Reshi shrine in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday. Official sources said that the bus (JK05-9752) met with an accident near second mode at Sranzpora near Ziarat of Baba Reshi, a popular shrine of Baramulla, situated near the Alpather Lake. The bus was on its way from Kichama to Baba Reshi shrine, they said, as per news

agency GNS. A police officer said

that fifteen persons were injured

nearby hospital.

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Mahant Deependra

Giri, the custodian of the Charri

Mubarak of Amarnath, the holy

mace of Lord Shiva, on Tuesday

said the decision to cancel the

annual pilgrimage for the sec-

ond consecutive year was "not

pleasant" but an appropriate one,

keeping in mind the COVID-19

pandemic and the safety of the

"The annual Amarnath pil-

grimage has been cancelled this

pilgrims and the staff involved.

in the accident and removed to the

Decision To Cancel Amarnath

Yatra Not Pleasant But

Appropriate: Mahant Giri

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen persons

CID Inspector Shot Dead In Nowgam



Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Tuesday shot dead a police officer in Nowgam area of this capital city, barely five days after a cop was killed in a similar attack by militants in Eidgah area of the Old City here.

Pervaiz Ahmad Dar, an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police was fired upon by militants in Kanipora locality of Nowgam in the city outskirts on Tuesday

evening, a police official told Kashmir Observer. Dar, who was presently posted at the police station Parimpora, sustained critical gunshot injuries in the militant attack.

He was removed to the SMHS hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead.

"The police officer was brought dead to the hospital. He had sustained multiple gunshot injuries, including in abdomen," Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet • More On P10



Top Security Brass Reviews Kashmir Situation

sserting that the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) has improved the security situation along the border, the Core Group, comprising top army commanders, police and civil administration officers said on Tuesday that there were indications of heightened activity around launch pads and militant training camps in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir in last two months. According to a defence ministry spokesperson, the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Chinar Corps, Lt Gen DP Pandey and Director General Police, More On P10

Gupkar Alliance Strikes Defiant Note Ahead Of PM's All Party Meet

Whatever Our Stand Was, Is Still There And Will Be There: Farooq



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

the Centre's invitation to leaders from Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have received the invitation from the prime minister and we are going to attend (the meeting), Abdullah, who was flanked by other leaders of the alliance, told reporters after the meeting.

Fourteen leaders from Jammu and Kashmir have been invited to the meeting to be chaired • More On P10

Former Ally PDP To Press For Special Status

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's all-party meet, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said peace in the region cannot be restored without undoing the "illegal" and "unconstitutional" act of revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a huddle of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), she said during the meeting with the prime minister on Thursday, she will press for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was "snatched away from us".

"The agenda of the alliance, for which this alliance has been formed, what has been snatched away from us, we will talk on that, that it was a mistake and it was illegal and unconstitutional, without restoring which the issue of J-K (cannot be resolved) and the situation in J-K (cannot improve) and peace in the whole region cannot be restored," she said.

Mehbooba, who was flanked by other leaders of the alliance • More On P10

Bukhari Says, To Represent 'Aspirations Of People'

SRINAGAR: People's Alliance for

Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will at-

tend the all-party meeting convened

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

New Delhi on Thursday, said alliance

The announcement came after PAGD

leaders met at Abdullah's Gupkar Road

residence here on Tuesday to discuss

chairperson Farooq Abdullah.

Press Trust Of India

he Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party has hailed the political outreach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hoped that the June 24 all-party meet will facilitate commencement of a political process in the union territory that will lead to genuine empowerment of its people. The party headed by More On P10

Sonia Okays Congress Participation

he Congress will attend the all-party meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday, its Jammu and Kashmir unit spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said on Tuesday. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Congress

More On P10

'Emotional Politics': BJP's Veiled Attack On PAGD

n a veiled attack on the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina Tuesday said those promising to bring back Article 370 are playing emotive politics. He said that Article 370, which gave special status to J&K, was abrogated on More On P10

J&K Reports

428 Cases, 7

Press Trust Of India

Corona Deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir

on Tuesday recorded 428 fresh

COVID-19 cases, taking the total

number of infected persons to

3,12,584, while seven deaths took

Of the fresh cases, 148 were

from Jammu division and 280

from Kashmir division of the

Union Territory, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district re-

the toll to 4,269, officials said.



WE WILL NOT ASK FOR THE STARS, but will seek what has been ours and should be ours only. As we have no information on the agenda of the meeting called by the PM, we will reiterate the stand of the PAGD there, before the highest leadership." -- PAGD Spokesperson.

3 HUDD Officers Suspended In **Graft Case**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pending an inquiry, the Jammu and Kashmir government has suspended three senior officers of Housing Development Urban Department (HUDD) who were booked by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a case in 2015, an official order said on Tuesday.

Principal Secretary, HUDD Dheeraj Gupta ordered the incharge suspension of town planner, HUDD Hamid Ahmad Wani, incharge senior town planning, Srinagar Authority Development Farzana Nagashbandi and Executive Engineer, J&K Lakes Development Waterways Authority, Feroz Ahmad Mir. The officers • More On P10

year like last year. Though the

decision is not pleasant, it is ap-

propriate in view of the (Covid)

pandemic and for the safety of

the pilgrims and the staff in-

volved in the yatra," Giri said in

Board decided to cancel this

year's pilgrimage on Monday in view of the pandemic. The board

said the ritualistic aspects of the

yatra will be conducted and the

proceedings streamed live on

certain platforms. • More On P10

The Shri Amarnathji Shrine

a statement.

BDC Member Attempts Suicide In 'Frustration', Booked

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Frustrated at being confined to a security zone, a recently elected Block Development Council (BDC) member made a bid to end his life on Tuesday.

Police has filed a case against the BDC member for attempting suicide at a hotel in high security zone Humhama area of Budgam district. He now faces imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or both.

The BDC member Ashaq Hussain Hurrah of Apni Party

allegedly tried to commit suicide at a hotel in Humhama during the intervening night of June 21/22 after he was allegedly barred from meeting his family, reports said. A resident of Khore, Sheer Abad area of Pattan in North Kashmir. Hurrah has been booked under section 309 IPC by police in Budgam district.

Speaking Kashmir to Observer, Hurrah said that he attempted to end his life out of frustration for not being allowed to move freely. However, he quickly added that he was • More On P10

ED Opposes Bail For Shabir Shah in PMLA Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate told a Delhi court on Tuesday that Freedom Party leader Shabbir Ahmad Shah was involved in generating huge proceeds of funds from Pakistan and other countries to create unrest in Kashmir.

The ED made the submissions before Special Judge Dharmender Rana while opposing his bail application in a money laundering case which was adjourned for June 29.

The agency told the court



that Shah amassed huge wealth in the form of immovable and movable properties.

"Shabbir Shah was also involved in militancy financing activities as • More On P10

corded the highest of 104 cases, followed by 32 in Jammu district. The number of active cases has dropped to 7,181 in the UT, while 3,01,134 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The death toll in the UT due

to the pandemic rose to 4,269 as seven patients died in the past 24 hours. • More On P10

Selfie Claims Teenager's Life

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In a tragic accident, a teenager from this capital city drowned to death while taking a selfie on the banks of a canal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, reports said Tuesday.

19-year-old Muhammad Salim Khan of Pandach area in the city outskirts lost his balance while trying to click a selfie on the bank of Power Canal at Gund Aku area of the district on Monday evening, a local news agency KNT reported. Soon after the incident, the locals and police started an operation to rescue the More On P10

Top ECI Official To Hold Meeting With DCs Today

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A top official of the Election Commission of India(ECI) would hold a virtual meeting with all deputy commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday to discuss the details shared by them with the poll-body demographic and about topographic information of electoral constituencies in their respective jurisdictions.

Sources said that deputy commissioner election Chandra Bushan Kumar would hold two separate meetings with DCs of J&K Union Territory to discuss the data submitted by them to the poll-body.

...... I am directed to inform you • More On P10



An elderly woman takes shot of Covid-19 vaccine in Tosa Maidan meadow in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

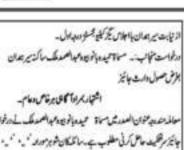


CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

OBSERVER A Wednesday 23-06-2021

KASHMIR



معاطرت ديرعوان العدد شراسماة ميدويالوي ومبالعمد مك رفواست عرادعول دارث جائز رهيد ماش كن مطوب سائلان فيرمور ". " . ا 100/05/2021 ك فرعد ويكان الثان بذي وياف ب إلى المكافر الدفر بالدرك الدول بcres JU57 ر مهاؤهيده 1821 Theto which other **الا49** الرفاق الاعك JU44 16 146 J140 تطعناه واوركوني افرادكتيه موجواتين بيدليذا مراهيت اجراءكرية شيرا أكري فنس كأكوني احتراض المكادها كمد بغت كالدودوال وفتر كاوقات شرابيا احتراض فأن كري ومعياد كررة إحداد في كل

よいかしましましかっと

الا تاست على المحركل الهائن المركل مع بعدماول وداوات الإلهار فالمت الديك والدافر فالتاه ماكة والألاق الزش حسل مك دارا اريار هكيد اشتهار يمراط كاعلى وخاص مام-معالمه مندروعوان العدد عمد مراقان سأا يك درخواست بلوش عميل بيك دارة ارياد قليت وأثر باش ور الماري المرادي المرادي المرادي المرادي والمرادي والمرادي المرادي المرا ما كان كاكتب يذفي افراوي-ر فركت الما المداري يك 49 مال 1826 Alexander. UL40 101370000 JV30 المعامق في المعالم المعالم المعالم net hetolis الطعاد وادكي الروكية موجوش بيداية الرهيد الاركر في الركي المركة الماسال وف كالمردود الدون في المال على المال المراق أن يسواد أن المعالى

الاتياب الأس المحتركل بالهلال الحركية محمل بديدهاول ادفواست مجانب سياريان ديوه كاستاه كمالاسه ماكذاكري اشتيار الراوا كالترور فالروعام معاطرت ديد عوال العدد عي سائل أيك ورقواست يغرض صول يك دارة ارياس فليد وقرفها عراق كا عدد كاد الله عدال عدد المادة عدد المدال الما الله عدال عداد المدال المادة المادة المادة الم ما تلكا كنيد بذيل الراوي. ل الراحمالاسائير ووودالمان يو الرسيد بالواحد اليراح كمالات MELL JV-50 JV35 الرخوكت اعماله بثيراهم ارمهار جان زود فوكت الدكماف 33-بال A12.448118.0 (当日のからからなりなるというとなりよりなりなりなりなりなりなりないのか والمدواك بالترك المدود الاراق والمال المراوا المراق والمراق كري معياد كرد في المواكل الم DNA

ازنيابت نائب تخصيلدار ماكام مضمون كاغذات درخوات منجائب طابا محرعاهم وفيل احروانعام الحق وفرضده مشاق اولادان مشاق احمه يرزاده ساكنه وأكث بمرادعطا على بيكوارة الريام للكيك تحت SRO 294 اشتهار بمرادآ گابی ہرخاص وعام معاطرت موان العدد على ورفواست ماكل والزياعية وكارول بهال المنط عن يادى علا عديدو المولد فالداعل كالياب بس عمال عكد الرائع واكث عدد ال 4 December 146 JU-58 いしのよりんんかつい عير تصريب والراحد 1826 JU54 16/4/1/2 Jr 25 7 all JV23 JL-18 العلائق يمر JL-13 7,3000) 1812 De = 58840 Satural Sat Draw Sat Still and こんかとはたいかん かんかからかいかかかかかいかんからんとこ

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir



NOTICE Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Salman khan S/o Bilal Ahmed R/O Lachmanpora Sgr Kashmir (Transferor) and Shri New J&K Road ways Prop: Mohammad Magbool R/O E-10 Transport Nagar Srinagar (Transferve) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage

route Permit No / MP Covering Vehicle No JKDIP-0948 Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Pager Kashmir Observer

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S New J&K Road Ways Namely Mohammad Magbool

Dated: 01/05/2071

DIPK-NB-1322/21

Regional Transport Office

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

ئائى تىلىداد. ئائى تىلىداد.

Nonce

Nonce

Where as an application for Re-Registration/ transfer of ownership has been received from Menon Riyaz Abdul Gani S/O Menon Abdul Gani R/O 218154 Janvado Rangrej Pole Visnagar Mahesanagd

(Transferor) of Taveera bearing registration No. GJDTRL-6897 chasis No: D07726 Engine No: 196888 Model 2015 in favour of Arbaz Aharnd Bhat S/o Faraoq Ah Bhat R/O Rathpora Eldgah Sgr (Transferer). 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.

NO.K-RTOK 1726	56/-
Dated: 1/06/2021	Regional Transport Office,
fko	Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

Whereas an application has been recleved from one. Shri : Syed Mohammad Shah S/c: Jalal ud Din Sheh R/c: Tekia Lalpora Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JKO4D-6401 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Beerwah.

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM 398 Dated 22/06/2021 mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one, Shri : Naseer Ahmad Ganie S/o; Bashir Ahmad Ganie R/o; Kulbugh Khansahib Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registra-tion No: JK04F-8388 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Co Ltd B/U Tangpora. Now therefore it is notified for the informa-

tion of the general public that objections if

any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.788 Dated 22/06/2021

sult تاكب تحصيلدار

Assistant Regional Transport officer

معيادكر فالعاكمة في الموريا اعتراض كالل أول المراس

Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K T: 0/94-23/13/2 (5) F: 0/94-23/14/20 (5) T/F: 0/94-2476079 (J)Ejshamcitd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 55 of 2021

Dated: 19-06-2021

Managing Director, JKHPMC, invites e-tenders under "Two Cover System" from Indian Consulting Agencies for "Engage ment of Consultant for Detailed Engineering & Project Supervision for Establishment of Integrated Apple Grading, Packing, Sorting, Waxing Line of 8-10 TPH with 5000 MTs Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Cold Stores at Behrampora, Baramulia and Ranbirpora, Anantrag districts of J&K" with details as per the Tender Document.

The 'Bidding Document' consisting of information regarding the Scope of work, Eligibility Criteria, Submittals etc., of the contract can be seen/ downloaded from the J&K govt. web portal www.jktenders.gov.inw.ef. 19.06.2021 to 09-07.06.2021 The 'Critical Dates' of the e-Tender are as following :-

2	Start of downloading of Bidding Documents	19.06.2021	
3	Hid Submission / Start Date	19.06.2021	
4	Bid Submission End Date	09.07.2021	
5	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	10.07.2021	
			Sd/-
		Mana	ing Director

Budgam Kashmir Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPL Sub Div. Gurez. NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS E-NIT No.22 / EE/SSDG/2021-22 Dated:- 16-06-2021

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor J&K Union Territory, e-tendersare invited (In-singlecover system.) "on item rate basis from registered PWD contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following works:

- no.	Name of work	Cost Ruin	Bed Settlety	Contract	Compt	Document	Magor Head	authority
1	us gradation of Khoprihalin link road by way of P and L Gill at Km 4" in patches stretches.	3.40		DIE	07 days	200	MAR	Ex.Engineer SSO Guntz
2	up gradation of Churwan link road by way of Pland L. Gitin Stretches in Clone And Zone Rt.	0.94		DEE	05 days	260/-	MAR	Ex.Enginee 552 Guns
3	us gradation of DawarAchoora Churwan read by way of P and L GRI at Kin 6" in patches stretches.	192		DEE	67 days	300/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer SSD Gurez
4	up gradation of DawarGuez link read by way of P and L 64 in stretches in Zone A Zone B) patches Stretches	230	edavito	DEE	10 days	300/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer \$50 Gures
5	up gradiation of Wangers link Khandiyal link con- necting Wangers road by way of Pind L WBM Skills strenders and Laying 2 from thick patches carpet.	1.29	A septem	DEE	lű deys	300/-	M&R	Ex.Engineer SSD Gures
7	Clearance of sign at serious spots on PTL Settl road Clearance of sign at serious spots on Danier Achorra- Churwan road	D.62 D.57	0000	DEE	DS days DS days	300/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer 550 Gunsz Ex.Engineer 550 Gunsz
8	Restaration of Retaining well at various spots on Shekhoora Massand road	2.36		DEE	10 days	256^-	MAR	Ex.Engineer 550 Gurea
9	Restoration of Breast well and Slip Ceanance at various spots on Rhoseffusin link toad	1.05		DEE	67 days	200/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer 552 Gunts
10	Restaution of Retaining wall at various spots on Dawar Achdora Churwen road on Km 5° and 6°	2.38		DEE	10 days	300/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer SSO-Guns
н	Propairs to paint damaged sanitary fitting water sup- pay flooring and glass panes and other minor repairs at Guess Monte Remova	0.87		DEE	05 days	300/-	MAR	Ex.Engineer \$50 Gures

The bidding document and other details can be downloaded from the website: http://jktenders.gov.in The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility citoria, specifications, Drawings (if any), book of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website WWW.ktenders.gov.in

	Publishing date of NIT	11/06/2021	
ı	Download start date	\$7/06/2021	
ii.	Bid submission start date	17/06/2021	
iv.	Bid submission and date	25/5/2021 upto 05 00 PM	
V	Bid opening data	29/06/2021 at 10: 00 AM	

Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of tender document as specified in the table above and pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Division Gurez. Bid security: will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for six months after the opening of the bid. Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Spi. Sub Division Suns on 29/06/2021 at 11: 00 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.

Bidden must ensure to upload scanned opper of all necessary documents like Bid Security Declaration/treasury challen (MH 0059/65TIN) /Registration card duly renewed and the successful bidder i.e.U must submit the Bid Security Declaration/ Treasury Receipt, (in original) in the office of tender receiving authority after opening and declaration of successful bidder. Further the bidder must upload the contact details viz valid Phone No.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

5. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of bid.

As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non-drawl of nest will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him. agreement will not prevent the contract from being.

If The bid security declaration shall be invoked if:

Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.

The successful contractor fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract. The successful bridder fails to start the work within one week from the date of fixation of contract. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.

8. Watch & ward of depti. Material issued for the work (s) shall be exclusively the responsibility of the successful contractor/bidder & in the

event of any loss/theft of the materials, the same shall be the responsibility of the bidder, the cost thereof shall be recovered from the bidder (§ double the stock issue rates.

Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to tomential rains/heavy snow fall/cyclone/floods etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed over to the Department.

The taxes viz. Income tax, Service tax &Cess shall be deducted from the bidder's claims as admissible under rules.

