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P3 CITY

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FOR FAMILY OF FIVE AS HOUSEBOAT SINKS

A family of five had a miraculous escape during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday after their houseboat sank into river Jhelum in Srinagar.



The measures taken by the governments across the world, to tackle the spread of Covid infection, has once again renewed the old debate- whether the public should be allowed to choose for themselves or should the expert opinion prevail? In a democracy,



P7 STATE

CUK'S CONTRACTUAL STAFF
'TERMINATED' WITHOUT ANY REASON

The contractual staffers of the Central University of Kashmir (CuK) Friday alleged that the varsity has terminated their services without any specific



Quote!

If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.

—Maria Edgeworth

NEWS **DIGEST**

Train Crushes Elderly Man To Death

SRINAGAR: An elderly man died on Friday after being mowed down by a train in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.
63-year-old Ghulam Nabi Chopan, son of Abdul Aziz a retired government employee of Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department died after run over by a train in Nessu Badragund village of Qazigund on Friday morning, reports said.
His body was later ● More On P2

Search Operation Launched In Budgam

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Beerwah village in central Kashmir's Budgam district. According to reports, police, army's 53 RR and the personnel from CRPF 78 battalion laid a siege around new Colony Kanigund village of Budgam on Friday evening and launched a search operation. The joint team, reports said, sealed all entry and exit points leading towards the village before conducting house to house ● More On P2

Leopard Caught From School Building

SRINAGAR: A team of Wildlife department officials assisted by locals captured a leopard in Punzwa Villgam village in Handwara on Friday. The leopard had taken shelter in a school building in the vicinity two days before, reports said. Wildlife department was informed accordingly, however a team arriving at the scene was successful in catching the beast on Friday afternoon. A wildlife official said ● More On P2

Woman Found Dead In Orchard

SRINAGAR: The body of a 45-year-old woman was found in an orchard in Gutiyar area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday.

Official sources said that the body of Fareeda Begum, wife of Gulzar Ahmad Mir of Gutiyar, was found in the orchard on Friday morning. They said that she had gone missing yesterday after going to her orchard in Gutiyar, following More On P2

Police Nabs 3 Gamblers In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in Baramulla district of north Kashmir. According to a police spokesperson, acting on an input, a police team raided a village Zeeran in Tangmarg and arrested three gamblers from the spot. He identified the trio as Ab Razak Gojri of Kunzer, Bashir Ahmad Dar of Chandoosa and Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh ● More On P2

SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS

Rescue Ops Resume In Kishtwar



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The rescue operation to locate 20 people missing after a cloudburst in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar resumed Friday after remaining suspended for hours together owing to inclement weather, officials said.

Seven persons were found

dead and 17 others were rescued in an injured condition after the remote Honzar village in Dacchan tehsil was hit by flash floods triggered by the cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday, damaging 21 houses, 21 cow sheds, a ration depot, a

bridge and a mosque.

The rescue operation was interrupted by heavy rains late Thursday night and resumed around noon after slight improvement in the weather conditions, the officials said.

The search and rescue operation gained

momentum on Thursday after the Indian Air Force (IAF) pressed three helicopters from Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur and made eight sorties, transferring relief load of 2250 kgs, 44 NDRF and SRDF personnel and four medical assistants besides evacuating two critically injured persons from Soundar to Kishtwar for specialised treatment.

An official of the disaster management said no helicopter sorties from Kishtwar to Soundar could mature since 6 am on Friday due to inclement weather.

The IAF had stationed an MI-17 helicopter in standby mode at Kishtwar since Thursday, he said.

Six teams of the State
Disaster Response Force
(SDRF) and National
Disaster Response Force
(NDRF) with sophisticated
equipment are involved in
the operation along with
other rescuers • More On P2

J&K's Forest Cover Higher Than National Average: LG '1 Million Species May Vanish If We Fail To Restore Ecology In Next 10 Years'



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir government is striving hard to maintain balance between development and environment conservation, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his aim is to bring two-third geographical area of the Union Territory under forcest and tree geographic

forest and tree cover "Our aim is to bring two-third geographical area of J&K under the forest and tree cover. The forest and tree cover in Jammu and Kashmir is about 55%, which is substantially higher than the national average of 24.56%," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson

He made these remarks during the launched of "Green J&K Drive-2021" from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu on

on Thursday.

Thursday. He also planted a 'cupressus' sapling in the IIT Campus to mark the launch of this mega plantation drive.

During this year, as many

as 1.30 crore saplings are proposed to be planted across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Green I&K Drive

The Green J&K Drive initiative is in consonance with the National Forest Policy, 1988 & the JK Forest Policy, 2011 • More On P2

Directs Speeding Up Work On Major Road Projects

ieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha took a comprehensive review of the status of various projects being executed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), in the Union Territory and directs for time bound removal of bottlenecks, expediting pace of works and synergizing inter agency coordination to achieve More On P2

'Govt Creating State Of Art Sports Facilities'

he Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his government is creating state-of-the-art sports facilities, taking sports to Panchayat level for budding sportspersons of the Union Territory. Sinha made these remarks after einaugurating and laying e-foundation of sports infrastructure • More On P2

Pak Rejects India's Comments On PcK Polls

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday summoned a top diplomat of the Indian High Commission here to convey its "rejection" of India's comments on the recently concluded elections in Pakistancontrolled Kashmir (PcK).

The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey Pakistan's complete rejection of India's protest and to reiterate Pakistan's clear and consistent position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Foreign Office said here in a statement.

India on Thursday rejected the July 25 elections in PcK which were won by ● More On P2

4 CRPF Men Injured In Baramulla Attack

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: At least four Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and a civilian were injured on Friday in a grenade attack by militants in Baramulla town of north Kashmir.

According to reports, pan-

ic gripped Khanpora area of the main town on Friday afternoon when unknown militants lobbed a grenade towards a CRPF party near bridge that exploded with a bang. The grenade attack, reports said, left four paramilitary personnel and a civilian injured.



All the injured were removed to the nearby hospital for treatment.

The injured CRPF personnel have been identified as ASI Kisku and Constables Dayananad Kumar, • More On P2

J&K Sees 137 Cases, One Corona Death

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 137 fresh COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking its infection tally to 3,21,344, while the death toll rose to 4,378 as one fatality was reported in a span of 24 hours, officials said.

Fifty-eight cases were reported from Jammu division and 79 from Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar recorded the highest number of 26 new cases, followed by Baramulla district with 15.

The number of active cases now stands at 1,171 in the union territory, while 3,15,795 patients have recovered from the disease so far, they said. • More On P2

J&K HC To Resume Physical Hearing From Aug 2

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday issued an order for resumption of physical hearing of court cases in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh from August 2.

According to an order issued by Register General, Jawad Ahmed, the litigants shall be allowed entry into the Court premises with effect from August 2, to enable them to meet their counsel in their chambers. However, their entry into the Court Buildings shall continue to be prohibited till further orders.

"The Chief Justice has been pleased to order • More On P2

ED Arrests Ambience Mall Owner In 800 Cr Bank Fraud Case

Gehlot Had Diverted Rs 35 Crore In Connivance With J&K Bank Officials Through Fictitious Firms

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Raj Singh Gehlot, the owner of Ambience Mall, almost four months after the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a charge sheeted against him and two former managers of J&K Bank and others in the whopping Rs 270 crore Bank loan fraud case.

Gehlot, promoter of the Ambience group, was arrested in a money-laundering case



linked to an alleged bank loan fraud of Rs 800 crore, officials said. He was produced before a court in New Delhi on Thursday that sent him to Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody till August 5, they said. The central probe agency had raided Gehlot, his company Aman Hospitality Private Limited (AHPL), some other firms of the Ambience group, director in the company Dayanand Singh, Mohan Singh • More On P2

LAC STALEMATE

India, China To Hold Fresh Round Of Military Talks Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The 12th round of high-level military talks between India and China will take place on Saturday with a focus on achieving some forward movement in the disengagement in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, sources in the military establishment said.

The fresh round of Corps Commander talks are scheduled to start at 10:30 AM at Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, they added.

The main focus of the talks will be on addressing outstanding

problems in Hot Springs and Gogra, the sources said.

The latest round of talks will take place after a gap of more than three and a half months. The 11th round of talks had taken place on April 9 at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the LAC.

India and China have been locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year.

The two sides completed the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

There was no

More On P2

Govt Directs Sarpanchs To Unfurl Tricolor On Aug 15

75 Roads, Schools To Be Named After Distinguished Citizens Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday directed unfurling of tricolor at all district, sub district, tehsil head-quarters and panchayats by the Panchayati Raj Institutions during the upcoming August 15 celebrations in the Union Territory.

Chairing a meeting to take stock of preparations for the celebration of 75th Independence Day with the theme 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar

Mehta on Friday asked the concerned officers to undertake all necessary preparations for the ensuing August 15 celebrations at both the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu and directed unfurling of the National Flag at all District, Sub District, Tehsil Headquarters and Panchayats by the PRI representatives, an official spokesperson said.

Mehta he said impressed upon

official spokesperson said.
Mehta, he said, impressed upon district administrations to acknowledge contributions of citizens towards nation-building and enlist individuals with exemplary achievements in this regard.

"As a mark of respect and appreciation to civilians with distinguished • More On P2

Govt Orders DC's To Visit Far-Flung Areas Twice Every Week

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday asked all deputy commissioners to undertake tours or field visits necessarily on every Wednesday and Saturday of a week to far-flung areas in their respective districts.

"Instructions have been issued from time to time impressing upon, among others, the Deputy Commissioners to undertake extensive tours within their districts particularly the far flung, remote and difficult areas. Besides bringing administration to door steps, such tours help in on spot resolution of many issues," reads an order by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi

(IAS), Commissioner Secretary to the Government.

"Accordingly, all concerned are enjoined upon to ensue implementation of these instructions in true letter and spirit," the order reads, adding, "The Deputy Commissioners shall ensure undertaking tours/ field visits necessarily on every Wednesday and Saturday of a week and interact with the general public for resolution of general public for resolution of their issues during these tours."

their issues during these tours."
The Deputy Commissioners have been asked to submit copies of their tour notes to the General Administration Department on quarterly basis. "Further, the Administrative Secretaries and • More On P2

Security Agencies On Toes After Drone Sightings Near IB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out searches in Pargwal area near the International Border (IB) here after local residents allegedly spotted a flying object believed to be a drone, officials said on Friday.

The operation was launched in several villages of Pargwal late Thursday eve-

ning, shortly after a local resident noticed a blinking light in the sky at around 8.30 pm and alerted fellow villagers, they said. However, the search operation was suspended late night and resumed at around 5 am this morning. However, nothing objectionable was recovered during the operation.

Three suspected Pakistani drones were also sighted simultaneously over Bari-Brahmana, Chiladya and Gagwal areas in Samba district around the same time on Thursday.

A massive combing operation was carried out in the areas where the movement of the suspected drones was picked up throughout the night and in the morning. However, nothing was found on the ground, a police official said.

Personnel of the Border

Security Force (BSF) fired a couple of rounds towards one of the drones in Chiladya before it returned to the Pakistani side, officials said. The other two drones dis-

Pakistani side, officials said.
The other two drones disappeared from the sky shortly after hovering over sensitive

Ozone Becoming More Widespread In Delhi-NCR Across All Seasons: Study

Press trust of India

New Delhi: Ozone, a highly reactive gas and dangerous for those suffering from respiratory conditions and asthma, is becoming more widespread in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) across all seasons, according to a new analysis by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released on Friday.

The analysis said that contrary to the notion that ozone, produced

photochemically from interaction between gases in the presence of sunlight, is predominantly a summer phenomenon, the gas has emerged as an equally strong concern during winter as well.

"Ozone is now a round-theyear problem requiring urgent attention of clean air programmes," said CSE executive director Anumita Roychowdhury.

The risk from it is often not well understood, as the current regulatory practice of spatially

averaging the data from all monitoring stations blunts the curve, and underestimates the magnitude of threat from the worst affected locations and also during different seasons.

"As ozone is a highly reactive gas and even short-term exposure can aggravate respiratory conditions leading to emergency hospital admission, it requires a different approach to risk assessment and communication," she added.

