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P3 CITY

SRINAGAR YOUTH SETS RECORD, RUNS 940 KMS IN 7 DAYS

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday felicitated a Srinagar Youth Uzair Fayaz Khan for achieving awards of International Book of Records and Indian Book

P5 THINK

CINEMATIC STEREOTYPES: PLOT OR PARADOX?

"Maybe 50 percent of the parts I was offered were terrorists, and the others were stereotypical people" recounts Tahar Rahim, the French Algerian actor, widely known for playing the role of Malil El Djebena in Jacques



P7 STATE

EIGHT INJURED IN KANGAN ROAD ACCIDENT

Eight passengers sustained injuries when a Tempo turned turtle on Friday night in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Officials said that during the intervening night of Friday-Saturday an accident took place at Margund



Quote!
Live out of your imagination, not your history.
— Stephen Covey

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Reports 338 New Cases, 2 Deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 338 fresh covid-19 cases while two more people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday. They said 100 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu Division and 238 from Kashmir Valley, taking the total count to 316629. Regarding the fatalities, they said, one each was reported from Jammu division and Kashmir Valley respectively, taking the fatality count to 4335. Providing the district-wide details, the officials **More On P6**

Pak National Nabbed Along LoC

SRINAGAR: An elderly man from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK) was nabbed by army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, reports said Saturday. 65-year-old Mohammad Javed, son of Mohammad Sajjad of Chopur in PCK was intercepted and arrested by army near Rangar Nullah along the LoC on intervening night of July 2/3, reports said. The alleged intruder was questioned by the army for infiltrating into Jammu and Kashmir. He continues to remain in army's custody.

Weather To Remain Hot, Dry For 5 Days

SRINAGAR: Weatherman on Saturday forecast mainly "hot and dry" weather in Jammu and Kashmir for next five days. Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological Department, said that possibility of late afternoon or evening showers cannot be ruled out though. "Mainly hot and dry weather (is expected) but a brief spell of thunderstorm with rain especially in the late afternoon and evening can't be ruled out," he said, adding, "Expect slight rise in day temperature due to absence of rain." **More On P6**

Electric Shock Injures PDD Worker

SRINAGAR: A casual labourer of the Power Development Department (PDD) on Saturday sustained serious injuries after receiving an electric shock in central Kashmir's Budgam district. PDD casual labourer identified as Abdul Qayoom Ganie received electric shock on Saturday while clicking photographs of newly installed transformer in a village in the central Kashmir district, reports said. Ganie, who sustained serious injuries due to electrocution, was immediately rushed to district hospital Budgam for treatment. However, the doctors there **More On P6**

After Flip-Flop, NC All Set To Join Delimitation Process

Farooq Likely To Make Formal Announcement Today

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After two-day long hectic deliberations within the National Conference, the party is all set to announce its decision to join the delimitation exercise and the final announcement will be made by party chief Dr Farooq Abdullah on Sunday. Reliable sources within the NC said that party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar chaired two crucial meetings of NC leaders at Nawa-e-Subh on Friday and Saturday. "The leaders discussed the threadbare possibility of participation in the delimitation process. Majority of leaders expressed their willingness to join the exercise stating that valuable suggestions from the



NC will help the commission to frame an unbiased report," sources, privy to the NC deliberations, revealed. A senior party leader, who was present in the meeting, said that there was nothing wrong in participating in the delimitation process. "We have a strong **More On P6**

Cong Resolves To Fight For Statehood

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday said the party will vigorously fight for restoring statehood with constitutional guarantees that was the milestone to a democratic process in the Union Territory. The JKPCC held a meeting of its senior party leaders and former legislators in the summer capital here to debate and discuss the current situation in JK, a party spokesman said. He said the leaders also discussed the recently held all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. **More On P6**

WE DISCUSSED WHETHER WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE in the delimitation exercise. There is a consensus within the party and we will brief our party chief Dr Farooq sahab tomorrow about the same. After that, he will take the final call."

Kansal Orders Strict Action Against Power Theft

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking strong note of electricity theft, the power development department (PDD) on Saturday ordered regular intensive inspections across Jammu and Kashmir to curb power pilferage and to initiate legal action against the people using electricity illegally.

The directions were passed by Principal Secretary PDD, Rohit Kansal to officials while reviewing the status of power restoration works post heavy rains and strong winds that uprooted several poles and damaged other power infrastructure in Jammu region, an **More On P6**

Govt Approves Land For 2 Mega Projects In Kashmir

Rs 144 Crore Projects To Generate Employment For 100 People

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two days after allotting land to investors for 15 projects in Jammu division, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday cleared land for two projects worth Rs 144.66 crore in Kashmir Valley that could generate employment opportunities for a hundred people.

The land was approved for two mega projects by the high level land allotment committee in a maiden meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Ranjan P. Thakur to approve allotment of land



for establishing projects having proposed investment from Rs 50 crore to Rs 200 crore under the provisions of J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy in Srinagar, an official

spokesperson said Saturday. After taking up all the five projects for allotment of land in industrial estates of IGC Lassipora, IE Khrew and IE Tulbal Sopore **More On P6**

'Harassment' To Parents

JKBOSE Suspends Its Facilities To Seven Schools

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education on Saturday suspended all the Board related facilities for academic session 2020-2021 of seven schools over non-implementation of government, fee fixation committee orders and "harassment" to parents.

As per the order by Joint Secretary JKBOSE, the facilities suspended include Registration Returns (PR), Permission-cum-Admission (PCA) forms of SSE (Class 10th), HSE-I (Class 11th) and HSE-II (Class 12th) in respect of these seven schools. The action against the private schools

follows orders of Director School Education Kashmir, citing non-implementation of government/fee fixation committee orders and "harassment of parents".

The facilities shall remain suspended till these schools furnish NOC(s) from the office of the Director School Education Kashmir, reads the Joint Secretary's order.

The seven schools include Iqbal Memorial Institute (Boys & Girls Wings) Bemina, Srinagar; Holy Faith Presentation School, Canal Avenue, Rawalpore Srinagar; Hat Trick Public **More On P6**

'15 Jumps In 30 Days': This Kashmir Area Is Bearing Brunt Of Suicides

Aaqid Andrabi

First came a boy next door, says Raja on the banks of the river Jhelum in Noorbagh area of Srinagar. He quietly stopped his bicycle, placed it at one side of the bridge and stared at the troubled waters at length. "And then he did the unthinkable," Raja, a feisty lady in her mid-forties, recalls. "It never stopped after that."

That jump from the Sun City's Cement Bridge created what psychiatrists had long feared—"copycat phenomenon".

"And since then," continues Raja, "15 people have already jumped from this bridge within a month."

Life before these suicidal trips

was quintessential for Noorbagh — an abode of Kashmiri artisans. The pathway above the river had no sign of harm. But now, that old image has paved way to a sharp smear. The bridge now hosts grave gatherings, as people often turn up to stare and scream at the life struggling on the waters below.

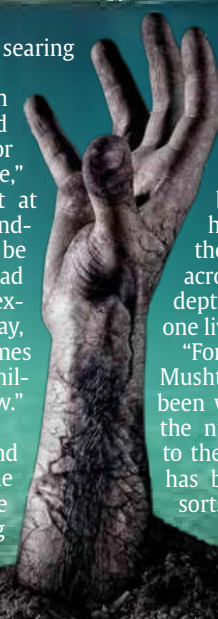
"Some days back, I saw an old father sitting on this Bund, looking at the rescue operation, for days together," Raja continues. "It broke my heart. His young son was among those who took his life here and literally broke his old father's back."

Some 15 minutes into this "taboo" talk and Raja is joined by her neighbour, Haleema. This mother of three children is living in the vicinity of the

bridge and is feeling a searing sense of slur already.

"We don't question those who were forced to take their own lives for whatever reasons here," Haleema, 43, says. "But at the same time, these endless incidents need to be curbed. It's giving us a bad name and setting a bad example for our kids. Today, most of us think ten times before scolding our children. Such is our fear now."

Insert Pic 1 here
The phenomenal and problematic rise in the number of suicides at the Cement Bridge is lending



a bad rap to the Noorbagh and adjoining localities.

From the tabulated number of suicide attempts from the bridge, there hasn't been a single survivor. The bridge stands at a registered height of almost 150 feet, and the water body that it spans across, too, has a consequential depth that doesn't leave out anyone living from it.

"For the past month," says Mushtaq Bhat, a local trader, "we've been witnessing a dramatic rise in the number of people who jump to their deaths from this bridge. It has become a suicide magnet of sorts with people from various areas coming here to die.

It affects our businesses and gives a bad name to our neighbourhood. One would see that happening only in films, but here we are witnessing it all first hand."

The businesses have noticed a gradual decrease since it all started, Bhat claims. "We're worried that if this continues unabated, we might've to look for other means of income. Islam considers suicide a major sin, and for no fault of ours, we've to lug the brunt of their actions."

Abdus Samad Mir, a member of the local masjid committee, has more or less the same to say about what's now being referred as the 'June jolts'.

"Our valley went by a lot of phases over the past three decades, and this inclination towards suicides

is worrying for the entire valley," Mir says. "Such things occurring in our front yard will lead to a social stigma getting stuck to us if we specifically talk about the Noorbagh neighbourhood."

Sadly, says Mir, it has already started happening.

"A family from our neighbourhood was supposed to get their two daughters married. Upon learning about the suicides happening, the in-laws of one of these girls almost called off the marriage citing the suicides and how it speaks about the locality it's happening in."

It took a lot of pleading and begging to convince them to change that decision of theirs, Mir says. "I cannot blame them for **More On P6**



No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Sunday | 04-07-2021

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Srinagar Youth Sets Record, Runs 940 KMs In 7 Days

Felicitated For Achieving Award Of International Book Of Records

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday felicitated a Srinagar Youth Uzair Fayaz Khan for achieving awards of International Book of Records for completing 940- kilometres long distance between Srinagar to Delhi on foot in a recorded 7 days' time.

Appreciating Uzair, Div Com congratulated him for creating history and registering his name in the International and Indian Book of Records.



25- YEAR- OLD, UZAIR OF NOWHATTA
Srinagar a student, pursuing B.A in Psychology at Amar Singh College had always been interested in running and taking part in marathons, since his school days.

always on forefront to provide them the support they need.

25- year- old, Uzair of Nowhatta Srinagar a student, pursuing

B.A in Psychology at Amar Singh College had always been interested in running and taking part in marathons, since his school days.

Before taking this challenge of running from Srinagar to Delhi, Khan claimed to have undergone rigorous 7 months long training.

He said that the motive of the run was to create anti-drug addiction awareness among youth. Khan started his journey from Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar on April- 2 and finished it at Rajghat Delhi on April- 8, 2021.

He said that he has also participated in marathon runs from Srinagar to Sonamarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam earlier.

He said that the run to Delhi was not an easy task as he faced many challenges including, climatic conditions, foot injuries and other difficulties on the way, but he kept on taking steps

without any regrets or remorse to reach his goal.

After making a record, Khan applied for registration for International Book of Records, Indian Book of Records and World Records India out of which he has got the two successfully.

'I will continue taking on new challenges and register for the Guinness Book of World Records also,' said Khan.

He said that through this run he wanted to give a strong message to all those youth involved in drugs that 'nothing is impossible'. 'It is disheartening to see our youth falling prey to drug menace. I was carrying a small banner all along to create awareness on drug abuse. I wish our youth who have become addicts quit the wrong practice and get a new hope of living a better life again,' added Khan.

DC Sgr Hands Over 76 SOs Under Social Assistance Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today distributed financial assistance in the shape of scholarship/ pension under Social Assistance Scheme for Covid Mortalities (SASCM)/ Saksham among the beneficiaries of the district.