The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

The 800 downloaded should be used for filling item rate inclusive of all taxes & it should be saved with the same name as it contains The unit rates & prices shall guoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation

and all taxes upto completion of work unless otherwise specified.

If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the BOQ, such item/items shall be deemed to be the part of the overall/total contract value

and no rate shall be allowed for such item/items. The date of start of work shall be reckneed within one week from the date of issuance of LOVContract allotment as the case may be.

 Furnishing of hard copies of bits immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids as per the Finance department's No; O.M.No; A/24 (2017) -651 Dbt; D7/06/2018 In case the executing agency shall fail to complete the work within the stipulated time, the penalty upto 10% of the contract value shall be

imposed on account of delayed completion.

DIPK-3268/21

No: EE/SSDG/B47-54 Dtd: 16-6-2021

Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25 double. Executive Engineer

Special Sub Division Guest

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 39 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 22.06.2021.

For and on behalf of the L1. Governor, IBM, extenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on them rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with IBM State Govt. CPINIS, Rollways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

5.Ma.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	Completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Dear Contract	Position of AAA
DI	Repairs/Renovation/Upgradation of Rest House Watlab	6.00 lacs	300/-	15 days	30.06.2021	DEE	2059 M&R	Ì

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quartities (ELO.Q), Set of terms and cond-

OL.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22.06.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22.06.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 29.06.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	22.06.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	29.06.2021 upto (4.00 PM)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	30.06.2021 at (04.10 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Tenaury Challanin Sevar of Executive - Engineer RBIS Distain Separe (Series in Separe (Series) and Bid Security Declaration as per format given in - SBIS. The IMST has to be submitted by the lowest bidder (J. (3% of quoted cost.) within the period specified in SBI.
3. At 8666m: have to salamit Bid security Declaration from its lead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department (Bid Security declaration from its as per

Ammount "A" below.

4.The F' lowest bidder has its produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before flustic

contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLF.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jlentenders.gov.in-and conveyed. Its The . bidders without all principles in e-mail message on in e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online an same web site in the office of the Tender receiving auctionity.).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a genind of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

Instruction to bidden regarding e-fendering process.
Bidden are advised to developed bid submission manual from the "Gownloads" option as well as from: "Bidden Manual Kill" on website were a bendera gov in acquient

bid submission process.

12 To participate in bidding process, bidders/have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (05C)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Biddies can get digital certificate

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. YA Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-I

Bidden must ensure to upload commed copy of all recessary documents with bid.
 Mill other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NT No. 2 of 2520-27 issued under No. -641-69 dated; 22.4-2520 PWO from 25 (Double agreement from).

If the contractor/HMPG quates rate for any tiem of work in his tender as free of cost at the time, of

tendering process, for tender shall be rejected out rightly.
For and on behalf of the,

Lt. Governor of JAKUT,

DIPK-3369/21

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Se

JKHPMC Ltd

Srinagar Red Zones Continue To Record Most Covid Positive Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government notified Red Zones in Srinagar continue to record a large number of Covid cases as according to the official figure over 1300 active cases out of total 1500 cases have been detected from the containment zones within the district till June 19, 2021.

Official figures reveal that there were 1575 positive cases in the district till June 19 (Saturday), Of the total 1575 cases, 1384 have

been detected from the localities declared as the red zones by the district administration Srinagar.

The figures reveal that only 191 active positive cases till Saturday were reported from outside containment zones, which is just 12.1 percent of the total active positive cases.

"A total of 153 localities within the district have been declared as



A weekly Covid document prepared by the health officials of the district, reads that 6.41,704 people have been tested since the outbreak of the disease (Covid-19) in J&K, adding that 5,27,196 underwent Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) while 1,14,508 were tested through RT-PCR,

It added that so far 69,012 people have been tested positive across the district which include security personnel as well as the

travellers.

that 5,78,241 contacts were also traced since the outbreak of the virus and a total of 66,621 people who were tested positive till June 19 have recovered.

It adds that the recovery rate in Srinagar is 96.5 percent while 816 people have also died due to the virus till last Saturday in the district, adding that the fatality rate in the district is 1.1 per cent.

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Commercial Operations Continue From A 'Sealed' Residential Building In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The residents of Shutrashahi area of Srinagar Tuesday alleged that despite sealing of a commercial building by Srinagae Municipal Corporation (SMC), the business activities continue from the structure.

Talking to a local news gathering agency, the locals said that the residents brought the attention to the concerned authorities after commercial activities were recorded from a building within the locality.

"The authorities awarg into action and sealed the building on June 17 for violating the norms.

Despite sealing the building there is no end to the commercial activities at the place as some of the doors of the structure have not been sealed," the locals said.

They added that the heavy motor vehicles which ply within the locality due to the commercial activities at the building in jeopardising the lives of children in the locality thus prompting them to seek an intervention from the concerned authorities.

They once again appealed the concerned authorities to look into the matter and ensure that the commercial activities in the residential area are banned forthwith-(Agencies)

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and sealed the building on June 17 for violating the norms. Despite sealing the building, there is no end to the commercial activities at the place as some of the doors of the structure have not been sealed."

DIAL-EMMA



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FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 **AIRPORTS**

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HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Closed) Mughal Road - (Open) Srinagar-Loh- (Open)

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This Day in History

- 1942-World War II: Germany's latest fighter, a Focks-Wulf FWI90 is captured intact when it
- 1943: RAF discovers Werner von Braun's VI/V2 base in Peenemunde
- 1960-Japan signs security treaty with the US 1961-The Antarctic Treaty, ensuring that Antarctica is used for peaceful purposes; for and does not become the scene or object of
- 1972-Hurricane Agnes becomes US's costliest natural disaster, effecting its states, with 119 deaths, \$3 billion damage
- 1972- President Nixon & his Chief of Staff H. R.
- 1974 -1st extraterrestrial message sent from Earth
- 1980-1st solar-powered coast-to-coast two-way radio conversation
- 1985-Bomb destroys Air India Boeing 747 in air
- 1990 African National Congress leader Nelson
- 1991-Manda becomes lst Japanese car to capture
- 2000- The bulk ore carrier MV Treasure sinks off the western coast of South Africa, solling more than 19 000 penguins; this resulted in the world's.
- 2013 India defeats England to win the 2013 ICC

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- mistakenty lands at RAF Pembrey in Wales.
- 1952- US airplanes bomb energy centers at Yalu
- international cooperation in scientific research; international discord, comes into force
- Haldeman agree to use CIA to cover up Watergate 1973- World Court condemm French nuclear tests
- 1983- Syria throws out PLO leader Arafat
- near treland, 329 die
- Mandela, on a US tour, receives a turnultuous
- welcome in Boston.
- Le Mans 24 hour race 1994- South Africa is readmitted to the United
- Nations Organisations (UND)
- largest ever rescue of birds from an oiling event Champions Trophy in cricket

PRAYERS

FAJR 3:35 ZUHR 12: 33

ASR 5:33 MAGRIB

7:49 ISHA 9:31

Two Jalandhar Residents Arrested In Srinagar With 18 KG's Opium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jamesu and Kashmir police in Seinagar on Tuesday accested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

A Police Party of Police Station Kothibagh during check-ing near TRC apprehended two persons Manpreet Singh son of Dilwandar Singh and Prince Sahota son of Pritam Singh, both

residents of Jalandhar, a police spokesperson said.

*During checking, officers were able to recover 18.3 kgs of Fuki from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where

they remain in costody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 48/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Korhbagh and investigation has been taken up.

winder to the wine حارك طها وادية J&K MONIS-UL-MUHTAAJ SOCIETY (NGO)

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JE-15013 13013 الزيارت وأكامها والرجاء والدهيميا مهدر والحاسطاني البدراس والبرياة وجروم الواقيدا تعماك

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استارات بيرا توال العدد شراس الأشير بأوا بيران والأثيرات أداؤا سعارا والصول واسط بالابراقين عالى كرلى مطويب بدوران فراي والمت بالمراد والا الما الما أو الكرار 15 1828 Jul 2 Deliga State Contract (00) J-20

2000 2000 20 وادهاجان الزغواليدال J-10 J-70 425 Wish 2 2.2 Ut by DA التقيعة وواوك المروكة ووالكان ب البذاء والقيت الزوارك المتعالي المزاوا

والإرعاء وأكام إا فالرجادية الوظيميسا مهدر وهاست الخالب ريكن جائد عين بالمراحد جائل ما كرده الله والمنافعة المدودة الكرده الداوان المنافعة الما

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والذات الإلتيان العدد الدماقان سأنيك وقوامين بالطراعول 87 مراقايد وأثرة الك الل الإسبادة والادرال بيد واد الرحاف ميد المداور الما المان عالم المان ا -21/12/24 5000 dash JU48 Markey M. G. St. Sec. واردس إلايج عاجاد 166.5 47 warra Thoughton J-24 14/27/2011 war Andress JL-19 JU10 ارفيتان بالدائدية of the Friends التقلقان وأوكارا والتراوي والوركال سناسانيذا مراقليك الازارك سناشان أكركي هم وكالم والواحل Share I was in the state of the

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عالمرات يرحون العدري ماكان شاكيده وتواسط يغرش اعول يكساء أواري وهيد المز والروال كالموارية والمراج والماري الماري الماري والماري والمارية والمراج المراج ما الان الاكتب المراه المرادي 5000 July Just siphings. والكيا إذاحاريك 21EL UL52 Mrs. Juan 21/2000 20 مال الوطيم **上でわれるとりなり** 2011-110 261266 العلامة كالمستعدد المنافية والمقتدى المام المرافئ كري معيال المستعدل ال منظمة والمرابط والمرازع والمراقع من البناء والكيف الدارك المراك والمحارك المواق あんかいかかり といろしんしんかんかんかんかんかん よいけんしん かん الإسفاجيزل إحلال تقيم بالطاعمة الميانس فسيضار اجمال وقواست المؤاميد واستاه كلاو يصافحه المرفسيات ماكزون الود وطراصول داريه جائز مرفقيت - アンマント かいかん できていくか علامته يرعنوان العندي إسما المكاند بأنواد اكرا أأرف برارسة وتواست اوا وعنول واسك بالتزار فالمدد والركر أوطلب عداد الالدية الدواف عند إلداد كالقاعدة والاراد MEL JU51 3 JU18

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From RO Archives

Hurriyat's Willingness To Talk Conveyed To India: Mirwaiz "Pakistan Visit Meant Formal

Inclusion In Peace Process" Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Describing their visit to Pakistan and 'Azad' Kashmir a "small yet positive step", the Hurriyat Confevence led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq today said it signalled formal inclusion of Kashmiris in the dialogue process for the resolution of Kashmir issue.

Asserting that the APHC was trying to consolidate the gains of the talks process Mirwaiz Umer said it has conveyed to New Delhi its willingness to carry forward the dialogue process.

'Yes. We are informally in touch with New Deshi

'We strongly believe that the dialogue process has to be strengthened and carried forward. We have already to India our willingness to talk... We are ready. The ball is now in India's court." He told reporters after the joint session of amalgam's Executive Committee. General Council and Working Committee here,
The Mirwaiz said the onus is now on New Delhi to decide.

on the date and venue for resuming the stalled talks aimed at resolving the Kashmir issue.

However, he said the Hurriyat Conference favoured an immediate resumption of the dialogue process, "We want to start the talks at the earliest. The date and the time has to be fixed by India," the Hurriyat Chairman said. "He said the onus of resolving the Kashmir is on every-body who wants to contribute to the resolution of the Kashmir issue, Mirwaiz claimed that their fortnight' long visit across LoC "signalled formal inclusion of Kashmiris in the dialogue process for resolution of the Kashmir issue," "The realisation has dawned in Islamubad and Kashmir and hope Delhi as well that issues need to be resolved ill rough negotiations and dialogue," he said,

He also said Now Delhi should take more responsibility in improving the situation on the human rights front and releasing all the political detunes in the state.

Elaborating the Hurrivat suggestion of triangular talks be-tween India, Pakostan and Kashmiris. Mirwaiz said the mechanism would allow holding talks between the three sides at various levels. "We have welcomed Indo-Pak talks but Kashmiris can hold

talks with Pakistan and India simultaneously to contribute their bit towards resolution of the issue." The Hurrivat leader also brushed aside representative char-

acter saying that elections are meant for administrative purposes which is not our aim at the moment and will be given a thought only after resolution of Kashmir issue

Asserting that it was for integration of entire Jammu and Kashmir. He said Hurriyat delegations would fan out in the state as part of its people to people contact and make all out efforts to bring back Kashmiri Pondits who fled the valley in

(Kashmir Observer, 23 June, 2005)



دفواست يجاري فيحل يوستداده يرسنداي دراك والزواريار الإفراصيلRBA/SQLالقياد -runtinestinus حالم الناريخ العادي بالمان الماركي المساول الماركي الماركي الماركي الماركي الماركي الماركي كمارك المارية والمراجعة المارية المراجعة والمراجعة و الإستانية المالية J-11 des J-50 ing Levilley the 2-22-45-6-JV-24 المراسالين JU-28 Stille SHER Ju-tra . درب الإل الزم الإل 162 والاراد والماريد تظاعة ووارك الرواكية موجود تكورت البذا وتخليف الدائد في الركي فلم أكول احزاض وكاروا ليدولات والمنافع المراق والمقاعد المرابط المرافع المرا والبيانعيلدات

In Bangladesh's Empty Armenian Church, A Lone **Hindu Worshipper**



ister and no faithful V V to pray, an Armenian church in Bangladesh has one last parishioner: a Hindu caretaker doing his "sacred duty" to preserve a relic of the city's former commercial elite.

Shankar Ghosh makes the sign of the cross before opening the entrance of the striking white and yellow edifice, built 240 years ago in the capital Dhaka.

Back then, the city was home to hundreds of Armenians, a diaspora that traced its roots in the Muslim-majority nation back to the 16th century and eventually rose to become prominent traders, lawyers and public officials.

The last known descendant of this community left Bangladesh several years ago, but not before entrusting the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Holy Resurrection to Ghosh, who had already lived within its grounds for half of his life.

"I love this work. I consider it a sacred duty bestowed upon me," the 61-year-old told AFP news agency. "Whether it is a church, temple or mosque, I believe all are for one God,"

Some 40 years ago, Ghosh worked at a jute factory, an industry owned by many Armenians in the region, where he struck up a friendship with the family running it.

Through them, he met church custodian Michael Joseph Martin, who invited Ghosh to be his assistant. The young man moved into the church compound in 1985 and never left.

"It is a home of God and I thought no other work would

ith no priest to min- better suit me," Ghosh said. His 30-year-old son was born in the compound and acts as its

resident historian. When Martin moved to Canada in 2014, he handed his protege the keys to the church.

Ghosh became full-time custodian after Martin died last year at the age of 89, and is now supported by overseas Armenians, led by Los Angeles-based businessman Armen Arslanian, who keep the church running.

The Ghosh family has a special place in our church," Arslanian told AFP.

Within the church grounds, the cacophony of traffic horns fades away and birdsong rises from a small garden. Young peoples and students gather under the garden's trees, sharing quiet moments in the shade

Each morning, Ghosh emerges from the compound where he lives with his wife and two children to open the church doors and light candles on the altar.

He utters a non-denominational prayer for 400 Armenians - once prominent members of Dhaka's community and now buried under neat rows of tombstones next to the building.

Several assistants help him maintain the church and feed the half a dozen stray dogs living on the grounds.

There have been no baptisms or weekly masses held in the church for several decades.

But the church comes to life every Easter and Christmas when a Catholic priest holds services attended by ambassadors stationed in Dhaka, AFP

Taliban Captures Afghanistan's Main **Tajikistan Border Crossing**

Agencies

the Taliban has captured Afghanistan's main border crossing with Tajikistan, an Afghan provincial official and army officer said on Tuesday, with some security forces abandoning their posts and fleeing across the frontier.

The seizure of Shir Khan Bandar, in the far north of Afghanistan about 50km (30 miles) from Kunduz city, is the most significant gain for the Taliban since it stepped up operations on May 1 when the US began the final stages of its troop withdrawal.

"Unfortunately this morning and after an hour of fighting the Taliban captured Shir Khan port and the town and all the border check posts with Tajikistan," said Kunduz provincial council member Khaliddin Hakmi.

An army officer told the AFP news agency: "We were forced to leave all check posts ... and some of our soldiers crossed the border into Tajikistan.

By the morning, they (Taliban fighters) were everywhere, hundreds of them," he said on condition of anonymity.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the fighters had seized the border

crossing across the Pyanj River. "Our Mujahideen are in full control of Shir Khan Bandar and all the border crossings with Ta-

jikistan in Kunduz," he told AFP. UN warning

The attack comes as the UN special envoy on Afghanistan warned that Taliban fighters have taken more than 50 of 370 districts in the country since May and that increased conflict 'means increased insecurity for many other countries, near and far".

"Those districts that have ghan women, girls and minorities". been taken surround provincial capitals, suggesting that the Taliban are positioning themselves to try and take these capitals once foreign forces are fully withdrawn," the UN Secretaryfor Afghanistan Deborah Lyons threat to the US homeland".



told the UN Security Council.

Fierce fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces has taken place on the outskirts of three provincial capitals in the northern provinces of Faryab, Balkh and Kunduz provinces in recent days, officials said.

Taliban gains and the steady withdrawal of the remaining 2,500-3,500 US troops and 7,000 NATO forces have lent an urgency to efforts to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan's protracted conflict.

Talks between the government and the Taliban taking place in Qatar have yet to make a breakthrough.

While Taliban leaders say they are ready to negotiate, observers familiar with the talks say the movement seems more focused on securing military gains in order to

strengthen its negotiating position. Meanwhile, the White House on Sunday announced that US President Joe Biden will meet Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Abdul-Iah Abdullah, the head of the country's High Council for National Reconciliation, which oversees the

government's negotiation team. Friday's meeting, according to a White House statement, is intended to re-affirm the US's financial and humanitarian aid "to support the Afghan people, including Af-

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said their conversation would also "continue to discuss how we can work together to ensure that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven General's Special Representative for terrorist groups who pose a

Violations Against Children In Conflict 'Alarmingly High': UN



AL JAZEERA

rave violations against children in conflict remain "alarmingly high", with the coronavirus pandemic increasing their vulnerability to abduction, recruitment and sexual violence, a new United Nations report has found.

In its annual Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) report (PDF), released on Monday, the UN said at least 19,379 children affected by war in 2020 were victims of grave violations such as recruitment or rape.

