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P3 NEWS

OFFICERS DIRECTED TO COMPLETE SRINAGAR RING ROAD AT THE EARLIEST

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ali Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of Officers convened here to review the progress of ongoing

P6 HEALTH

MANUFACTURED MEDALISTS

At a time when athletes from all over the globe are competing for medals in Tokyo Olympics to bring laurels to their nation, Kashmir University held its long awaited 19th convocation ceremony to award gold medals to its toppers from



P11 SPORTS

J&K BANK XI LIFTS JKFA PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE 2021 TITLE

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, Saturday reaffirmed government's resolve of taking youth along in overall growth and development of the



Quote!

Life changes very quickly, in a very positive way, if you let it.

— Lindsey Vonn

NEWS DIGEST

IAAS Probationers Call On LG

SRINAGAR: A group of probationers of Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) led by Principal Accountant General (Audit) Jammu & Kashmir, Pramod Kumar on Saturday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

During the interaction, the IAAS probationers discussed various issues related to J&K and were happy to see the enthusiastic environment of peace, progress in the UT during their study tour, an official spokesperson said. He said the visiting probationers ➤ [More On P10](#)

IED Defused In Rajouri

JAMMU: A major tragedy was averted on Saturday with timely detection of a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Rajouri, officials said. The IED was found planted by suspected militants under a culvert at Bathooni-Dilogra on Jammu-Rajouri national highway and was subsequently defused by the bomb disposal squad of the Army at 9.10 am, the officials said. The traffic on the vital road remained suspended for over three hours after the ➤ [More On P10](#)

Ex-MP Laway Likely To Join PC

SRINAGAR: The former member parliament and PDP leader Nazir Ahmed Laway is likely to join Sajad Lone led People Conference in coming days. Sources said Laway has made up his mind to join Peoples Conference after consulting his well-wishers and supporters. They added that Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone has already been intimidated about Laway's decision and in coming days he will join the party in a function. A resident of Hanad Chawalgam area of South Kashmir's Kulgam, Nazir Ahmed Laway was expelled by Peoples Democratic ➤ [More On P10](#)

Active Cases Drop To 50 In Ladakh

LEH: The active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh dropped to 50 after 14 more patients recovered from the disease, while four new infections pushed the overall tally in the Union Territory to 20,328, officials said on Saturday. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, while 20,071 patients have recovered till date. Nearly 3,000 people were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday and all the four new cases were detected in Leh, taking the infection tally in the district to ➤ [More On P10](#)

Jaish Chief's Aide Among 2 Killed In Firefight

Police Says Lamboo Was Involved In Pulwama Fidayeen Attack



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants, including a top commander Mohammad Ismail Alvi alias Lamboo were killed in an encounter in the woods near

Dachigam national park in Pulwama on Saturday.

According to police, Alvi was close aide of Jaish Chief Masood Azhar and the mastermind of February 2019 Pulwama Fidayeen attack.

A police ➤ [More On P10](#)

'89 Militants Killed, Over 200 Still Active'

Security forces have killed 89 militants, including seven Pakistani nationals, in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far, top Army and police officials said on Saturday, maintaining that over 200 ultras are still active in the union territory. "Out of these 89 terrorists, seven were FTs (foreign terrorists or Pakistanis). It (number) is lesser than last year, but more top commanders were killed this year," ➤ [More On P10](#)

HE WAS THE MASTERMIND AND MAIN ACCUSED IN THE FEBRUARY 2019 Lethpora

Fidayeen attack. He was also involved in the killing of SPO Fayaz Ahmed, his wife and daughter in Tral, recently. Besides, other terror crimes, he was also instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds and also motivating local youth for stone pelting and other criminal activities."

No CID Clearance To People Involved In Law & Order, Stone Pelting

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have directed its officers to deny the security clearance to the persons who are involved in law & order, stone pelting cases and other crime prejudicial to the security of the state.

"All the field units of CID SB-Kashmir are hereby directed to ensure that during verification related to passport, service and any other verification related to Government services/schemes, the subject's involvement in law & order, stone pelting cases and other crime prejudicial to the security of the state be specifically looked into and same must be corroborated from local police station records," reads a circular issued by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) CID SBK. ➤ [More On P10](#)

J&K Mulls Reopening Edu Institutions In Phased Manner

LG Directs Priority Vaccination Of College, University Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As coronavirus pandemic continues to show a significant decline in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Saturday said that it can now work out a plan to open educational institutions in a staggered manner.

"As the Covid situation in J&K has improved significantly, now we can work out a plan to open educational institutions in a staggered ➤ [More On P10](#)

LG Discusses Film Policy With Bollywood Superstar

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday discussed the new film policy of Jammu and Kashmir with renowned film actor Amir Khan. "Met renowned film actor Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao today. We discussed the new film policy of J&K, which will be released ➤ [More On P10](#)



J&K'S AVERAGE VACCINATION COVERAGE of the first dose in 45 and above age group clocking 99.9%; positivity rate dropping to 0.2% and all districts falling under Green Zone as per the stringent indicators for consecutive weeks are results of strenuous efforts by all."