The DC on the occasion handed over 76 sanction orders (SOs) among the already cleared eligible beneficiaries including 46 Pension and 30 scholarship cases.

Under the scheme a scholarship of Rs 20,000 per annum will be provided to 16 school going students and Rs 40,000 per annum for 14 college going students of the district for which an amount of Rs 880000 is being paid through DBT mode, he added.

The DC said that the recently launched SASCM/Saksham scheme is aimed at providing special Financial Assistance in the shape of Pension and Schol-



arships to those families who have lost their sole bread earners due to Covid pandemic.

He further said a family in distress shall be eligible for scholarship for two children, if they are not getting any other scholarship.

The DC said that on the directions of Lieutenant Governor, a District Level Task Force (DLTF) Committee for Covid affected families in district has been constituted to identify and track support to these covid affected families over time in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Union Additional Secretary Visits Vegetable Clusters In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Vivek Agarwal, visited high potential vegetable clusters of Maloora, Sub Division Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary said that organic cultivation of vegetables and other crops would play a key role towards preserving the biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance in the region. He said this is an eco friendly form of farming and is economically sustainable.

During the visit, while interacting with the farmers, Additional Secretary asked the farmers for keeping themselves in constant touch with the De-

partment of Agriculture to avail benefit of latest technological interventions in the field and get themselves updated with the farmer friendly schemes launched by Government of India for their welfare.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, informed the Additional Secretary about the progress on implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programs. He highlighted the achievements viz a viz organic vegetable cluster, introduction of micro irrigation under the concept of more crop per drop and related initiatives.

Additional Secretary appreciated the efforts of the department for motivating the farmers towards adopting new initiatives for sustenance and improving their socio economic status.



A SOLITARY SHIKARAWALA rowing his boat in the backdrop of iconic signposts and the majestic Pirpanjal mountain range in Srinagar's Dal Lake on Saturday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

'Pick And Choose' Departmental Store Found 'Cheating'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One of the known Departmental Stores of Kashmir capital Srinagar 'Pick N Choose' was found cheating customers on Saturday. The Store was found pasting MRP stickers at will to loot customers in gross violation of rules.

Officials said that Legal Metrology Department during an inspection of 'Pick N Choose' found that MRP was increased on the products by pasting the new stickers on them.

Pertinently, pasting of stickers is a violation of Legal Metrology Act 2009.

The Legal Metrology team that was led by Deputy Controller Muzafar Wani seized all those goods having fabricated stickers.

Wani promised strict action against all such offenders who are cheating consumers by charging prices of the goods at exorbitant rates.

Pertinently, thousands of customers visit the said Departmental Store on daily basis. (Agencies)

Woman Found Hanging In Habba Kadal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A woman was found hanging at her residence in Karfali Mohalla area of Habba Kadal Srinagar on Saturday.

Officials said that family members shifted the woman to SMHS Hospital after she was found hanging in her room, but doctors in the hospital declared her dead.

The 32-year-old woman (name withheld) was reportedly married to a man who is working outside Valley. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and registered a case.

Enumeration Of Migratory Tribal Population To Begin From July 4

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Saturday said that the Government has initiated first enumeration and survey of migratory tribal population in higher reaches with an aim to formulate a plan for extending benefits to migratory population for their socio-economic upliftment. The survey will serve as baseline for allocation of funds for different schemes planned to cover the mi-

gratory population

He chaired a meeting with the concerned officers regarding the enumeration and survey of Migratory Tribal population of the district scheduled to start from July 4, 2021.

He said that a common format has been devised for the survey including details related to migration route, family particulars, educational status, health and animal husbandry facilities, Livelihood and skill requirement among other parameters.

Srinagar Admin Sets Up Control Room To Monitor Covid Vaccination

SRINAGAR: In order to implement the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting to review the pace of ongoing Vaccination drive and devise a strategy to achieve 100 percent target of eligible population.

The Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather was also present on the occasion. The DC said that no person has the right to put others' life at risk by infecting them or make any public place a Covid-19 Hotspot. He said strict action under law shall be taken against the persons who violate Covid-19 SOPs in any form.

He directed all the officers to work in a coordinated manner and intensify vaccination process in the district to achieve 100 percent target within next ten days so that people of Srinagar district are protected from deadly coronavirus and predicted a third wave.

The DC directed for setting up of a Control Room to monitor the Cov-

id-19 Vaccination besides ensuring update Medical Zone/Block wise Vaccination reports after every 3 hours. He also directed the concerned officers to finish the ongoing door to door mapping of unvaccinated areas and identify high risk areas so that appropriate measures are taken at the earliest.

He further directed that special Vaccination/Testing sites be set up at all entry points of the City including Pantha Chowk and Parimpura to ensure all travellers are tested and vaccinated to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection.

The DC said that the priority is to protect human lives for which Covid-19 vaccination and strict adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour are only means with us and focused attention needs to be given for the same with top most priority.

The DC further said that Shopkeepers/owners of Business establishments would be held responsible for allowing any unvaccinated person in their shops or violating Covid-19 SOPs.

From KO Archives

3 Kashmiri Women Among 1,000 Nominated For Nobel Prize

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Three prominent Kashmiri women are among 91 nominated from India for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. They figure in the list of 1000 women from all over the world for the coveted nomination. According to reports, the three Kashmiris who had made to lie crucial stage are Parveena Ahangar, Nighat Shafi Pandit and Dilafroza Qazi. They have made a mark in various fields of social service and empowerment of women and children.

Parveena Ahangar, 48 is an extraordinary woman who has been living with the trauma of the custodial disappearance of her son. Over the past over a decade, she has become rallying force for similarly circumstanced women and eventually formed an organization by the name of Association of Parents of Displaced Persons to fight the pernicious human rights abuse. In her relentless crusade against injustice, she braves physical danger to her own life and remains undeterred by the perils that go with it.

Ahangar has been instrumental in building up social pressure against the government

which was initially clueless as the exact number of those disappearing from custody. As a result of untiring efforts of APDP, the authorities finally acknowledged more than 3000 custodial disappearances and held out an assurance to call a halt to these. Having risen above her personal trauma, Ahangar is now a prominent human rights activist in Kashmir.

Born in 1951, Nighat Shafi Pandit is the chairperson of a leading non-governmental organization. Human Effort for Love and Peace (HELP) Foundation, established in 1997 with the primary objective of organizing a social response to the growing destitution with particular emphasis on the education and healthcare of orphans, it prefers to call special children' and rehabilitation of widows and other indigent members of the society irrespective of their creed, colour, community or region....

Wife of a senior IAS officer and the chairman of Public Service Commission. Muhammad Shaft Pandit, she preferred to step out of the comfortable home to move about extensively in the rural communities in both Kashmir and Jammu regions with a view to making a difference in the lives of its targeted segments. Nighat Shafi is more, focused on the education of orphans and rehabilitation of widows and leaves no occasion to share their pain and distress. She is actively involved in the promotion of peace and harmony in the insurgency-hit region.

Dilafroz Qazi is yet another Kashmiri woman who is engaged in promotion of literacy among rural folks. Born in 1972, she runs an engineering college known as SSM college of engineering near the highway town of Pattan. She is also running several primary schools.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 July, 2005)

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1927 - Sukarno and friends form the pro-Indonesian independence party, the PNI (Perserikatan Nasional Indonesia) in Batavia, Dutch East Indies
- 1942 - 1st American bombing mission over enemy-occupied Europe (WW II)
- 1942 - US air offensive against nazi-Germany begins
- 1946 - President Manuel Roxas was inaugurated as the 5th President of the Philippines and the first president of the Third Republic at the Independence Grandstand in Manila
- 1950 - Harry Truman signs public law 600 (Puerto Ricans write own constitution)
- 1950 - The first broadcast by Radio Free Europe.
- 1968 - Radio astronomy satellite Explorer 38 launched
- 1982 - 4th Space Shuttle Mission-Columbia 4 lands at Edwards AFB
- 1987 - Discovery moves to Launch Pad 39B for STS-26 mission
- 1987 - Imran Khan takes 300th Test Cricket wicket, only Pakistani to do so
- 1988 - US Navy shoots down Iranian civilian jetliner over Gulf, kills 290
- 1989 - Unmanned Russian Mig-23 crashes in Bellegem-Kooigem, Belgium (1 dies)
- 1994 - Russian manned space craft TM-18 lands
- 1997 - US space probe Pathfinder lands on Ares Vallis Mars
- 2006 - Space Shuttle program: STS-121 Mission - Space Shuttle Discovery launches at 18:37:55 UTC.
- 2006 - North Korea tests four short-range missiles, one medium range missile, and a long-range Taepodong-2. The long-range Taepodong-2 reportedly fails in mid-air over the Sea of Japan/ East Sea.
- 2009 - The Statue of Liberty's crown reopens to the public after 8 years, due to security reasons following the World Trade Center attacks.
- 2012 - Scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider announce the discovery of a new particle consistent with the Higgs boson
- 2015 - UNESCO grants World Heritage Status to vineyards in Champagne, France along with Singapore's Botanical Gardens, Diyarbakir Fortress (Turkey) and Maymand Caves (Iran)
- 2016 - NASA's Juno spacecraft successfully enters Jupiter's orbit.



HIJRI
CALENDAR

23

ZIQADAT
-UL-
HARAAM

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR
3: 40
ZUHR
12: 35
ASR
5:35
MAGRIB
7:50
ISHA
9:30

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام محمد دار سارکنہ مرہ کالونی مہنہ سرینگر نیک مسجد مرحوم 3 جولائی 2021 بروز ہفتہ کو اس دنیائے فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 5 جولائی بروز سوموار صبح ساڑھے 10 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع کنہ مرہ سارینگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران:

مشتاق احمد دار (فرزند) 9469450304

غیر احمد دار (فرزند) 8899911510

محمد صدیق دار (برادر) 7889926174

COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG
Present MrNaseer Ahmad Dar

1. Ab Majeed Bhat S/O Mohammad Syedul-lahbhat R/O Damjan Anant-nag (Petitioner)	V/S	1. bashirahmadbhat 2. Mohd Amin Bhat Sons of Mohammad Syedulullah Bhat Mtsarwa 4 Mst Gulshana 5. MsthanefaMstzareefa residents Damjan Anantnag (Respondents)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner (s) in respect of an amount 800000/= in the name of deceased Mohammad Syed-ullahBhatS/o Mohammad SidiqBhat R/o Damjan Anantnag Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim, by or before next date of hearing 1e08-07-2021 falling which matter shall be determined on merits .

Issued under my hand seal of the court on 03-07-21

Principal District Judge Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

My fathers name has been wrongly spelled as Shabeer Ahmad Lone instead of Shabir Ahmad Lone in my old passport. Now the rectifications is to be done. Objections, if any, can be submitted in the office of the Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Mohammad Noman Lone
S/o: Shabir Ahmad Lone
Mother's Name: Sabiya
R/o: House No. 1, Lane No. 2 Gousia Colony Naseem Bagh Habbak Sgr.

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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



So shouldn't the US sanction Israel—or, at least, signal that it doesn't approve of such terrorist acts, just to clarify that its broader collaboration with Israel on anti-Iran measures doesn't mean it supports rule violation? Oh, wait! That would be awkward, since its collaboration with Israel on anti-Iran measures does mean it supports rule violation

Imported Tricks on Vintage Peace

Muzamil Jaleel

Inter-religious marriages/ elopements have been happening and will always happen in every society. Kashmir is no exception. In majority of the cases, the families of these inter-religious couples and even the society at large, disapprove such relationships/ wedlocks particularly across South Asia and Kashmir is no exception in that.