The UN verified a total of 26,425 grave violations, of which 23,946 were committed in 2020 and 2,479 were committed earlier but verified only in 2020.

*Escalation of conflict. armed clashes and disregard for international humanitarian law and international human rights law had a severe impact on the protection of children," the report found.
According to the report,

the highest numbers of grave violations were recorded in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

While more than 8,400 children were killed or harmed in ongoing wars, nearly 7,000 others were recruited to fight, mainly in the DRC, Somalia, Syria, and Myanmar. Verified cases of abduction

and sexual violence against children increased by 90 and 70 percent, respectively, it - with abductions often coupled with the "recruitment and use of children and sexual violence" including rape.

The UN said the coronavirus pandemic "aggravated existing vulnerabilities of children, including by hampering their access to education, health and social services, limiting child protection activities and shrinking safe spaces".

Attacks on schools and hospitals were also prevalent in 2020, including serious attacks committed against girls' education and against health facilities and their staff.

There was also an increase in the military use of schools and hospitals, especially with the brief closure of schools during COVID lockdowns - making them easy targets for military occupation and use, the report said.

The wars of adults have taken away the childhood of millions of boys and girls again in 2020," Virginia Gamba, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on CAAC, said.

This is completely devastating for them, but also for the entire communities they live in, and destroys chances for a sustainable peace."

List of shame Meanwhile, Save the Children in a statement on Monday criticised the CAAC for failing to add perpetrators of violations against children to the so-called "list of shame", an addendum to the UN's report which singles out parties who fail to keep chil-

dren safe during conflict. The rights group said that in a disheartening decision", the UN Secretary General António Guterres again failed to add the Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in wartorn Yemen to the list.

Despite killing and maim-

ing at least 194 children in Yemen in 2020 according to UN verified data, the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition gets a green light to continue destroying children's lives in Yemen," Save the Children said.

'Unfortunately, other parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, the occupied Palestinian territory and Syria, also got a free pass for committing grave violations of children's rights - despite the UN verifying a pattern of grave violaons year after year," it added.

Israel was not added to the list, despite the UN recording 1,031 grave violations against 340 Palestinians and three Israeli children in the occupied West Bank, East Jenisalem, the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Israeli security forces killed eight Palestinian children and one Israeli child last year, and 87 children reported illtreatment and breaches of due process by Israeli forces while in detention - with 83 percent reporting physical violence.

While Save the Children welcomed the inclusion of countries such as Myanmar as situations of concern, it also noted Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Ukraine were not included.

Commenting on the report, Inger Ashing, CEO for Save the Children, said: "We strongly urge the Secretary General to reconsider his decision and hold parties to conflict all over the world to the same standard. The decision to include an armed actor in the 'list of shame' should be based only on a pattern of grave violations against children verified by the UN, not on politics.

Imran Khan On Why Pakistan **Won't Host American Bases**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has ruled out hosting American bases in Pakistan for military action inside war-torn Afghanistan, fearing it might lead to his country being "targeted in revenge attacks" by terrorists.

In an opinion piece in The Washington Post ahead of US President Joe Biden's meeting with top Afghan leaders at the White House later this week, Mr Khan also questioned the efficacy of such US bases in Pakistan.

We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price," Mr Khan said, amid reports that the US continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region.

giving nod the US to have bases 2008. The drone strikes focused American troops.



in Pakistan, which were earlier allowed after 9/11 to coordinate operations in Afghanistan, the Pakistan Prime Minister said, "If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again,"

According to media reports, the US had used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out

primarily on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in mountainous tribal areas, but also crossed the border into Afehanistan.

"If the United States, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 ears, how would America do it from bases in our country?" Mr Khan asked.

Mr Khan, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and the denial of any bayen for terrorists. We want a negotiated peace, not civil war," he wrote

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is ready to be a partner for peace in Afghanistan with the US but "we will avoid risking fur-Elaborating the reasons for not hundreds of drone strikes since ther conflict* after withdrawal of

Google Warns Over 2Bn Chrome Users Of 'Zero Day' Security Flaw

oogle Chrome retains an iron grip on web browser market share with well over two billion users. Unfortunately, all those users need to be on high alert because Google has just issued its second urgent upgrade warning in a week,

In an official blog post, Google has confirmed that a new 'zero-day' exploit has been found in Chrome after an anonymous tip-off. Most security flaws are discovered and patched before they get out into the wild, but a zero-day classification means the vulnerability is known to hackers and actively being exploited.

Little is known about the vul-(CVE-2021-30554) nerability other than it being found in WebGL, a JavaScript API for rendering, it is standard practice for Google to keep zero-day details to a minimum to buy Chrome users more time to upgrade. "Google is aware that an exploit for CVE-2021-30554 exists in the wild," is all Chrome technical program manager Srinivas Sista has said.

To combat this threat, Chrome users should immediately go to your browser and operating sys-Settings > Help > About Google tem security are kept up to date.

Chrome. If your browser version on Linux, macOS and Windows is listed as 91.0.4472.114 or above you are safe. If not, manually check for updates and restart the browser once the update is ready. Google also confirmed that three other 'High' level threats are patched in this version of Chrome.

CVE-2021-30554 the seventh zero-day vulnerability found in Chrome since the turn of the year and the second in a week. Google typically does a fine job releasing fixes quickly but their effectiveness is also determined by the speed with which Chrome users update their browsers

Chrome users would also be wise to be extra vigilant at this time. Speaking to BleepingComputer last week, security vendor Kaspersky warned that a new group of backers calling themselves 'PuzzleMaker' have been successful in chaining together Chrome zero-day bugs to install malware on Windows systems. Microsoft itself issued an urgent security warning for Windows users about this last week.

Right now, it appears to be high season for Chrome hackers so stay alert and make sure both

IN AN OFFICIAL BLOG POST, Google has confirmed that a new 'zero-day' exploit has been found in Chrome after an anonymous tip-off. Most security flaws are discovered and patched before they get out into the wild, but a zero-day classification means the vulnerability is known to hackers and actively being exploited.

Pakistani Cleric Who Led Anti-Blasphemy Rallies

Held For Sexual Abuse

LAHORE: Pakistani police said on Monday (21 June) that a hardline Muslim cleric had appeared in court hours after they arrested him on charges of sexually abusing a student at a religious school

The charges against Azizur-Rehman, in his early 60s, who has been leading antidepicting the Prophet Muhammad, were filed last week after cellphone videos purporting to show the cleric forcing himself on the student went viral on social media

The cleric has denied the ac- appeared to be in his early 20s, cusation in a video statement on social media, saying that he was drugged before the filming.

The court ordered police to obtain medical and DNA tests on the cleric, a police spokesman told Reuters.

The case has caused a stir in Pakistan, a mainly Muslim country, and outrage on social media. clips to the head of the Wafaq-



said the cleric had been abusing him for the last three years. Rehman, a member of

prominent religious political party, worked for several years as a custodian at the seminary, which has now expelled him.

The student told police that he filmed the abuse and sent The student, who police said ul-Madaris, a body that oversees



THE CHARGES AGAINST AZIZ-

ur-Rehman, in his early 60s, who has been leading anti-blasphemy rallies over cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, were filed last week after cellphone videos purporting to show the cleric forcing himself on the

student went viral on social media.

NEWS MAKERS

Trump Wanted To Send Covid-Infected Americans To Guantanamo: Book

*ormer President Donald ◆Trump considered sending US citizens infected with the coronavirus to Guantanamo Bay. according to a new book

"Don't we have an island that we own?" Trump asked staff in the Situation Room in February 2020, the Washington Post reported. "What about Guantanamo?"

Guantanamo Bay is a detention camp on Cuba the US uses to house those accused of serious crimes, including enemy combatants from foreign wars and those allegedly behind the September 11 attacks.

"We import goods," the book claims Trump, who later contract-



are not going to import a virus." The comments came before coronavirus cases exploded in the US. Trump's administration faced sustained criticism over its handling of the pandemic, which has killed more than 601,000 people, according to the Johns Hopkins University tally. he majority of those deaths,

Trump's administration. ed COVID-19, said to his staff. "We the question about Guantanamo eral government do testing?"

roughly 400,000, occurred under Trump's aides were sturned by

Bay and shut down the idea the second time it was raised, the Post reported. The book entitled Nightmare

Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History, was written by Post journalists Yasmeen Abutaleb and Damian Paletta.

The contents of the book came from interviews with former senior Trump advisors and health officials, recounting numerous conversations that outline the Trump administration's response to the pandemic. "Testing is killing me!" the book

claims Trump said to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on March 18. "Pro going to lose the election because of testing! What idiot had the fed-

Paris Department Store Reopens After 16-Year Long Swanky Facelift

Agence France-Presse

PARIS: Parisians will once again be able to stroll the gilded aisles of the Samaritaine department store starting Wednesday, after 16 years of painstaking work to restore the Art Deco and Art Nouveau landmark to its former glory.

Luxury conglomerate LVMH shut the 151-year-old emporium overlooking the Seine river in 2005, when safety inspectors discovered widespread risks including antiquated wiring.

Once a retail anchor for the historic core of the capital between the Louvre and Notre-Dame, by then it was losing money and custorners no longer interested in its other temple of luxe in Paris.

pitch: "You can find everything at La Sarnaritaine."

"It was dying," the store's chief Jean-Jacques Guiony told journalists on Monday, when President Emmanuel Macron visited for the restored site's inauguration.

Macron, touring alongside Bernard Arnault, LVMH's chief and one of the world's richest people, called it "a sturning French cultural treasure."

For the revamp, LVMH shrank the floorspace in the flagship building, a classified monument, by a third and took its offerings firmly upmarket - applying the formula at Le Bon Marche, LVMH's

DC Kupwara Directs Officers To Expedite Work **Of Development Projects**

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Tuesday directed the executing agencies to redouble their efforts for timely completion of all on-going development works in border Keran area, situated near LoC, in view of its topography and limited working season.

During the visit to the area. he on spot resolved many issues and gave directions to the concerned officers for timely resolution of public grievances.

Responding to the issues, the DC said that the government has prioritized the work for covering left out panchayats with electricity and Panchayat halqa Mandian-A and B shall be covered with the power supply on priority basis.

Regarding development of the road from Dat-bridge to Keran, the Deputy Commissioner informed that BRO has agreed in principle to take over the road from R&B for further development,

The DC directed Tehsildar Keran to send details of all those students who are studying out-

of ALC certificate for further course of action so that the demand of the public is fulfilled.

Regarding augmentation of drinking water and irrigation facilities, the DC directed the concerned Executive Engineers to speed up the execution of irrigation libuls and water supply schemes so that the ultimate aim of the schemes to facilitate the public on time is yielded in a better way.

On the demand of opening the Army Gate for the villagers of Mundu, he assured the people of the area to take up the matter with the concerned Army authorities for its timely resolution.

Regarding issuance of Aadhaar cards, the DC directed the CDPO Kralpora team which is already in Keran for issuance of Aadhaar cards, to stay at Keran till completion of the task.

Resolving another grievance, the DC directed Chief Education Officer Kupwara to arrange Math teachers at all required schools in the area. He further directed him to start Community classes, strictly following SOPs in Covid free Keran area as there is no internet side the Keran and are in need and telecommunication facility.

Lack Of Treatment Guidelines **Leading To Chaotic Medication** In Covid Patients: DAK

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association currently the only drug that is ap-Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said the lack of definitive treatment guidelines is leading to chaotic medication in Covid-19 patients.

A spokesperson of DAK, in a statement, said that there is an urgent need of an explicit, comprehensive and continuously updated treatment protocol to prevent unnecessary prescription of medicines and ensure that Covid treatment is uniform.

He said Covid-19 is a biphasic illness. The first week of Covid is viral replication phase. The second week is driven by body's hyperinflammatory response what is widely referred to as cytokine storm

Based on this understanding, antiviral therapies are effective early in the course of the disease, while antiinflammatory therapies are beneficial: in the later stages of Covid-19," he said. en or strongly suspected secondary Remdesivir, an antiviral drug is

proved by US FDA for the treatment of Covid-19. It is secommended for use in hospitalized patients who require supplemental coygen," he said.

"However, it is not routinely recommended for patients who require mechanical ventilation due to lack of data showing benefit at this advanced stage of the disease," he said.

The spokesperson said evidence has shown that Covid-19 infections can lead to increased risk of blood clots which can lead to organ damage and death.

"In absence of contraindication all acutely hospitalised patients with Covid-19 should receive heparin to prevent clotting," he said.

He said empirical antibiotic therapy is not recommended in Covid-19 patients. Antibiotics should only be prescribed in cases of provbacterial infection," he added.

JCB Operator Dies In Reasi Road Accident

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A 20-year-old youth died and another person went missing on Tuesday after a JCB machine rolled down from a road and fell in a water body in

chine (JK208-1579) met an ac-

cident at Badora area of the district leading to on the spot death of Harbachan Sharma (20), operator, son of Surinder Kumar of Manikah Kangari Sundebani in Rajouri district.

Meanwhile, a senior police of ficial said that a case under the Officials said that a JCB ma- relevant sections of the law to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Govt Asks Forest Dept To Increase Forest Cover

1.53 CR Saplings To Be Planted Through People's Participation



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday directed the Forest Department to increase the forest cover through a dedicated Green J&K Drive to plant 1.30 crore saplings across J&K in 2021-22.

He also asked the Department to undertake plantation of 23.61 lakh plants under Green India Mission and District Capex Budget along with the production of 96.46 falch saplings in government nurseries.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Forest Department to constitute Village Panchayat Plantation Committees in all 4290 Panchayats, besides conducting monthly dialogues with these commit tees to evolve region-specific sustainable models defining scientific exploitation of forest based fodder, fuelwood, and other MFPs.

He passed the directions

view the functioning of various wings of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department along with Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Chairman and Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board (PCB) and concerned HoDs participated in the meeting.

It was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has 20,194 sq km of forest area which is 47.80% of its geographical area with 55% forest and tree cover, and 43% open forest. Besides having the maximum number of forest types, J&K also has the highest biodiversity of herbs in the country.

Economically, the forest in Jammo and Kashmir generates 2 million man-days of employment and has a monetary value equivalent to Rs. 1.93 lakh crore. To enhance the contribu-

tion of the Department in while chairing a meeting to re- economic activities, the Chief

Secretary directed sustainable development through the deregulated sale of various Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). The Department was also asked to draw a strategy to enhance the commercial viability of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Biodiversity Management Committees.

Further, the Forest Department was asked to evolve a strategy for phased rehabilitation of degraded forest land over the next five years through community participation and ownership.

Emphasizing the need for real-time reliable data on air quality in the Union territory, the Chief Secretary directed the Pollution Control Board to expedite installation of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, PCB was further asked to extend assistance to 18-K Police in strict implementation of vehicular air pollu-

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FURTHER DIRECTED THE FOREST Department to constitute Village Panchayat Plantation Committees in all 4290

Panchayats, besides conducting monthly dialogues with these committees to evolve region-specific sustainable models defining scientific exploitation of forest based fodder, fuelwood, and other MFPs.

Budgam Admin Eases Lockdown Restrictions For Five Days A Week

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: District Develop ment Commissioner (DDC) Budgam Tuesday said that the situation has improved enormously all across the district.

The DDC said that since April 1 District Budgam has recorded 14187 positive cases of COVID-19, among these 13584 patients have recovered till date. He further said that at present there are only 640 positive cases across the district, Bed occupancy is very low, positivity rate has also come down drastically and is now below 2 percent besides



the recovery rate has reached to 96.98 percent.

Regarding easing of restrictions, the DDC clarified that

since the situation has improved gradually, the administration has decided to allow the opening of shops, markets, other business establishments and now these will remain open 5 days a week from 7AM. to 7PM.

However there will be strict implementation of curfew norms all week days i.e Saturdays, Sundays

He said apart from allowing the opening of Shops and simultaneous relaxation of these curbs, the public shall not let the things go beyond control as danger still has not been averted.

Govt Clears Promotion Of 79 Handicrafts And **Handloom Dept Officials**

SRINAGAR: The Departmental Promotion Committee Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Director Handicrafts & Handloom cleared the promotion of 79 officials of Ministerial/ executive and technical cadre of the Department to the next higher level/grade

Apart from clearance of promotions, several issues which were pending disposal since the last so many years were also addressed during the meeting and

mittee thus resolving the long pending grievances of certain sections of employees of the de-

partment. Post merger of Handicrafts & Handloom Department into a single entity, this was the first Departmental Promotion Committee Meet and was held after a gap of more than 2 years.

Hailing the development, the employees appreciated the efforts of the Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir for holding the meet in a swift manner.

Paid Public Parks Opened In Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anantriag administration has opened all public paid parks in the district.

The State Executive Committee (SEC) had authorised the concerned Deputy Commissioners of Januaru and Kashmir, to take a call on the opening of the public paid parks after taking the assessment of the conditions and after according to due consideration, subject to Covid appropriate measures.

administration, Anantrag said that after the due consideration and assessment of the Covid situation in the district, all the paid public parks - printe behaviour," be said, (Agencies)

in the district have been opened for poblic use under proper Covid Sops and guidelines

He said that SEC has authorised the concerned Deputy Commissioners to take a call on the opening of the public paid parks in their respective districts, and in that view district administration Anantrag has opened the public paid parks in the district.

The department of Floriculture is extending its full support to the district administration Anantrag and our staff is ensuring that people without the A top official from the district face masks are not allowed to go inside the parks. The signage boards are also placed all around the parks educating the visitors of adopting the Covid appro-

Two Siblings Dead In **Qazigund Road Accident**

Observer News Service

QAZIGUND: Two siblings were killed while another was injured after the motorcycle they were riding collided with a tanker at Gundipora village of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district Tuesday An official said that two persons

including the motorcyclist were killed while another was injured in the accident.

the trio was instantly moved to a nearby hospital, where the bike rider and one of the two pillion riders succumbed to their injuries.

He identified the deceased as Javid Ahmad Thokar and Nisar Ahmad Thokar, sons of Abdul Gani Thokar and identified the injured as Mushtaq Ahamd Najar son of Ghulam Rasool Najar, all residents of Sopat, Qazigund.

Meanwhile the tanker driver bas fled from the spot, while the police He said soon after the accident, have launched a manhunt to nab him.

Tributes Paid To Aga Yousuf On 39th Death Anniversary

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srimagar Dr Faroog Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday paid glowing tributes to Aga Syed Yousuf Al Safvi Al Moosvi on his 39th death anniversary.