Another expert said that the

number of days not meeting the ozone standards is increasing even in winters.

"This analysis shows that the number of days not meeting the ozone standards has begun to increase even during winter months, making the winter smog more toxic," said Avikal Somvanshi, programme manager in CSE's Urban Lab team of the Sustainable Cities programme.

The assessment has traced trends during different seasons summer (March-June), winter (October-February) and monsoon (July-September), between 2018 and July 18, 2021.

It said that the eight-hourly standard for ground-level ozone exceeded at least in one station in Delhi on 290 days in 2020, which is up by 30 days compared to 2019 and 26 days more than 2018

This year has already recorded 169 days of exceedance, an increase of 21 days for the same period last year, the analysis revealed, adding that in the NCR, Gurugram saw the maximum jump in number of exceedance days between 2019 and 2020 -its tally of 201 days in 2020 was an increase by over 300 per cent from previous year.

"Noida also registered a 54 per cent jump. Faridabad recorded no change between 2019 and 2020. Ghaziabad and Greater Noida saw a decline, with the latter showing the biggest drop have adequate data for 2019 to carry out comparative trend analysis, but with 109 days of exceedance in 2020, it was the least polluted major city in the NCR," it said. The CSE said that granular

of 28 per cent. Meerut does not

real time data (15-minute averages) have been sourced from the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) official online portal Central Control Room for Air Quality Management.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

Rescue Ops

from police, Army and local volunteers, the officials said.

A Meteorological department official said the weather remained overcast with light rain at most places across Jammu and Kashmir.

'Same conditions are most likely to continue throughout the day. A brief spell of heavy showers may occur at some places which may trigger flash flood, mudslide and landslide," the official said, advising people to remain alert and move away from vulnerable places.

J&K's Forest Cover

which envisage afforestation on all degraded & denuded lands in the UT within & outside

"It is a matter of pride for us that while the present circumstances are posing a difficult challenge to the people at many places, the government machinery and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are discharging their responsibility towards the coming generation by preserving and strengthening our natural wealth," he added.

Underlining the importance of taking science and ecology together on the path of development, the LG as per official spokesperson said that it is vital to ensure balance between devel-

opment and conservation of our environment. There has never been a more urgent need to revive ecology than today," the LG said.

Sinha, as per the official spokesperson observed that the 'Green J&K Drive' aims at creating a people's movement at a massive scale with the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly village panchayats, women, students, Urban Local Bodies, institutions, NGOs, and civil society.

He expressed satisfaction over the initiation of Green Jammu and Kashmir campaign by Forest Department targeting to plant 130 lakh plants this year, in collaboration with schools, Non-Governmental institutions, Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) to mark the completion of 130 years of dedicated service of the department, which will contribute significantly in increasing the green cover

Expressing happiness over the implementation of Green India Mission in Jammu and Kashmir, the LG, he said, stated that the spirit of public participation will bring economic benefits apart from improving the quality and

quantity of forests in 320 villages. "Every citizen must come forward to play an important part in the restoration of ecology. Scientific findings show that this decade matters most in preventing catastrophic climate change and reducing biodiversity loss. The United Nations on 5 June 2021 launched a major ambitious program - the "Decade of Ecosystem Restoration", which is an important step towards restoring the destroyed ecology," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"If we fail to restore our ecology in the next ten years, at least one million species may become extinct in the coming times. As long as the ecological system is protected, we will be able to conserve our forests, rivers and lakes. mountains, meadows, fields and urban landscapes, which are also a source of wealth and health for the society," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG appreciated the Forest Department and the IIT Jammu for aiming at planting 10,000 trees in the IIT Jammu campus in this monsoon, besides working on Greening and Ecorestoration of forest land diverted for the purpose of creation of this august institution.

The LG, he said, asked the IIT Jammu administration to put dedicated efforts in taking ecofriendly initiatives so that this reputed institution can join the Green Metric World Colleges competition on the basis of its Green Campus and Sustainability and can make its place in the top 50 ranking.

"Under the guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, the whole country is making headway in exploiting solar power to reduce the carbon footprint. We can also explore the same to prevent the increasing imbalance of environment," the LG said.

Sinha, he said, also advised the IIT Faculty to install a bio-digester to convert the campus waste into energy. This technology can change the way we manage solid waste and help make the campus environmentally sustainable with economic benefits.

"Apart from this, setting up of Biodiversity Park in the campus on the lines of Visvesvaraya Technological University can also be considered," the official spokesperson quoted LG as

saying.
"Whatever measures we are taking today to restore ecology and reduce air pollution, plastic pollution, I believe that it will prove to be a boon for the coming generations whether it is in villages or in cities," he added.

On the occasion, he said, the LG handed over the cheques worth Rs 1.97 cr to various Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) as the proceeds of harvesting of mature trees.

According to the official spokesperson, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, in his address through video conferencing urged the Forest department and the Village Panchayat Plantation Committees to engage common people in the drive in a participatory mode to enhance the forest and tree cover.

"Even if each person plants one sapling, we will have sufficient green cover to surpass

our target of taking J&K to the highest level of green cover," Mehta said.

Directs Speeding

optimum results.

Chairing a review meeting at Raj Bhavan here on Friday, the LG was briefed about the status, pace of works, and issues of various projects including the four-laning of Jammu-Akhnoor Road; two-laning with paved shoulder of Chenani-Sudhmahadev road section; Sudhmahadev-Goha Tunnel in the Jammu Division, besides the current status of Z-Morh Tunnel; Zojila Tunnel; Baramulla-Tangmarg-Gulmarg road among others in the Kashmir

Division, an official spokesperson said.
During the meeting, the LG, he said, directed the officials to expedite the pace of work on the major road projects. He issued directions for removal of any pending bottlenecks, besides calling for synergizing inter-agency/department coordination for achieving optimum

On the four-laning of Jammu-Akhnoor Road, the official spokesperson said that the chair was briefed about the progress achieved under various packages of the project.

"It was informed that around 70 % progress has been achieved in the Canal Head to Ganesh Vihar stretch of the prestigious project, involving construction of a 4.6 km long flyover," he

The LG, he said, issued explicit directions to the concerned officials to stick to the timelines of the project.

"This project is going to ease the life of thousands of our citizens. There should be no delay in the execution and the adherence of the set timelines must be ensured," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

He said that the meeting also discussed the current status of two-laning of Chenani-Sudhmahadev road section of NH-244, Sudhmahadev-Goha Tunnel, Goha-Khellani in the Jammu region.

Further, he said, a team of senior NHIDCL officials shall visit Doda next week, to resolve all pending issues related to the NH-244 project by working in synergy with district authorities.

Status of various projects being executed in the Kashmir division was also reviewed, including the Z-Morh Tunnel; Zojila Tunnel; Baramulla-Tangmarg-Gulmarg road, among others," the official spokesperson said.

"It was informed that the connectivity of Sonamarg highway will be ensured during the ensuing winter season and there would be effective deployment of snow cutters along all major roads that are affected due to heavy snowfall," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG directed the officers to undertake the technical supervision of works like earth-cutting along the highways. Sinha, he said, also observed that it is imperative to ensure the highest quality of works besides preserving the fragile ecology.

'Govt Creating

projects worth Rs 18.10 cr and dedicating the new sports facilities to the local youth.

"Moving ahead towards developing stateof-the-art sports infrastructure in the UT, the government is creating modern facilities and developing sports culture even in remote areas for talented sportspersons of the UT," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

"Funded under CAPEX, JKIDFC, Khelo India, and PMDP, the inauguration and foundation laying of these projects marks the beginning of next phase of modernization of sports infra in J&K," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson said that his government is working with a mission to take sports to Panchayat level and provide opportunities to the youth living in far-flung areas.

"With better training and modern infrastructure, our youths can represent the country in international events," the LG said.

Sinha, as per the official spokesperson also expressed gratitude to all the coaches and officials associated with the sports, who are working day and night to identify and extract young talent, with a resolve to make Jammu and Kashmir proud.

"The Government is providing sports infrastructure and facilities to the young budding sportspersons of the UT. Now, it is the responsibility of the coaches and officials to hone the talent and improve J&K's medal tally in national and international level competitions," the LG

The LG, as per the official spokesperson added that the Government of India has been liberal in providing funds for Education and Sports in Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that the combined budget of education and sports of Jammu and Kashmir is Rs 2386 crores, which is way more than various bigger States and UTs.

"In the last few months, J&K Sports Council has emerged as a powerful vehicle for identification of platforms for young talent. Still, we have a long way to go. Time-bound targets need to be fixed for the coaches in different disciplines of various games. It should also be kept in mind that only professional coaches are included in every field and he should show the same enthusiasm as the government and the players are showing," the LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

"Apart from professional sports, we are

striving to improve the level of sports and facilities at the college and university level as well. The way development is taking place in all disciplines of sports, the sports sector informally has taken the form of industry in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG advised the Sports Council to work strategically, identify such places where youth are performing well and develop them as a Special Sports Hub. The Sports Council can also work with other departments such as Rural Development, Police, and Higher Education Department for professional services and technical know-how in the form of convergence in the field of sports.

On the occasion, he said, the LG extended his best wishes to all the Indian Sportspersons representing the country in the ongoing Tokyo Olympic Games.

According to the official spokesperson, the projects inaugurated today by the Lt Governor included Synthetic Football Turf at Khel Gaon Nagrota worth Rs 5 cr; Mini Stadium at Bhour Camp, Chatha costing Rs 1 cr and Playfield at Purmandal at a cost of Rs 2 cr. The Mini Stadium at Bhour Camp will benefit 5000 youth by accommodating games like Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi.

"With the completion of new Playfield at Purmandal, games including Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Kabaddi which are popular amongst the locals of the area will get the impetus. Border rural and tribal youth shall get benefit from this playground," he said.

He further said that the LG also laid efoundation for sports infrastructure including Synthetic Athletic Track at Jammu University costing Rs 6 cr which is first of its kind in the UT and shall bring J&K on international map of athletics, besides impacting the university games, school games, and other athletic activities for national & international participants.

Other projects for which foundations were laid include - Construction of Mini Stadium at Surankote, Poonch costing Rs 3 cr; and Illumination of Playfields at Darhal and Peeri, Rajouri worth Rs 55 lakh each.

Pak Rejects

Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, saying the "cosmetic exercise" was nothing but an attempt by Pakistan to "camouflage its illegal occupation" and that it has lodged a strong protest over the issue.

Reacting strongly on the elections in the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Pakistan has "no locus standi on these Indian territories" and it must vacate all Indian areas under its "illegal occupation".

"The so-called elections in Indian territory under the illegal occupation of Pakistan are nothing but an attempt by Pakistan to camouflage its illegal occupation and the material changes undertaken by it in these territories,' he said at an online media briefing.

Bagchi also strongly objected to references made to Jammu and Kashmir in a recent joint press statement by Pakistan and China, asserting that the union territories of I-K and Ladakh have been and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India.

India has asserted that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of India.

New Delhi has also previously told Islamabad that issues related to Jammu and Kashmir are its internal matter and the country is capable of solving its own problems.

The Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council since 1948 and remains an internationally recognised dispute, as affirmed by the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The FO said that India tried to unilaterally alter the internationally recognised disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and the territory's demographic structure in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions. The statement also urged India to take steps for the imple-

mentation of the UNSC resolutions on Kashmir. Pakistan downgraded ties with India and suspended trade after the Indian government revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

India has maintained that the issue related to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was entirely an internal matter of the country.

4 CRPF Men

Kamlesh Singh and Gautam Mandal. Soon after the attack, additional reinforcements of police and CRPF reached the spot and started search operation to nab the attackers. However, no reports of any arrests during the search operation were received. **J&K Sees**

There were 35 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union ter-

ritory at present, the officials added. J&K HC that in view of the considerable decline in Covid-19 infection cases in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the litigants shall be allowed entry into the

Court premises with effect from 2 August 2021,

to enable them to meet their counsel in their

chambers," the order read. "However, their en-

try into the Court Buildings shall continue to be

prohibited till further orders," it added.