Hope Fades For Survivors Of Kishtwar Cloudburst

Agencies

POONCH: There was no trace of the 19 persons as rescue operation continued for the fourth day at Honzar village in Kishtwar district on Saturday amid inclement weather, officials said.

19 persons including eight women are missing following a cloudburst on intervening night of July 27 and 28 in the remote village. Success has been eluding the search teams after seven bodies were recovered and seventeen persons rescued in injured condition after the calamity on Wednesday last.

A police official said that additional rescue teams of NDRF and SDRF were inducted and they joined those who have



File Photo

been carrying out the rescue operation. Six teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with "sophisticated equipment" were earlier involved in the operation along with other rescuers from police, Army and local volunteers, the

officials said.

The missing persons include Saja Begum (60) wife of Ghulam Mohidin, Khursheed Ahmed (31) son of Mohammad Iqbal, Fida Hussain (26) son of Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Sharif (40) son of Ghulam ➤ [More On P10](#)

Father Of 5 Dies 'Inside Army Camp' In Gurez

Army Rejects Allegations, Say Man Slipped To Death During Search Op

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The death of a middle-aged man in Gurez Valley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district has led to claims and counter claims between army and the villagers, reports said Saturday.

52-year-old Muhammad Abdullah Hajam son of Abdul

Rahman Hajam a resident of Tarbal was allegedly called by the local army unit of (36RR) at Tarbal--the last village near LoC, about 20 kms from Gurez town, a local news agency KNO reported Saturday, while quoting locals

The locals said that they came to know this morning about the death of the man inside the army camp. The deceased according to locals was the father of five children.

According to the report, the locals further alleged that ➤ [More On P10](#)

'Terrorist' Held As NIA Raids 15 Spots In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday arrested a "terrorist" as it carried out raids at 15 locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with two militancy-related cases, officials said.

The raids were carried out in connection with the busting of a Lashker-e-Mustafa (LEM) module in March and the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) dropped here by a drone from Pakistan, an NIA spokesperson said. ➤ [More On P10](#)

Azad For Participation In Assembly Polls Whenever Held

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Everyone should take part in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly election whenever it is held and the Congress should start preparing for it, senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Saturday.

In a brief interaction with reporters outside his residence here, Azad to a question about the possibility of assembly election in the Union Territory said that as of now, the delimitation exercise is on.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister is in the city on a three-day visit and on his



arrival at the airport, supporters demanded that Congress leaders, who burnt his effigy during a protest in March, be expelled.

When told during the interaction with reporters that the BJP had already ➤ [More On P10](#)



PDP Only Party Resisting Gol: Mehbooba

Former chief minister and People Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said that the PDP is the only party which is resisting the Government of India (GoI) ➤ [More On P10](#)



Old Brew Is Back With Samovar's Creative Revival In Kashmir

Umar Hayat Hussain

In the ongoing wedding season, Kashmir's iconic Zaina Kadal bazar is buzzing with shoppers swarming copper stores -- show-piecing shimmering samovars in skilled shapes.

The craving for copper containers, especially the cultural kettle, is part of a wedding tradition in the valley.

"Among the copper vessels that bride takes to her in-laws as a token gift for her new family members, designed Samovars are quite popular," says Abdul Hameed, a coppersmith from Srinagar.

"These new-designed Samovars have its takers outside the valley as well. Away

from their homeland, many Kashmiris order and showcase it as a symbol of their culture."

The revival of the ember-stoked vessel--a sign of Kashmir's Central Asian influence--in new designs is a recent craft intervention, mostly done in downtown's archetypal workplaces.

"This craft intervention is the part of our lineage," says Rafiq Misgar, a coppersmith from Old Srinagar. "At the end of the day, craft is all about creating a market appetite."

This creative appetite was created when the so-called modernism made morning teas devoid of samovar brew. All of a sudden, Rafiq says, some 'shady medicos' started



terming the Samovar tea as a 'detrimental drink' for health. "It was a big concern for coppersmiths and our existence,"

Rafiq continues. "The so-called unsolicited medical advice spread like a wildfire through word of mouth and

threatened to create a cultural demise in Kashmir."

Such notions were seen as an assault on the craftsmen community sustaining the valley from ages, Rafiq says.

"So we had plastic-made flasks as our morning tea-containers now," he says. "But no unsolicited medical advice was given, when it was a clear harmful morning shift in our lives."

Amid this concern, the coppersmith says, his clan had to do something about the craft demise and they did it by making new patterns.

In his early thirties, Rafiq reckons that the creative designs eventually revived the copper market in Kashmir.

"There was a time in recent

past when hardly anyone was considering a copper container in Kashmir," he says. "Even the tradition of giving copper vessels to brides was considered an obsolete practice. But now, thanks to new designs, Samovar has once again graced Kashmiri homes."