"An erudite personality, a polymath Marboom Aga Sahib is remembered for his scholarly endowments," Party President and vice President said while paying tributes to noted Estamic scholar and luminary.

The duo said the contribution of late Aga Sahib in acquainting masses with various streams of Islamic knowledge is unparalleled. They said that Aga Sahib was an epitome of piousness, devoutness and faith. The duo while paying tributes to the great Islamic Scholar, prayed to Almighty to elevate his stations in Januar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com Gist of Short Term e-NIT No. 08 OF 2021-22, Dated: 21-06-2021 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of JAK. Executive Fosineer, Mechanical impation Division, Straggs, invites e-tenden, on Item rate basis by e

tendering mode for-

ts. No.	Particulars of the work	Cost of focument tender fee (In Re.)	Cost of work "Rs" in Lecs	Exemption	Completion Period	Class/Registration Type
- 1		. 3	4	4	- 5	
1	Repairing/replacement of parts to 800Amp.ACB (L&T make) of unit No. 08 low lift at LLS Marval Stage 2".	100.00	0.35	Yes	05 days	Electrical Contractors' SSI Unit Holders' Workshop holders' firms having relevant experience.
2.	Servicing and preventive maintenance of various electrical equipments installed at LIS Marval Stages 4th Kaisarmulla	100.00	0.17	Yes	05 days	Electrical Contractoral ISSI Unit Helderal Workshop holdersi firms having refevent experience.
3.	Servicing and preventive maintenance of various electrical equipments installed at LIS Marval Stages 2nd Suthsoo.	100.00	1.009	Yes	OS days	Electrical Contracture/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ firms having relevant experience.

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

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

DIPK-3307/21

	Fublish Date	21 /96/2021 as 1700 hrs.
15.	Document Downtoad/salu start Date	21 /06/2021 from 1200 tes
186	Clarification start date	N.A
H:	Bid webnowion start date	21/06/2021 Dron 1700 hrs
*	Clarification and date	N.A
11	Bid selentration/ Document Densition/sale and date	29706/2021 igno 1400 hrs.
-41	Chair and time of Bid opening	30 895/2021 or 1400 her-

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

Faultien of funds	fivalable .
Position of AAA	Dieler Salectastus
ition of Technical Secretion	Spectioned vide Note 28, 49 of 40 of 05/21

No. MIDS/Ts/1083-88

Dated:-21-06-2021

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Imigation Division, Srinagar GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE. SRINAGAR

(Mantoo House, Post Office LaneRajbagh Srinagar-190008) Mail ID:deandccsgr@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

MUMKIN-NEW POSSIBILITIES

(A customized Livelihood Generation Scheme For The Youth Of Jammu & Kashmir)

The "MUMKIN" scheme proposes to establish a sustainable livelihood in transport sector by providing financial assistance to the unemployed youth for purchase of new small Commercial Vehicles. Small Commercial Vehicles, Small Commercial Vehicles will include mini-trucks, light commercial vehicles, pick-ups and any other mode of transport of similar nature under public carrier permit. The applicant shall have the full liberty to choose any Small Commercial Whicle of any approved model/make of his/her choice.

Eligibility for Registration:

The applicant must be a domicile of Jammu and Kashmir

All the unemployed youth of the district between the age group of 18-35 who have not availed any kind of financial assistance/insentive/subsidy under any self- employment scheme run by the Government. The applicant must be Unemployed (certified by the Samuech /Manicipal councilor)

Having a valid Driving License or engage a driver with a valid driving license.

The applicant should have been granted a permit by an appropriate authority to ply the vehicle for passengers or goods, as the case may be. No criteria regarding income of the family would be considered for the eligibility under this scheme.

DIPK-3288/21

No: DE&CC/5gr/MUMKIN/2021/134-38

Dated: 19.06.2021.

The Scheme Banking Partner shall extend loan facility to the extent of 100% of the Or-road Price of the vehicle to be purchased under the scheme. Mission Youth, J&K shall provide an amount of Rs. 80,000 or 10% of On-road price of the vehicle (whichever is minimum), Similarly, the vehicle manufacturer shall also provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy provided by Mission Youth towards the Isan account of the beneficiary. No collateral security required for availing the scheme.

In order to avail the benefits under the "NUMKIN" scheme, one has to visit the official portal by entering the URL https://www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices Users shall be directed to the page and have to click on Citizen Registration if he/she has not registered before on the e-service portal to create login IQ password and Oblizen ED. (No need to create again, if already have one).

Visit e-sendors portal with the user IC and pass word. Having done this, click on "Mission youth" to apply for MUMCIN scheme Fill in the details asked and upload the required documents viz: DOB. Unemployment certificate, Ration card/Domicile certificate, Driving license. Applicants who intend to engage a driver to operate the vehicle are required to upload in addition to the above:

Driver's striving licerus An affidavit to the effect that applicant will engage a driver to operate the vehicle for a period not less than 3 years or till the applicant, acquires his/her license or till the liquidation of the lown in full, whichever is earlie

Desirous eligible candidates are further advised to register with the District Employment &Courseling Centre Srinager ordine at http://pieemp.nic.in-before applying for the

For Further Details Contact:-Deputy Director, District Employment & Counseling Centre, Srinagar

Email:deandccsgr@gmail.com Contact No.: 9149565637

SD/ Mohd Rouf Rehman(KAS) Deputy Director Employment (Nodal Officer DUIC-MUMKIN) District Srinagay

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KO VIEW

Welcome decision

he cancellation of the Amarnath pilgrimage is a good step by the government. Though the pilgrimage was expected not to be held this year due to the devastating second Covid-19 wave pandemic, the government had earlier kept the options open. The administration wanted to undertake the yatra in a restricted manner so that the Standard Operating Procedure for Covid-19 was followed.

This had generated some unease in Kashmir where people apprehended that the yatra will lead to a surge in Coronavirus cases. The people already had the example of Kumbh Mela before them which became a major cause for spreading Covid-19 throughout the country. Kashmir itself became the victim of unchecked tourism leading to an exponential rise in infections with daily caseload rising to over 5000. Last year's peak was over 1000 cases only.

As things stand, J&K, particularly the Valley, is still reeling from the second Covid-19 wave. On Monday, Jammu and Kashmir reported 362 new Covid-19 Cases, 101 from Jammu Division and 261 from Kashmir division. There were 10 deaths. As this state of affairs reveals, though the number of infections has drastically reduced over the last month, the pandemic is still not under control. This has forced the government to keep lockdown in place for three days a week. And this too at a time when it is summer, the peak tourism season.

Under these circumstances, allowing the Amarnath Yatra to go ahead looked odd and also, in a sense, discriminatory when the same administration had chosen to ban the religious gatherings in Kashmir. During the yatra, the pilgrims from all across India would have visited J&K. They would have had to travel hundreds of kilometres through the country to reach their destination. So, letting the pilgrimage take place in the middle of a pandemic with cases rising by the day was an ill-advised move. However, it is good that the better counsel has eventually prevailed and the government has seen through the risks involved.

At the same time, the cancellation of the yatra is a huge economic loss for the thousands of people associated with it and who have come to depend on it for their livelihood. Here's hoping that the yatra takes place next year. And for that to happen the administration has to focus all its energies on the fight against Coronavirus. But on this score, the situation doesn't look promising enough. So far the government has been entirely banking on the lockdowns to sail through the crisis. It has ignored the upgradation of the healthcare infrastructure that should have been its main priority. Also, the vaccination is progressing at a snail's pace. People have to wait for months before getting the second dose. Lockdowns will only further crush the economy that has already been reeling from two years of disruption.

OTHER OPINON

On the table, in J&K

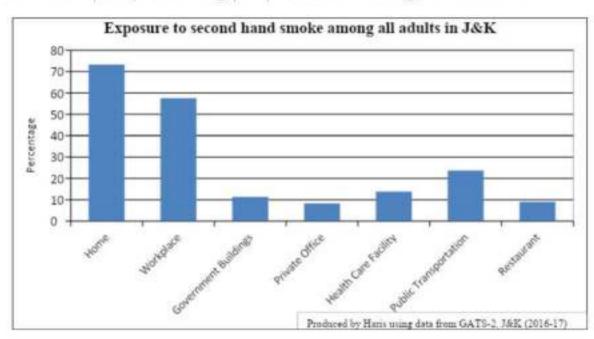
he invitation by the Centre to Jammu & Kashmir's mainstream political parties for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come not a day too soon. Though the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration - the name for the grouping of these parties - is yet to take a decision on whether to accept the invitation, it is a vindication of sorts for the political leadership of the erstwhile state. In their speeches over the last two years, both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had declared them irrelevant in "Naya Kashmir" that came into existence on August 5, 2019, and pledged to banish them from its public life. They were jailed, accused of looting the state, and later named the "Gupkar gang" allegedly in caboots with Pakistan, when they came together to demand a roll-back of the 2019 reorganisation of J&K. The outreach now is an admission that two years after those changes, the Centre's plan to create an entirely new political leadership, be it through the special purpose Apni Party, or via the District Development Council polls last December, did not deliver the expected results. Just as the DDC elections got a measure of legitimacy due to the participation of the mainstream regional parties, the government needs the endorsement of these parties and leaders once again for its delimitation exercise. With its own constituents in Jammu restive over the political vacuum, and given the difficulties in ushering in the promised "development" in the Union Territory, the BJP-led government is now keen to expedite the redrawing of electoral boundaries in J&K, signalling

that assembly elections could be held soon. For Kashmir's parties, participation in the delimitation process is a double-edged sword. While being invited into the tent for talks with no less than the PM is a measure of their importance, there is little trust since 2019, the outcomes are uncertain, and carry the risk of their being labelled once again as "betrayers" by their constituencies. While the timeline to the assembly election and promised return of statehood is hardly clear, a boycott now would be as good as cutting off any future engagement with Delhi. It would send out a dangerous message in a place where youth continue to be recruited into militant groups. The government may project its outreach to these parties as a necessary U turn made only after cutting them to size, where their demand has been scaled down from autonomy to statehood. But it would do better to drop its opaqueness and be upfront on its agenda for talks and the roadmap, if it has one.

The Indian Express

Taxing Tobacco

India since the GST imposition has been taxing tobacco products at 28%, which is very low as compared to other countries. An increase in taxes, strict enforcement of laws that prohibit smoking in public places and adopting a license system for tobacco product vendors would help in preventing people from starting tobacco use



Haris Rashid

India has a low taxation rate on tobacco products-28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the additional cess charged by the centre. There is a need to commit to a minimum annual increase in taxes on tobacco products.

everyone being aware of the harms and illness caused by tobacco consumption, a large portion of the population uses tobacco products. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) 2016-17, 39.7 % of men, 6.2% of women and 23.7% of all adults in Jamma and Kashmir use tobacco (19.4% are smokers only, 2.9% use smokeless only tobacco and 1.4% use both). GATS is conducted as a household survey of persons aged 15 years and above. The survey further reports that 91.5% of adults in J&K believe smoking causes serious illuess. It also notes that 68.3% of adults came across ads about the dangers of smoking on television or radio. Further, 56.1% of smokers were planning or thinking about quitting. Also, among the daily tobacco users, 12.1% had initiated tobacco use when they were below the age of 15 while 35.6% had initiated at the age of 15-17. Regarding second hand smoke in J&K, 73.3% of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke at home, 57.5% were exposed at the workplace, 23.7% were exposed in public transportation, 11.3% were exposed at government buildings and 35.3% at any public place. J&K has the highest exposure to tobacco at the workplace among all the In-

dian states and UTs. From the above-cited data, four things can be interpreted: (I) Almost everyone is aware of the dangers of tobacco use and there is a high penetration of anti-smoking ads through mass media. (II) More than half of smokers want to quit (III) A substantial number of people start tobacco use in their childhood. (IV) There is nothing preventing people from smoking in public places, including public transport and government buildings.

Based on these four points and keeping in view the current government policies on tobacco

control, this article argues that in &K currently ranks 6th among Indian states and order to control tobacco consump-UTs in percentage of tobaction, the government and other co smokers. Despite almost organizations working towards tobacco use control must focus on interventions to prevent people from initiating tobacco use, disincentivize tobacco consumption by current users by making the products less affordable while also making assistance accessible to those consumers who want to quit. This can be done by (1) increasing tax on tobacco products every year until they become a luxury (2) strictly enforcing laws that prohibit smoking in public places (3) having exclusive shops/kiosks for the sale of tobacco products with mandatory licensing from the government. India currently has a law in the form of Cigarettes and Other Tobac-

co Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COT-PA) that regulates trade and commerce in and production, supply and distribution of tobacco products in India. The Act is complemented by the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) that seeks to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and to ensure effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA, 2003. COTPA-2003 includes; Section 4: Prohibition of smoking in public places; Section 5: Prohibition of advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products; Section 6a: Prohibition of sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products to anyone below the age of 18 years; Section 6b: Prohibition of sale of tobacco products near educational institutions and Section 7: Ban on sale of tobacco product without pack warnings. Also, in 2015, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in partnership with World Health Organization and the International Telecommunications Union, started the mCessation Programme an initiative for utilizing mobile technology for tobacco cessation by supporting tobacco users towards successful quitting through constant text messaging on mobile phones.

An increase in taxes is considered as the best intervention to control tobacco use. It directly affects current consumers and prevents others from starting tobacco use. Before GST, the J&K government would charge 40% sales tax on tobacco products and according to an IndiaSpend report, among all other things including automobiles and electronic devices, tobacco prodnots would fetch the state sales tax department its highest revenue. However, carrently, India has a low taxation rate on tobacco prodnets 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the additional cess charged by the centre. According to the Tobacconomics Cigarette Tax Scorecard, India scored 1.88 out of 5 in terms of the tobacco tax burden as against the global average of 2.07. There is a need to commit to a minimum annual increase in taxes on tobacco products. New Zealand has been increasing the tobacco excise by CPI+10% annually (CPI is Consumer Price Index) since 2010. Data available shows that there has been a significant drop in smoking and other tobacco product use in the country after the tax increase started.

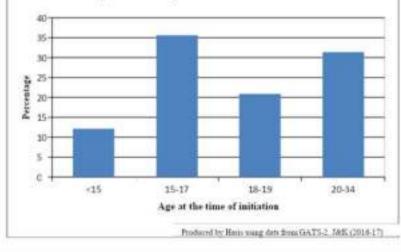
Even though smoking in public places is prohibited and is a punishable offence, anthorized persons responsible for taking action as per COTPA do not seem to care as is evident from the above data regarding exposure to passive smoking. The huge number of people getting exposed to second hand smoking at hospitals and government build ings is a cause of concern. In order to protect non-smokers from second hand smoking, the government must ensure that authorized persons, including Sarpanchs and health officials, take action under their jurisdiction. Further, rules that prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors and the rules that prohibit the sale of tobacco products around educational institutions must be enforced strictly by the authorized persons.

There is also a need to ha clusive shops/kiosks for the sale of tobacco products and making licensing from municipalities and Panchayats mandatory for them. In a recent report, titled "Framework for Implementation of Tobacco Vendor Licensing in India", submitted by the National Law School of India University to the Union Health Ministry early this year, it has been recommended that licensing system be adopted for the sale of tobacco products and these licensed vendors must sell tobacco products exclusively. The licensing system will make effective control of tobacco products possible by reducing the number of shops and making tobacco products inaccessible to minors.

Tobacco use is one of the major causes of preventable diseases and deaths in India and across the world. Every day, 3700 deaths (approximately) occur in India due to tobacco use. Government must take proactive steps and enforce the laws strictly to prevent our children and youth from starting tobacco use.

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 student at Ashoka University



Age at tobacco product initiation for J&K

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Boost Early Intervention Services for Disabilities

he Union Ministry of Social Unstice and Empowerment has inaugurated fourteen Cross Disability Early Intervention Centers for children aged 0 to 6 years at seven National Institutes and seven Composite Regional Centers in a groundbreaking effort. Debradun, Delhi, Mumbai, Seconderabad, Kolkata, Cuttack, Chennai, Surendranagar, Lucknow, Bhopal, Rajnandgaon, Patna, Nellore, and Kozhikode are among the 14 Early Intervention Centers that have opened. Under one roof and in a contiguous manner, the centers provide screening and identification, rehabilitation, counseling, and therapy treatments for a variety of disabilities. Parental counseling and training, as well

as peer counseling, are all part of these centers' mission to help parents cope with the requirements of their disabled children. According to research, the first 1000 days of a child's life are critical for healthy development, thus it's critical to identify high-risk instances early on so that the severity of the handicap can be decreased by suitable interventions.

State governments should increase early detection and intervention programs at the grassroots level to reduce the risk factors that contribute to disability. To support children with special needs, there must be a need for community awareness.

> Amir Singh Kushwaha amitsk69@gmail.com

The Cult of Toxic Positivity

Wednesday 23-06-2021

At times, being overly optimistic — and glossing over negatives - can be just as bad as being pessimistic

Lekha Menon

ast year, during a particularly low phase in life, a friend, known for her cheery disposi tion and ever-positive outlook, invited me to stay with her for a few days. Her intentions were noble: she didn't want me to be alone in a vulnerable state, and assumed her happy company would do me a world of good. Grateful for her gen-

Unfortunately, it turned out to be a nightmare. Given that my issues couldn't be resolved by listening to chants on YouTube or having a glass of bubbly or indulging in endless chatter, I started withdrawing from conversations with her. There were occasions when I wanted to talk, vent out and process my muddled thoughts but, instead, I kept my feelings bottled up because I instinctively knew she wouldn't under stand.

One day, the pretence ended as she murmured something to the effect of, "If you keep talking about your problems, it's only going to increase your stress." It was my cue to leave. Somehow the alleged 'negative' solitude of my home seemed far more comforting than the actual positive bustle of her fancy apartment. At home, at least I had the freedom to bawl or be morose or happy, the way I

Now, don't get me wrong. I am all for gulping down the positivity pill. I meditate to manifest my deepest desires, subscribe to Instagram pages like 'power of positivity' and 'my self-love supply', like and share every Jay Shetty post and faithfully type 'Yes' to pop-ups that scream "Happiness is calling, type Yes to receive it".

Unfortunately, none of them have worked. When I feel miserable, I feel miserable. So, had I for-

gotten to be happy? The reason, as I discovered recently, had nothing to do with me. The way an overdose of anything good is bad, positivity has a side effect too. It is called 'toxic positivity'. And thankfully, there is a growing realisation that it's okay to not be happy, brave and cheerful all the time.