ED Arrests

Gehlot and their associates in July last year. Gehlot's arrest comes over four months after ACB filed a charge sheeted against two former managers of J&K Bank Rakesh Kumar Kharyal and Kuldeep Gupta and others in the whopping Rs 270 crore J&K Bank loan fraud case.

The ACB had registered a the case (FIR No. 15/2019) on 24 July 2019 at police station ACB Srinagar on the basis of an information which was the outcome of a verification conducted into the allegations of financial irregularities in the loans availed by AHPL New Delhi from the Ansal Plaza Branch of the J&K Bank New Delhi.

It was alleged that the officers of J&K Bank Ansal Plaza Branch had given loan worth crores of rupees to this firm and in connivance with the firm the loan amounts so sanctioned were declared as NPA to facilitate the firm to have a One Time Settlement to its advantage

The firm had apparently availed Rs 227 crores as term Loan alongwith Bank guarantee of Rs. 15 crores for the construction of a five star hotel in Delhi with a project cost estimated at Rs. 866.89 crores, the ACB said.

"The rest of the loans were availed from other banks by the firm as part of consortium loan for construction of the five-star hotel," ACB had said in a statement.

It added that the firm had pledged mortgaged land including the building of five-star hotel and rentals which would accrue on the commercial area which was proposed to be leased out, hypothecation of all other current assets and personal guarantee of Raj Singh Gehlot who was the Managing Director of M/s AHPL worth Rs. 41 crores favouring a consortium of banks including J&K Bank as the lead bank as part of mortgaged properties, it said.

"However, while looking into the allegations mentioned in the FIR investigation revealed that instead of using the loans sanctioned for the purpose of construction of hotel it was diverted / siphoned out for various other purposes and misappropriated by the borrower Raj Singh Gehlot," the statement had said.

Investigation, the ACB had said, also established that out of the Rs. 100 crores sanctioned as Term Loan in the first phase to M/s AHPI. an amount of Rs. 35 crores has been diverted by Raj Singh Gehlot Managing Director Of M/s AHPL in connivance with the Bank officials and other co-accused and through fictitious firms which were created for the purpose and also by layering the funds through other banks in a complex maze of transactions.

"In this manner they cheated the J&K Bank Ansal Plaza Branch to the tune of Rs. 35 crores,' the ACB had said, adding "Further investigation into the remaining diversions is in progress apart from the allegations of illegally into an OTS to the firm advantage by J&K Bank

It had further said that a charge sheet has been filed by the Anti Corruption Bureau in the concerned court in Srinagar u/s 120-B, 409, 420 RPC and section 5(1)(c), 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of the JK PC Act against Raj Singh Gehlot Managing Director of M/s AHPL and co-accused Mohan Singh, Sheela Gehlot and Madhu Bakshi (private persons) and public servants Rakesh Kumar Kharyal and Kuldeep Gupta who were the erstwhile Managers of J&K Bank Ansal Plaza Branch, New Delhi besides the firms M/s Ambience limited, NGR Consultant Pvt. Ltd. and Raj Commercial & Agencies.

India, China

visible forward movement in disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points as the Chinese side did not show flexibility in their approach on it at the 11th round of military

Govt Directs Sarpanchs

contributions to public welfare, Dr. Mehta asked the concerned to identify 75 roads and schools to be named after them," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Rural Development Department was asked to ensure commencement of

pletion, besides completing and inaugurating the ongoing projects. The CS, he said, asked various departments to organize events, competitions, and activities at district, school, and panchayat levels in tune with the 75-

week celebration plan of

all identified works and

projects during the run-up

to the 75th Independence

Day with robust monitoring for their timely com-

'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav'. "These events are to be widespread to ensure participation of a large number of citizens, in an endeavour to raise awareness on the ideals of the Constitution," Mehta said, as per official

spokesperson. As per the official spokesperson, the School Education and Higher Education departments

were asked to organize online quiz, poetry, essay, and similar competitions and encourage students for participation through webinars.

"The Chief Secretary stressed conducting a dedicated 15 days' cleanliness drive with special focus on public places and offices across Jammu and Kashmir to achieve major transformation towards a clean and tidy Jammu and Kashmir." he said.

He further said that during the meeting, it was informed that keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Independence Day function will be observed with due regard to the COVID SOPs and protocol based on social distance, wearing of masks, proper sanitization, and limited congregations.

"As such, it was decided that participation from students and vulnerable persons will be restricted, besides introducing technological interventions toward e-celebrations," the official spokesperson said.

"Further, Chief Secretary directed the concerned to ensure arrangements regarding various facilities including transport, parking, seating, availability of water, electricity, deployment of health, fire and emergency staff & equipment, and illumination of buildings," he

Govt Orders DC's

other senior field functionaries shall not ordinarily schedule any meeting/tour involving Deputy Commissioners, on these days."

Security Agencies

installations at Bari Brahmana and along Jammu-Pathankot highway in Gagwal, they

The latest sightings were recorded nearly a week after police shot down a Pakistani drone carrying five-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) material in the border belt of Kanachak

There has been a spurt in drone activities, especially after the bombing of Indian Air Force (IAF) Station in Jammu on June 27, resulting in injuries to two security personnel.

Train Crushes

shifted to the Public Health Centre (PHC) Qazigund for post mortem.

Search Operation

searches there.

A local news agency KDC quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that the search operation was launched following inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

Leopard Caught

that they were informed about the presence of the wild animal in the area, following which utmost caution as to avoid any exigency, the animal was captured safely from the area with able assistance from the local inhabitants, he

The captured beast would be dispatched to Dachigam park, he further said.

Woman Found

which searches were launched to trace her. "Today morning, a body was found in the orchard and it has been now taken to the hospital for post-mortem to ascertain the cause of her death," they said.

Meanwhile, Baramulla police have taken cognizance of the incident and have registered case, while further investigations have also been taken up—(KNO)

Police Nabs 3

of Hardumadam Tangmarg.

"Officers have seized stake money of Rs 10,890 and playing cards from the gamblers. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation has been initiated," he added.

درخواست منجانب حنيفه بيكم زوجه مرحوم عبدل حميد ميرسا كنه كريري Dependent Certificate بغرض پسماندگان سرٹیفیکٹ اشتنبأر بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندرجيعنوان الصدر مين درخوست سائل دفتر بذامين زريكاروائي باس نبيت پواري حلقہ ہے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عباں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ا سائله كاغاوند عبدلحميدمير جوكـ201-04-05 كوفوت موچكا به سائل كنمه ا مناملہ 6 حاور مسبد سید بیر رہ بذیل افراد پر شتمل ہے : حنیفہ بیگم 45 گھریلوکام 2: صوبیہ جان 25 گھریلوکام 3: شائسته بانو 19 گھر بلوکام 4:اطفر احمد 18 مزدوری 5: ناصراحمہ 16 مزدوری اسکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمبنہیں بتلایا گیاہے سائلہ سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بھس حاصل کرنے کی خواں ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔

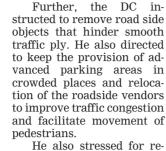
Saturday | 31-07-2021

DC Srinagar Directs Officers To Take Measures For Decongesting City Traffic

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to formulate 'Action Plan for Road Safety measures in Srinagar district to decongest City and ensure smooth traffic flow, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired a meeting of District Road Safety Committee(DRSC) here.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations on various issues with regard to management of Traffic including identification of black spots, improvement of lighting on vital roads, Traffic Management System, availability of Crash Rescue Vehicles and Critical Care Ambulances.



pairing black spots, initiating remedial measures, installation of signages and painting of roads at appropriate spots and generation of awareness for making roads safer in the district.

The DC directed for conducting mass awareness programs on Traffic rules and regulations.



NOTICE

150CC bearing Regis-

tration No. JK01P-3732,

Engine No: DMGBTF-

MDZDHDR22TCE-79506

to Mr. Ashik Hussain

Malik son of Mohd Akbar

Malik of Sehpora Chayira

SAJAD HUSSAIN DAR

S/o Ghulam Mehdi Dar

R/o Khumani Chowk.

Bemina

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name has been Wrongly mentioned in her Death

certificate As Sundari Beigum instead of Sundri Bagam w/o late

Nek mohd Goier Oalaas whihc needs immediate correction, if

anybody have any objection may contact SHO P/S Oalamabad

ازنیابت قلم اباد مضمون کاغذات درخوات منجانب طاهر جمال شیخ دلد محمد جمال شیخ ساکنه قلم آباد بمرادعطا یکی EWS محت SRO 294 **اشتهار بمرادآگا ہی هرخاص وعام**

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بندامیں زیر کاروئی ہے اس سلسلے مین پڑواری حلقہ سے

یورٹ بشمولدر یکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع قلم آباد میں رہایش پذیرہے

ر شکیپ اجرا کرنے میں اگر سی شخص کو کئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندروفتر ن**ذ**امیں

پیش کرےمعیادگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

within seven days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Jumma Gojer Qalaas. S/o LATE SUNDRI BAGAM

R/0:- Monabal Cellno:-7889596189

نائب تحصيلدا

Magam on 01/07/2021.

68743. Chasis

I sold my Bajaj Pulsar

The DC stressed upon all the officers to be proactive in formulating a comprehensive Road Safety Action Plan on priority basis. He stressed on the concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest the City roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

He directed the PWD to improve road markings and signages to eliminate high risk stretches, black spots, improvement of junctions on all cross-roads, and improve road lighting near habitations.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that black spots have been identified and concerned departments have been asked to take remedial action. He was further informed that a control room/Helpline is already in place to facilitate people in any exigent situation.

The DC directed the Traffic authorities to expedite the process of purchasing Crash rescue vehicles, besides submit a detailed requirement regarding barricades and signages.



A houseboat sank into river Jhelum on Friday leaving a family of five homeless. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Miraculous Escape For Family Of Five As Houseboat Sinks

Agencies

Srinagar: A family of five had a miraculous escape during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday after their houseboat sank into river Jhelum in Srinagar.

The family has been rendered homeless. The houseboat was located near the Museum in Lal Mandi locality of Srinagar. The family had a narrow escape as water entered the house-

from drowning. Mohammad ankashi, owner of the houseboat, said "We have now been ren-

dered homeless as we don't have

now putting up in a neighbour's houseboat.

He said that he cannot afford to repair the houseboat on his own as the same costs around Rs 1.5 lakh, while they do not have the resources to afford the repair-

boat and it sank. They jumped out of it and saved themselves Ashraf Kah-

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR LAND **ACQUISITION PDD BEMINA SRINAGAR**

CORRIGENDOM

Subject:- Corrigendum to notification under section 4 (1) vide No. LA-PDD/MHPS/ 369-381 dated 25-09-2017.

Please Read:

Table – A

S.No	Name of village	Tehsil	Distinct	Tower No	Khasra No	Area involved		
5.110	Name of vinage	Tensii	Distilict	Tower No	Kiiasi'a No	M	S	Sfts
01	Shahzadpora	B.K Pora	Budgam	2 MC	101 min	04	-	
Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	102 min	03	5	
Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	96 min	05	7	
Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	97 min		6	
	Total							

Instead of:

Table - B

		Tubic D							
Г	S.No	Name of willege	Tehsil	Distinct	Tower No	Khasra	Are	a inv	olved
	5.110	Name of village	rensn	Distinct	Tower No	No	M	S	Sfts
	03	Shahzadpora	B.K Pora	Budgam	2 MC	101	14	-	-
	Total							_	_

DIPK-5607/21

Collector **Land Acquisition PDD** Bemina Srinagar

No. LA/PDD/MHPS/128-142

Craft Development Institute

(Skill Development Department, Government of J&K) Baghi-Ali-Mardan Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar Telefax +91 0194 2411430, +91 0194 2411772 Email cdi@cdisgr.org / website www cdisgr.org

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Craft Development Institute, Srinagar invites sealed proposals from eligible C&AG emplanelled Chartered Accountancy Firms for providing their services for conducting of Statutory Audit for the Accounts of the Institute for the financial year 2019-20 & 2020-2021, as per the following terms and conditions:

1. Firm must be empanelled with C&AG and should be a member of ICAI for the period for which the Statutory Audit is to be conducted.