Most of the times when such things happen, it isn't even reported and people in general don't know about them. The families — mostly the girl's family — approaches the police. They look at two aspects, whether these two people are adults and whether they have married out of free will. Most of the time, the girl is produced before a court where she gives a statement and the outcome of this investigation concludes the case. If there is any force/coercion used, it becomes a case of abduction and the man faces the brunt of the law. If it is established that the marriage has taken place with mutual consent (especially the girl's free will), the police allows the couple to go home. At times, the courts order the administration to provide security to such a couple if they face threat from the families.

In the recent case involving a Sikh girl, the facts were distorted and a politician who parachuted from Delhi created a vicious narrative by making highly objectionable remarks, targeting and demonising the entire Kashmiri Muslim community.

The girl is 19 (as per court records) had eloped with a 29 year old man. The girl's family approached the police, who picked up the couple for investigation. The couple gave a statement before the police and subsequently, the girl was taken to a court where her statement was recorded. During her statement, she has said that she married the 29-year old out of her own free will and has faced no coercion at all. The leader, who flew from Delhi to organise a protest in Srinagar, claimed that the girl's family were not allowed to be present inside the court when the girl was making a statement. The law is clear that whenever such a statement is recorded, the person (the girl in this case) has to be alone to avoid any pressure. No one is

allowed to be present during the recording of such a statement. There is enough evidence in the media saying that in her statement, the girl has categorically said that the decision to marry was her own without any coercion/ force.

The police took the couple to the Srinagar district court to record their statements on 26 June. While the girl's statement was being recorded, agitators gathered outside who were led by president of Budgam and Srinagar Gurudwara Committee, Santpal Singh and Jaspal Singh.

Though the girl told the Court that she had taken this step (conversion and marriage) out of her own free will, the police decided to hand her over to her parents. Local Sikh leader Jagmohan

sion to defame and demonise the entire Kashmiri Muslim community and ride over the Sangh's bigoted wave against Indian Muslims across India so that they can harvest petty political benefits out of it. This is clearly linked to SGPC elections and also the upcoming polls in Punjab and UP. Sirsa is falsely positioning himself as the saviour of Kashmir's Sikh minority and demonising of Kashmiri Muslims is part of that narrative.

The fact that the Muslims of J&K and particularly Kashmiri Muslims have been crushed and completely disempowered especially after August 5, 2019, this oppressed community is now seen as a fair game by everyone. "Lie. Create a fake narrative. Further demonise Kashmiri Muslims", is the new man-

together. Here are extract of two complaints filed by Kashmiri Muslim parents before police this week only.

"As reported by Gh Mohd Rather s/o Gh Mohi u din r/o Chararipora Pakherpora that his daughter namely Murafat Jan, age 20 yrs, left home 25/06/2021 to be on picnic with her would be husband Muzaffer Ahmad Malla r/o Tharuna Shopion. Since then she did not come back. Reportedly she has eloped with one JCB driver namely Ankush singh r/o Ghavo Jaladhar Punjab. In this regard FIR no. 79/2021 U/S 366 IPC has been registered in PS Chf."

"Application received PP Mirgund from one person namely Fayaz Ahmad Maglo S/o Gh Ahmad Maglo R/o Mirgund that his daughter namely Junofer fayaz (17) has been kidnapped by one Pankaj

DIG, central Kashmir, IGP is Kashmiri Muslim. The DGP is himself Sikh. There is no Kashmiri Muslims among the top officers of the civil administration. Thus, it is ludicrous to even think that anybody from within the administration would have stayed silent if it was a case of abduction.

Kashmiri Muslims are going through challenging times. They have been systematically demonised without getting a chance to respond to the false and concocted allegations levelled against them. They are unable to open their mouths in protest because of the oppression. A Kashmiri Muslim is jailed for saying he doesn't have expectations from non-local bureaucracy. Kashmiri Muslims have not demanded solidarity from anybody while they face the worst kind of oppression individually and collectively.

The cordial relations between Muslims and Sikhs in Kashmir have survived difficult times because both communities acted wisely and compassionately each time any outside force tried to vitiate the atmosphere. In fact, Kashmiri Muslim community cherishes this relationship and has always stood up for their Sikh brothers and sisters. This is exactly why people without knowing the facts of this case or understanding the politics played around this case came out in full support of the Sikhs. In fact, there is hardly anybody who came out to support the 29-year-old from their own community. People disregarded the facts of the case to come out in support of the Sikh minority because they value the cordial relationship and are aware that there are forces who are making every effort to vitiate the atmosphere and create a wedge between the two communities. There is a need that the politics played around this issue is questioned strongly so that it doesn't achieve its goal outside Kashmir.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally the author's Facebook post and is being reproduced here with permission

The cordial relations between Muslims and Sikhs in Kashmir have survived difficult times because both communities acted wisely and compassionately each time any outside force tried to vitiate the atmosphere. In fact, Kashmiri Muslim community cherishes this relationship and has always stood up for their Sikh brothers and sisters

Raina has said that it was possible only after the intervention of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's advisor Baseer Khan. Sirsa too explained it later.

On June 29, the girl was hurriedly married again and this time to a Sikh man. This marriage took place in a Gurudwara in Pulwama.

Sirsa, who has joined Akali Dal (SAD) after quitting the BJP, came to Kashmir with a purpose and it wasn't limited to the issue of this inter-religious marriage. The local Sikh community had complaints against the administration, especially police, saying they are not listening to them. Sirsa, however, started a venomous discourse, invoked "love jihad", a conspiratory reference hatched by the Sangh against Indian Muslims, and accused the entire Kashmiri Muslim community to have aided what he falsely claimed to be forced conversion for marriage of Sikh girls. Sirsa also lied to make it convenient for his venomous anti-Muslim campaign. This was primarily a mis-

tra. There are no costs for doing this.

There were few local Kashmiri Sikh leaders who understood the game behind this and tried to distance themselves from this narrative but their voices were drowned in the din.

The role of the administration and police has been extremely problematic in all this. They issue statements on every small incident but this time they maintained a strategic silence. The police too didn't speak at all. The police investigated the case. They know the facts. Why didn't they issue a statement? Why the silence?

The entire Kashmiri Muslim community was tainted for what was falsely termed, "marriage and forced conversion of Sikh girls". It is being asked as to why the civil society/ religious leaders of Kashmiri Muslims are silent over the issue? Such cases where a woman decides to marry/elope with a man from a different religion isn't confined to one community alone, it happens in all societies where different communities live

Dogal S/o Raju Dogal R/o Delhi. In this regard, Fir no 196/2021 u/a 363 lpc registered in police station pattan."

So, accusing an entire community of a "conspiracy" because a youngster from among them decided to marry/ elope with the girl from a different community is unfair. Although the act is well within the confines of the law, how is the entire community involved in it? There is hardly anyone other than the relatives and neighbours of these two individuals who knew about it till it was made public. But once the civil society/ religious leader of Kashmiri Muslim community came to know about the protests by members of the Sikh community in Srinagar, almost all the major groups visited or spoke to the Sikh leadership, assuring them help and solidarity.

There is hardly anybody from among the Kashmiri Muslim community who holds any important and decision making post in the police and administration. No one among Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar,

America's Seizure of Websites and 'rules-based' Order

Robert Wright and Connor Echols

This week Peter Beinart, writing in the New York Times, took aim at one of the Blob's favorite terms: the "rules-based order." The Biden administration often invokes the term, typically in reference to the threat allegedly posed to that order by China. The problem, Beinart notes, is that no one ever bothers to explain what rules constitute the order—what rules America is supposedly abiding by while its adversaries violate them. "Since the 'rules-based order' is never adequately defined, America's claim to uphold it can never be disproved," Beinart writes.

This sort of skepticism about boilerplate "rules-based order" rhetoric has been growing lately, and that's a welcome development in foreign policy discourse—maybe even a sign that the Blob's days of hegemony are numbered. The trend dates back to the Trump administration, when observers noted that some of the Blobsters most loudly complaining about Trump's failure to uphold the "rules-based order" had championed things like invading and bombing countries in violation of international law. When Biden took office, and staffed his foreign policy team with exactly this kind of rules-based-order scold, it was an open invitation for Beinart and other Blob critics to turn up the heat.

And yet—so much more heat is needed! The average member of the foreign policy establishment, to say nothing of the average American voter, has no idea how hypocritical America's sermons about following the rules look from abroad. As it happens, an object lesson in this hypocrisy took shape on the same day Beinart's piece was published, when the US Justice Department announced that it had disabled 36 Iran-linked websites. Let's take a look at this exercise in American rules enforcement and try to imagine how it might look from perspectives other than America's. Three kinds of rules, in particular, are implicated in the Justice Department's website takedown:

1. Rules against election interference. As Joshua Keating notes in Slate, the legal basis for seizing 30 of those websites was a Trump-era executive order authorizing sanctions against foreign actors that have interfered in American elections. So is one of the rules

in the "rules-based order" that influencing a foreign election—with propaganda, misinformation, whatever—is forbidden? If so, America is due for a scolding. The political scientist Lindsey O'Rourke writes in his book *Covert Regime Change*: "Throughout the Cold War, the United States recurrently sought to influence foreign elections by covertly providing funding, advisory assistance, and propaganda to help its preferred candidates win their elections... All told, US-supported parties won their elections in twelve out of sixteen covert campaigns."

And of course, if the "wrong" candidate wins an election, the US can always intervene after the fact. Like when it helped depose Iran's elected leader in 1953, replacing him with a brutal dictator who ruled until the 1979 Iranian revolution, which ushered in an Islamist regime that, not surprisingly, has been able to get political mileage out of anti-American rhetoric ever since! Also not surprisingly, this regime apparently feels justified in using its websites to influence—even "interfere in"—American elections.

During the Obama administration, Biden himself was supportive of something that bore at least some resemblance to a coup against a democratically elected leader. American officials went to Ukraine, egged on protestors who wanted to oust its pro-Russian president, and meanwhile maneuvered behind the scenes to select a new head of government—who took the reins after the country's elected president, with armed opponents roaming the streets, fled the country to ensure his survival. Apparently the Biden foreign policy team (notably including Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who was centrally involved in the Ukraine affair) doesn't consider deposing elected presidents as serious an assault on democracy as spreading propaganda during an election.

2. Rules against terrorism. Three of the websites

were taken down on grounds that they belonged to Kata'ib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed group that in 2009 was deemed a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the State Department.

Why the terrorist designation? Because the Kata'ib Hezbollah militia was part of the Iraqi insurgency and killed US troops. Of course, the troops were there because the US had violated the mother of all rules—the one against attacking countries that haven't attacked you, the rule that, more than any other single rule, the United Nations was founded on. But let's leave that fact aside and look at why Iran might consider it ironic that the US would deem lethal insurgents terrorists.

Didn't the US, during the Obama administration, arm insurgents in Syria who killed lots of people, no doubt including civilians? And quite possibly including Iranian troops (who, unlike American troops in Iraq, were in Syria at the behest of the government—a fact that, however brutal the Syrian regime, still makes a big difference under international law)?

Also: When Israel arranges to have Iranian nuclear scientists murdered, isn't that kind of like terrorism? So shouldn't the US sanction Israel—or, at least, signal that it doesn't approve of such terrorist acts, just to clarify that its broader collaboration with Israel on anti-Iran measures doesn't mean it supports rule violation?

Oh, wait! That would be awkward, since its collaboration with Israel on anti-Iran measures does mean it supports rule violation. During the Obama administration, the US and Israel together launched a cyberattack that made Iranian centrifuges spin out of control, which presumably violates some rule or other. (Unless the US wants to declare that it's OK if Iran launches a cyberattack that makes America's centrifuges spin out of control.)