The Secret Syndrome

"Toxic positivity is the belief that we MUST put a positive spin on everything — even tragic or traumatic events in life. Of late, there has been an increase in toxic positivity as it has become an obsession and addiction to many," observes Dubaibased Yasmen Ahmed, a UK-qualified cognitive behavioural therapist, clinical hypnotherapist and

NLP practitioner. Indeed, positivity often gets top billing in the 'how to beat stress' manual. The burgeoning fanbase of Rhonda Byrne's The Secret and The Magic is also proof of how far the Law of Attraction (positive thoughts bring positive results and vice versa) has come to define people's behaviour. Practising gratitude, not uttering a single negative syllable and looking for a sliver of silver lining in an otherwise dark cloud are the keys that many believe will unlock the universe to grant your wishes.

To be fair, these are all fantastic, scientificallyproven concepts. A 2016 study by Harvard T.H. Chan hool of Public Health rever were optimistic had a significantly reduced risk of dying from terminal illnesses over an eight-year-pe riod, compared with women who were less optimistic. So yes, it's great to be positive.

But the problem arises, as Dr Saliha Afridi, clinical psychologist and co-founder. The Lighthouse Arabia, emphasises, when people glaze over their life with forced positivity, and deny, invalidate or dismiss their and others' difficulties. "When you are focusing only on being positive, you are essen-



tially saying there is no problem to be concerned with. Actually, some level of concern is needed in order for a resolution to that problem," she notes.

Knowingly or unknowingly, we are all victims of toxic positivity. Nasrin Modak Siddiqui, a Mumbai-based journalist, believes the trend has increased so much because the 'self' has become the centre of our thoughts and actions. "The side effect is that there is too much pressure on everyone to stay happy at all times," she says.

Nasrin experienced this recently when an aunt was bedridden with a stroke. "Her being ill, in another town, was upsetting enough. But the unsolicited advice of relatives to 'not stress' was worse. I believe we all have different internal mechanisms to process shock and grief and so the advice (even if uninten-

tional) can cause undue pressure," she says. It is important to talk about toxic positivity because it causes more harm than good to those at the receiving end. "Not sharing authentic, raw emotions may make us feel rejected, invalidated and not seen," says Yasmen. "This will also not allow others to share their real emotions.

Part of the blame lies in social media pages, You-Tube channels and WhatsApp forwards that seem to turn everyone into pop philosophers who condense solutions for deep-rooted issues into listicles, fun videos and memes. And since it has become more acceptable to consume self-help resources without the embarrassment attached to them like earlier, everyone seems to be tripping on the 'positive vibes

There is an increased pressure to say I am fine' - over the years, society has concluded that showing emotions is a sign of 'weakness'. There is a thought that since others have it worse, they should be 'grateful' and just get on with life instead. Saying I'm fine' also allows us to not dig deeper into our own emotions, and protects us from feeling 'uncomfortable' emotions," says Yasmen, who often has chats resistant to therapy because they believe are 'okay' (when they are not).

Friends, family and the art of consolation

Ironically, it's often family and friends who force-feed optimism and lead you to putting on a smile even when you don't feel like it. Lisa Brightwell, MD, Bright Insights Consulting, recalls the time she suffered from post-natal depression after she had her daughter. "Everyone expected me to be happy as I had a beautiful baby but the reality of

how I felt was totally different. Luckily, I had a good network around me and was able to deal with it but I often felt I had to pretend all was okay as people didn't understand. Post-natal depression is a real situation that women have to deal with... You should not be ashamed of it!" she says.

What makes 'toxic positive' people difficult to deal with is that they are often well-meaning and genuinely want to help. Unfortunately, they don't realise that repeatedly parroting, "Don't stress, it will be okay", "Stop overthinking", "Don't be a pessimist" etc just does not cut it.

That is the reason why Artur Akopyan, an entrepreneur, prefers to disconnect from the world when he is under stress. "I would rather watch a comedy film, listening to Zen music, draw or craft when I am upset. I do not stop myself from experiencing real emotions; I can cry or be angry or reflect on my mis-takes and ways to avoid them," he says.

Artur had a toxic positive friend who was ever ready with solutions for problems and believed everything would turn out good. "In the end, it was he who suffered from depression. Ever since, I try hard to stay away from such people. For me, the most important words to say are, 'I am with you and we will pass this together'," he says.

In fact, consoling and showing empathy is an art and a skill. The best way to stand by a friend, as Yasmen advises, is to create a safe, non-judgemental space for their emotions without assuming how they are feeling or telling them how they 'should' feel. "Everything they are experiencing is valid and real for them," she says.

Lisa, on the other hand, emphasises on compassion. "You may not even have advice as sometimes there is not a lot you can say but actions speak louder. Making them a meal, being present and offering to help can sometimes mean more as the person feels you are there to support them. For me, I always feel better when a problem is shared with a good friend or family member, sometimes it just helps to talk it out or get a hug when you need it!"

Say no to social media

Even if you are not lucky enough to get a hug or a meal, turning to social media for comfort could be the worst thing to do, especially during a pandemic that appears to have fuelled toxic positivity to extreme limits. Remember the early days of the lockdown when every privileged home seemed to be baking banana bread and every bored influencer or actor did Insta lives to spread cheer?

Adding to the narrative were self-help gurus

and high achievers who guilt-tripped you into signing up for courses to upskill yourself even as you struggled to cope with work from home. Their hustle prompted many to add a degree or two to their resume, but as Covid spread with increased death and untold economic devastation, baking a bread or learning to play the guitar didn't seem so appealing. As Lisa says, "During the pandemic, I was just trying to deal with my own situation of home schooling and working from home. There was no time to think about trying to learn a new skill or the pressure to do so. I was just trying to keep my head above water during the week and trying to relax during week-

Unfortunately, seeing celebrities and influencers lead charmed, filtered lives on Instagram day in and day out makes you want to put on a show your self. Dr Afridi decodes the phenomenon neatly: *Spiritual bypassing and/or toxic positivity exist-ed before social media; however, social media has played a major role in people feeling like they need to present a certain image to the world. They then have to maintain that image even on days where they are feeling low." Earlier, we were comparing our selves to our immediate neighbours, friends, coworkers and others that we met. Now our pool of people we can compare ourselves with is without boundaries, worldwide, constant and endless.

It's all about the money

According to the Global Wellness Institute, the global health and wellness industry is now worth \$4.2 trillion and it certainly needs positive people to feed into it with tools and fancy kits to aid the journey. An amused Nasrin recalls getting an unusual PR gift some time back: designer gratitude journals. "The deal was sweetened with part proceeds going to a welfare cause but honestly they were too pretty to write in. I love journalling but I am happy to write in my old, simple notebook. I feel commercialisation has drowned out the noise of real wellness messages," she says.

The way out from OD-ing on positivity is to deal with it just like any other mental health problem. I asked the experts to give a few tips. "The first step is to normalise all emotions, even those labelled as 'bad'. Additionally, give yourself time and space to feel what you feel without putting a structured or limited timelines," says Yasmen.

Dr Afridi stresses on accepting the situation objectively. "Understand and accept anxiety. Name difficulties and choose to focus on thoughts and events that induce constructive activity. Challenge negative thinking patterns and cultivate a sense of humour, Learn some problem-solving skills. Name your emotions and strive for authentic happiness," she lists. "A life lived well will have high points, low points, failures, disappointments, joy and excitement." Engage with each moment fully: no moment or emotion lasts forever."

I was reminded of these pointers while watching the news emerging from India of late. Something akin to toxic positivity is happening there. When the country's Covid numbers hit the roof and there was allround criticism of the Indian government's handling of the situation, there was a new narrative pushed on social media: the need to be positive and not focus on deaths and devastation. The government, in an apparent bid to stymie criticism, heavily promoted the positivity narrative, so much so that friendly organisations organised a "Positivity Unlimited" series with experts, influencers and celebrities. Needless to say, it backfired.

I guess, in the Covid era, the best way to stay positive is to choose to live truthfully. And not in

Khaleej Times

hile it's now pretty easy to get a COVID-19 shot in most places in the U.S., the vaccine rollout in other parts of the world has been slow or inconsistent due to shortages. uneven access and concerns about safety.

Researchers hope that a mix-andmatch approach to COVID-19 vaccines will help alleviate these issues and create more flexibility in the immunization regimens available to people

Around the world, different pharmacentical companies have taken different approaches to developing vaccines. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna created mRNA vaccines. Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson went with what are called viral vectors. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is protein-based.

So mixing vaccines could mean more than just switching manufacturers - like from Pfizer for dose one to Moderna for dose two. You might be tapping into a different way to stimulate your immune response if you opt for a first dose of Astra-Zeneca and a second dose of Moderna.

The most obvious benefits of treating various brands and kinds of COVID-19 vaccine as interchangeable are logistical people can get whatever shot is available without worry. By speeding up the global vaccination rollout, mixing and matching vaccines could help end this pandemic. Researchers also hope combining different vaccines will trigger a more robust, longer-lasting immune response compared to receiving both doses of a single vaccine. This approach may better protect people from emerging variants.

Biological effects of a mix-and-match approach Scientists suspect there are a few ways that receiving two different COVID-19 vac-

Covid-19: why the lab leak theory must be formally investigated

Maureen Ferran

cines may result in a stronger immune re-

Each company used slightly different regions of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in their formulations. It's the virus's spike protein that your immune system responds to, so exposure to different portions of the spike protein should mean your body will make an array of corresponding antibodies that can fend off future infection. The range of antibodies should then provide better protection and increase the likelihood that you'll be protected from variants with changes in the spike protein.

And different vaccine technologies activate unique aspects of the immune system thanks to how they present their portion of the spike protein.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are composed of a small snippet of mRNA, genetic material that contains the recipe to make a region of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Wrapped up in a fat coat, the mRNA slips into a vaccinated person's cells where it directs production of the viral protein. The person's immune system then recognizes the foreign spike protein and produces antibodies against it.

Several other COVID-19 vaccines rely on a viral vector. In these cases, researchers modified an adenovirus that usually causes the common cold to deliver the

DNA instructions for producing a portion of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The modified virus is safe because it can't replicate in people. Along with J&J and AstraZeneca's, examples of COVID-19 viral vector vaccines in use globally include Russia's Sputnik Vand the CanSino Biologics vaccine.

Your immune system can develop an immune response to the viral vector vaccine itself, which could reduce the vaccine's effectiveness against the coronavirus. Experts hope that combining vaccine platforms, for example using an mRNAbased vaccine or one that includes a different viral vector for the second dose, could reduce that risk.

Investigating combos' safety and effectiveness

Around the world, studies are underway in animals and people to investigate the safety, types of immune response generated and how long immunity lasts when one person receives two different COV-ID-19 vaccines.

Results from a Spanish trial of more than 600 people indicated that vaccination with both the viral-vector AstraZeneca and mRNA-based Pfizer-BioNTech COV-ID-19 vaccines triggers a robust immune response against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Preliminary results from a German

study that has not yet been peer-reviewed found that getting the AstraZeneca vaccine first followed by the Pfizer vaccine resulted in production of more protective antibodies and provided better protection against variants of concern compared to two AstraZeneca doses.

The Com-COV study in the U.K. is also investigating the safety and effectiveness of giving patients a combination of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech shots. Preliminary findings indicate that people who got one shot of each type were more likely to report mild to moderate side effects than those who received two doses of the same vaccine. Final results of this study, including the effectiveness of this approach, are expected in June 2021. The expanded Com-CoV2 study is testing other combinations of COVID-19 vaccines, namely from Moderna's mRNA platform and Novavax's protein platform.

Combos could be a good anti-variant strategy

Emerging coronavirus variants are one of the most intriguing reasons to consider mixing vaccines. Administering vaccines that target different variants would provide broad collective immunity and limit emergence of new possibly more dangerous strains.

It's possible that people who are cur-

rently fully vaccinated will need a third shot to address genetic differences in new variants. Changing platforms for this booster shot - for instance, if your first round was viral-vector based, switching to mRNA or one that is protein-based - could help bolster your immune response

Flu vaccines routinely protect against multiple strains of the influenza virus but these are usually manufactured by the same company. In the future, this approach could lead to vaccines that contain multiple regions of SARS-CoV-2 to protect against several variants, or regions of both the coronavirus and influenza proteins, protecting against both viruses in a single shot.

What's allowed so far

For now, though, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. allows the mixing of the mRNA-based Pfizer and Moderna shots only in "exceptional situations," such as limited vaccine supply or if a patient doesn't know which vaccine they originally received.

Canada's public health agency recentapproved the mixing of different CO-VID-19 vaccines if limited supply prevents someone from getting their second dose of the same vaccine, or if someone is apprehensive about a second dose of AstraZeneca due to publicized side effects.

EU countries are so far awaiting further study results before allowing mixing vaccine doses.

> By arrangements with The Conversation

When Covid Is Same As "Flu Season": Pandemic Enters New Era

Todd Gillespie, Bloomberg

fter more than a year of obsessively tracking Covid-19 case numbers, epidemiologists are starting to shift focus to other measures as the next stage of the pandemic emerges.

With rich countries vaccinating growing proportions of their vulnerable populations, the link between infection numbers and deaths appears to be diminishing. Now, the focus is on learning to live with the virus - and on the data that matter most to avoid fresh lockdowns.

"It's possible we'll get to a stage of only monitoring hospitalizations," said Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University's Coronavirus Resource Center, which has built one of the most comprehensive platforms to track the virus and its im-

Before vaccination campaigns took off in the U.K., U.S. and Europe, a spike in cases almost invariably translated into a surge in hospitalizations and deaths over the course of several weeks. The strain on health systems left leaders little choice but to place curbs on public life, disrupting economies, and forced people with other medical conditions to delay important procedures.

Now scientists and government officials are keen to see whether the widening scope of vaccinations will finally break that cycle. Events in Britain are providing the most compelling test case to date.

About 46% of the U.K. population is fully vaccinated, according to Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker, helping reduce daily deaths to the lowest level since last summer. Yet cases of the delta variant, a more transmissible strain first identified in India, almost doubled in the past week, Public Health England said Friday. Hospitalizations also ticked higher, though most of the patients haven't been fully vaccinated.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Mon-

day postponed the end of lockdown measures by four weeks to allow more adults to receive a second vaccine dose, which data show significantly increases protection against the new strain. But even if the virus spreads further among children and non-vaccinated young adults, the true test of the immunization campaign will be whether hospitalizations and deaths stay low.

If they do, Covid would begin to look less like an unmanageable pandemic, and more tike a seasonal disease such as influenza. For policy-makers, that's the goal.

'We are aiming to live with this virus like we do with flu," Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Parliament last week.

Scientists say comparing the prevalence of Covid to the flu, which kills about 650,000 people globally each year, will become an important yardstick come next fall and winter. Covid has killed more than 3.8 million people since the start of 2000, but vaccinated countries should eventually be able to treat its periodic resurgences in the same way as they do the flu - and make policy decisions accordingly

*Comparing to seasonal influenza impact is an appropriate one when talking about things like closing schools," said Nuzzo. What do we do with influenza? Would we do this in a normal flu season?"

Vaccines and Variants

In a sign of pandemic optimism - or fatigue - around two dozen U.S. states have reduced how often they release Covid data. Florida now reports just once per week.

In much of the world, however, health officials aren't taking their eyes off case numbers yet. China and Taiwan reduced new infections almost to zero, but a lack of vaccines means that even small outbreaks must be treated as big threats.

In Taiwan, after a year of relative calm and daily cases in single digits, daily infections rose as high as 723 during May. The

government shut entertainment venues and restricted indoor gatherings to five people to curb the spread.

"When we look at Taiwan, which is the best of the best, it underscores the vulnerability of these countries," said Nuzzo. "They are not going to be able to relax until they're able to vaccinate more widely."

With a population of 24 million, Taiwan has administered just over one million vaccine doses. Mainland China, which has experienced severe lockdowns, is coping with high levels of vaccine hesitancy and has given almost a billion doses, enough to fully vaccinate about a third of its people.

Hospitalization Risk

Even among vaccinated populations, case numbers remain important. The more the virus circulates, the higher the chance it could mutate into strains that are more lethal or resistant to existing vaccines.

People infected with the delta variant are more than twice as likely to end up hospitalized than those with the alpha strain, according to research by scientists in Scotland published in The Lancet. Though the variant is effectively controlled by vaccines, the threat to health-care systems from even a small jump in cases could keep increasing if the virus mutates into more potent forms.

Getting to zero cases isn't realistic anytime soon, even in highly-vaccinated countries. Most societies have come to accept the reality of mutation with other viruses, like the flu, and incorporate the new strains into vaccines when they crop up. That's likely to be the case with Covid.

"We have to live with the fact there will be new variants," said Marc Baguelin, an epidemiologist at Imperial College London. "It's something that's always happening in the background."

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education,

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate under Below mentioned particulars Name: Abid Hamid Wani S/O Abdul Hamid Wani

Details OF Marks Certificate Lost

 Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) Session / Year Bi-annual 2003 Roll No: 254581

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary Sub Office Magam

R/O Rakh Arth

Deptt. of ISM (AYUSH) District Anantnag.

AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at ISM Dispy. Nowgam Anantnag





On the directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) 18: K & ADMO ISM Anantnag, FREE AYUSH Immune Booster Medicines were distributed at ISM Dispensary Nowgam Anantnag Door to Door and also importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained

On 22/D6/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nuzhat. Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Nowgam Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Nowgam a Anantnag 296 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir ADVISORY FOR CHOPAN AND BAKERWALS

Consequent upon the onset of upward migration of livestock from plains to Highland Pastures (BEHAK), the Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir has established First Aid Camps at Highland Pastures (BEHAK) in all districts of Kashmir Valley to provide health coverage and to cater the instance of exigencies or any emergency situation to livestock during summers.