2. The firm must have conducted at least 20 Statutory Audits of different Organisations/ Government Departments/Autonomous Bodies etc. and shall have to furnish documentaty evidence of the same duly stamped with seal and signature.

3. The proposals should be put in a sealed envelope along with a non-refundable bank draft of Rs. 2,000/-(Rupees=Two=Thousand=Only) payable to Corpus, Craft Development Institute, Srinagar.

4. The proposals shall be submitted to Director, Craft Development Institute, Baghi-Ali-Mardan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar by or before 05-08-2021 till 1:00 p.m and they shall be opened at 3:00 p.m by the designated committee consitituted for the purpose.

5. The concerned firm shall have to submit CAG registration certificate along with all necessary requiste documents in this regard.

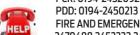
6. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any offer / proposal without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-NB-2156/21

Director, CDI Srinagar

DIAL-EMMA

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883



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

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:04 **ZUHR** 12:37 **ASR** 5:32 Magrib 7:36 **ISHA** 9:09

This Day In History

- 30 BC Battle of Alexandria: Mark Antony achieves minor victory over Octavian, but most of his army subsequently deserts, leading to Octavian's invasion of Egypt
 - 432 St Sixtus III begins his reign as Catholic Pope 781 - The oldest recorded eruption of Mt. Fuji (Traditional Japanese
- date: July 6, 781) 1291 - Egyptian Mamelukken occupies Akko, crusaders driven out of
- Palestine 1423 Hundred Years' War: Battle of Cravant the French army is defeated by the English on the banks of the river Yonne in Burgundy 1498 - Christopher Columbus discovers the island of Trinidad on his
- 1655 Russo-Polish War (1654-1667): the Russian army enters the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Vilnius, which it holds for six years
- 1667 Peace of Breda: 2nd English war-Suriname vs New-Netherlands ends 1777 - Marquis de Lafayette, 19, made major-general of Continental Army

1658 - Aurangzeb appoints himself Mughal emperor

- 1790 1st US patent granted, to Samuel Hopkins for a potash process 1813 - British invade Plattsburgh, NY
- 1877 Second Russian assault on Pleyna, Turkey fails, during Russo Turkish War, 7,300 Russian casualties 1901 - Abraham Kuyper becomes premier of Netherlands
- 1914 German Emperor Wilhelm II threatens war, orders Russia to
- 1917 World War I: Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres) begins, goes on to cause approximately 500,000 casualties
- 1925 Last allied occupying troops leave Ruhrgebied 1929 - Aristide Briand becomes premier of France for the 6th time
- 1936 IOC awards Tokyo, Japan 1940 Summer Olympic Games (later cancelled, Second Sino-Japanese War)
- 1938- Archaeologists discover engraved gold and silver plates from King Darius in Persepolis.
- 1942- U-boats sank 96 allied ships this month: 476,000 ton
- 1958 Anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet 1960-Flijah Muhammad, leader of Nation of Islam, calls for a black state
- 1964- US Ranger 7 takes 4,316 pictures before crashing on Moon
- 1980-Soyuz 37 crew returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 36 nd Italy Germany Austria & France pean Football Federation (AEFF)
- 1991- Russia & US sign long range nuclear weapons reduction pact 1994 - UN votes 12-0 (2 abstentions) to authorize use of force against Haiti
- 1999 -Discovery Program: Lunar Prospector NASA intentionally crashes the spacecraft into the Moon, thus ending its mission to detect frozen water on the moon's surface. 2002- Polaroid Corporation is purchased by One Equity Partners, cre-
- ating a new company that now operates under the Polaroid Corporation name, launching a new era for Polaroid. 2006 - Fidel Castro hands over power temporarily to brother Raúl Cas-
- tro. This leads to a celebration in Little Havana (La Pequeña Habana in Spanish), Miami, Florida, where many Cuban Americans participated. 2012- Two car bombs kill 21 people in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2012-A second power grid failure in two days leaves 670 million peonle in India without nower
- 2014 The US agree to resupply arms to Israel including rocket launchers, mortar rounds, grenades - despite condemnation of civilian casu-
- 2014 Israel and Hamas agree to a 72-hour humanitarian cease-fire.

From KO Archives

NC advocates separatists cause

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Asking India and Pakistan to hold talks on Kashmir issue in the state, Opposition National Confer-once today demanded inclusion of separatist leaders, including hardline Hurriyat faction leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, in the dialogue process India and Pakistan should hold talks on Kashmir in Kash-

mir NC president Omar Abdullah said addressing a public rally at shopian in Pulwama District. Abdullah said leaders of all political parties including

Geelani, JKLF Chairman Mohammad Yaseen Malik, Democratic Freedom Party Leader Shabir Ahmad Shah and leaders of moderate Hurriyat faction Mirwaiz Umer Farooq and Maulana Mohammad Abbas Ansari should be included in the talks to find a lasting solution to Kashmir issue, an NC spokesman said.

Abdullah said attaching pre-conditions with the talks would not yield any positive results.

"The talks should be un-conditional and everyone included in them," he was quoted as saying.

He alleged that human rights violations were continuing in the state and Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had failed to deliver on his pre-election promises.

Taking a dig at the PDP-led government over the recent survey which named Jammu and Kashmir as the second most corrupt state in the country, Abdullah said "it speaks volumes about the coalition government's promise of eradicating the menace of corruption." "If Mufti continues to rule the state for few more years, J-K would soon be the number one corrupt state in the country," he added and raised questions about the working of the Accountability Commission.

(Kashmir Observer, 31 July, 2005)



عامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين درخواست سائل وفتر مذامين زيركاروكي باس سلسل مين بيواري حلقه پورٹ بشمولدر یکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع نوگام میں رہایش پذیرہے مرٹفیکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے معیاد گرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تخصيلدا

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NO HOLDS BARRED



It is true that such "states of exception" can be used by the governments to target their opponents and crush dissent but does that mean that the government must not have any right to impose any kind of restrictions, even if it is a matter of life or death

It's a Fine Line!

Individual Freedom vs Expert **Advice Amidst Covid-19**

Haris Rashid

Similarly, in Kashmir, the government used Covid restrictions to stop returning militants' bodies to their families. It all started in Sopore where a JeM militant's body was returned to his family on April 9, 2020. A few hundred people participated in the funeral, following which an FIR was lodged against unknown persons who participated in the funeral of the militant for violating the Covid-19 protocols. Since then no militants' bodies have been

returned to their family.

he measures taken by the governments across the world, to tackle the spread of Covid infection, has once again renewed the old debate- whether the public should be allowed to choose for themselves or should the expert opinion prevail? In a democracy, the public has the right to express diverse points of view on the issues that concern them and they expect their elected representatives to properly represent their views. Therefore, public sentiment, as such, is one input to political decisionswhether it is to make the masks and the vaccination mandatory or whether to impose a lockdown. On the other hand, one could argue that decisions such as these are best taken by the experts based on evidence, and not subject to, say, a referendum or mass opinion. But what happens if the public feels a certain way but experts disagree, what view should win out? The pandemic further complicates the problem because it is a matter of life and death and because of the nature of the virus. it does not only concern a particular person but it concerns the whole community. One person choosing not to wear a mask or refusing to follow social distancing or choosing against getting vaccinated does not only endanger their own lives but the lives of all those around them. So, it raises the question of how we should navigate such compli-

People are usually skeptical of their Reagan once infamously quipped, "the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help." According to the selectorate theory, the primary goal of a leader (the government) is to remain in power. All the decisions (political, social or economic) made by the government are taken while taking into consideration the primary goal of prolonging its own survival. Hence, the possibility of governments using illegitimate political power disguised as expertise is very high.

When China decided to lockdown Wuhan in January 2020, Western media, especially the US-based media, highlighting its democratic credentials, carried reports and news items that raised concerns over the lockdown and suggested that it amounted to human rights abuses. On January 22, 2020, The New York Times published a report that



said "By limiting the movements of millions of people in an attempt to protect public health, China is engaging in a balancing act with a long and complicated history fraught with social, political and ethical concerns." It further quoted an expert who said, "the shutdown would almost certainly lead to human rights violations and would be patently unconstitutional in the United States." The Washington Post carried a news item on January 26, 2020, titled "China's coronavirus lockdown-brought to you by authoritarianism" which said, "Only the Chinese government could implement draconian measures to such a large scale." However, the US later copied the China model to contain the spread of the disease. The Wall Street Journal published a news story on March 24, 2020, saying "U. S. and European leaders are looking at China's progress in curbing the coronavirus pandemic to guide them on how to beat the virus within their own borders." Further, according to Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker's COVID-19: Stringency Index, which measures the Covid containment measures of countries on a scale of 100, China's measures were harshest at 81.94 while the US had its harshest measures at 75.46. Not much difference.

After the Covid positive cases and the number of resulting deaths surged in Italy in early March 2020, their government decided to lock down the country. Italian philosopher, Giorgio Agamben, best known for his work on the concepts of state of exception, vehemently attacked these stringent containment measures imposed by the government. In an opinion piece published in Quodlibet, Agamben wrote that the measures once again manifested the government's "tendency to use a state of exception as a normal paradigm." He further wrote, "It is almost as if with terrorism exhausted as a cause for exceptional measures, the invention of an epidemic offered the ideal pretext for scaling them up beyond any limitation." There are many cases across the world where Agamben's words ring true. In India, the long-running Shaheen Bagh protest site was cleared on the pretext of curbing the spread of Coronavirus. Similarly, in Kashmir, the government used Covid restrictions to stop returning militants' bodies to their families. It all started in Sopore where a JeM militant's body was returned to his family on April 9, 2020. A few hundred people participated in the funeral, following which an FIR was lodged against unknown persons who participated in the funeral of the militant for violating the Covid-19 protocols. Since then no militants' bodies have been returned to their family.

It is true that such "states of exception" can be used by the governments to target their opponents and crush dissent but does that mean that the government must not have any right to impose any kind of restrictions, even if it is a matter of life or death. When the whole world was months into wearing masks, President of the United States Donald Trump refused to wear a mask and refused to introduce a nationwide mandate that would make wearing masks mandatory because he wanted people to have "a certain freedom." Despite the world's top public

health experts in the US repeatedly recommending wearing masks based on evidence, the issue deeply divided the country with the political debate going on for months. Many lives would have been saved if the government and the public had heeded the experts. Incidentally, today (on July 18, 2021) China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying tweeted a rhetorical question to the US, "How about the rights of 600,000+ Americans who died in the pandemic?" Unfortunately, it is too late to ascertain the opinion of all those people who died in the US on whether they would have temporarily preferred the "bare life" while sacrificing the normal social, political and economic conditions or would they have preferred "a certain freedom" even if it led to their death.

Some governments like China, with their good intentions of saving people's lives, can be criticized and accused of human rights abuses for locking down the country without involving the public's opinion in decision-making while other countries like the US can get away by putting the same measures in place but after months of debate and huge loss of life. Further, it is a fact that there would always be some governments who would use illegitimate political power disguised as expertise to consolidate their power in order to prolong their survival. Keeping in view all these facts, is it really necessary to include public opinion in decision-making on issues like a pandemic-which is a matter of life and death- or should the government just heed the experts? Since the pandemic is receding and the focus is now on vaccination, it becomes more interesting. Most of the countries have made vaccination mandatory for international travel and colleges and universities across the world are making vaccination mandatory for their students. But there is still a substantial proportion of the population that is vaccine-hesitant. Should the governments take their concerns into consideration or should they heed the experts?

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

The author can be reached at haris. rashid_ug22@ashoka.edu.in

Do Not Extinguish The Light

Mehmal Sarfraz

Noor, a young woman full of light. Noor, a kind soul who was taken away by a murder so gruesome that it has shaken Pakistan. Noor, whose parents are going through the worst trauma, the kind that no parent should ever have to go through. Noor, a woman who was tortured before her brutal murder. Noor, your death has left us in darkness. It has shown us that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Noor, your murder has made all of us women cry in horror. It has made us scream in agony. Noor, we have failed you and your parents. We cannot apologize enough. We cannot, we just cannot express in words what we are feeling.

oor, a name that literally means light.