And a technical question: When in January of 2020 the US assassinated Iran's most important military leader, was that terrorism or was it more like an act of war? Either way, since it had no plausible justification under international law, shouldn't presidential candidate Biden have done more than just fret that the killing would be "escalatory"? Shouldn't he have said it threatens the "rule-based order"?

3. Suppression of speech. The question of whether free speech is one of the "rules" in the "rules-based order" opens up a can of worms—questions about whether by "rules based order" you're referring to the "liberal international order," and, if so, which specific meaning of "liberal international order" you have in mind. But for present purposes it's enough to say that members of the Biden team have been known to complain about censorship in places like Russia and China.

So it's worth asking: What does it do for the credibility of these sermons when we take down a bunch of websites of foreign origin because of their content? Keating, in Slate, does a good job of assessing this question. After acknowledging that some of these websites conveyed disinformation and did other objectionable things, he concludes, "Disinformation and election interference are serious problems, but a world in which governments all reserve the right to tightly control the information that can reach their citizens from outside their borders is exactly the sort of world that governments like Russia, China, and Iran want to create."

Note Keating's hidden assumption: that effectively promulgating international rules means abiding by them. Rules, after all, are by definition things that apply universally, so it's hard to convince the world to respect them if you violate them. In other words: Keating takes the word "rules" seriously. No senior figure on the Biden foreign policy team—certainly not National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan or Secretary of State Antony Blinken, both of whom love to rhapsodize about the "rules-based order"—has shown any inclination to do that.

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Cinematic Stereotypes Plot or Paradox?

Neha Sheikh

“A privileged member of society, who comes from the majority, usually chooses to remain silent in instances of minority targeted prejudices because it does not directly affect them. They do not use their authority, power and resources, all central building blocks of their privilege, to counter the imbalance which results in the rooting of stereotypes and prejudices against the minority.”

“Maybe 50 percent of the parts I was offered were terrorists, and the others were stereotypical people” recounts Tahar Rahim, the French Algerian actor, widely known for playing the role of Malil El Djebena in Jacques Audiard’s “A Prophet”. A well known actor, Tahir is also known for playing the role of FBI agent Ali Soufan in “The Looming Tower”, an action packed series placed in the late 90’s that tries to unearth and outline the rise and subsequent increase in threat of Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda. This series also focuses on the contentions and rows between the FBI and CIA that, if resolved, could have thwarted the 9/11 attacks. The character of FBI agent Soufan in “The Looming Tower” presents itself to be a subdued paradox, that is also often reflected in fictitious series. As a Muslim who is fluent in Arabic and of Lebanese descent, Soufan serves to be a helpful addition to the FBI. His fluency in the Arabic language enables him to be a vital asset in translating documents and communicating with suspected terrorists. On one hand we see Soufan constantly rejecting the extremist ideals of the terrorists, trying to show what Islam is really about while on the other hand he fails to uphold the core values of Islam himself. In the “The Looming Tower” we get a glimpse of a Muslim man caught in an interesting paradox of rejecting and casting away the core values of his religion while installing himself with having the moral authority to lecture others on what ‘his’ religion is really about.

This paradox is often adopted by a lot of producers and directors in many series that revolve around terrorism and militancy. One such series that gained immense fame in India is “The Family Man”, starring Manoj Bajpayee as agent Srikanth Tiwari, who works for the National Investigation Agency and is allotted cases pertaining to national security, in specificity those that involve terrorism. The crux of the first season is to thwart ‘Mission Zulfikar’ by finding the culprits behind a bomb blast, who turn out to be Muslims. The season continues with Srikanth arriving in Kashmir to find Sajid, the perpetrator of the bomb blast. The scenes in Kashmir again delve into the areas of militancy and ‘anti national sentiments’. In the entire series, Muslims are either portrayed as terrorists or Pakistanis. The presence of the Muslim NIA agent Pasha seems to be nothing more than tokenism and Srikanth Tiwari, the lead in this series, does not play any role in trying to combat the stereotypes perpetuated by his colleagues and family. In one instance, when a Kashmiri officer and Major Vikram get



into a minor row over the officer calling the militants martyr, the Kashmiri officer’s loyalty to his duty is questioned. He says “Kitni baar apni wafadari ka sabut dena padega” (How many times do we have to provide proof of our loyalty?). Major Vikram feeds into the prevailing stereotypes by demanding “Agar dena pade toh dikkat hai kya” (Even if you have to give proof, what is the issue?). This would have not been told to an officer who hailed from a metropolitan city in India. In another scene, when Srikanth’s family visits him to meet his wife, Suchitra, and their children, viewers get to witness the unfolding of a scene riddled with prejudice. In the scene Srikanth’s mother is seen talking to Suchi’s father in a condescending tone, merely because he conversed with his grandson in his native language, Tamil. Upon witnessing that Srikanth’s mother was quick to declare Hindi the national language of India and went on to encourage that communication should be done in Hindi. Even though Suchi’s father went on to explain how India does not have a national language, the angry mother in law didn’t stop. Apart from the blatant prejudice showcased in these scenes there is another point of commonality, the glaring silence of Srikanth Tiwari. The eerie similarity of how this takes place in real life is hard to miss. A privileged member of society, who comes from the majority, usually chooses to remain silent in instances of minority targeted prejudices be-

cause it does not directly affect them. They do not use their authority, power and resources, all central building blocks of their privilege, to counter the imbalance which results in the rooting of stereotypes and prejudices against the minority.

Similarly when we look at hollywood movies or english series, another paradox arises. Muslims are either featured as the ‘oppressors’ via their characterization as terrorists in 9/11 movies or as the ‘oppressed’ who are trying to escape the shackles of imposed modesty. There seems to be a contention between these two prejudiced powers themselves, who face a dilemma of choosing to either adorn the roles of educators or liberators. Even in the rare instances that Muslims are portrayed in shows and movies, the accuracy of their character tends to be very minimal. These shows perpetuate stereotypes on the grounds of ‘showing reality’ but somehow this zeal to bring reality to the audience disappears when it comes to showing how Muslims do not live in alienation of a social life or when an entity from an identity in majority commits these very crimes. These shows are often given free passes for ‘not knowing’ but that diminishes the space to take accountability. The identity and lives of minorities do not simply exist to appease cinema buffs and hence should be either accurately represented or left alone.

The author can be reached

Last week, reports emerged that North Korea was banning skinny jeans over concerns regarding their symbolic relationship with the “exotic and decadent lifestyle” of capitalism. The crackdown on “anti-socialist behaviour” also reportedly bans mullet, spiky or dyed hairstyles and piercings.

Although an official statement on the ban hasn’t been identified, policing of personal style in North Korea is not new.

Political leaders have long been aware of the representational power of fashion. In her book Fashion and Politics, fashion scholar Djurdja Bartlett notes that “as early as the 1920s, the Bolsheviks frowned on western fashion and its Art Deco opulence”.

The role of dress in promoting allegiance to the nation state can come in the form of a uniform or via the rejection of garments seen to symbolise religious, ideological or political beliefs.

Whether banning Western fashion in the Soviet Union or the burqa in France, political control over what we wear has always been controversial. But what is it about skinny jeans that apparently inspires denunciation by North Korea today?

The skinny on skinny jeans

Slim or tight-fitted trousers are a direct descendant of tight men’s breeches worn in the 1800s.

Their denim offspring emerged in the 1950s as part of the counter-cultural movement. Most often worn in a dark wash with a cuffed hem, the jeans, favoured by the likes of Elvis Presley and Marlon Brando, were a gender-neutral representation of alternative lifestyles in the wake of the second world war.

In the 1960s, jeans in the “drain-pipe” style — black and ultra-skinny — became synonymous with rock and roll.

Through the 1970s and 80s, the UK embraced the punk look — pioneered by designer Vivienne Westwood and the Sex Pistols, which saw tight jeans ripped, stained and safety pinned.

The 1990s brought baggy styles for

rave dancing, bootlegs and retro flares. But skinny jeans didn’t stay gone for long. The 2000s saw them taken up, again by subcultures — emos and goths, who wore them super tight and low on the hips.

By the 2010s they seemed destined to stick around after being championed by Kate Moss, the Duchess of Cambridge and Michelle Obama.

Death by TikTok

Rumblings of change in the denim market were first heard in the late 2010s, when fashion journalists including Sarah Spellings claimed we could

Your Denims are Political

Harriette Richards



“Analysis today shows specific denim brands are aligned with political preferences: American Democrat voters tend to wear Levis, while Republican voters are more likely to prefer Wrangler jeans. Brands may also seek to align themselves with consumers by voicing support for specific issues

begin counting down to the return of low-rise jeans. The rise of 90s nostalgia fashion, popularised by models such as Bella Hadid, bought a return of wide-legged fits and exposed midriffs.

By 2019, skinny jeans were reportedly being usurped by so-called “mom jeans”. And that was before 2020 forced everyone indoors, where comfort trumped more fitted styles.

Gen Z “Zoomer” TikTokers finally rang the death knell for skinny jeans — adding a beat and some dance moves, of course. In early 2021, TikTok videos mocking Millennials for their side parted hair and tight denim-clad legs

went viral.

So, if they’re no longer cool, why might North Korea want to ban them?

Trouser power

What we wear on our legs has long been a subject of particular political significance, especially in terms of class and gender differentiation.

During the French Revolution, full length trousers became synonymous with the ideals of liberté, égalité, fraternité — but only for men. Women remained bound by the Ancien Régime, excluded from wearing trousers and from the social freedoms they allowed.

It followed that in the fight for suffrage, trousers became a symbolic garment in the emancipation of women as political subjects.

In the 1960s, meanwhile, blue denim became a symbol of the US civil rights movement and in 1978, Levi Strauss & Co began large-scale shipments of jeans behind the Iron Curtain.

Analysis today shows specific denim brands are aligned with political preferences: American Democrat voters tend to wear Levis, while Republican voters are more likely to prefer Wrangler jeans. Brands may also seek to align themselves with consumers by voicing support for specific issues.

Most recently, a chief minister within India’s Bharatiya Janata Party government faced condemnation after he tweeted that women were immoral for wearing jeans that exposed their knees.

Across India women took to social media to voice their exasperation, posting photographs of themselves wearing torn denim with the hashtag #RippedJeans.

Jeans are still provoking the powerful. Still, if the reports from North Korea are correct, railing against this symbolic garment may have given those willing to rebel a clearer sense of what to wear.

*By arrangement with
The Conversation*

France Begins Judicial Probe Into Rafale Deal With India: Report

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A French judge has been appointed to lead a "highly sensitive" judicial probe into suspected "corruption" and "favouritism" in the Rs 59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal with India, French investigative website Mediapart has reported, in a development that sparked a fresh war of words on Saturday between the Congress and the BJP.

Mediapart said the investigation into the inter-governmental deal signed in 2016 was formally opened on June 14.

The Congress demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee(JPC) probe into the Rafale deal, alleging corruption in the purchase of the fighter jets, and said such an investigation is the only way forward to find the truth. The main opposition party further said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should order the investigation and come clean on the deal.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took an apparent dig at the prime minister using an idiomatic expression in Hindi while party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra quoted Lord Buddha to say, "Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth."

"Corruption in the Rafale deal has come out clearly now. The stand of the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi has been vindicated today after the French government has ordered a probe," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told a news conference.

The BJP for its part alleged that Rahul Gandhi is acting as

an agent of rival defence companies and being used as a "pawn", and also claimed he and the Congress keep raking up allegations of corruption in the Rafale deal in an attempt to "weaken" India.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also sought to play down the appointment of a judge, saying the development was an outcome of a complaint by an NGO and should not be seen as a matter of corruption.