ANANTNAG

 Shafapani 2.Brari 3.Pulsaran Top 4.Aftee 5.Hobber 6.Ashashkani 7.Latherwan 8.Lidderwath 9.Astanmarg-Razdan (Including Panjatarnee) 9.Dodward 10. Langnai

BANDIPORA

1.Gossai/Doodhpathri 2.Nenaiviji Dodukhutoo Mawa 4. Sherasar 5. Mantri 6. Sokhnai Minimarg 7.Langmarg 8.Salnai 9.Gumri 10.Gangbal 11. Patalwaan Dessan/Kisser Athet 12. Badugam Nalla 13. Habba Khatoon Top Latoo 14. Kolo Jail 15. Baduaab Nalla/Kinari 16. Sochalpathri Pinkpathri 17. Mobile Team

BUDGAM

1. Yousmarg 2. Burgah 3. Ladermud 4. Zandkaber

5.Diskhal/Ashtar 6.Doodpathri 7.Chanz, Churpal

8.Dourine 9.Tosamadidan

(Gatamarg, Damdan, Korag, Gagerkhal, Tilekhal, Chitrazej)

10. Tosamaidan (Mullat) 11. Pehjan

12.Gogaldara/Anziwara 13.Sonamarg 14.Pahalgam

15.Mobile Team 16.Tosamaidan (Watdhori)

BARAMULLA

1.Chrundi 2.Ranglari 3.Gamalitri 4.Vijee Liderpanzal 6.Minimarg Gurez 7.Nunwar, Gurez 8.Palwar Gurez 9.Zed Khshi Gurez 10.Landi, Gurez 11.Kongdaori,Gulmarg 12.Danwas,Lawan 13. Burzapathri 14. Linenmarg 15. Butapathri 16.Sheera Sir Bandipora 17.Trinkhol Kongdori, Machhil, Kupwara 19. Essa Khilla 20.Nika Nalla 21.Tariyan 22.Badi Behak 23.Baba Fareed/Bani 24.Ghatte 25.Gabiwar/ChittarKote/Tilpatri 26.Nagadori 27.Nawan Churkhudan Kremthalan Kandi Haropol

KULGAM

1.Gumri 2.Dourinar 3.Jamshedi 4.Nawkan Thajwas 5.Veshinsar 6.Mengandob 7.Gangbal and Mahlish 8. Jawdara 9. Shadimarg 10. Loundi Sulban 11.Burzuwas 12.Aurdoo/Pahalgam 13. Mobile Camp Sonamarg

GANDERBAL/SRINAGAR

KUPWARA

1.Potakhan 2.Balpathri 3.Kumkadi 4.Kunari Khan 5.Chanjwari 6.Juktylia 7.Khariban Pathra 8.Nuddajan VAS Base Camp 9.Pahalpathri 10.Patedari 11.Kemsar 12.Bonard 13.Bagalsar 14.Gaingali 15.Ambri 16.Khobal Marg 17.Indra Behak 18. Nabadpathri Behak 19. Kachpathri Behak 20.Noun Gali 21.Bada Bungas 22.Chota Bangus 23.Baliyan Behak 24. Huddan H.Q Taj 25.Mobile Camp 26.Bangus 27.Asmala 28.Badi Behak 29.Sarri 30.Mobile Camp Tangdar

DIPK-3285/21

1.Zajimarg/Gogalmarg 2.Badibahak 3.Nussu 4.Sekiwas/Noonkhull/Dalanther 5.Bhramsar/Hapatnard/Chirsar/Lahenpathri

Kadlabal/Her cheranbal/Bon cheranbal/Astanmarg/Kungwattan/Hakwass 7.Malwan Top 8.Soyadendi 9.Sekijan

PULWAMA

1.Hussankhal/Katerkhal 2.Chumbnai 3.Chinpathri 4.Nagabari 5.Sekiwas 6.Gagerroyel/Bargah/Ayed 7.Phamber 8.Shutkari Sonamarg 9.Bariangan 10.Munwarsar 11.Mobile Team

SHOPIAN

Radikhal 2.Dubjan 3.Rainura 4.Sekijan 5.Phamber

issued by:

Information & Publicity Wing, Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Horticulture (Planning and Marketing) J&K Office of the Member Secretary Market Administrative

Committee (MAC) Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Kulgam.

E-Auction Notice AUC 09 of 2021-22 Dated 21-06-2021

For and on behalf of Administrative Committee Fruit and Vegetable Market Kulgam, e-bids accompanied with DD for an amount of Rs.500/- (Rupees Five hundred) pledged to Member Secretary MAC Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam as tender processing fee are invited from the interested parties/ persons for Outsourcing of Gate entry fee contract F&V Market Kulgam for the year 2021-22 (up to 31.03.2022).

The minimum reserve bid is fixed at Rs.A.50,000/= (Four Lacs Fifty Thousand Only) The tender document should accompany CDR of Rs. 45,000/- (Rs. Forty-Five Thousand Only) Pledged to Member Secretary MAC Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgarn. The tender documents can be downloaded from htt://iktenders.gov.in.

Critical dat	res table.		
1	Publishing date	21-06-2021	
2.	Document download/sale start date	21-06-2021	
3.	Bid submission start date	21-06-2021	
4.	Bid submission closing date	28-06-2021 up to 4:00 PM	
5.	Bid opening date (online)	29-06-2021 up to 11:00 AM	

The gate entry fee for each type of transport vehicle entering the F&V Market Kulgam shall be as per the following schedule:

S.No.	Type of Vehicle/transport	Rate (in Rs.)	
L	Troller 14/18/20 Tyre	Rs. 200/-	
2.	Troller 10/12 Tyre	Rs.150/-	
3.	Truck/Bus	Rs. 80/-	
4.	Matador/Tractor/Jonga	Rs. 25/-	
5.	Auto/Raidha/Tonga	Rs.10/-	

10.

The Successful tenderer shall to execute an agreement with Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Kulgam.

The Successful tenderer shall within two days of the allotment have to deposit full bid amount in the office of the member secretary MAC

3. The Successful tenderer shall deposit 100% of the offered bid amount in the office of the MAC fruit Mandi Kulgam before allotment of contract. The agreement shall have executed only after the successful bidder has the deposited the bid amount.

The Possession of the gates shall be giVen only after execution of the agreement with member secretary market administratiVe commit-

In case the successful tender fails to deposit the bid amount within the stipulated time his contract shall be canceled and the security deposit shall be forfeited and the contract shall be giVen to the 2nd highest bidder under rules.

The offer should be coated in both figures and works dully collered with the transparent tap and without any cutting.

The successful bidder shall be bound by all labor laws for time being in force,

The highest offers received are excluding income tax /GST/ Sales Tax and other taxes of his own. The successful tenderer shall not raise any additional structural in the Mandi premises for collection of gate entry fee and has to utilize the

structure already existing in the premises for said purpose. The fee shall be charged every time the vehicle enters in the Mandi premises.

12. The Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee MAC shall not be responsible and bound to provide any kind of relief/relaxation / compensation in the event of any adversity or unavoidable circumstances like Hartals/Band/less arrivals etc. The defaulters of APMC Kulgam are not eligible to submit tenders unless and until the previous outstanding if any are not liquated in full. The successful bidder has to charge the entry fee as per the approved rates of Directorate of Horticulture P&M, any complaint with regard

to the overcharging of rates will be viewed seriously which may lead to the consolation of the allotment and in that case the amount deposited shall be forfeited along with the earnest money. The Government vehicles / police and security vehicles of APMC employees are exempted from entry fee at all the entry gates. The chairman of Market Administrative Committee MAC F&V Market Kulgam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without

assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute between the parties, the design of the Director Agriculture Marketing / Director Horticulture P&M shall be final and binding upon both the parties.

The specimen of the receipt to be used by the tenderer shall be provided by the Market Administrative Committee Kulgam.

The successful bidder shall maintain a register regarding inflow and outflow of vehicles and fruit from the mandi and provide it to the office on daily basis

instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "bidder Manual kit" on website www.ktenders.gov.inacquaint bid submission process.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature

Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bioders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor. iii. The bidders to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

ÍV.

iv. Bid will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-L.

v. The DSC and all other qualification documents shall be in the same name otherwise tender shall be rejected. vi. Note: - 1. Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with color option with an optical scanner, pdfs created using cell phones will not be accepted.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft in favour of Member Secretary MAC Kulgarn. Bidders are advised not to make any change in bid offer contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The bid

offer downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains. Price escalation and taxes: - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include Price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required. No:205/MAC/APMC/2021-22/19

Dated: 25-05-2021

Sd/-Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Kulgam

DIPK-3277/21

THERE CAN'T BE ANY DISCRIMINATION

Rijiju On Additional COVID-19 Restrictions On India's Olympic-Bound



NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Kiren Risiu on Tuesday said "there can't be any discrimination" as he weighed in on the tougher COVID-19 restrictions impo by Japan on India's Olympic bound contingent, saying a for-mal complaint has been lodged and the issue will be addressed.

With the pandemic still raging, the Tokyo organisers have prescribed stricter regulations for travellers from 11 countries including India for the Games

beginning July 23. The Indian athletes and of ficials have been asked by the apanese government to undergo daily COVID-19 tests for a week prior to their departure and not interact with anyone from another country for three days upon arrival, strictures that have left the Indian Olympic As-

sociation (IOA) furning.

"...as per the Olympic chae ter there can't be any discrimination with any country. Any discrimination has to be ad-dressed," Hijijo said in an online interaction with media.
"I have asked the IOA to regis-

ter a formal complaint with the Tokyo organisers which they already did. We will strongly raise any issue which affects our achletes preparation and chances.

The Olympics are happening under challenging circumstance es, it's a challenge for every body," he added.

The IOA has asked the Tokyo Games Organising Committee: kyo-bound attrieses.

SOUTHAMPTON: Former India

captain Sunil Gavaskar feels the

ICC should find a way to decide a winner in case the rain-bit

World Test Champiombip final between Iodia and New Zealand

The ongoing match has been

affected by English weather with the opening and fourth day

washed out completely, while play has been disrupted be-

Even though there is a reserve

day but with no play possible for two out of the first four days.

the match might end in a draw if

inclement weather continues to

pick a winner in case of a drawn

World Test Championship final. ICCs cricket committee should

think and then take a decision,"

quently due to had light.

here ends in a draw.

ICC Must Work Out Formula

Drawn WTC Final: Gavaskar

To Find Winner In Case Of

o allow relaxations in the CO-VID-19 test protocols, citing the logistical hassle it would cause for the athletes and officials be-

fore their departures,
"_our_priority is to ensure sale and secure environment for the training and participation of our athletes. We have to ensure that our athletes are not in any mental stress," Rijiju said. The minister reiterated that

he is "completely satisfied" with preparation for the Olympics nd expects the country to reg ster its best-ever modul hauf India's best performance in the Games came in 2012 when the country returned with six medals, including two silver medals.

The count dipped to just two in the 2016 edition.

Highlighting the ministry's efforts for the Tokyo Games, Rijiju said the government has spent Rs 1,100 crore in the last four years for the athletes' preparation.

"I personally feel whatever should be done and could be done has been meticulously executed. Our athletes have been iven the best platforms," he

for preparation through the ACTC in the last 4 years, includ-ing funding for athletes under TOPS, India has not been counted as a major force in Otympics.

"...but this time I feel India should do better than previous editions. In fact, we will be sending our largest contingent

to Tokyu." He, bowever, refrained from making predictions on the med-

"We are doing everything keeping in mind maximum medals. But as a sports minister Lam not in a position to predict our medal count, Our expec-tations are high, Lets us hope this Olympics turns out to be a memorable and successful one." he added.

"We are behind you, you just go and deliver," the minister said in his message to the To-

Budding Footballer Dies While Playing, Football Fraternity **Condoles Demise**

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's football fraterrity has condoled the shocking demise of a building footballer from Srinagar's Baghat. Barzulla area who died after he fell unconscious while playing

Teenager Azuan passed away on June 20 while playing football. The cause of his death has not been re-wated yet.

JKFA. football's governing body in JRK issued a condolence ge and said that Araon was a grassroots footballer.

"JIGIA deeply mourns the sad demise of Araan Aslam an upcoming Grassroots Footballer of Baghat Barzulla, Srinagar who ed away on 20th June 2021 after falling unconscious while playing," the statement said, "J&K Football Association

shares the grief with the be-reawed family and pray to Almighty to bestow peace upon the departed soul fit give forbearance to the berewed fami-ly to bear this ineparable loss."



leading football club of the Valley, Real Kastamir FC, also condoled the demise of the

ong boy. *Resë Kubmir Football Club condoles the demise of Azaan Adam, a young Footballer of Baghat Barzulla Srinagar, RKPC management prayed for the departed soul and to give strength to the beseaved family," the club said in a statement. Football fans in Kashmir also

expressed sorrow at the un-

timely death of Azam.

Recently the footballing universe grappled with the question of on-field health of footballers after Denmark star Christian Eriksen fell unconscious while playing in the Euro 2020, it was later revealed that Eriksen's heart had stopped and that it was only after an immediate, lifesaving CPR by his teammute and use of defibrillator by the medical staff that Erkisen was revived.

The incident caused much furore among football fare who called for every football club to teach footballers basic CPR and also to make delibritators avail-able at all levels of the game.

Young Azaan's passing away is not the first time Kashnir's footballing sphere has wit-nessed an on-field death. But fans andformer footballers alike foar that with the lack of infrastructure, knowledge dissemination and medical professionals neededto tackie such incidents.Azaan's death may not be the last.

IK Taekwondo Association Starts Instructor Level-1 Course In Online Mode

SRINAGAR: The Jammu 8 Kastenir Taekwondo Associa tion (JKTA) on Tuesday started its first ever instructor Course Level-1 in an online mode.

The JKTA in a statement

said that the course has been offered "with the sole aim to strengthen the technical as-pect of the most popular in dividual sports discipline in Jamona and Kashmir."

Being attended by 25 senior players, who agains to become instructors to teach youth at the grassroots level, the weekong course was declared open Grandmarter Satwinder Singh Volum, while Master Zhang Qi was the guest of honthe statement said.

The statement added that Grandmaster Votica joined from UK while Master Zhang



QL attended the event from his coaching facility in China.

"Both these special invites-goided the future instructors and ameed to deliver fectures and deminstrations during the course.

The event is being held under the technical supervision of Manter And Fangotta, who has agreed to teach on various as pects of the game of Taelowon-

while Organizing Secretary Anaj Sharma introduced the guests to the participants of the course, Both of them preented a detailed report of the week-long course.
Meanwhile, President JKDA,
D.N. Pangotra congratulated

bass was guest of horour

Technical Director, Vinod Grewal, for technically assisting with the course. He also wish: nuccess to all the participants.

o with focus on Poomsae. DCTA. Treasurer, Zaheer Ab-WTC FINAL, IND VS NZ, DAY 5



time that the trophy will be shared in a final," Gaveskar said. "To complete three innings in two days would be really difficult. Yes, if both teams hat really hadly, the three innings could be completed.

case of a draw or a tie.
"It seems that the World Test

Championship final will end up as a draw and the trophy will

be shared. This will be the first

A total of 141.1 overs have been bowled so far in the WTC final and with 196 overs still left in the match, a result is possible weather permits.

The former skipper urged the ICC to find a tie-breaker to de-termine a winner and cited the examples of other sports such as football and termis.

There must be a formula to "In football, they have a pen alty shoot out or they have some other method to decide a winner. In Tennis, there are five Gavaskar triid 'Aaj Taic'. sets and There is unlikely to be any change in the rules in this edi-india sets and there is a tie-breaker,

change in the rules in this edi-tion as the KC had made it clear 217 in their first innings and Zealand will share the trophy in trailing by 116 runs.

New Zealand Takes 32-Run Lead Against India



SOUTHAMPTON: New Zealand frustrated India to earn a sien der lead of 32 runs on the fifth day of the world test champs

onship final on Tuesday. Fast bowlers Mohammed Shami (4-76) cattled the top or der but Kane Williamson ground. out a hard-freght 49 off 177 balls while Tim Southee (30) and

total of 217 when Williamson was caught at wide slip off lifture. Sharma (3-48) but Souther bit two sixes and a boundary to lift.

the Black Caps further ahead. Earlier, India's East bowler. took three cheap wickets and undercut New Zealand's innings to 135-5 by lunds, allowing the Kiwis to score just 34 runs in two hours of incisive bowling.

be 88 balls he faced in the session to crawl to 10 at the break, Two full days have been

washed out and the final will extend into the reserve day on Wednesday. Shami struck twice when Ross

Taylor was well caught on 11 in the covers by Shubman Gill, and he clean bowled fij Watling playing in his last test — for 1 with a delivery that darted away from the right-hander.

in between, Henry Nicholis struggled to reach 7 from 23: deliveries before edging Shar

ma to second slip.
All three fast bowlers beat Williamson several times but the skipper continued to resist.

Williamson survived a close w television referral off Stami after lunch. Shami was as effective with the second new ball as he was before lunch.

Williamson overhauled in dia's 217 with an exquisite covcontributions. The Black Caps when play got underway for the were bowled out for 249 at tea.

New Zealand was only four and could add only evening.

Younis Khan Steps Down As Pakistan's Batting Coach

KARACHI: Former captain Younii Khan on Tuesday stepped down as Paldstan's butting coach in a sur-pose decision which the cridut. board said was agreed upon "refuc-tantly but amicably" even though

no reasons were specified for it.
The Pakistan team is due to start a tour of the UK from June 25 to July 20 for three ODIs and three 720ts. The team will next go to the West Indies from July 21 to August 24 to feature in five T28Is and two Tests.

"Pakistan mern's noticeal crick-et trum will travel to the United Kingdom without a butting coach. while the decision to appoint Younis Khan's replacement for the West indies tour will be made in due course," a Pukistan Cricket. Board statement said two days before the team's departure.

The announcement was followed by speculation that You-nis timeelf had decided to quit the position as he was not happy with his role and wanted greater say in selection matters.

According to a source, he was not satisfied with the way the trational team is being perpared for the future.

Yoursis was appointed last your in November on a two-year contract until the 2022 IOCT20 World Cup.

PCB Chief Executive Wasi Khan said it was sad to lose an expert of the stature and experience of Younis. Reliewing a series of discus-



sions, we both have refuctantly but munually and agreed that it was time to move different directions," he added.
"_hope he will remain avail

able to assist the PCE by shar ing his vast knowledge with the nerging cricketers."

Both PCB and Younis have

agreed to not to make any fur-ther comment on the reasons for the former captain's depar ture, the Board statement said.

Younis, who remains Paki-stan's top Test run getter with over 10,000 runs, has had his fair share of problems with the cricket establishment. In 2007, he refused to captain

the Pakistan team in the Champi-ors Trophy after he didn't get time

to meet with the PCII Chairman. In 2009, he resigned as captain after a revolt by some play ers against his leadership style.

At the fag end of his career, he even returned a cash award given to him by the PCB as he was not happy with the treatment meted. out to lum by the authorities

Multan Beats Islamabad. **Qualifies For Its Maiden PSL Final**



ABU DHABI: Multan Sultates qualified for their first Pakistan Super League final after beating two-time champion Islamahad United by 31 runs in the playoffs on Monday night.