Noor Mukadam was beheaded by Zahir Zakir Jaffer in Islamabad last week during the Eid holidays. According to the journalist, Salman Masood, Noor's killer "is a man she knew for more than a decade". Zahir, the son of an influential businessman, held Noor captive for almost a couple of days at his house before murdering her. Noor's father has demanded justice for his 27-year-old daughter.

A couple of weeks before Noor's murder, a harrowing video went viral on social media in which a man, Usman Mirza, was seen beating up and harassing a young couple and stripping them naked in front of several male accomplices at a private property in Islamabad. He also subjected them to sexual assault. Mirza was arrested along with his accomplices. He has a history of harassing and blackmailing women. When the video went viral, we wondered if anything could be worse than this. But we heard many other stories that were even more traumatizing. A 30-year-old woman, Naseem Bibi, was raped in front of her 14-month-old son just a few days ago. Both were stabbed by the rapist and murderer. Both mother and child succumbed to their injuries. Earlier this month, a woman was shot dead by her husband in front of their children; they were also injured. This month,

rightly calls violence against women an epidemic. It is an epidemic that seems to have no end in sight

In 2016, a young law student, Khadija Siddiqi, was stabbed 23 times by Shah Hussain, who was later convicted. But Hussain has been granted an early release from jail. Khadija says the Punjab government has granted him an extraordinary remission of 1.5 years. "State to be blamed," tweeted Khadija.

No questions for the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. No questions for the rapists, the murderers, the harassers, the attackers. Questions are reserved for the vulnerable, always. When women speak up, hardly anyone believes them. When women tell their stories, they face an ugly backlash and pushback from society

a mother of four was tortured and killed by her husband in Hyderabad. Her name was Quratulain. And then there was Noor: her death has shattered us all. But this vicious cycle never ends. Every day we see a new hashtag on social media demanding justice for a child and/or a woman. An editorial in The News

Such is the sorry state of affairs in a country where violence against women is on the rise. It seems that nobody cares about the safety and security of women, be it the State or society. Fingers are pointed at women in most, if not all, cases. What was she wearing? Why did she go there? Why didn't

she speak up? Why didn't she tell anyone? Why... why... why? Questions, only for women, only for the victims and survivors, only for their families. No questions for the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. No questions for the rapists, the murderers, the harassers, the attackers. Questions are reserved for the vulnerable, always. When women speak up, hardly anyone believes them. When women tell their stories, they face an ugly backlash and pushback from society.

Being a woman in a patriarchal society is exhausting. Sometimes we get angry, but mostly, we are just tired of being angry. We have had enough of rape apologies, we have had enough of being questioned for our every move, we have had enough of toxic masculinity, we have had enough of being told how to sit, how to talk, how to dress, when to go out we have had enough. Period.

Women are not safe in their own homes, on the roads, in their friends' homes, at workplaces. Women are just not safe anywhere. And most importantly, women are on their own. Will we ever feel safe? At the moment, there is not much hope. But maybe, just maybe, one day we will be able to live our lives without any fear. For now, we have to keep raising our voices for all the Noors, Saimas, Quratulains, Naseems and countless others. We hope that they all find justice, for themselves and for us.

Al Jazeera

Saturday | 31-07-2021

Riyaz Kazmi

Now, it is not only about scrumptious Wazwan platters and expensive dowry items, but the dregs of society have created such a hype by their devious ways, that the weddings seem incomplete and uncomplimentary without availing the services of Instagram fame, make up artists, mehendi designers, decorators and drone shooting also has to be in the must-have-list



he unprecedented crises of Covid-19 pandemic has affected every facet of life. Since the last 15 months we have been through hell and back. The scourge of pandemic has not petered out yet. The raging viruses are causing unthinkable damage and unrest. We are hemmed in cornered and clueless. It has rapped on our knuckles and shattered our well-being. It has trapped us in a mire of colossal economical losses and manifold emotional setbacks.

We are still in a quandary and socially disintegrated. Our interactions have not been fairly free and easy. We are going through searing pain, cannot slur the facts and ignore the destruction caused by the Covid-19.

However, what cannot be cured must be endured. We should not stop finding and seeing the brighter side of life. The show must go on even if with new normals. One such thing is the dramatic change that covid-19 has brought in soliciting marriages.

There has been so much extravagance in marriages that it has left the

poor in tatters. When it comes to the marriages, we can go to any extent to hog the limelight. We cannot afford to be little lesser than anyone else. We wallow in false glory and exaggerate without having an iota of shame. Due to our ignorance and indifference, this sacred blessing has become burden for the people who fall in debt/death trap even after splurging their lifetime savings.

Most of us are obnoxious trend setters .More than a divine affair we have made it very hard for the poor people and exacerbated their sufferings.We have failed to bring any transformation for respite to the people who are bearing the brunt of unethical customs

Now, it is not only about scrumptious Wazwan platters and expensive dowry items, but the dregs of society have created such a hype by their devious ways, that the weddings seem incomplete and uncomplimentary without availing the services of Instagram fame,make up artists, mehendi designers, decorators and drone shoot-

ing also has to be in the must-have-list.

One paradox in the pandemic has been a blessing in disguise for those who could not afford to make marriages look larger than life affairs. It seems as if Allah SWT has cracked the whip and set things in the right direction.

However, since the last two years, many youngsters are leading from the forefront to curb this menace of lavish weddings. They are setting the right precedence and choosing a graceful cup of Kehwa over a gluttonous meal to seal and celebrate Nikah.

We should abstain from this extravagance and copycat syndrome which most of the people cannot afford. We need to call a spade a spade and hold people who indulge in an ostentatious display of wealth responsible. We have to introspect and do what is expected from us to be done in line with the Islamic teachings. Let's facilitate and solemnize marriages in a simple and sacred way.

The author can be reached at Riyazahm72@gmail.com

ravelling is either inbound or outbound. When we travel inside the borders of a country it is inbound and when we move beyond the limits of a country it is outbound. Kashmir is landlocked. These are not just the locks of borders but we are surrounded by walls! Mountain walls. Pir Panjal in the west and south and Himalayas in the North and east. The limited form of travel we do is inbound, limited to the spheres of mighty mountains. The topography we live in has always made travel difficult. With poor connectivity with the exterior world our cultural evolution has re-

mained restricted Although travelling can be a usual discourse in the economic upper class of Kashmir, it is quite a taboo in the middle and lower classes. The broad idea of travel in Kashmir is to spend weekends in Pahalgam, Sonmarg or Gulmarg, for that matter with some fleshy meals and a Dastar-Khwan on a beautiful grassy floor. Spending money on travel is not considered a wise idea in our daily life. In a typical Kashmiri family, if a married couple goes out for a vacation leaving parents behind, that is considered as misconduct. We don't see travel as a medium of cultural exchange, interaction and experience, instead a form pleasure that many of us

don't deserve.

Even with the limited inbound form of travelling in Kashmir, the ethical responsibility to keep the destinations clean is not followed. May be it is for the fact that our ownership sentiment is limited to our houses. There are many other reasons of not travelling, which include financial constraints, limited access and poor infrastructure.

According to the reports, Finland tops the chart with 7.50 total trips undertaken per person per year. The Finns are followed by residents of the United States at 6.70, while the Swedish have 6.00 total trips, the Danish 5.30, Norwegians 5.20, residents of Hong Kong and New Zealand 4.30 trips apiece, Canadians 4.10, Australians 3.80, and the French 3.50 annual trips.

The Finnish people make most of the inbound and outbound travels because of high income and lower unemployment status of the people. Their cultural attributes also make them widely acceptable, as they are open,

Treats of Travel

Arif Akhnoon



warm, sincere and have a travel-oriented culture as well.

The importance and benefits of traveling are tourists get to know about the cultures of different lands, understand people, learn about several other cultures and their needs, all the while undertaking adventures, praising the natural beauty and gaining experience.

Travel Makes us Happier

A travel experience easily makes us happier by getting us away from our daily grind. And, if we are able to get away from our home environment especially when surrounded by conflicts, things possibly weigh us down, and a

We don't see travel as a medium of cultural

as a medium of cultural exchange, interaction and experience, instead a form pleasure that many of us don't deserve. Even with the limited inbound form of travelling in Kashmir, the ethical responsibility to keep the destinations clean is not followed

new experience might possibly bring a smile.

According to a study, money spent on doing something (called "experiential purchases") will leave you with a longer-lasting sense of happiness than money spent on having something (called "material purchases")

(called "material purchases").

The study says that "waiting for experiences tends to be more positive than waiting for possessions." And, it goes on to say that "people derive more happiness from the anticipation of experiential purchases and that waiting for an experience tends to be more plea-

One of the best things we can do

for our mental health every now and again is to disconnect from our routine in order to recharge. Working or studying for days, weeks, and months on end may help get us where we are looking to go. But a break every once in a while releases us from the everyday stress.

In a randomized controlled trial conducted by Austrian researchers and published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, one of the many great travel benefits is that it can reduce stress levels and anxiety.

The researchers found that even just one short-term vacation (~3 days in length) "independent of the mode, has large, positive and immediate effects on perceived stress, recovery, strain, and well-being." Furthermore, the beneficial effects last quite a while after you return home. "The effects can still be detected at 30 days (recovery) and 45 days (well-being and strain) post-vacation." Just make sure the way you travel doesn't cause you stress.

When we travel, we are stepping outside of our comfort zone. Even if our destination is relatively nearby we are still experiencing new things. "Mark

Twain" an American writer said:

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

From running through airports and train stations, to hiking through uneven terrains, or getting some vitamin D on the beach. The efforts in doing so take us to a stronger self.

According to a study, travel decreases the risks of heart attacks and makes our brain healthier. The study determined that men who take an annual vacation are 30% less likely to die from heart disease, among other findings.

"Foreign experiences increase both cognitive flexibility and depth of thoughts, the ability to make deep connections between disparate forms. The different take of life in different cultures broaden the vision and pave ways for new ideas.

The author can be reached at cs.arif.akhoon@gmail.com



To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



Millet-Based Diet Can Lower Risk Of Type 2 Diabetes

new study has shown that eating millets reduces the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and helps manage blood glucose levels in people

The study indicates the potential to design appropriate meals with millets for diabetic and pre-diabetic people as well as for non-diabetic people as a preventive approach.

Drawing on research from 11 countries, the study published in Frontiers in Nutrition shows that diabetic people who consumed millets as part of their daily diet saw their blood glucose levels drop 12-15% (fasting and post-meal), and blood glucose levels went from diabetic to pre-diabetes levels.

The HbA1c (blood glucose bound to hemoglobin) levels lowered on average 17% for prediabetic individuals, and the levels went from prediabetic to normal status. These findings affirm that eating millets can lead to a better glycemic response.

The authors reviewed 80 published studies of which 65 were eligible for a meta-analysis involving about 1,000 human subjects, making this analysis the largest systematic review on the topic till date, said International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

"No one knew there were so many scientific studies undertaken on millets' effect on diabetes. These benefits were often contested, and this systematic review of the studies published in scientific journals has proven that millets keep blood glucose levels in check, reducing the risk of diabetes, and has shown just how well these smart foods do it," said Dr. S Anitha, the study's lead author and a senior



nutrition scientist at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Diabetes contributed to very high disease burden from 1990-2016 in India. Diabetes-related health expenditure was over \$7 million. There is no easy solution, and it requires a lifestyle change, and diet is a very important part of this. This study provides one part of the solution useful for individuals and governments. How we use this and implement it into programs needs careful planning," said Hemalatha, Director, National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).

Raj Bhandari, one of the study's authors and a representative on the Indian National Technical Board of Nutrition, noted that additional at-

tention to our health has been accelerated due to Covid-19 and diabetics are even more vulnerable to the virus. "Our diets play a critical role and if we could bring millets back as a major part of our diet, we would not only help in controlling diabetes, but we would also be adding important nutrients to our plate.

According to the International Diabetes Association, diabetes is increasing in all regions of the world. India, China and the US have the highest numbers of people with diabetes. Africa has the largest forecasted increase of 143% from 2019 to 2045, the Middle East and North Africa 96% and South East Asia 74%. The authors urge the diversification of staples with millets to keep diabetes in check, especially across Asia and Africa.