Mediapart said the judicial investigation has been ordered by France's national financial prosecutors' office (PNF) following the website's fresh reports in April of alleged wrongdoings in the deal as well as a complaint filed by French NGO Sherpa that specialises in financial crime.

"A French judge has been appointed to lead a judicial investigation into suspected 'corruption' and 'favouritism' over the 7.8-billion-euro sale to India of 36 Dassault Aviation Rafale fighter aircraft," the Mediapart said. "The highly sensitive probe into the inter-governmental deal signed off in 2016 was formally opened on June 14th," it added.

"The criminal investigation led by an independent magistrate, an investigating judge, will, among other elements, examine questions surrounding the actions of former French president Fran ois Hollande, who was in office when the Rafale deal was inked, and current French president Emmanuel Macron, who was at the time Hollande's economy and finance minister, as well as the then defence minister, now

foreign affairs minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian," the Mediapart said.

Mediapart journalist Yann Philippin, who filed a series of reports on the fighter deal, alleged that a first complaint was "buried" in 2019 by a former PNF chief.

"The judicial investigation was finally opened following the revelations of the investigation #RafalePapers of @mediapart and a new complaint from @Asso_Sherpa. A 1st complaint was buried in 2019 by the former PNF boss, Eliane Houlette," he tweeted.

Rafale manufacturer Dassault Aviation and India's defence ministry previously trashed allegations of any corruption in the contract. India's Supreme Court too in 2019 dismissed petitions seeking a probe into the deal saying there was no ground for it.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had inked a Rs 59,000-crore deal on September 23, 2016, to procure 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation after a nearly seven-year exercise to procure 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) for the Indian Air Force(IAF) did not fructify during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime.

The Congress had accused the government of massive irregularities in the deal, alleging that it was procuring each aircraft at a cost of over Rs 1,670 crore as against Rs 526 crore finalised by the UPA government during the negotiations for the MMRCA.

Ahead of the the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, the Congress

raised several questions about the deal and alleged corruption but the government rejected all the charges.

Surjewala told reporters that since the matter deals with national security and identity, a fair and independent JPC probe is the only way out and not by the Supreme Court.

"When the French government has accepted that there is corruption in the deal, should a JPC probe not be held in the country where the corruption took place?" he asked.

Surjewala said this issue is not about Congress versus BJP, but this is an issue that concerns the security of the country and "corruption" in the biggest defence deal.

"The facts now clearly tell and call for a thorough JPC probe into the Rafale scam. Will the prime minister, like the French, now answer to the nation and tell when the prime minister will submit his government to a JPC probe into the Rafale scam?"

The Congress leader said in view of the latest revelations, it becomes all the more scandalous. "The JPC is the only way forward," he claimed.

BJP's Sambit Patra alleged that the Congress has become synonymous with spreading lies and misconceptions.

"The way Rahul Gandhi is behaving, it will not be an exaggeration to say that he is being used as a pawn by competing companies. He has been lying right from the beginning on the issue. Probably, he is acting as an agent or some member of Gandhi family has been for a competing company," Patra alleged at his news conference.

Mortality 'Significantly' increased in 2nd Covid wave in India: study

Agenceis

New Delhi: The second Covid wave in India was slightly different than the first one, with higher mortality being reported in all age groups except those below 20 years, and more people developing acute shortness of breath and requiring supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilation, a new study said on Saturday.

The study - Clinical profile of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in first and second wave of the pandemic: Insights from an Indian registry based observational study - was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research and has been done by experts from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

India witnessed a massive second surge of COVID-19 cases since March after a period of decline from September last year.

Data collected under the National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 (NCRC) were analysed to describe the differences in demographic and clinical features of COVID-19 patients recruited during these two successive waves, the study stated.

The NCRC, launched in September last year, is an ongoing multi-centre observational initiative, which provided the platform for the current investigation.

Demographic, clinical, treatment and outcome data of hospitalized and confirmed COVID-19 patients were captured in an electronic data portal from 41 hospitals across India, it said.

Patients enrolled between September 1, 2020 and January



31, 2021 and February 1 to May 11, 2021 constituted the participants of the two successive waves respectively, it said.

As on May 11 this year, 18,961 individuals were recruited in the registry, 12,059 and 6,903 reflecting in-patients from the first and second waves respectively, it said.

The mean age of the patients was significantly lower in the second wave with higher proportion of patients in the younger age group intervals of less than 20 years, and 20-39 years, the study said. It said approximately 70 per cent of the admitted patients were above 40 years in both the waves of the pandemic and the proportion of males were slightly lower in second wave as compared to the first. The most common symptom was fever in both the waves, it said.

"In the second wave, a significantly higher proportion complained of shortness of breath, developed acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), required supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilation."

"Mortality also was significantly increased in the second wave in all age groups except in below 20 years," it said.

"The second wave of COVID-19 in India was slightly different in presentation than

the first wave, with a younger demography, lesser comorbidities, and presentation with breathlessness in greater frequency," the study stated.

Noting that there were some limitations of the present investigation, it said the registry did not capture the initial phase of the first wave as data collection commenced from September 1, 2020.

There has been a considerable lag in obtaining a complete dataset due to time required for data verification and the unprecedented workload of the healthcare team involved in COVID-19 care. Hence, the outcome data were not available for many cases from the second wave, the study said.

Though the data was submitted from more than 40 hospitals across the country to the NCRC, from some states like Maharashtra and Kerala were missing due to logistical reasons, thus constraining the national representation, it said.

Rapid and explosive spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection during the second wave of the pandemic in India resulting in huge caseload on the entire healthcare system of the country including the participating institutes, did not allow enrolling all in-patients in our registry.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

After Flip-Flop,

case and our participation will help prevent any sort of injustice. Any increase in the Assembly seats has to meet certain parameters like population, geography and area of the constituency," he said, wishing not to be named.

"In case, Commission goes in the wrong direction, we can at least resist. By staying away, we won't be able to know what the Commission is upto. We will also ask the members of the Commission what they are up to and what assessment they have done. By asking this, we won't be committing any crime as there is a freedom of speech guaranteed by the democracy of our country."

NC General Secretary confirmed that he chaired two back to back meetings of party leaders.

"We discussed whether we should participate in the delimitation exercise. There is a consensus within the party and we will brief our party chief Dr Farooq sahab tomorrow about the same. After that, he will take the final call," Sagar said.

The J&K LG Manoj Sinha had recently stated that participation of political parties in the delimitation process will help in ensuring timely elections and at the end the move will also help put up a good assembly.

It may be recalled that NC had publicly stated that it wouldn't participate in the delimitation exercise as the move would "tantamount to accepting the events of 5th August 2019"—when the special status of the erstwhile state was abrogated."

However, some voices started emerging within the party slowly that supported participation in the process which later converted into a "majority view."

Sources in NC said that even those who were earlier opposing any sort of participation in the commission changed their minds and advocated "there was no harm in joining the process."

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah had recently told reporters that the party had authorized Dr Farooq to take a call on whether to participate in the delimitation process.

However, sources said the meetings chaired by Sagar was a move to build a consensus over the issue to avoid "any sort of internal bickering within the party at this crucial stage."

Dr Farooq, who on June 24 attended an All Party Meeting (APM) in New Delhi, told reporters in Srinagar that the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and "it was a first step towards starting a fresh political process in J&K."

Sources said that one of the major reasons why NC seems to have softened its stand owing to many reasons and one of the primary reasons is that at this crucial juncture the party doesn't seem to annoy New Delhi by staying away from the delimitation process.

Soon after the APM on June 24, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had

tweeted: "The future of Jammu and Kashmir was discussed and the delimitation exercise and peaceful elections are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in parliament."

Sources in NC said that after getting a briefing from party General Secretary Sagar over the issue, Dr Farooq will make the party's decision public late Sunday afternoon.

The delimitation commission will arrive in J&K on a three-day visit from July 6 and meet all the political leaders and civil society members to get their feedback over re-drawing the boundaries of assembly constituencies in the J&K UT—(KNO)

Cong Resolves

The spokesman said JKPCPC president Ghulam Ahmad Mir told the meeting that the Congress party stressed on the restoration of statehood with constitutional guarantees, besides the delimitation and political process, in the all-party meeting in which former chief minister and leader of opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad also participated.

Mir said the party urged the Centre to move forward in that direction to fulfil its commitment.

The Congress party in the all-party meeting told the prime minister and home minister that people of J-K have witnessed worst and this was the opportune time to clear the doubts, fears and apprehensions amongst the people of J-K, Mir told the meeting.

The spokesman said apart from the deliberations over the all-party meet, the JKPCPC meeting also discussed many issues of public importance.

The leaders present in the meeting endorsed the party's viewpoint in the PM's all-party meet and assured that the party will vigorously fight for the restoration of the statehood with constitutional guarantees which was the milestone to the democratic process in J-K, the spokesman said.

IRCS Orders Probe

the charity organisation. Revenue officials and cops are seen with receipt books of IRCS on major thoroughfares of Kashmir, including at tourist spots, stopping vehicles on various pretexts and handing them the Red Cross receipts.

"From past few days, we had received several complaints at our Srinagar office. And after Kashmir Observer's report, we have ordered an enquiry and sought details like under whose authorization was the donation approved and under whose capacity was the Red Cross receipt book issued to the police," Singh said.

He said that the Kashmir chapter of Red Cross has been asked to explain why cognizance of alleged forcible donation was not taken by them.

Sigh further said that that many receipt books that are currently lying with the Police would have only been given to them by the authorization of the state management committee that includes people from the government and private sectors and head of the state committee of IRCS.

"It's a serious issue. We are expecting

enquiry report by next week," he said.

On being asked whether the National headquarters had any communication with the J&K administration, Singh said that if the probe raises some alarming questions, the charity group won't hesitate to contact them.

Meanwhile, reports of police and other government officials collecting donations on behalf of IRCS continued to pour in from several parts of the Valley.

"Even though I was following all the SOP's, I was forced to pay hundred rupees towards the Red Cross near Ferozshah road. Under which rule am I being forced to pay," Nasir Naqash, a city resident told Kashmir Observer on Saturday.

Penny Wise

& winter. Quite obvious that such insensitive decisions are taken by those who least care for J&K's welfare, she wrote on Twitter.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had last month announced that it has completely transitioned to e-office, thereby ending the practice of the biannual darbar move.

The practice of darbar move - under which the administration functions in Jammu during six months of winter and in Srinagar during summer - was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions.

Kansal Orders

official spokesperson said Saturday. Kansal, he said, exhorted senior field officers of the department to lead from the front and ensure immediate restoration of full power supply to the Jammu region in the wake of the damages caused to power infrastructure following strong winds and rain.

The official spokesperson said that the Principal Secretary PDD was informed that a number of trees and over 300 poles were uprooted due to strong winds in the region leading to a disruption in the power infrastructure. He was also informed that restoration works had started immediately and over 80% of the work had been completed.

"Emphasizing that the departmental officers had the skills and the competence to make a difference, Kansal asked them to personally attend to restoration, identify problems in the system and ensure that the same were rectified without any delay."

"He also warned that any laxity would invite action and that responsibility and accountability would be fixed for any delays or laxity and also for undue or unscheduled power outages," he added.

Kansal, the official spokesperson said also instructed that intensive inspections without fear and favour be conducted regularly against illegal power connections and stringent action including disconnections and all legal action be taken against those using electricity illegally besides disconnection of all illegal connections.

"The Principal Secretary impressed upon the concerned to prepare a list

of defaulters to be displayed prominently while also calling for strict action against such defaulters," he said.

He said that the Principal Secretary stressed on providing scheduled power supply in all areas and said each division should ensure that maintenance works needed to keep the system running smoothly were carried out on a regular basis. In this connection, he laid special emphasis on LT network maintenance.