Islamshad will have another opsortunity to make the final when t takes on Peshawar Zama on Tuesday, Peshawar completed a five-wicket win over Karachi Kings with just one delivery to spare in the first of the eliminator finals.

Sohaib Marpood's 59 and Khiehdil Shah's 42 off 22 balls sporred Multan to 180-5 after captain Mohammad Rizwan was ismissed without scoring, Infamated, renowned for its run.

chases, fell against the pace of So-hall Tarwir (3-17) and Zimbahwe swing bowler Blessing Mazaraba-ra (3-31) and was bowled out for 149 with an over to spure.

seamer Left-arm knocked tack the middle stump of the in-form Cofin Monro for a duck off his second delivery and returned to get the key wicket of Usmum Khawaja, who threat ened to take the game away from Multan with a scintillating knock of 70 off 40 halls.

Khawaja, who plays test cricket for Australia but is the only islam-ahad-born player in the United squad, completed his half-century off 33 balls and smethed Muzaraoff 33 both and smethed Mazara Shoath Malik (30) kept up the bani for a six and three consecutive momentum for Peshawar until his boundaries in the 14th over.

But Tanvir returned in the next over and Shah hung onto a second

wirker to dismiss Khawaja, is-

lamabad tropes died. Earlier, after electing to but first, Magsood earned a fourth half-century this season. The discarded Pakistan international hit seven fours and three pulled ses to save Multan.

Istamahad captain Shadab Khan pirfeed up both of his wickets in the first over when he had Shan Masood and filler flowours leg be-fore wicket and Multan slipped to 39-3 in the eighth over. But Maq-sood added a brisk 63 with Johnson Charles, who hit a quickfire 41 from three fours and three sixes.

Shah kept up the momentum when he strucked young fait broker Akif Javed for 29 rum in the penultimate over that featured four successive sixes and a four.

In the later match, Karachi Iva d first and posted 175-7, with Babar Azam scoring 53 at the top of the order and Thisara Perera belting three sixes as he reached 37 from 18 failts in the middle

Hazratuliah Zazai anchored the run chase for Peshawar in a play-er of the match innings, hitting five sixes and 10 fours as he plun-dered the Karachi attack for 77 from 38 deliveries. He dominated partnerships of 40 with Kamtan Alonat and 43 with Imam-of-Hag for the first two wickers and lifted Perhawar to 103-3 by the time he was dismissed in the 12th over.

The winner of the Tuesday's well judged catch at deep mid- Multan in the final on Thursday.

NEWS MAKERS

Keshav Maharaj's Hat-Trick Helps South Africa Seal Series Against WI

GROS ISLET: Kestuv Maturaj took a hat trick in his 5-36 to lead South Africa to a 158-run win over West. Indies in the second Test and a 2-0

series sweep on Tuesday. Maharaj became just the second South African and first in more than 60 years to take a Test hat trick when dismissed Kieran Powell, Jason Holder and Joebus Da Silva in second to last over before lunch on the fourth day.

West Indies was already under pressare after fast howler Kagiso Rabada's three wickets at the top of the order.

But Maharaj hurried the home team's demise in St. Lucia as it was fourth day well off the target of 324 set by South Africa.



tayden Seales was caught out on the square leg boundary to give the left arm spinner his fifth, Roston Chasewater't able to take his place at No. 4 because of a leg injury meaning

Maharajis three in three balls the grass in celebration, started with a key breakthrough. The only previous Soul Maharaj also wrapped it up when when Powell holed out at square legitake a hat trick in tests was Gooff Grif-

for St. Maharai added the wirkets of Holder and Da Silva with Wiaan Mulders low oriehanded catch down to his right at Jeg slip sealing the hat trick, it sent Maharai nunning and sliding soccer-style on his chest on

The only previous South African to

fin against England at Lords in 1960, West Indies started the day 150 but lost captain Kraigg Brathwaite (6) and Shai Hope (2) quickly to the pace of Rabada.

Powell and Ryte Mayer's 34 who was pushed up to No. 4 in place of Chase resisted and their 64 run stand looked set to take West Indies to lunch without any further damage.

Mayor's error in trying to pull across the line against Rabada and sending a catrix looping up for Dean Elgar let South Africa In. From 90-2 West Indies slid to 100-6

West Indies didn't make 200 in any of its four innings of the series. South Africa clinched its first series win away from home tince March 2017 and gave Figar a suc-cessful start in hix first series since being appointed captain.

in the seven overs leading up to lunch

Fairytale For Denmark As Rout Of Russia Puts Them In Euro 2020 Last 16

COPENHAGEN: Despair turned to exhilaration for Denmark as they claimed an astonishing 4-1 victory over Rus-2020 on a head spinning right in Copenhagen on Monday.

Nine days after Denmark's talisman Christian Enlosen needed life-saving treatment after suffering a cardiac ar-rest in front of a stunned Parken Stadium crowd. his team mates duly delivered on.

their promise to "do it for Christian" Needing victory to have any chance of making progressafter losing to Finland and Belgium, it was Enlesen's replacement Mikkel Dannsgaard who lit the touchpaper with a 38th minute wonder goal, the st act on a night of high drama.

When a dreadful mistake by Rus-



Poulsen to double the lead on the hour it looked as though fate was smiling It way not that simple as even a win

oold not have been sufficient had Fin land avoided defeat by liebsium, a march bizarrely being played in St Petersburg.

The script took a dark turn when Rossia's giant striker Artem Dzyuba converted a penalty at almost the ex-act moment a Belgium opening goal was being disallowed by VAR.

Expeditious Trial Of Rape and POCSO Cases

Govt Names Public Prosecutors In The Fast Track Courts

Considering the appointment of the Presiding officers in the Past Track Courts for conduct ing the expeditions trial of rape cases & the cases registered under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences, Act. 2012 (POCSO), the Government today appointed Public Prosecutors for conducting prosecution of such cases.

To ensure that the criminal cases are properly con-tested, the Government after undertaking a com-prehensive review effected transfers in the Prosecution Cadre with the objective of having a separate Public Prosecutor for conducting prosecution, depending upon the number of cases pending trial in the Courts. This has been done without diluting the focus on the campaign to punish the corrupt by providing Special Public Prosecutors in the designated Courts for dealing with the cases reg-istered under the relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

As a result of the recent transfers in the Prosecution Cadre, none of the Courts, including the Magisterial Courts, is without a Prosecutor for conducting the trial on behalf of the State

Gen Rawat Chairs Meeting To Iron Out Differences To Set Up Theatre Commands

Gen Bipin Rawat on Toesday held extensive deliberations with the Vice Chiefs of the three services and sesior officials of the defence ministry to iron out differences on setting up of theatre com-mands, official sources said.

Gen Knwat has been working on establishing at least four theatre commands to increase synergy among the Army. Navy and the Air Force.

The issues relating to the formation of the commands based on a number of detailed studles were discussed at a meeting chaired by Gen Rawat. It was also attended by officials of the home and finance ministries.

As per the plan, theatre com-mands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges



in a specified geographical territory under an operational com-mander. At present, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force have separate commands.

The sources said though the Army and the Navy were in fa-your of rolling out of the theate commands, the Air Force has

some reservations over them.

The government has already set up a high-level committee to iron out differences among the three services on setting up of the theatre commands.

According to a proposal, the

helmed by the Air Force and it could be miled out by the end of the current year.

The peninsula command will be formed by merging the Navy's eastern and western command and it is likely to take shape by the end of 2021.

The sources said the aim has been to kick-start the process to set up at least two to three commands by end of the year.

The theatre commands are being set up under a larger mandate of ensuring synergy among the three service chiefs to deal with future security challenges.

Gen Rawat took over as India's first CD5 on January 1, 2020, with a mandate to being in conver-gence among the three services and restructure military com-mands to effectively deal with future security challenges.

Mission To Secure Release Of Other Political Prisoners: Asif Tanha

NEW DELHE Student activist Asif lighal Tanha, who was released on bail after being arrested under the UAPA in connection with the porth east Delhi nots, on Tuesday said securing the release other political prisoners is their mission now.

Tanha, who walked out of Tihar last week, met his mother, who had come down from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand.

A Jamia Milka Islamia studest. Timba also expressed his gratitude towards his friends, his organisation Students Islamic Organisation of India (580) and civil society members who raped their voice for him and other politi-

cal prisoners like him.

I want to say and write a lot, but the most important thing to emphasize that while Devangana. Natasha and my release is a moment of joy but not a victory. Many of our friends are still languishing behind bars.

Securing their release and putting a stop on the misuse of JAPA is our next mission. I hope that all those who have been as rested 4 Delhi Pogross & Bhima Koregann will be free soon B we will all once again crowd the streets, revive our democracy and establish social justice," he said in a series of tweets. While thanking God, who

'gave me courage... to bear the atrocities of jail and the mental stress of court proceed-ings*, he said that his mother and family were his greatest source of "courage and patience" after him.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CID Inspector

Singh told Kashmir Observer.

oon after the shootout, a posse of police and CRPF personnel reached the area and launched a search operation to nab the attackers. The search operation continued for several hours however no arrests were made.

ICP Kishmir, Vijay Kumar, DIG central Kishmir and SSP Srinagar also reached the spot and in-

spected the scene of the militant attack.

Dar's killing comes five days after militants shot dead a policeman Javaid Alamad Tambi outside his bouse in Saidpora locality of Edgah on Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a state-ment issued here on Tuesday night said that around 8:00 pm, two unidentified pixtol bome militants fired indiscriminately upon the police officer injuring him critically. The officer, he said. was on his way to a local mosque to offer prayers when the militants attacked him,

According to the police spokesperson, the officer is survived by his wife, a 13-year-old daugh-ter and a 10-year-old son.

"CCIV footage shows firing by two mil-tants with pixtols. Identification is being done. Suspects are being questioned," he said.
"Police have registered a case in this regard.

under relevant sections of law, lovestigation is in progress and officers continue to work to estabinh the circumstances which lead to this crime,"

Top Security Brass

Dilbag Singh, co-chaired a meeting of the Core Group at Badami Bagh Cantinoment here to review the security situation in Kashmir.

The officials, he said, shared inputs about the Line of Control and hinterland security situation and stated that the ceasefire has improved the security situation along the border, however, intelligence inputs of militant launch pads and militant training activities in Pakistan indicate the need to be alert along the Line of Control.

"There are indications of heightened activity

in last two months. The cross-border smuggling of narcotics and weapons continues to be focus of the intelligence agencies and security forces. This included continued vital and checks on all passes leading to Kashmir valley," the spokesperson said.

"Review of violence indicators of first six months of the year show an improvement in all security parameters. There is a joint security forces effort at targeting the OCW network that sentains militancy and focused efforts by the police have led to apprehension of nearly 400 such persons," he added.

The meeting, he said, also stated that the local recruitment though lower than previous years, continues to be the focus area of the security and intelligence agencies.

"The effort is to engage with the vulnerable youth and target the OCW network engaged in the recruitment process. The recruitment is higher in some pockets where synergised coun-ter actions are being executed," he said.

The spokesperson said that the officials shared continued focus on vehicles of dubious anteredents as they are used for transportation of arms and coutraband, and also can be used for Vehicle

The efforts of some tangeems to use variety of encroachments along the national highway are being checked as these can cause security threat to the convoy movement on the high ways," he said, adding "The officials discuss the issue of criminal acts being done under the garb of a militare attack and the need to differentiate between a militant attack and criminal attack, The shift of militants' modus operandiin targeting soft targets and counter measures were also discussed,"

The Divisional Commissioner, as per the defence ministry spokesperson shared details development activities underway and the efforts to energies and operationalize the grassroot democratic structure

He shared the plans for youth engagement which included the plass to setup youth cen-ters in all districts, down to panchayat level," he

The spokesperson further said that the officials deliberated on the propaganda effort by Pakistan and their antagogistic information war-

'Sadly, these efforts include propaganda to legitimize killing of Kashmiri civilians by the mili-tants. The use of social media to spread disinformation is widespread and needs to be countered proactively by a joint effort," he said.

He further said that the DGP and Corps Commander commended the officials present for the improved security indicators. He said that a special mention was made on the measures taken to minimize the collateral damage in operations despite risk to own soldiers.

They called upon all to continue efforts at

measures and effective intelligence based coun-ter militancy operations. They called for continued efforts along with the civil society to counter the separatist propaganda and break the cycle of violence for long term peace in Kashmir," the de-fence ministry spokesperson said.

He further said that the core group also dis-cossed the satisfactory handling of COVID-19 in

Gupkar Alliance

by the prime minister to discuss the future

course of action for the union territory.

The meeting is the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Januaria. and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and its bifurcation into

nion territories on August 5, 2019. The PAGD chairperson said the alliance was confident that it would be able to put its stand before the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister during the meeting at New Delhi. "When the meeting ends, we will brief you

here as well as in Delhi on what we did there, what we said and what was their response, the former Jammo and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference president said.

Asked what would be the stand of the alli-ance, Abdullah said, You all know our stand and

there is no need to repeat it. Whatever our stand was, is still there and

will be there, he added. Various constituents of the PAGD have approached the Sopreme Court with a peti tion asking for the restoration of Jaimmu and Kashmir's special status and its statehood.

The PAGD is a six-party alliance of main-stream parties which came into existence after the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu

and Kashmir under Article 170. Abdullah said all those invited will attend

the meeting. "(PDP chief) Mehbooba ji, mr. (CPI-M leader) Tariganti sahab and all those who have been vited from us (the alliance), will go, he said. As the invitation is to individual leaders

of various parties they all will go and all will speak there, the NC leader added. Asked about the agenda of the meeting Abdullah said no agenda has been pitched from

We can talk about any assue there, he added. Talking to reporters, PAGD spokesman and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami also hinted at seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir during

the meeting with the prime minister. "We will not ask for the stars, but will seek what has been ours and should be ours only. As we have no information on the agenda of the meeting called by the PM, we will seiterate the stand of the PAGD there, before the highest leadership, he said.

The CPI(M) leader said the meeting with the prime minister was an opportunity and as-sured the people of Jammu and Kaslunir, and Ladakh that the leaders were going to Dellir to advocate on their behalf

We will advocate in that court on the be the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. We will appeal to the PM of India about safeguarding the guarantees under the and to reconsider them, he said, apparently referring to the erstwhile state's special status. Tangami said there should be no misconcep-

tion among the people that the alliance leaders were going to sign on to the agenda set by the

No, we are not. We are going to see what proposal the PM of India has. If it is in our interv the interest of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, then we will say yes and if other-

wise, there is going to be a big no. he said. Another PAGD member and Awami National Conference (ANC) senior vice president Muzaffar Shah said, "There can be no compro-mise on Article 370 and Article 35A," which were revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Shah is not among the invitees to the meeting, According to officials, the prime minister's scheduled meeting with leaders from Jammu and Kashmir is part of the Centre's initiatives to bolster political processes, including holding assembly elections, in the union territory.

Former Ally PDP

including its chairperson faruso Abdullah, said the Centre should hold dialogue with everyone including Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue.

"They (India) are talking to the Taliban in Doba. They should talk with everyone in Jammu and Kashmir and with Pakistan as well

for the resolution (of Kashmir issue)," she said. The PDP president said her party was never against dialogue with the Centre, but wanted some confidence-building measures for the people of Jammu and Kashmir like release of risoners as in other parts of the country due

She said the political prisoners and other detainees from J-K should have been released if the Centre truly wanted to reach out to the peo-ple of J-K and to the political parties who were

humiliated so much" over the last two years.
"I think they should have done so, but it does not

ean that we are against the dialogue," she said. The PDP president, who is also the vice-chair rson of the PAGD, said she wanted Abdullah as the head of the PAGD to represent the alli-(Abduffah) said as the leaders have been invited idividually, so we all should go individually'

"Whatever agenda they have, we will place our agenda before them. We hope that with our going for the meeting, at least our people who are in various prisons in and outside J. K, are released and those who cannot be released, be at least brought to J-K. Poor people have to collect money to go and meet their kin (who are in pris-ons outside J-K) once or twice a year," she said.

Bukhari Says,

Altaf Bukhari also demanded that concrete confidence building measures be taken by the

Centre to address wees of the people of J.-K.

The party held a meeting on Monday in which the leaders "hailed the political outreach of the prime minister and hoped that the ne 24 meeting will facilitate commencement of a political process in Jammu and Kashmir that will eventually pave the way for genuine

empowerment of its people".

Party general secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir on Tuesday said llukhari has been authorised by the party to "represent the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting. (PTI)

Sonia Okays

president Sonia Gandbi, he said. The meeting was attended by former prime

minister Manmohan Singh and senior leaders Karan Singh. P Chidambaram, Ghulam Nabi Azail, Rajiii Patil, G A Mir and Tariq Hameed

Karra, the spokesperson said. Fourteen leaders from Jammu and Kashmir have been invited to the meeting to be chaired by the prime minister to discuss the future

course of action for the union territory.

Jamus and Kaslimir Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir and party leader and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad

are among the invitees.

The meeting is the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and its bifurcation into union territories on August 5, 2019, (FTI)

'Emotional Politics'

August 5, 2019 and has now become a part

His statement came after PDP chief and PAGD vice chairperson Melsbooka Mufti said peace in the region cannot be restored without undoing the "illegal" and "unconstitutional" act of revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

'No one can restore Article 370 and political parties making false promises of bringing it back are playing emotional politics," the 839 leader said in a statement after an emergency meeting of the party here.

Without naming Mehbooba or the PAGD, Raina took a dig at regional parties for "misleading" people in the name of Article 370 and said his party would always oppose "tooth and nail" any move to resture it.

In an apparent reference to Melibootu's demand for talks with everyone including Pakistan, Raina said India has always favoured lendly relations with its neighbourn which should not be taken as its weakness.

Dialogue and gum cannot go rogether," he said, adding India shares very cordial relations with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan and

'As far as Pakistan is concerned', it has launched a proxy war against India but will never succeed in its designs. Confidence can be developed through dialogue but Pakistan has never displayed its sincerity to have good relations with India," he said.

He said the same is clear by its policy of training, funding and pushing militants into Indian Territory.

There can be no talk till this neighbour stops supporting militancy in any form," the

3 HUDD Officers

were suspended after a corruption case as registered against them in 2015 by the Vigilance of Kashmir, which was later renamed

was then (Planning), Srinagar Municipal Corporation while Naqashbandi was then divisional town planner, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Mir was then posted as assistant executive engineer, JAK Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA).