AL-ABBAS (A.S.) RELIEF TRUST, JAMMU & KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Whereas, AL-ABBAS (A.S) RELIEF TRUST was registered with the Government of State of Jammu & Kashmir under Act VI of 1998 (1941 A.D.) under Registration No. 2184-S-1994 with its registered Head Office at Karan Nagar Srinagar.

Whereas, the government vide Notification No. 34/2019 dated 9th of August 2019-GOI has directed that societies registered under Jammu and Kashmir Societies Registration Act 1998 (Samvat 1941 AD) shall apply for re-registration along with documents.

Whereas, the Managing Executive Body has approached the Registrar of Societies for re-registration of the Trust under Societies Registration Act of 1816.

The details of the Trust are as under:

NAME: AL-ABBAS (A.S.) RELIEF TRUST JAMMU & KASHMIR, **SRINAGAR**

LOCATION: HEAD OFFICE OF THE TRUST IS AT Medical College

Road Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

Whereas, the following persons with their name, address, parentage and designation are the Manag-

S No	Name/Parentage/Residence	Qualification	Designation	Occupation
i	Mohammad Shafi War, S/o Ali Mohd. War Saidapora Sopore Baramulla	Msc. B.Ed.	Chairman	Retired Govt. Employee
2	Gh Mohd Rather, Gh Hussain Rather Matipora Pattan Baramulla	M.A. B.Ed.	Secretary	Retired Govt. Employee
3	Sarfaraz Ahmad Wani, S/o Mohammad Ibrahim Wani HMT Srinagar,	L.L.B.	Organizer	Advocate, J&K High Court
4	Mohammad Shafi Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani Sajad Abad Chattabal Srinagar	Matric	Executive Member	Retired Govt. Employee
5	Showkat Ali Malla, S/o Mohammad Abdullah Malla Magam Budgam	10 + 2	Executive Member	Private Employee
6	Mohd Abass Dar, S/o Mohd Akbar Dar Tantraypora, Pattan Baramulla	B.A.	Executive Member	Private Employee
7	Gh Rasool Baba, Gh Hussain Baba Syed Afzal Mohalla Sheribhat Hawal Srinagar	Under Matric	Executive Member	Private Business

Anybody having any objection to the re-registration of the Trust will file his objections before the Registrar of Societies within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

> Chairman Al-Abbas (a.s.) Relief Trust

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KUPWARA

NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Ghulam Mohi-u-din Lone S/o KH Ambir Lone R/o Paheldiji Magam Kupwara (Transferor) and Akther Hussain Dar S/o Ghulam Nabi Dar R/O 31-B-7 Block Tilak Nagar DlO 110008 District Wazirpur Delhi (Transferee) for transfer of LMV carriage route Permit No / -- Covering Vehicle No JK01G- DL8CP-9420

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Kupwara.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.

NO: 2040 Dated: 29/07/2021

Assistant Regional Transport Office, Kupwara

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri: Abdul Ahad Mugloo S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Mugloo R/o: Qazibagh Ichigam Budgam (Transferor) of Maruti EECO. Vehicle bear-



ing registration number JK04E - 5955. Chasis number 30384 Engine no. 00833 Model 2018. in favour of Shri. Mehraj ud din Khan S/o. Mohammad Shafi Khan R/o Fateh Kadal Srinagai (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Budgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the

Dated 28/07/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of he Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Baramulla

E - Tender Notice No.

19 of 07/2021 Dated 29.07.2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders [in single cover system] are invited from the Registered PWD Contractors for the works mentioned hereunder:

	No. of w		(02 only) Available	
Shifting of pipe lines coming within alignment of road from block boundary to				
Shifting of PHE pipe lines coming within ad from National Highway to				

Instruction/Terms & Conditions:

bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website

Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
Period of downloading of bidding documents	
Date and time of opening of bids [online]	

Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of Engineer, PHE Div. Baramulla [tender inviting authority].

against account No. 0215

All Bidders have to upload scanned copy Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circ t (Bid Security Declaration Form is annexed as Annexure 'A" below)

The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer, PHE Division,

The Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act

digital certificate from any approved Vendor. For item providing, laying and fitting/successful testing commissioning of various dia's of pipes, the pipe ial shall be supplied from reputed the agency shall initially establish a store in the vicinity

Khawajabagh, Baramulla whichever is approved by the Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla and will be binding upon the same is issued to site after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly sign engineer's quality control committee and contractor.

The quantity of various dias of pipes as shown in the BOQ as available in the Divisional Store may vary (plus or minus) and the variation in the quantity of pipes shall have to be executed by the agency as the case may be.

No payment on account of supply of pipes will be made to the contactor until the same are laid in the trench and proportional back fi in the quantity of pipe and pi e specials and sufficient watch and ward

DIPK-5539/21

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.1991

following Terms and Conditions: All the interested registered bidders on publication of this Auction Notice may inspect/visit the site on any working day upto 08-08-2021(10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardhan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar

www.iictsrinagar.org Ph. No. 0194-2411143, 2428636

It is hereby notified for the information of General Public that an open Auction of

unserviceable /dead stock items installed in two units of Common Facility Centre,

comprising of Carpet Washing Machines, Carpet Drying Chambers, Oil fired Heaters,

Electrical Panels, Motors, Switch Gears, Storage chambers, Hot Air Injecting Blowers,

Firewood Based Boiler Unit, in the premises of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Baghi-

Ali-Mardan-Khan, Nowshara, Srinagar, shall be held on 10-08-2021 at 10:30 a.m., as per the

Auction Notice

- The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS AND WHAT SO EVER
- **CONDITION IT IS"** basis.
- Auction shall be conducted in presence of Designated Auction Committee constituted for the purpose.
- The earnest money of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) in the shape of CDR/EMD pledged to the Director Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Srinagar, shall have to be deposited by the concerned bidders by or before 09-08-2021 till 4:00 p.m.
- The EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded on the same day after the completion of auction.
- All the items shall be auctioned in a single lot only.
- Successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the total auctioned value immediately after highest bidder is declared by the Auction Committee.
- Successful bidder shall have to lift the auctioned material by or before 19-08-2021 on his own cost, risk and responsibility after depositing remaining 75% of the bid value, failing which his EMD shall be confiscated.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay taxes, as applicable under rules.
- The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept/reject any bid without assigning any reasons thereof.

Chairman **Auction Committee**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR





Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292,

NOTICE INVITING e – TENDERS: GIST of e- NIT No:- 11/PHE/JSD/RWSD/Civil of 2021-22.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T. Short Term e - tenders are invited (in TWO - Cover System) on "item rate basis" from Registered/Approved/Valid Civil Contractors/Agencies for the following works:

Table (I) Providing drinking water supply facilities at various and along the procession routes including extension of water supply to New Basties at Dab Ghanderbal on the eve of Muharram Making drinking water arrangements along procession routes to Imam Baras incld. installation of PVC tanks at Bota Kullan & L/F of G.I. pipes enroute Imam Bara Nilgrad incld. Imptts. to existing system on the eve of Muharram 2021

Position of Funds: - Available.
The Bidding Do ents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://jktenders.gov.in

From 29.07.2021 (04:30 p.m) UPTO 04.08.2021 (04:00 p.m)

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

TABLE (II)						
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	29.07.2021				
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29.07.2021 (04.30 p.m)				
	renod of downloading of blading documents	To 04.08.2021 (upto 04:00 p.m).				
03	Bid Submission Start Date	From 29.07.2021 (04.30 a.m).				
04	Bid submission End Date	To 04.08.2021 (up to 04:00 p.m).				
05 Dat	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	05.08.2021 at 02:00 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division				
	bate and time of opening of bids (Offine)	Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal)				
Ride must he a	ide must be assembly and the property (mantisping therein the NIT No. C.No. of work and Advertised Cost as nor the NIT) as cost of Tondor Document under M.H. 0215 to be placed in					

favour of the Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division Ganderbal (as specified in the table (I). Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) on 05.08.2021 at 02:00 pm. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the

No: -PHE/JSD/RWSD/Corrs./3640-64

DIPK-5514/21

Sd/= Executive Engineer PHE, JSD RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr. H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal

DIPK-NB-2138/21

CS Directs 100% **Door-To-Door Waste** Collection In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the 8th meeting of State Level Apex Committee (SLAC) on Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and reviewed the functioning of solid waste management system under the scheme.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Housing & Urban Development, Jal Shakti, Planning, Development & Monitoring, besides, Commissioners, Municipal Corporations, Jammu/ Srinagar along with Directors. Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/ Kashmir participated in the meeting.

It was informed that under the Swachh Bharat Mission, efforts are being made towards scientific disposal of solid waste through scientific solid waste management, robust IEC activities for bringing about a behavioural change, and various capacity-building measures. Currently, 100% door-to-door collection of solid waste is being done in 984 wards with 100% source segregation is 178 wards.

The Chief Secretary directed the Housing & Urban Development Department to ensure 100% door-to-door collection of solid waste across all towns and cities of Jammu and Kashmir by 2nd October 2021, besides, raising the number of towns with 100% source segregation.

It was informed that as per the approved action plans for 76 ULBs and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), the Department is undertaking decentralized solid waste management via dedicated source segregation, door-to-door collection, primary and secondary transportation, intermediate waste storage, scientific processing, and final disposal as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Further, Municipal Committees of Pahalgam and Gulmarg have established processing plants with auto-composters and magnetic disintegrators to process bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, respectively.

Moreover, JMC is setting up a 350 TPD solid waste processing plant at Jammu in collaboration with National Agriculture Corporative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). JMC has also established integrated solid waste management facility at Bandurakh with the capacity of 125 TPD for 26 municipal wards, besides, undertaking bio-remediation of 1,25,000 MTs of legacy waste from Bhagwati Nagar dumping site.

Similarly, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is setting up a waste-to-energy plant with a capacity of 625 MTPD waste processing and 5MW energy genera-

tion at Achan, Srinagar. The Apex Committee approved the action plan of solid waste management for SMC for Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 529.75 crore over the next five years. The Committee also approved the revised solid waste management action plan worth Rs. 415.21 crore for JMC.

The new concept of decentralized waste management is based on the scientific segregation of wet and dry waste at the household-level followed by door-todoor waste collection and transportation to waste management centres. The segregated waste is proposed to be appropriately disposed of and recycled on scientific lines with linkages for generating non-conventional renewable energy in the form of Compressed

CUK's Contractual Staff 'Terminated' Without Any Reason

SRINAGAR: The contractual staffers of the Central University of Kashmir (CuK) Friday alleged that the varsity has terminated their services without any specific reason and that their salaries have not been released for the past four months.

The staffers who were recruited under Design Innovation Centre (DIC) project told Kashmir Observer that despite repeated reminders the Varsity failed to pay the salaries, and terminated their services in the testing times making their life miserable.

DIC is one of the prestigious projects of the Central University of Kashmir. It was established in the year 2018 under the National Initiative of Design Innovation of MHRD, GoI.

The dismissed staff members said that a few months ago, the university called the third steering committee meeting to decide the salary issues of staff members for the year 2020.

"It was decided that the salary for the pending months will be cleared. However, the university released the salary in the phase for the months of April to June and then from the month of November

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Higher Edu-

cation, Sushma Chauhan, Friday

chaired a virtual meeting to review

progress on Prime Minister's Spe-

cial Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS),

Secretary emphasised upon the

Nodal Principals, Higher Educa-

tion Department and Directorate

of School Education, Jammu and

Srinagar wide publicity of the

It was informed in the meet-

scheme.

Jammu and Kashmir 2021-22.

Kashmir Observer.

He added that "in between the salary of four months i.e. July 2020 to October 2020 was not released and the University authorities did not specify any reason."

He alleged that the attendance of spoke centres was totally manipulated and was not counter signed by the spoke centres' Principals but still their full salary was released.

The laying off of the contractual staffers is in violation of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) guidelines, official sources told Kashmir Observer.

It may be noted, AICTE-a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, issued instruction to colleges/higher institutions amid the ongoing pandemic not to terminate any faculty without enough disciplinary ground & due process of redressal

"Salary and other dues to the faculty/staff members shall be released monthly on time and also terminations (if any) made during the lockdown shall be withdrawn This is to be complied strictly," the AICTE directed.