As per the official spokesperson, Kansal also asked the concerned officers to ensure that information of approved power shutdowns be given well in advance and widely publicized through social media and official handles of the department so that general people are kept well informed.

While stressing on maintaining a prompt public grievances system, the Principal Secretary instructed that all grievances received through any media should be promptly addressed.

"If the full resolution of a problem would involve some time, an intern reply indicating the likely time of redressal should be given," he said, as per official spokesperson.

Govt Approves Land

of Kashmir Division with a projected investment of Rs 430.41 crore, the official spokesperson said that the panel approved 2 cases of land allotment with a projected investment of Rs 144.66 crore having employment potential of 100.

"Rest of the 3 projects were discussed threadbare and due to certain shortcomings in the DPRs were referred back for completion. The establishment and registration of new units of air polluting industries in Industrial Estate, Khrew were deferred because of the moratorium by Pollution Control Board," he said.

"Approximately Rs. 8,000 Cr and employment potential of 30000 persons in Kashmir are presently under the process of being approved. In the Union Territory of J&K, Projects worth Rs. 20000 Cr employing 64000 persons in J&K are in pipeline," he added.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said that Thakur highlighted that the process of land allotment has been streamlined and is made transparent in a committee based appraisal and allotment method. The applications are received round the clock on the Single Window Portal www.investj.in making it an ongoing process.

"The process of land allotment, for the first time adopted a strategy based on different parameters of the Project Report and presentations as envisaged in the Land Allotment Policy 2021-30," the official spokesperson said.

Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos, Director Industries and Commerce, Kashmir (Member Secretary, High Level Land Allotment Committee) presented the agenda for five cases before the Committee and expressed optimism that the decisions in the meeting usher in a new era of growth, industrialization and employment generation in J&K besides promoting a culture of

entrepreneurship.

The meeting was attended by Farooq Ah Shah, Secretary in Housing and Urban Department, Anoo Malhotra, Director, I&C Jammu, Parvaiz Ah Handoo, Director Planning, Forest Department, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Managing Director KPDCCL, Atul Sharma Managing Director, J&K SIDCO/ J&K SICOP, Fayaz Ah Fayaz, Joint Director, I&C Department, Syed Nadeem Representative from PCB and Mr. Shahid Kamili, President, FCIC Srinagar.

JKBOSE Suspends

School Zakura Srinagar; Tiny Hearts School Tengpora, Bye-Pass Srinagar; Green Valley Educational Institute, Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar; JK Public School Humhama Budgam and Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Raj Bagh Srinagar.

"Accordingly, all the concerned are directed not to entertain any affairs of the above Schools, till further instructions from this office," the Joint Secretary added.

15 Jumps In 30 Days

wanting to call it off since I too may have wanted not to be associated with such a place where suicides are a common occurrence."

The growing number of suicides lends an air of supernatural phenomena to the bridge as well.

Some locals believe that there is something bigger at work than just 'mere depression and desperation'.

"This cannot just be about an individual being desperate enough to end his/her life because of some personal issues," reckons Shabir Nazir, a local resident.

"I think some supernatural forces attract some unfortunate individuals to the bridge and coerce them into jumping off it and end their lives. It cannot be just a coincidence that people come from all over and choose this place to meet their ends. There are scores of other places all over the valley that can prove to be fatal if one chooses it to be so."

Shabir even suggests an exorcism to ward off the 'evil spirits' of the bridge.

However, not many are buying these arguments.

"The more likely reason is that the bridge is easily accessible to jump off," believes Muneeb Hussain, an engineering student, from Noorbagh.

"You can notice in the name of fencing that some pipes on either side of the bridge are barely two feet in height. An individual with suicidal tendencies can easily access it and jump over. It has more to do with the accessibility and psychological attraction it creates inside a disturbed mind than anything supernatural."

The easier solution would be to fence it off properly and not to be so accessible to anyone, Muneeb says.

"Most of the individuals who killed themselves on this bridge were living in the adjoining areas or living in rented accommodations in our locality. The bridge presented itself as a good opportunity to carry out such

an act."

In the face of these suicidal jumps, a unanimous agreement among the locals is that the district administration needs to take this situation seriously and fence off the bridge at the earliest.

"It has become a colossal nuisance for us," says Bashir Ahmad, a local cabdriver. "The sooner the administration takes note of it and builds a fence around it, the better."

Other bridges in the city, he adds, were potential suicide points, and fence construction was carried around them. "Why can't the same be done here? Why is it taking so long for the administration to wake up from their slumber? We've talked to the officials about this issue, and hopefully, a resolution will follow soon."

Sitting on the Jhelum banks and discussing the last month's shocking jumps from the Cement Bridge, Raja and Haleema are hoping that the "much-needed" bridge fencing would soon stall these life attempts.

"It's our collective call to stop these suicides as well as end this smear campaign created by those nonsensical reports calling Cement Bridge as a 'suicide point' in Kashmir," Raja says.

J&K Reports

said that Srinagar reported 96 cases, Baramulla 19, Budgam 20, Pulwama 16, Kupwara 19, Anantnag 19, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 21, Kulgam 16, Shopian 2, Jammu 14, Udhampur 4, Rajouri 12, Doda 42, Kathua 3, Samba 0, Kishtwar 14, Poonch 7, Ramban 4 and Reasi 0.

Moreover, they said, 497 more COVID-19 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours—177 from Jammu Division and 320 from Kashmir. So far 316629 patients have recovered, leaving active cases at 4048—1754 in Jammu and 2294 in Kashmir.

There was one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today and thus the cumulative number of confirmed cases rose to 30 in J&K.

Weather To Remain

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded maximum temperature of 28.8 degree Celsius against 29.6 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year, a meteorological department official said.

Jammu recorded maximum of 36.0 degree Celsius against 36.3 degree Celsius normal during time tome of the season, he said. Qazigund recorded 26.8 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 22.7 degrees Celsius and Kokernag 26.2 degrees Celsius, he said.

The border town Kupwara recorded maximum temperature of 28.7 degrees Celsius. World famous skiing and tourist resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the coldest place in Valley, recording maximum of 17.3 degrees Celsius, the official added. (GNS)

Electric Shock

referred him to Srinagar hospital for specialised treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident. (KDC)

Minor Muslim Girl Abducted By Hindu Man In Kathua Untraceable

Observer News Service

KATHUA: A 17-year-old girl has been abducted by a Hindu man while the girl is yet to be traced by the police.

The father of the girl Mohammad Afzal, a resident of Bilawar area of Kathua alleged that her daughter was abducted by a Hindu man Vijay Kumar and alleged that the police is yet to trace his daughter.

Demanding the whereabouts of his daughter, Afzal said the concerned SHO is speaking in support of the Hindu guy.

Divulging details, he said, "SHO on receiving the com-

plaint said that my daughter had issued a video in which she had said that she accepted Hinduism by her own choice and was in love with a Hindu Guy," her father claimed.

Her family filed a missing report with the concerned Police Station, however, there is no clue of the girl yet.

Afzal alleged that they approached the family to hand over their daughter but they did not respond.

He said that Vijay abducted her daughter three months ago also but was released three days later.

The concerned SSP and his office did not respond to repeated calls. (CNS)

Drowned Minor Girl's Body Retrieved After Four Days

Observer News Service

POONCH: Body of a nine-year-old girl, who drowned in a river in Bedar Mandi area in Poonch on Wednesday was extracted Saturday afternoon.

Officials said that the girl Aasiya Bano daughter of Mohammad Shareef was part of a group taking bath inside a river at her native village, when the incident occurred.

"A joint rescue operation was subsequently launched by SDRF, police assisted by locals soon after the incident and on sustained efforts for four consecutive days, the body was found and retrieved from the water body near Jalian this afternoon," said a police officer who was part of the rescue team.

He said that the body has been handed over to the family for last rites.

Minor Boy Drowns In Karnah

Observer News Service

KARNAH: A 15 Year old boy drowned to death in a stream in Karnah area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday.

He was identified as Tofeeq Ahmad, son of Mohammad Rafeeq, a resident of Parra who drowned in Qazina stream.

Although he was immediately retrieved from the stream and shifted to Sub District Hospital Tangdhar, Karnah, but the doctors at the hospital declared him brought dead.

A senior police official said that the body of the deceased was handed over to his legal heirs after fulfilment of medico-legal formalities.

Infants Body Retrieved From Stream In Achabal

Observer News Service

ACHABAL: In a shocking incident, an infant was found dead in a waterbody in Achabal area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, causing outrage among the residents.

An official said that the undraped baby was found in

stream Arpath near playground Saturday evening.

He said concerned police station has been informed about the body and a team of police has rushed to the spot.

Meanwhile, a video of the abandoned baby has gone viral on social media, causing outrage among the netizens.

DC Anantnag Appeals Youth To Avail Benefits Under 'Mumkin Scheme'

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Level Implementation Committee Saturday approved eleven (11) cases for disbursement of loan to beneficiaries under Customised Livelihood Generation, Mumkin Scheme, here.

Highlighting the importance of the scheme, the Chairman DLIC said that 'MUMKIN' scheme is a livelihood generation scheme launched by the

Government through which aspiring eligible unemployed youth can avail benefits to purchase light commercial vehicles to earn livelihood under subsidized norms

Dr. Singla impressed upon AD Employment to bring more progressive youth under the ambit of the scheme by generating awareness among them. He also appealed to eligible youth to come forward and avail livelihood benefits under the scheme.



A HERD OF SHEEP GRAZING in the meadows of Tosa Maidan in central Kashmir's Budgam district. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Adopt Compact Plantation Of Aloe Vera: Choudhary To Officers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Saturday reviewed district wise progress in respect of plantation being conducted under various schemes of the department in Jammu.

He was speaking during a meeting convened of Chief Horticulture Officers of Jammu province to review departmental development activities being carried out in their respective jurisdictions besides taking stock of plantation drives.

He asked the officers for adopting compact plantation of Aloe vera in Kandi belts of Samba and Kathua covering an area of 100 hectare in each district. He said that one Aloe vera processing unit will be established there for processing of Aloe vera so produced thereby benefitting the farming community of the districts. He also directed for establishing one Olive oil extraction plant at Ramban for production of olive oil and emphasized that apart from increasing production focus should be laid on branding and packaging of the farmers produce.



He exhorted the officers to select areas for plantation of different crops in clusters and concentrate on area specific crops so that the production of fruit crops may be commercially exploited. He asked the concerned for establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations of those fruit crops. We should focus on the introduction of plantations of exotic varieties and make year 2021-22 as the golden year in the history of Horticulture.

Principal Secretary said that the department would be celebrating Horticulture week with effect from 14th to 20th July followed by massive plantation drive. He asked the officers to ensure that 6 lakh fruit plants shall be planted during

the ensuing rainy season. He also asked to prepare a Detailed Project Report for development of Chakroi Farm, R.S. Pura, on modern lines so that funds shall be released immediately for its development.

He directed the officers to encourage private entrepreneurs for development of High Density fruit plant nurseries according to the Nursery Development Scheme of the department. He asked the Chief Horticulture Officers and Chief Agriculture Officers to conduct regular meetings on monthly basis and chalk out plans for betterment of farming community. He also asked for intercropping with legumes, vegetables and medicinal plants in the vacant spaces of orchards.

Div Com Stresses On Speedy Completion Of Religious Structure Works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday stressed for speedy completion of religious structure works in Srinagar and other important religious places in Kashmir.

Div Com said that while chairing a meeting to review progress of work execution.

At the outset, Div Com reviewed the progress of works including Reconstruction and repair, beautification and renovation, extension of Noorkhana at Dastageer sahab shrine, repairing work of Naqshband



Sahab shrine, integrated development project of Dargah Hazratbal shrine and completion of Khankah-e Faizpanah at Char-i-Sharief.