During their suspension, the order said Wani would remain attached with the administrative department, Naqashbandi with the office of vice chairman, 5DA and Mir with the office of vice chairman, LAWDA, Srinagar.

Separately, the government has also placed Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar Bhat under suspension pending an inquiry into

In an order, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shaleen Kabra said the 55P would continue to remain attached in the home de-partment during his suspension period. As per official sources, SSP Bhat was booked in a case of impersonation at a police station in Jamms last year on a complaint of a Kashmir Administrative Service Officer.

BDC Member

allowed to go home after he tried to end his

From last two years, I have been detained in a hotel in Budgam as the officials maintain we have some threat," he said.

He further claimed that 30 other members have also been detained with him at a botel in Humhama for the last two years. He said, over three hotels have been booked

for the "public representatives" who are living a "prisoners' life" since two years. "We are allowed to go home once a week. Then we have to report to the hotel, where we

sit idle day and night," he said.
"Our job has been reduced to mere hoisting. flags on special occasions. Rest we have nothing to do, neither we are allowed to meet anyone,"

The BDC member also alleged that the block development office doesn't need them as they are not called to the office.

ED Opposes

militants need money to sustain themselves and to carry out militant acts. Money laundering is the method by which criminals disguise the illegal origins of their wealth and protect their asset bases, so as to avoid the suspicion of law enforcement agencies and prevent leaving a trail of incriminating evidence, the agency

The ED said that Shah was in regular touch with Hafiz Sayeed, chief of banned outfit Jamat-Ud-Dawa (JuD), based in Pakistan.

Shah was also in touch with one Mohammad Shafi Shayar, who belongs to Kashmir and had escaped to Pakistan along with his family after his release from Crutral Jail Jammu, it said.

The agency claimed that there were serious allegations against the applicant and further investigation in the matter was going on and the properties are being identified.

The money trail is trying to be established. The further investigation in relation to the origin is being carried out. Call records leading to Pakistan are being scrutinized including mails he house maid the m applicant are to be identified and examined

If the applicant accused is released on bail at this juncture the entire efforts of the respondents to unearth the large conspiracy would be a futile exercise, it added.

Shah had moved bail application, claiming there was no likelihood of the trial being completed any time soon in the money laundering case due to the current COVID-19 pandemic

According to the prosecution, in August 2005 case, the special cell of Delhi police had arrested one Ahmed Wani, an alleged hawata dealer, claiming that Rs 63 lakh were recovered from Wani, of which 8s 52 takh were allegedly be delivered to Shah. During investigation Wani had said that he had given its 2.25 crore

The ED had later registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Shalt and Wani in 2007,

J&K Reports

Meanwhile, the officials said that there were 25 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the UT as no firsh case was reported since Monday evening.

Selfie Claims

teen from the gushing waters, However, due to darkness, the report said, the operation was suspended for night

With the first light of the day on Tuesday, the search operation was resumed and the teen's body was retrieved.

The report also said that the slain teen had gone to picnic with six friends to the tourist re-sort of Sonmary.

Meanwhile, a police officer said that after the completion of all medico-legal formalities, the body has been handed over to family for

A case in this regard has been registered at police station Gund, the report added.

Top ECI Official

that Deputy Election Commissioner, Chaudra Boshan Kumar shall be bolding a virtual meeting with all district election officers in two groups on 23rd June 2021," reads a letter from Joint Chief Electoral Officer, J&K to DCs.

According to the schedule, the Deputy Election Commissioner would hold a meeting with DEOs of Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bodgam, Jammu, Samba Rajouri and Poonch between 11:00 am to 12: 30 pm.

fater, he would hold a meeting with DEOs of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur, Reast, Kathia, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Ananthag between 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

The meeting is being held after DCs submitted data about electorate, topography and other details of the Assembly constituencies within their jurisdiction—(KNO)

Decision To Cancel

Giri hoped that the countrymen would be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the next year's yatra and the pilgrimage would also

I hope by this time next year, the citizens of our country will be fully vaccinated and we can have the usual and normal pilgrimage," he said.

2 Minors Among CNS reported, All the injured were shifted to different hospitals in Bandipora and were

ven anti-rables vaccines (ARV). Locals of the area said that they have stopped sending their children out of their homes as they fear stray dogs are roaming in the village

and attack whosoever comes in their way.

They have appealed to authorities to act against the increasing population of the canines.

Leopard Kills

Meanwhile, villagers appealed Wildlife officials to lay a trap and catch the leopard(s) so

that such incidents do not happen in the future. The villagers also appealed to the govern-ment to provide compensation to the owner who has fost the livestock.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 12th class Marks Card bearing Roll No: 526503 Session 2006 Annual Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file /her objection in the Concerned office within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be

Mohammad Ahsan sheikh Harriishart langate

Silt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Khadim Hussain Chichi 5/o Ali Mohammad Chichi R/O Devpora Shopian has ap-proached the office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama/ Shooian HQ: Pulwama for registration as DEE Class Contractor.

Anybody has objection (if any) in this regard, the same be produced before the of-fice of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwam/Shopian HQ: Pulwama within 03 days positively . No observation whatsoever shall be entertained after the expiry date of 03 days

AST

WALLET LOST

This is to inform to general public that Mehbooba Akhtar R/o Ikhwan Chowk Srinagar have lost my wallet which contains important keys, some cards, valuables and cash. If anybody found it may please return it on humanitarian grounds or kindly inform me on my below given contact number:

9149728908

Dir H&H Inaugurates 3-Day Workshop On Natural Dyeing At IICT Campus

Handicrafts and Handloom (H&H) department Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah inaugurated a 5- day awareness workshop cum training Programme on Natural Dyeing at the campus of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Nove-

The workshop cum training programme will be conducted under the expert guidance of one of the reputed resource person from the field Badshah person from the field Badshah Miyan of Jaipur Rajasthan and recipient of Shilp Guru and Na-tional Awardee who has more than 30 years of experience in

the field of Natural dycing. The objective of the work shop is to generate aware-ness among the stake hold-ers regarding the importance of natural dyring in today's competitive market where the costomers are demanding eco-friendly products. The workmes significance in light of the fact that the trend about the damage posed by the synthetic dyes to the ecolgy and the environment,

Practical demonstrations and sample development of natural dyeing on different types of raw materials in the handicrafts and handioum sector will the training component for the next two days of the program.

The event assumes sig-nificance and is expected to address concerns like color factors fastness. shade matching availability of standard quality

of natural dyes, Director BCT Zubair Ahmad, Joint Director Handloom Nargis Suraya, President PCIK. Shahid Kamili, Rouf Punjabi Ex president RCCI, participants from CDI, MEERAS society, TAHARIZ society, Kashmir Carpet Cluster Development along with some of the leading exporters, dyers, artisam associated with the field were present on the first day of the

India's Top Private Employer Sees More Flexibility In Workplace Models

The pandemic has changed the nature of work ac-celerating the adoption of digital technologies by at least a decade and inhering in a hybrid model where work extends beyond offices and engages more women. Tata Soon Pvt Chauman Natarajan Chundrasekaran said.

While the office remains a critical hish and staff will gradually return, the world won't return to its pre-Coxid porm, Chandrasekaran, head of India's biggest private-sector employer, said during the Qatar Economic Forum on Tuesday. The Indian executive. joined by fellow employers such as Iwg Pic Chief Executive Officer Mark Dison, said workplaces will benefit from allow-ing staff greater leeway with

the help of technology.

When the pundeous hit india in early 2020, the 150-year-old steel-to-airlines conglom-erate scrambled to adapt to lockdown restrictions. At Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. -- its largest company by employee numbers and profitability -- nearly half a million workers began working from home within weeks, continuing to deliver software projects and support to Wall Street banks.

retailers and arrines. Tata Consultancy declared early on it expects only a fourth of its workforce to be in



the office on any given day by 2025. Yet musy of its employees asked for a neturn to the office. Companies will have to adopt a model somewhere inbetween, Chandrasekaran said during a session about the future of work.

If the hybrid model has to work, let's not think of it as only office and home," he said. There's going to be a concept of a third place. I call it a third place,' you may want to call it a satellite office."

In India's case, it could also see improved workplace diversity, another positive out-come of a hybrid model, Chan-

drasekaran said.
"Only 23 per cent of wom-en who could be potentially working are in the workfore because issues like commuting, the lack of social infra-structure like child care," he said, "We should not miss this opportunity, it is not just good for GDP and growth, but also it

Will Bring Mi 11 Lite 5G Model In India After 5G Network Roll-Out: Xiaomi



NEW DELHE Chinese devices company Xiaomi bring the 5G variant of its lightest and slimmest smartphone M11 Lite after 5G metwork is available in the coun-try or it gets sufficient demand for the handeet, a top official of the company said on Yuesday.

The company unveiled two 4G models of Mi 11 Lite each weighing 157 gram for Rs 21,990 and Rs 23,990 which wiff go on sale on Mi website Flipkart and authorised retailpartner from June 25.

"In India, we are bringing the 4G variant first, it does not mean that we cannot bring the 5G variant to India."

"We will be more than hap-py to bring the 5G variant as and when the SG network rolls out or we get sufficient de-

mand for the 5G variant here in India," Xiaomi India Man-He claimed that Xiaomi has been the top smartphone brand for almost 4 years with

almost 30 per cent market shace in the last quarter. The Mi 11X series smartphones crossed sales of over #s 300 crore within 45 days of

its launch, he said. This year, we launched the Mi 11 series, fust a few weeks ago, we launched Mi11 Ultra with the biggest camera sensor in the world. Mi 11x and Mi 11 x Pro."

"I am happy to share that the MiTI X series has done business worth #s 300 crose in just a few weeks of launch," Jaim said.

The company also unweiled a smartwarch with paygen saturation level monitoring feature ,Mi Watch Revolve Active, for Es 9,909 per unit.

It will go on sale from June 25 on Mr website. Amazon and other authorised retail channels.-PII

No Restriction For Tourists Willing To Visit Valley: Comm Sec Tourism Hafeez



Covid-19 positive cases in Kash-mir, the fourism department has once again opened the doors for the tourists to visit the valley.
Talking with news agency.

commissioner secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafrez said there are no restrictions for the travellers to visit the valley, however, the already placed SOPs and guide-

lines have to follow by everyone.
There are no restrictions on any transits wishing to travel to the valley, However, there are al-rearly Covid guidelines and SOPs.

in place which everyone has to follow," he said.

Hafeez said since the situation is evolving, the government is monitoring the attuation closely, "and are taking appropriate

by, "and are taking appropriate measures accordingly," Hafeez said the inoculation drive for the stakeholders drive a good response, and around 85 per cent of the people associ-ated with the fourism industry have been vaccinated and the department is ensuring that ev-ery stakeholder associated with the tourism industry or has a direct interface with the tourists are immunized.

in the last few weeks, the tourism department held many review meetings, where the focus was given to adherence to Covid SOPs and vac-cination. The department also discussed the modalities for improving the services in the

tourism sector, On Monday, Advisor Basers Khan held a meeting at SKICC to review the functioning of all the Tourism Development Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the CEOs for improvement of services in their respecfive areas for the better experi-ence of tourists-(KNO)

THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON ANY TOURISTS WISHING TO travel to the valley. However, there are already Covid guidelines and SOPs in place which everyone has to follow,"

Department Committed To Promote Agri Based SSCI In Rural Areas: **Director Agriculture**

BUDGAM: The Director Agricul terr Kaslimir, Chowdhary Mo-hammad Igbal today said that the sustainability of agriculture sector is to a large extent direct ly proportional to a strong agri based small scale cottage indus-tries (SSCI) in the rural areas of the UT of J&K, and Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department is committed to promote these SSCIs in Kashmir. The Director said this during

his visit to the Beckrepers/ Hon-ey Farmers (Apiaries) of Palche-pora area of district Bodgam, During an interaction with the

honey farmers, he said that the farmer who is operating a cot-tage industry (like Apiculture of Honey production, Mashuoom Cultivation etc) could easily supplement the income raised from selling crops. Ighal said these agri based

small scale cottage industries like Bee Keeping provides more and more employment opportu-nities for rural people, unskilled people and women.

The honey produced here is one of the best in the country thesefour the department is try-ing to explore different market-



DURING AN INTERACTION WITH THE honey farmers, he said that the farmer who is operating a cottage industry (like Apiculture or Honey production, Mushroom Cultivation etc) could easily supplement the income raised from seiling crops.

ing models in and outside the union territory by virtue of which the honey produced here could be promoted on the national and international platform, he aided.

He asked the educated youth of the valley to come forward and join hands with the Department so that the agri based SS-Cls could be promised and could

touch the new heights in terms of a strong rural economy.

Director said these Agri based

SSCIs are eco friendly and con-tribute to the grass root development of the rural areas.

Besides other officers Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Chadoora Ahdul Hameeed Shah accompanied the Director.

Indian Companies M-Cap Grew Fastest Last Year: SBI Economists



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

indian companies' market capitalization July. Lat the fastest pace last your among major economies despite contraction in GDP, economists from SBI said. flagging the risko to financial stability it poses. Fur-ther, retail investors have shown higher interest in markets and their numbers have increased by 1.42 crose in PV21 and an-other 44 Likh in April and May. they said in a note, wondering if this will be a lasting behavioural change or is transitory.

The economists at the country's largest lender attributed the growth in equity markets to lower returns on other fi-nancial instruments amid a low rates regime, increase in global liquidity, and even a tendency to spend more time at home because of mobility restriction which led many to trade more.

The 30-share benchmark in-dex 85E has railied from 28,000 points in early April 2020, to over \$2,000 points at present.
"The rise in the stock market

without significant develop-ment in the real economy may raise the issue of financial stabillty which as per our financial stability index shows modest seprovement in April 2023, Bur lower than the peak witnessed in December 2020, However, it is expected to have declined in

May 2025," it wanned.

It can be noted that in the past, the Reserve Bank has also expressed risks of financial stability because of the fast growth in stock markets.

The note said the 30-share benchmark of BSE grew 1.8 times in the last year, which was the fastest among major economies, heating others like bench-marks in Russia (1,64 times), Brant (1,60) and China (1,59),

A sector-wise analysis of No-ty-50 reveals that financial services are the clear winners with its 157 takh core income in their market cap throng the past one year. If in another major sector whose market value has increased significantly, followed by oil and gas, consumer goods, automo-

hiles, metals and pharma, it said. From a neturns perspective, it said sector-wise one-year return indicates that IT and ma-terials have performed better.

The increasing retail partici-pation, if it becomes the surro, could also enable a larger re-source pool for financing India's infrastructural require-

sents, the economists said. They harther pointed out that the share of savings in shares and debentures to total household financial savings at 3.4 per cent in PY20 is filterly to increase in PY21 to 4.8-3.0 per cent or 0.7 per cent of GDP from 0.4 per cent of GDP in PY20

India's Oil Production Drops By 6% In May



crude oil production in May 2021 bore the dual impact of Co-vid-19 disruptions and cyclone Tauktae, decreasing by 6.32 per cent to 2437.95 thousand onne (TMT) as compared to 2002,44 TMT produced in the corresponding month a year ago, pushing the country's im-port dependence to over R3 per cent for the month, latest fig-uses published by the Oil Ministry showed.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the state-owned upstream player, recorded a sharp 5.63 per cent drop in crude of production to 1553.65 TMT in May on the back of decreased output from the company's omstore and offshore blocks with its offshore production also

tting hampered due to the destructions caused by cyclone Taultae during the month. Oil India Ltd (OIL) had lesser

impact on its production dur-ing the month, Crude oil production by OIL in the nomi-nation block during May was 253.08 TMT, which is 1.03 per cont lower than the target for the month and 1,31 per cont lower when compared to the production of May 2020.

Crude oil production by priwate/JV companies in the pro-duction sharing contract (PSC) regime during May 2021 was 631,23 TMT which is 0.69 per cent higher when compared to the production of May 2020, but marginally lower by 0.05 per cent when compared to the target for the month.

SHORT TAKES

Plight Of India's Working Women Worsened After Covid-19 Second Wave, Finds Linkedin Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHE The altermatic of the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave has left young Indian professionals and working women increasingly vulnerable to economic uncertainty, says a survey.
According to Linkedin's latest

Worldoor Confidence Index, the plight of india's working women tas worsened after the second COVID-19 wave, as the individual confidence index (ICI) scores of female professionals fell from 57 in March to 49 in early June 4x decline compared to working men (58 in March to 56 in June).

Further, the pandemic's recent peak in India has amplified the importance of work experience and professional connections, as young Indi-ans were found to be twice as worried as their older cuborts

about the impact of COVID-19

Nearly 30 per cent of Gen Z professionals and 26 per cent of millennials feel troubled by a Tack of jobs, in comparison to 18 per cent of Baby Boomers, the survey based on responses of 1,891 professionals from May 8 to June 4 noted.

Gen Z refers to those born between 1997 and 2015, Millennials are those born be-tween 1981 and 1994/6 and Baby Boomers are those born between 1946 and 1964,

"As India slowly begins to out of the second wa of COVID-19 cases, we see the pear over year hiring rate re-cover from a low of 10 per cent in April to 35 per cent at the end of May. Despite this mod-est revival, confidence fevels of working women and young



professionals are amongst the owest in the workforce today." said Ashutosh Gopta, India Country Manager, Linkedin,

en are concerned with job availability compared to working men, and 30 per cent of n Z professionals worry due to lack of jobs.

Remote jobs can be the ray in opportunities to help them

The survey further said, lindia's merall worldorce con-Gapta further said that fidence has declined after "twice as many working worn-en are conserned with job composite score of 54 (down 4 points from 58 in March), This decline in confidence is reflected strongly across professionals from creative industries such as entertainment, dissign, of hope, to provide the much-needed flexibility and growth tions, who expressed being uncertain about the future of

flut as several parts of the economy gradually reopen, professionals from software and IT and hardware and networking are growing increas-ingly confident about the future of their organisations," the survey said.

As per the Linkedto Labour Market Update, Linkedin platform data suggests that the average time for fresh graduates to find a new job has also increased by 43 per cent in 2020 com-pared to pre-COMID-19 times in 2019. But while the conversion time has increased, so have re-more opportunities, as Linkedin platform data further suggest that the proportion of entry level jobs labelled as 'nemote' posted between Jan-March 2020 have increased by 9x between 2020 and 2021," it said.







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