Secretary Higher Education Emphasises

ing that all the facilitation and

documentation centres have been

made functional. Besides, train-

ing programme for Principals of

Government Degree Colleges and

concerned institutions as well as

workshops for students and par-

ents and other stakeholders shall

be organized in coming days in co-

The department being a nodal

agency for implementation of this

scheme in J&K is making every ef-

fort to ensure that its benefit reach

to each and every corner of the UT.

ordination with AICTE team.

On Wide Publicity Of PMSSS Scheme

However, the CuK has allegedly

laid-off various staff members without giving any notice to them. They say their contract was not renewed from the month of April 2021.

"We were continuously attending the university but after the second wave of covid-19 lockdown, we were not able to attend and in July various staff members were told not to come," said another staffer whose contract wasn't renewed.

Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nika, Project Director, DIC however refused the allegations and said they have only laid-off those staff members who were not attending the university.

"Some 5-6 people didn't attend the university amid COVID-19 for over five months, so we decided to lav them off," Prof. Nika told Kashmir Observer.

Nika said the DIC project was till June this year but was extended till September. However, one of the terminated staffers said that he has attended the University regularly and has also marked his attendance till Kashmir went into second covid lockdown. Regarding their salaries, Prof. Nika said, they have disbursed their 50% salaries and kept the 50% withheld due to some issues.

"We will also release the rest when the funds come," he added.

Pertinently, PMSSS is a financial

assistance scheme for J&K students

to pursue undergraduate studies

outside the UT implemented by All

India Council for Technical Edu-

cation (AICTE), MHRD New Delhi

through Higher Education Depart-

ment of J&K as nodal agency. The

scholarship is provided to the eli-

gible students for the course under

three heads including General,

Professional and Medical Courses

with a total of 5000 scholarships

every year in the institutions out-

Man Arrested For Molesting, Assaulting Girl

Observer News Service

Kulgam: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday arrested a person allegedly involved in molesting and sexually assaulting a girl.

In a statement, a police spokesperson said that Police Station Kulgam received a complaint for assistance from a complainant stating that his daughter (name withheld) was kidnapped and thereof assaulted sexually by two persons Shahrukh Safdar Khan son of Safdar Ahmad Khan and Ishfaq Ahmad

Khan son of Fayaz Ahmad Khan both residents of Chattabal Kulgam. A team of Police was constituted to trace and nab the culprits.

"Specific information was generated by the investigating team and Shahrukh Safdar Khan was arrested within one hour after complaint was received in Police Station Kulgam.'

Meanwhile the victim girl after fulfilling all medico formalities has been handed over to her legal heirs, efforts are on to nab the other accused.

Water Seeps Into Residential Areas After **Breach In Irrigation Canal**

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Following heavy rains in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal and surrounding areas, water seeped into the residential areas at Baba Wayil Padshahibagh after a breach in an irrigation canal.

Evewitnesses said that water entered into several houses at Nunar and Gotlibagh areas of Ganderbal. Due to accumulation of waters, traffic on Ganderbal-Kangan road was also disrupted.

District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Kritika Ivotsna said that teams of police and civil officials have rushed to spots and are assisting people. She said that water has entered into a couple of houses in Nunnar and Gotlibagh. "Our teams are there to assess the situation," she said. The breach and subsequent seepage of waters into the residential areas created panic among locals. Some people were seen taking out their belongings from the ground floor to safer places.

Cattle Herd Crosses LoC in Gurez Locals Appeal Govt To Bring Them Back

Agenceis

BANDIPORA: At least 30 year cattle in a village on the Line of Control in North Kashmir have crossed over to the Pakistani side of Kashmir and locals are urging government to help them bring back their cattle.

Locals from Tulail valley saod that 30 cattle have crossed over the LoC in Baduaab village which is very close to the border.

"We have been waiting since morning for the cattle's return," they said. "The cattle were up in the pastures for grazing when they crossed the border."

Locals said that their livelihood is solely dependent on these animals as they are using them for ploughing fields and for sowing different types of crops to secure the necessities of life.

The locals appealed to the government to help them bring the cattles back to their territory. "I also appeal to the government

to help the people in bringing back their cattle from across the border," said DDC Tulail, Raja Ajaz. Meanwhile, a senior official sta-

tioned at Gurez said that he also received reports that the animals had crossed the de facto border. "However, the final confirma-

tion will come by evening as the army today allowed people to search their animal at the higher reaches of the area," an official said.

Reasi Cyclist Traverses Difficult Terrain To Meet Dr Farooq In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A cyclist from Reasi district of the Jammu region traversed difficult terrain covering four districts to meet National Conference president and Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah here on Friday. Muneer Ahmad reached Abdullah's residence at the Gupkar area of the city in the afternoon, an NC leader said.

The party president met Ahmed, a cyclist who travelled all the way on cycle from Reasi voyaging through the most difficult terrain covering four districts, he said.

Abdullah congratulated Ahmad for the feat and thanked him for the gesture.

DC Kupwara

To Avoid

Of Roads

Appeals People

Encroachment

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Kup-

wara, Imam Din along with

DDC member Hyhama, Haji

Sona Ullah and concerned Of-

ficers Friday visited various

flood affected areas includ-

ing Goose, Khumriyal and

Chairkoot to take stock of the

damages due to heavy rains

directed concerned engineers

at Khumriyal to make esti-

mates within two days under

Commissioner directed con-

cerned engineers to utilize

Panchayat funds to clear the

Commissioner appealed to the

people not to encroach the

roads, nallahs and drains in

the respective areas, as the en-

croachment is the basic cause

of these floods and water log-

On the occasion, the Deputy

At Chairkoot, the Deputy

The Deputy Commissioner

and flash floods.

drainage system.



"He is a young and promis-

Abdullah said the physiologi-

ing youth from Reasi. I am profoundly thankful to him for his unique gesture. It is this love and affection that keeps me going," the NC president said.

cal underpinning behind Ahmad

cle is a case in point which reveals the deep emotional connection of

him for his future endeavours,

the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the National Conference. "I pass on good wishes to ازنیابت قلم آباد بااجلاس ایگزیکٹیومجسٹریٹ درجہاول مضمون کاغذات درخوات منجانب سجادگل تیلی وآزادگل تیلی اولا دان غلام دین تیلی ساکنه لاچھ بمرادعطا یگی OBC تحت اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر ميس درخواست سائل دفتر بذاميس زير كاروئي ہے اس سلسلے مين پڑواري حلقه

ں کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کر نہیں ہے سائل کے کمبہ کی ماہوارہ آمد فی 31200 ہے سرٹشکیٹ اجرا لرنے میں اگر کشخص کو کئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ ایم اندردفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے عیادگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of Location in the Registration certificate of the Travel unit namely M/s Fair Tour & Travels.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Sheikh Mushtag Ahmad S/o Mr. Sheikh Abdul Rahim R/o Friends Colony, Barzulla, Srinagar Kashmir has approached this office for change of location of his Travel Unit running running under the name and style "M/s Fair Tour & Travels" from Lambert Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar to Baghat Sanat Nagar Road, Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas the unit is registered with this department under Registration No.:- Reg/T/1043/DT/35/L-3 dated 03-08-2006 and is renewed upto 31-03-2021.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Original Registration Certificate, Bank statement, Site Plan of new location, Revenue Papers, Photographs of new location in support of his claim.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for change of location of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

No: Reg/T/131/1226/DTK Dated:- 29-07-2021.

DIPK-5548/21

Sd/-Deputy Director Tourism, Registration (Kashmir) 2021UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, (Flood Control Division), **DIVISION Kakapora**

Fax/Phone: 01933-265052

emailFcdkakapora"gmail.com.

Notice inviting Short Term e-Tender Short term e-NIT No: - FCDK/ 06 of 2021-22 Dated: 30 /07/2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora;

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (.in lakh)	Cost of T/Doc. (in .)	MH of Account	Time of Completi on	Class of contract
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01	Strengthening of left side embankment of River Jhelum by way of crates Downstream PHE Lift Scheme Goripora near the house of Gh.Ahmad Dar at village Goripora Part A.(Fresh of NIT 04 of 2021-22 S.No.03)	2.283	300	2711-M&R	15 days	DEE
02	Strengthening of left side embankment of River Jhelum by way of crates Downstream PHE Lift Scheme Goripora near the house of Gh.Ahmad Dar at village Goripora Part B (Fresh of NIT 04 of 2021-22 S.No.04)	2.113	300	2711-M&R	15 days	DEE
03	Strengthening of left side embankment of River Jhelum by way of crates Downstream PHE Lift Scheme Goripora near the house of Gh.Ahmad Dar at village Goripora Part C (Fresh of NIT 04 of 2021-22 S.No.05)	2.113	300	2711-M&R	15 days	DEE
04	Closure of illegal approaches on right side of River Jhelum at various spots RD.17100-39500m.(Fresh of NIT 04 of 2021-22 S.No.08)	1.01	200	2711-M&R	15 days	DEE
05	Construction of F.P work on left side of Sasara Nallah by way crate work at village Monshward Downstream bridge at Rd.6000 mts. part A	2.045	300	2711-M&R	15 days	DEE

Accorded (vide SE/Hyd/Spn/DB/30 of 07/2021-22

Dated: 01-07-2021) Availabl

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ nloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	30/07/2021 from 1700 Hrs
2.	Date of start of downloading	30/07/2021 from 1800 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/Financial	30/07/2021 from 1800 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission end date	07/08/2021 up to 1300 Hrs.
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders (online)	07/08/2021 at 1500 Hrs.

a). Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt (mentioning therein NIT No, S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department (Flood Control) Division Kakapora & date on it must

tender Notice, and Bid Security declaration form duly self-attested instead of Bid Security (EMD) as per Finance Department J&K Civil Secretariat Jammu/ Srinagar Circular issued vide No. A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J. However, in case of compelling circumstances shall be obtained from the successful bidder by this department. (Refer Appendix-

b) Due to covid surge if any tenderer fails to get Treasury Challan/ Receipt he/ she may contact Div

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as

Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved

The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at S. No. 1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

ote: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of tender due to any reason/ reasons

5. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form as per Appendix-1, cost of tender documents in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt pledge Division Kakapora enlistment card duly renewed, G. S. Tin No., latest Quarter GST Return.

6. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

7. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all

No.FCDK/3933-45 DIPK-5605/21

(Er. Mukhtar Ahmad Shah) Executive Enginee Flood Control Division Kakapora

Indian Athletes' Schedule On Day 9 Of Olympic Games 2020

Observer News Service

s the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 enters 9th day of competitions, here is a complete schedule of Indian athletes in action on July 31:

Athletics

Women's discus throw Group A - Seema Punia - 6:00 am Women's discus throw Group B – Kamalpreet Kaur – 7:25 am

Sailing - 49er Race 10 -Ganapathy Kelapanda, Varun Thakkar – 8:35 am

Boxing Round of 16: Amit Panghal vs Y. Martinez (Colombia) - 7:30

Quarterfinal: Pooja Rani vs Li Qian (China) - 3:36 pm

Shooting qualification -50m rifle 3 – Tejaswini Sawant, Anjum Moudgil – 8:30 am Final – 12:30 pm

Archery men's individual Pre-Quarterfinal – Atanu Das vs T. Furukawa (Japan) – 7:16 am Semifinal - 11:15 am on-

Medal rounds - 1:00 pm onwards

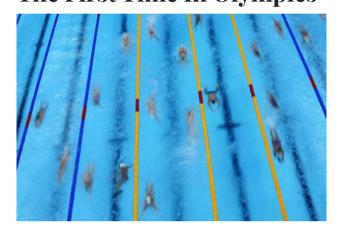
Badminton women's singles semifinals - PV Sindhu vs Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei) – 2:30 pm onwards

Men's Long Jump - M. Sreeshankar – 3:40 pm **Hockey** – India women vs

South Africa – 8:45 am

All timings are in IST and can be watched live on Doordarshan and SONY sports channels.