The Div Com said that all religious structure related works being executed by including JKPC, Tourism, Archives, Ar-

chaeology and Museums, Srinagar Smart City Limited under various schemes be expedited and completed on time.

He emphasized on putting fool-proof accident prevention measures while carrying out works at the religious places to avoid occurrence of any accident.

Div Com instructed for carrying out anti-termite treatment at all wooden structures besides calling for speedy completion of all works including, wuzu khannas, drainage, flooring and rooftop renovations, retaining walls, retro fitting at all identified places.

Darbar Move Decision Will Impact Businesses In Jammu: Muslim Front

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu Muslim Front Saturday termed the cancellation of darbar move as a hasty step which has left several unanswered questions.

Shuja Zaffar Chairman of the front, questioned asked: "Why such an order was issued when delimitation is in progress and the election is round the corner? Why wasn't this decision left to the popular government?"

He claimed that doing away with darbar move practice will affect the business of Jammu

and widen the gap between the people of Union Territory. He added that the order has killed the spirit and purpose behind it.

"Such order will force the closure of small business houses whose main customers are Kashmiri" Shuja Zaffar said.

Zaffar appealed LG Manoj Sinha to revisit the order so that the bond to strengthen can be improved.

"The order may save 200 crore but the kind of wedge it will create won't be beneficial for the people of state. They will lose business contact which is the life line of a healthy society" Shuja Zaffar said.

MC Sopore Elects New Chairperson

Observer News Service

SOPORE: National Conference Councillor Masrat Kar was elected as chairperson of the Municipal Council Sopore on Saturday by a margin of 6 votes against her rival of People's Democratic Party councillor, Irfan Ali.

Out of the total 18 votes, Kar secured 12 while Ali got 6 votes.

Kar while thanking the councillors for electing her, said that she will work for the development and betterment of Sopore town.

It is pertinent to mention that the post of chairperson MC council Sopore fell vacant after majority of the councillors moved a no-confidence motion against former chairperson, Abdul Ahad Dar in January this year.

JKSSB Approves Final Selection List Of 1889 Accounts Assistants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in its 184th Board meeting approved the final selection list and allocation of districts in favour of eligible candidates for the 1889 posts of Accounts Assistant (Panchayat) in the department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Khalid Jahangir, Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

The OMR based objective type written test for these posts was

conducted across all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir on 10.11.2020 and the Board declared the result on 25.12.2020 on the performance of candidates in the OMR based objective type written test.

This was the first major recruitment after the constitutional changes of August, 2019 under the new legal framework which envisages that any domicile of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir subject to fulfillment of other conditions, is eligible to apply for any posts, advertised for selection by JKSSB including the district cadre posts.

Ensure Tendering Of B2V3 Pending Works At The Earliest: DDC Gbl

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna Saturday directed the officers of line departments that works proposed for replacement that are authorised under B2V3 program shall be tendered at an earliest.

The DDC passed these directions during a meeting of line departments to review the progress on works approved under Back to Village-3 (B2V3) program in the district.

At the outset, the DDC sought details from all departments about the works approved under B2V3 program and it was informed that 2 works from each Panchayat of the district are authorized and a total of 253 works stand authorized at the cost of Rs 1234.50 lakh out of which 203

works are tendered besides 24 works stand completed.

During the meeting, CPO informed that 31 works authorized under B2V3 are not tendered for various reasons and out of which 23 works needed replacement which are identified.

Threadbare discussion was held on the tendering process, feasibility of works, estimate cost and other issues that are hampering the progress of works authorized under B2V3.

The DDC reiterated that district administration is committed to provide all basic amenities at the door steps of the people especially living in far-flung areas and exhorted upon all the line departments that all such works shall be taken in mission mode so that targets are achieved well in time.

Dir RDD Asks Officers To Ensure MGNREGA Payments On Time

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Rural Development, Kashmir, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Saturday had a detailed review of different flagship programmes including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, Rural Mason Training Programme under PMAY-G,

Physical and financial progress under 14th FC besides the status of RDA cases, ACB complaints and online grievances.

Director asked the officers to ensure release of wage payment under MGNREGA within fixed time line besides taking up of new works so as to provide suc-

cor to the rural labourers during COVID-19 pandemic. He also stressed upon the officers to ensure coordination with PRI members to achieve the development targets besides dissemination of awareness related to adherence to SOPs like hand hygiene, social distancing, wearing of masks.

It was informed that 6400 works have been taken up under MGNREGA against the target of 70003 works for the current financial year 2021-22 thereby creating 10.46 lakh person days. Under RGSA, 86 Panchayats have been taken up for construction, of which, 10 have been completed, so far.

Department Of Urban Local Bodies Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pahalgam Public Notice

Corona virus disease (COVID-19), is an infectious disease which has severely ravaged health systems and economic and social progress globally. Amid COVID pandemic, Pahalgam is witnessing high footfalls and large gatherings of picnickers/tourists without observance of COVID-19 appropriate behavior. The Picnickers present close contact settings with risk of air borne disease transmission including COVID-19, besides posing a plausible danger to fragile eco- system of the place by way of pitching tents at public places, parks, and open spaces in an unregulated manner. As such the District Administration Anantnag has barred day picnickers from visiting Pahalgam on Saturdays and Sundays in a bid to prevent a possible COVID-19 resurgence. **Only such persons/tourists shall be allowed to proceed who possess a proof of confirmed bookings in the hotels of Pahalgam on said days.** In this connection Municipal Committee Pahalgam has strictly enforced the orders of district administration and it is notified for the information of general public that:-

"No person will be allowed to enter in to any park without mask. Municipal Committee Pahalgam has constituted separate teams to strictly enforce covid appropriate behavior especially at public places, parks, open spaces, hotel areas etc. A fine of Rs. 1000/= will be collected from the locals/ tourists/hotel staff, if found roaming without masks at Pahalgam".

NO: MC/Pgm/2021/1324-33
Dated: 02-07-21

DIPK-NB-1546/21

Executive Officer Municipal
Committee Pahalgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT) PHE GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR.
Baghi-Ali- Mardan Nowshera Srinagar.

CORRIGENDUM

Kindly read Mechanical/Electrical license Holder instead of Mechanical & Electrical license Holder in NIT 17 of 06/2021 issued vide endorsement 1087-94, dated: 30-06-2021.

Note:-

1. All other term and conditions shall remain same as laid down in Master NIT issued vide above referred NIT No's.

Executive Engineer
(JAL SHAKTI Department)
PHE Ground Water Div. Sgr.

No: PHE/GWD/1160-65.
Dated:02-07-2021.

DIPK-4062/21

BCCI Announces 2021-22 Domestic Schedule, Ranji Trophy To Start From Nov 16



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI will conduct all its domestic tournaments across age-groups with the coveted Ranji Trophy, starting on November 16, being the marquee event among the 2,127 matches scheduled for 2021-22 season.

Last season, the BCCI couldn't conduct any age-group tournament and was forced to cancel the Ranji Trophy due to Covid-19 pandemic.

However, a full-fledged domestic season will take place this year with the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 to begin from October 20 and the National One-Day Championship for the Vijay Hazare Trophy being scheduled from February 23 next year.

"The season will commence on September 21, 2021, with the Senior Women's One Day League and will be followed by the Senior Women's One Day Challenger Trophy, which will take place from October 27, 2021," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

The final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be played on November 12 this year.

The coveted Ranji Trophy will be played in a three-month window from November 16, 2021, to February 19, 2022.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy final will take place on March 26, 2022.

"The BCCI is confident of hosting the domestic season with health and safety of players and all people involved being paramount," the statement further read.

The Ranji Trophy will be played with two Elite groups comprising nine teams each and the C group and Plate (North East Teams mainly) will have 10 teams each.

It is expected that the top five teams as per points from the Elite groups will make it to the quarter-finals while two from group C and topper of Plate group completing the last eight line-up.

In case of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the groupings will remain same while Mushtaq Ali T20 will have five groups with two groups of seven teams and three groups of eight teams each respectively.

The BCCI will conduct Vinoo Mankad Trophy (National U-19 One Day) and U-19 Challengers Trophy in between September to November in order to select the white-ball probables for next year's ICC U-19 World Cup.

The three-day Cooch Behar Trophy will start only after the two

tournaments are over.

"The core probables for India U-19s will be selected from Vinoo Mankad and subsequently from the Challengers Trophy. If there are any exceptional performers in Cooch Behar, they will be added later on," a BCCI source said.

The women's U-19 and boys' U-16 tournament (Vijay Merchant Trophy) will also be held this year along with the U-23 age group tournament.

No Irani Cup, Duleep or Deodhar Trophy

While a whopping 2,127 domestic games are being held, just like the 2019-20 edition, there will be no Irani Cup, Duleep Trophy (inter-zonal first-class) or the Deodhar Trophy (rechristened in Challenger Format) during this edition also.

It is understood that the Irani Cup and the Duleep Trophy, which used to be selection audition for men's national team, have lost their relevance and hence these have been shelved for the time being.

There is also a proposal to increase the match fees of domestic cricketers but the quantum hasn't yet been decided. As of now, they get Rs 1.4 lakh per first-class game and Rs 35,000 for List A and T20 games. This is for the first-team players while reserves get half the amount. It is learnt that per day match fees could be hiked anything between Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 but the proposal would need BCCI general body's sanction.

The following are the dates:

Senior (Men):
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Oct 20, 2020-Nov 12, 2021
Ranji Trophy: Nov 16, 2021-Feb 19, 2022
V
Vijay Hazare One-Day: Feb 23, 2022-Mar 26, 2022

U-23:
CK Nayudu Trophy (multi-day): Nov 18, 2021-Feb 12, 2022
State A team One-Day: Feb 23, 2022-Mar 26, 2022

U-19:
Vinoo Mankad Trophy (One-Day): Sep 28, 2021-Oct 29, 2021
Challenger Trophy (One-Day): Nov 3, 2021-Nov 11, 2021
Cooch Behar Trophy (multi-day): Nov 14, 2021-Feb 7, 2022

U-16:
Vijay Merchant Trophy (multi-day): Oct 1, 2021-Dec 6, 2021

Football League & Academy For Kids Launched In Downtown



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC, an I-League aspiring football club from Srinagar's Old City area, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Saturday launched its Under-12, Under-14 and Under-16 age group based football academy and League at Islamia College Ground, Srinagar.

Formed in 2019, the Heroes in a press release said the initiation of the Academy for grassroots football was with the aim of "reviving football legacy of Old City".

"The teams and academy were inaugurated by Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul at Islamia College Ground Hawal which is in the heart of the old city of Srinagar. Among others present on the occasion were President J&K Football Association, Zamir Thakur, DFA President, Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, J&K Bank Head Coach, Hilal Ahmad," the release said.

The League for kids will continue

for a month and will be played at the Islamia College Ground in Hawal, Srinagar. While the Academy will also continue its operations at the same ground.

"In Kashmir, Old City of Srinagar is known for producing top class footballers who went on to represent J&K at National and International level. Old City was known as hub of the football in Kashmir but in recent past has lost its touch with the most followed sport in Kashmir," the release added.

Speaking at the event, JKSC Secretary Ms Nuzhat Gul said that Downtown was known for stone-pelting but now its buzzing with footballers. She further told a news gathering agency that kids were bored at their homes for two years because of COVID-19 restrictions and the resumption of football and other sports activities have given the kids something to cheer about.

She further added that around 3000 games will be played in J&K this year and that about 1.50 lakh

youth and children will be involved.

Meanwhile, Downtown Heroes Football Club's Chairman, Irfan Shahmiri in a statement said:

"Today's event is a step forward in making our dream come true. The goal is to develop a football academy which will nurture talents of youth at different age levels with a top professional level team. There is evidence that such sports activities translate to improvement in academics as well. Its also a great way channelling energy of the youth and keeping them away from social evils like drugs which have unfortunately growing rapidly in Srinagar."

"We want football to be again popular in the old city again. We have developed a robust framework to produce not only star footballers but star individuals. This academy would be open for all old city players," Shahmiri added.

Sports promoter Gulzar Khan was also presented an award of appreciation on the occasion.

PED, DYSS, Indian Army Organise Road Race At Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Zonal Physical Education Department in collaboration with the local unit of Indian Army on Saturday organised a road race at Bandipora.

The race was flagged off by the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ghulam Qadir Bhat. The race started from Ta-kiya Ahmad Shah and culminated at Play Ground near Gund-i-Qisar Bridge. Zonal Physical Education Officer Ms Saffora was also present on the occasion.

Students from different educational institutions of block Bandipora participated in the race. As many as 200 Under-14 and Under-17 age group students including boys and girls participated in the event which started early in the morning. Teaching staff, PETs, Rehbar-e-Khel and volunteers also participated in the event.

Among the U-17 group Aamir Ahmad Malik and Mehnaza Bano bagged the first position while Mohammad Ramzan Malla and Taiba Rehman bagged the first position for U-14 group.

Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO congratulated the students for taking part in the race and urged Zonal Heads to continue sports activities while taking all the precautions amid COVID-19 pandemic.

He stressed on the students to take active part in sports activities to remain physically and mentally fit. He also assured full support to the students from the department in developing the sports infrastructure.

Major R Jamwal was among others who participated in the event. On the occasion, participants were presented with mementos and medals.

Italy And Spain To Meet Again At A European Championship

Agencies

LONDON: Italy and Spain are going to meet at the European Championship for the fourth tournament in a row, and this time a place in the final will be on the line.

The match is scheduled for Tuesday at Wembley Stadium in London.

FORM

The first Euro 2020 semifinal matchup was determined Friday after Italy beat top-ranked Belgium 2-1 in Munich and Spain defeated Switzerland in a penalty shootout in St. Petersburg.

Italy is Europe's hottest team, extending its unbeaten run to 32 matches and its winning streak to 13 with Friday's result. By contrast, Spain is on a 12-match unbeaten run and drew its opening two group matches.

GOAL THREAT

The match will be a face-off between the tournament's top-scoring teams, as it stands. Spain has found the net 12 times after opening with a scoreless draw against Sweden, while Italy has 11 goals.

The goals have been shared throughout the teams with neither having a player who has scored more than two. Ciro Immobile, Matteo Pessina, Manuel Locatelli and Lorenzo Insigne have two each for Italy, and Pablo Sarabia, Ferran Torres and Alvaro Morata have the same amount for Spain.

HISTORY

Their most recent meetings came in qualifying for the 2018



World Cup. Italy's loss and draw against Spain contributed to the team failing to qualify for the tournament for only the second time.

The last time either team reached a major tournament final was in 2012, when Spain beat Italy 4-0 to defend its European title. Only two players from that match are in the lineups at Euro 2020. Spain still has midfielder Sergio Busquets, while Italy has veteran defenders Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini.

Italy prevented Spain from winning a third consecutive European Championship by beating the defending champions 2-0 in the round of 16 at Euro 2016.

The Spanish beat Italy on pen-

alties in the Euro 2008 quarterfinals before ending their 44-year trophy drought.

COACHES

Spain coach Luis Enrique was playing for his country at the 1994 World Cup when his nose was broken in the quarterfinals by Italy defender Mauro Tassotti.

Italy went on to reach the final that year, losing to Brazil on penalties.

Italy coach Roberto Mancini wasn't part of his country's squad at the 1994 World Cup because he opted out of international duty after not being sure of playing time. His return to the Italian national team only came in 2018, when he was hired as coach.

Brazil Survive Late Chile Onslaught To Reach Copa Semi

Agencies

RIO DE JANEIRO: Defending Copa America champions Brazil defended strongly with 10 men to advance to the semifinals with a 1-0 win against Chile.

Substitute Lucas Paquet scored the only goal of the match only seconds before Gabriel Jesus was sent off early in the second half.

Paquet's winner to the left corner of Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo in the 46th minute gave Brazil fans some hope that the Selecao would ease into the next stage. But only two minutes later Jesus was sent off after hitting Chile's Eugenio Mena with a flying kick.

Neymar and Brazil coach Tite said after the match that Jesus didn't see Mena and accidentally kicked him as he tried to recover possession in the midfield.

Brazil worked so hard defensively that Chile had fewer shots on goal after Jesus was sent off than during the time he played; two against three.

Defending well is a characteristic of ours, Brazil's Thiago Silva said.

Regardless of what we did today we concede few goals. Ever down to 10 we created clear opportunities. I am very proud of this team, for its fighting spirit.

Paquet came onto the pitch after a tense first half with few opportunities for both sides. He replaced Roberto Firmino.

Brazil didn't stop threatening Chile with Neymar's dribbles and quick counter-attacks. But Chile was much closer to the equalizer; it had an Eduardo Vargas goal disallowed for offside and English-Chilean Ben Brereton hit the bar with a header in the 68th minute.

An exhausted Neymar said after the match that playing with 10 men

was a great test for Brazil. He was not close to scoring as in other Copa America matches, but he was key by holding possession.

"Every match we need to get some tests to make us stronger, show we can do it in every circumstance," Neymar said.

We had to stand together. It was very hard to do it.

Chile's Arturo Vidal said his team will leave the tournament with some pride. We lost to a great team, a favorite which is playing at home, he said.

If we play like we played today, with some more time to work, this team will clearly have its intensity back. We hope to qualify to the World Cup. It will be hard, but we can.

Peru advanced to the semifinal after beating Paraguay on penalties 4-3 after a 3-3 score in regular time, in the most thrilling Copa America match yet.

Brazil and Peru played the latest Copa America final in 2019, with the hosts winning 3-1. Jesus was also sent off in that match at Rio's Maracana Stadium. Monday's encounter will be at the same Nilton Santos Stadium where Brazil beat Chile.

Brazil coach Tite, who was recently fined by South American soccer body CONMEBOL for criticizing the tournament's organization, once more criticized the quality of the Nilton Santos pitch, despite minor improvements made recently.

If I were watching from home I would say this could have been a good match, and look what it is... Ederson had difficulties to take goal kicks," Tite said. Please, be responsible. I recognize people are trying to improve the pitch, but find a better pitch for us to play.

The Copa America final will be played at the Maracana Stadium on July 10.

Two West Indies Women Cricketers Collapse On Field In T20 Match

Press Trust of India

ANTIGUA: Two West Indies women cricketers—Chinelle Henry and Chedean Nation—collapsed briefly on the field in two separate incidents during the second T20 International against Pakistan here and taken to hospital where they were "stable", according to reports.

Both the incidents happened during Pakistan's run chase, which also saw rain interruptions on Friday.

"(Seam bowler) Chinelle Henry and (batter) Chedean Nation were taken to hospital for medical attention. Both Henry and Nation are conscious and stable at hospital and are being assessed," CWI said in a statement.

West Indies brought on two substitutes and the game continued, with the home side eventually declared winners by seven runs on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern after another interruption.

"It isn't very easy in those conditions and situations. I'm just happy that the team was able to go over the line for those two ladies who weren't with us, and we're just waiting on all the information that we can get," West Indies head coach Courtney Walsh was quoted as saying by the ESPNcricinfo.

"They have our full support and we'll be riding with them as well."

Pakistan captain Javeria Khan wished the West Indies pair a quick recovery.

"The thoughts and prayers of the whole Pakistan team are with Chinelle Henry and Chedean Nation," she said in a statement.

"We wish them a quick recovery and are hopeful that we will play against them in our next match on Sunday.

"Such incidents are tragic and can shake whole dressing rooms. Hats off to the West Indies that they turned up and completed the match despite the grave incident."

Disgraced England Pacer Ollie Robinson Cleared To Return To Cricket, Available For India Test Series



Press Trust of India

LONDON: England pacer Ollie Robinson was on Saturday cleared to play cricket again immediately after being deemed to have served his suspension following an investigation into his discriminatory tweets, thus making him eligible for selection for the five-Test series against India.

The 27-year-old has also been fined GBP 3,200 by the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC), an independent panel, that conducted a hearing on June 30.

Robinson had previously admitted breaching ECB Directives 3.3 and 3.4 in relation to a number of offensive tweets which were posted between 2012 and 2014, when he was aged between 18 and 20," the ECB said in a statement.

"Following a hearing on 30 June, the Panel decided that Robinson should be suspended from playing cricket for eight matches, five of which will be suspended for two years."

Robinson, who made his England debut in the first Test against New Zealand last month, was suspended from international cricket pending an investigation after his tweets, that were racist and sexist in nature, posted when he was a teenager, resurfaced on the opening day of the match at Lord's in London.

After being suspended, Robinson had announced he would be taking a short break from playing for his county side Sussex as well.

The panel has taken into account Robinson's suspension from

the England team and two Vitality Blast matches.

"As regards the three matches which are the subject of immediate suspension, the Panel has taken into account the suspension imposed by the England Team from the second LV= Insurance Men's Test against New Zealand, together with two of the Vitality Blast T20 matches from which Robinson voluntarily withdrew himself from selection for Sussex CCC due to the impact of these proceedings.

"Robinson is therefore free to play cricket immediately," it added.

The Panel was chaired by Mark Milliken-Smith QC. The other two members were Claire Taylor and Anurag Singh.

"I fully accept the CDC's decision. As I have said previously, I am incredibly embarrassed and ashamed about the tweets I posted many years ago and apologise unreservedly for their contents," Robinson said.

"I am deeply sorry for the hurt I caused to anyone who read those tweets and in particular to those people to whom the messages caused offence. This has been the most difficult time in my professional career for both my family and myself.

"Whilst I want to move on, I do want to use my experience to help others in the future through working with the PCA," he added.

The development means Robinson will be available for selection for the five-match Test series against India, starting August 4.

Tokyo Olympics: 1st Batch Of Indian Athletes To Leave On July 14

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Rajeev Mehta on Saturday said first batch of the country's Tokyo-bound Olympic athletes will leave by an Air India chartered flight on July 14.

Mehta further informed that the rest of the contingent will travel between July 16 and 19.

Upon reaching Tokyo, all athletes and officials will have to serve three days of quarantine. "We will have three days of quarantine. The day of arrival is termed as the zero day. After quarantine, we can move around," the IOA official said at an event organised by the YOUTH-THINK Foundation and Sunshine Senior Secondary School here to felicitate some of the Indian athletes, who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

"The first batch of the Indian contingent, comprising athletes and officials, for the Olympics will leave in an Air India chartered flight on July 14. The rest

of the officials will travel between July 16 and 19," Mehta was quoted as saying in a press release. The Tokyo Olympics will be held from July 23 to August 8.

Mehta conceded that the COVID-19 pandemic has to some extent affected Indian athletes' preparation for the Games.

"...(but) Team India is all set for the Games, with 115 athletes achieving qualification so far in 18 sports, including a historical first in fencing," he said.

Tamil Nadu's C A Bhavani Devi has become the first-ever fencer from India to seal a spot in the Olympics. Table tennis player G Sathiyan, who has qualified for his maiden Olympics, said that it would be challenging to play in the absence of fans but their support from home would still help them to stay motivated.

During the event, Bhavani Devi said being a woman she faced a lot of challenges to achieve success in her sport.

The event was also attended by ace paddler A Sharath Kamal and sprinter Dutee Chand.