Men, Women To Swim **Together In Same Race For** The First Time In Olympics



Agencies

TOKYO: Swimming is nothing if not orderly. Get ready for a little

Here comes the 4x100 meter mixed medley relay making its Olympic debut in Tokyo on Saturday: Two men and two women per country doing backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.

The teams get to decide who swims each stroke, so a woman from one team and a man from the other could be doing the butterfly, say, at the same time.

"I was probably a bit skeptical when it first came on the program, but I'm so thrilled that it's now an Olympic event," Australian sprinter Cate Campbell said.

"It keeps you on the edge of your seat until the very last moment." FINA, the sport's world governing body. two mixed relays to its program at the 2015 world championships in Kazan, Russia, where the 4x100 mixed freestyle relay

also debuted.

While there are no restrictions on whether a man or woman swims which stroke, there are some general strategies that teams follow at the highest levels for the mixed relay.

Most teams put a woman on the final freestyle leg because the time difference between women and men is generally less on that stroke than the other three. All 16 teams anchored with a female in the Olympic preliminaries.

Likewise, a man generally swims the breaststroke, where there's a larger gap between the fastest men's and women's times - roughly 7 1/2 seconds for the gold medallists in Tokyo. All but one team in the preliminaries went with a male on the third leg.

There's more wiggle room on the backstroke and butterfly legs. In the preliminaries, 10 of 16 teams used a man on the backstroke, while the butterfly leg featured nine females and

Japan Expands COVID Emergency After Record Spike Amid Games



Agencies

TOKYO: Japan on Friday expanded a coronavirus state of emergency to four more areas in addition to Tokyo following record spikes in infections as the capital hosts the Olympics.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared an emergency in Saitama, Kanagawa and Chiba, near Tokyo, as well as in the western city of Osaka, effective Monday until Aug. 31. Emergency measures already in place in Tokyo and the southern island of Okinawa will be extended until the end of August, after the Olympics and well into the Paralympics which start Aug. 24.

Five other areas, including Hokkaido, Kyoto, Hyogo and Fukuoka, will be placed under less-stringent emergency restrictions.

Tokyo has reported a record increase in cases for three days in a row, including 3,865 on Thursday, before logging another 3,300 on Friday. The cases have doubled since last week, although officials say the surge is unrelated to the Olympics.

"Infections are expanding in the Tokyo and western metropolitan areas at an enormous speed that we have never experienced before," Suga said as he declared the expansion of the state of emergency. If the spike continues at the current pace with the spread of the more contagious delta variant, Japan's medical system could collapse, he said.

The Tokyo Games organisers on Friday also announced 27 new COVID-19 cases linked with the Olympics, including three athletes, the highest daily count so far.

The three athletes include US pole vaulter Sam Kendricks, a two-time world champion, who on Thursday pulled out of the Games after testing positive for the virus.

The 27 cases, bringing the cumulative Games-related total to 220, comprise 18 residents of Japan and nine from overseas. Of the daily total, two athletes and a Games-related official were staying in the Olympic village.



Lovlina Assures India Of First Boxing Medal At Tokyo Olympics

Press Trust of India

TOKYO: Debutant Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) assured India of their first boxing medal at the ongoing Olympic Games when she upstaged former world champion Nien-Chin Chen of Chinese Taipei to enter the semifinals here on Friday.

The 23-year-old Assam boxer prevailed 4-1 to make the last-four where she will square off against reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey, who hammered Anna Lysenko in her quarterfinal bout.

Borgohain, a two-time world championship bronze-medallist, displayed tremendous calm in the face of a plucky opponent, who had beaten her in the past.

She was aggressive to start with, followed it up with a tremendous counter-attacking game and kept her defence tight in the final three minutes to emerge tri-

The youngster, who was laid



low by COVID-19 last year and missed a training trip to Europe because of it, let out a huge scream after the referee raised her hand, pent up emotions finally getting the better of her.

India's previous boxing medals have come through Vijender Singh (2008) and M.C. Mary Kom (2012). Both of them had won bronze medals and Borgohain would look to better that.

PV Sindhu Enters Badminton Semifinals At Tokyo Olympics

Press Trust of India

TOKYO: Reigning world champion P V Sindhu kept alive India's hopes of a first-ever Olympic gold in badminton by reaching the semifinals of the women's singles with a straight-game win over world No.5 Japanese Akane Yamaguchi in Tokyo on Friday.

The 26-year-old Indian, who won a silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics, defended brilliantly and rode on her attacking allround game to outclass the fourth-seeded Yamaguchi 21-13 22-20 in a 56-minute quarterfinal clash at the

Deepika Kumari

Press Trust of India

TOKYO: World number one archer

Deepika Kumari held her nerves to

pip former world champion Kse-

nia Perova of the Russian Olympic

Committee in a thrilling one-arrow

shoot-off to advance to the

women's individual quar-

terfinals of the Olympic

Games in Tokyo on Friday.

regulation five-setter, the

27-year-old Indian deliv-

ered a perfect 10, hitting the

bull's eye, to topple the Rus-

sian, a team silver medallist

6-5 (10-7) without any fuss.

Starting off the one-arrow shoot-

off, the Russian crumbled under

pressure as she misfired a 7 while a

composed Deepika sealed the issue

Deepika, this was her first win from

three matches against the 2017

world champion as she became the

first Indian to make the last-eight in

For the three-time Olympian

at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Locked 5-5 after the

Enters Olympic Women's

Archery Quarter-Finals

She will next face the winner

of the other quarterfinal between Thailand's Ratchanok Inthanon and Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying. The sixth-seeded Indian came

into the match with an 11-7 head-to-head count against the Japanese, whom she had last peaten at the All England Championship in March this year.

Yamaguchi tried to play an aggressive game but Sindhu held her ground and used her good anticipation and reach to stay ahead. The Indian brought out her attacking smashes and half smashes whenever there was a chance to put pressure on her

On Thursday, Sindhu had notched up a straight-game tri-umph over Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, seeded 13th, in the prequarterfinals.

She is the lone Indian in the fray in badminton after men's singles player B Sai Praneeth and the men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy failed to qualify for the knockout stage.



an individual event of the Olympics.

face 20-year-old Korean top seed An

San who bounced back from a set

behind to oust local favourite Ren

Hayakawa 6-4. The Korean, who had

broken a 25-year-old Olympic re-

cord en route to topping the ranking

round, displayed incredible shooting

of three 10s in her last three arrows

to set up a clash against the Indian.

once earlier, in the final of the To-

kvo 2020 Test Event' at the same

venue of Yumenoshima Park in

2019, and the Indian had lost to her

younger opponent in straight sets.

Deepika had faced the Korean

In the quarterfinals, Deepika will

'Wow! Wow!' Women **Get Olympic Track Off** To A Sizzling Start

Agencies

TOKYO: Usain Bolt might be long gone from the sprint scene. It doesn't mean Jamaica has slowed down one bit.

Nobody has, at least not on the women's side of the sport.

An opening day at the Olympics that's supposed to produce little more than a brisk jog for the world's best at 100 meters turned into something very different Friday. Reigning world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce ran her heat in the nearly empty Olympic Stadium in 10.84 seconds. Her Jamaican rival, defending Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah, finished in 10.82.

And Marie-Josee Ta Lou, the Ivory Coast sprinter who finished an excruciating fourth in Rio de Janeiro, kept saying Wow! Wow! after she crossed the finish line in a blistering personal best of 10.78.

They were the fifth, sixth and seventh-fastest times of the year, produced on a day when seven of 54 sprinters hit a personal best all in an opening round designed more for shaking out cobwebs than watching the clock.

All that even though the field was missing this season's thirdfastest runner, Sha'Carri Richardson, who is back home in the United States following a doping ban.

By comparison, only one runner, Fraser-Pryce, cracked 11 seconds in the opening round five years ago in Rio de Janeiro. She went on to win the bronze, behind Thompson and American sprinter Tori Bowie. Fraser-Pryce is the favorite for Saturday's final, which is already living up to the hype. Fraser-Pryce ran a 10.63 back in June that has some thinking even Florence Griffith Joyner's 33-year-old world record could finally be at risk this year.

Djokovic Loses To Zverev At Olympics, Ending Golden Slam Bid

Agencies

TOKYO: There will be no Golden Slam for Novak Djokovic.

The top-ranked Serb lost to Alexander Zverev of Germany 1-6, 3-6, 6-1 Friday in the semifinals of the tennis tournament at the Tokyo Olympics.

Djokovic was attempting to become the first man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic gold in the same year. He won the Australian Open, the French Open and Wimbledon this year and needed the Olympic and U.S. Open titles to complete the collection.

Steffi Graf in 1988 remains the only tennis player to achieve the Golden Slam. Zverev's opponent in the

gold-medal match will be Karen Khachanov, The Russian beat Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 6-3, 6-3. Djokovic will play Carreno Busta for bronze.

Djokovic's hadn't lost since get-

ting beaten by Rafael Nadal at the Italian Open final 2 months ago.

On a humid and muggy evening at the Ariake Tennis Park, Djokovic committed a series of uncharacteristic errors after a strong start as the 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Zverev started to win free points with his big serve.

When Zverev hit a backhand winner down the line that Djokovic didn't move for to close it out. Djokovic walked to the net where he was embraced by Zverev. Djokovic responded by resting his head on Zverev's shoulder as the pair exchanged some words.

Djokovic's only Olympic medal was bronze in singles at the 2008 Beijing Games his first. He could still win a gold at the Tokyo Games in mixed doubles.

Djokovic was due back on the court almost immediately to play with Serbian partner Nina Stojanovic in the mixed doubles semifinals against the Russian duo of Elena Vesnina and Aslan Karatsev.

Advisor Khan Hails Olympic Medallist Mirabai Chanu, Her **Local Coach Vijay Sharma**

Observer News Service

SRINACAR. Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Friday lauded Chanu Saikhom Mirabai for winning the Silver Medal at the ongoing Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan.

The Advisor exuded delight that the medallist has given the nation something to really feel proud about. He maintained that the achievement is extraordinary not only for herself but for the nation itself.

Advisor Khan also maintained that it is the recognition of India's talent at the global stage besides the fructification of her perseverance and hard work. He said that she would long act as an inspiration and icon for the youth of the nation. The Advisor also expressed

his deep appreciation that the man behind this success originally hails from the Basholi area of J&K. He said the coaches play an important role in chiselling and polishing the talent of sportspersons and the role of Viiav Sharma, her trainer for a long time is worth eulogizing and to be written in golden letters.

Khan said that the success of Olympic medallist Mirabai will not only inspire others to make efforts but would act as a benchmark for our youth to work hard and make the mark. He said that it would definitely help us in producing many more international medallists in coming years from the country.

JKFA Professional League 2021

Lonestar Kashmir, Real Kashmir (R) Win **Matches On Penultimate Day**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the penultimate day of JKFA Professional League 2021 two matches were played on Friday at the Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

The first match was played between Lonestar Kashmir FC and SCFA XI. Lonestar KFC dominated the proceedings right from the start till end and did not give any chance to SCFA to play offensive football. LKFC thrashed SCFA by a margin of 5 goals to nil. This was the last league match of LKFC and SCFA. For LKFC, Ragav scored a hattrick while Steven and Johnson scored one goal each. Ragav of LKFC was declared man of the match.

Lonestar Kashmir's head coach Chandan Rathod looked upset at the final whistle and when KO's reporter asked why, the coach replied, "Did you see the officiating?"

The second match was played between Real Kashmir FC (R) and Shaheen FC Jammu. The Snow Leopards' reserve team completely outclassed their opponents from start to finish. RKFC's



Ateeb opened the scoring in the 25th minute after converting a wonderful cross from Shakir.

In the second half, the Real Kashmir boys continued to dominate and scored to double their lead through Faisal. They added another in the 65th minute via Basit, who scored another in the 75th minute to take his team 4:0 up. RKFC were awarded a penalty minutes later and Shoaib made

The match ended 5:0 in favour of Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). Basit of RKFC was awarded man of the match.

The PFL 2021 will play its last two matches of the season today, Saturday, July 31. J&K Bank XI will take on Kashmir Avengers FC in the first match while in the second, Hyderya Sports FC will play Downtown Heroes FC.