While 'wouste' Rafiq gives final touches to Samovar, his apprentice engraves bottom shelf of utensil and attaches chimney to give it a proper shape of kettle.

Rafiq engraves Chinar leaf on Samovar to add "beauty, style and elegance to it".

Depending on the size and decoration, says Sajad Khan, another coppersmith from downtown, a Samovar costs anything ➤ [More On P10](#)



Biomarker for breast cancer response to immunotherapy identified in a new study

Agencies

The findings of the study were published in Clinical Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research. The study demonstrated that this biomarker, a molecule called the Major Histocompatibility Complex Class II protein (MHC-II), has the potential to be a predictor of immunotherapy benefit with two types of breast cancer—early-stage, triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and high-risk, estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer (HR) when expressed on breast cancer cells. Although immunotherapies are likely to soon be prescribed along with chemotherapies for these breast cancers before surgery, most patients don't require the addition of immunotherapy to achieve treatment response. Without an optimal biomarker, clinicians don't have a reliable way to discern which patients need immunotherapy and which ones don't. Clinical tests for MHC-II expression could shield breast cancer patients who don't need the immunotherapy from possible treatment complications and additional costs. Immunotherapies are expensive and associated with significant toxicity. Justin Balko, PharmD, PhD, associate professor of Medicine



and Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, conceived and designed the study. "These findings are particularly exciting for us, because if validated, they could provide a better way to personalise therapy for breast cancer patients. So far, the typical biomarkers like PD-L1 expression and the numbers of immune cells in the tumour have not done a good job of identifying patients who need immunotherapy," said Balko, the study's senior author. Paula Gonzalez Ericsson, the study lead author, added, "the

test can be easily performed on patient's tissue samples obtained for diagnosis without the need of additional intervention." 1. Balko and colleagues analysed tissue samples donated by three cohorts of patients: 2. Patients with non-immunotherapy-treated breast cancers 3. Patients with TNBC treated with the immunotherapy durvalumab and standard chemotherapy 4. Patients with HER2-negative breast cancer treated with either standard chemotherapy or the standard chemotherapy plus the

immunotherapy pembrolizumab. They determined that MHC-II is expressed in a subgroup of primary TNBC and HR breast cancers, and that tumour MHC-II expression is associated with response to standard chemotherapy plus durvalumab or pembrolizumab, but not to standard neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone. "The findings of the association with response in early-stage high-risk HR patients suggests that MHC-II may be a useful tool in a broader context for breast cancer and this area would benefit from further study," said co-senior author, Kim Blenman, PhD, MS, assistant professor of Medicine at Yale University. The study is believed to be the first to evaluate and demonstrate the predictive capacity of tumour MHC-II for immunotherapy-specific benefit in patients with breast cancer. The researchers also noted that MHC-II has the potential to be a pan-cancer biomarker predictor for anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1 immunotherapies since its clinical relevance has been demonstrated with melanoma, breast cancer, and Hodgkin's lymphoma in this study and previous studies. However, they call for a large, randomized controlled trial to validate their findings with breast cancer, which was based on a retrospective tissue-based analysis.

Breastfeeding results in a healthier mother-child duo

Agencies

According to the World Health Organisation, breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. However, nearly two out of three infants are not exclusively breastfed for the recommended 6 months—a rate that has not improved in 2 decades. Shelly Singh, Senior Consultant at Rosewalk Hospital, shares why breastfeeding is crucial for both mother and child.

Why breastfeed?

There are numerous benefits of breastfeeding for both the mother and baby, some of which extend life-long. The biggest reason is that nature intended it this way. Breast milk contains just the right amount of macro and micronutrients, antioxi-

dants, enzymes, immune properties and antibodies from the mom. The mother's mature immune system prepares antibodies against common microbes and these antibodies are released in the mother's milk. They coat the lining of the baby's gastrointestinal system and protect them against illnesses, often for life. Moreover, breast milk at the right temperature is not infected, unlike bottles and nipples, which could often be infected if not handled with care. Breastfeeding mothers lose weight sooner than those who don't breastfeed. They burn around 500 extra calories per day and become fitter earlier. The uterus of breastfeeding moms contracts and returns to its pre-pregnant size earlier as well. Blood loss following delivery is also less due to the same

reason. There are lesser chances of anaemia and urinary tract infection in breastfeeding mothers. Women who breastfeed also have a reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancers. As the mom bonds with the baby with this skin to skin contact, there are happy hormones that are released which leads to less chances of postpartum blues and depression. There is a greater feeling of self-esteem and confidence which is emotionally rewarding. Breastfed babies cry less and this shapes their behaviour for life. These mothers are able to read their babies' cues more and tend to be more relaxed. Whatever be the financial status of the woman and household, breastfeeding is less expensive and safer than formula feed.

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

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Extension of date for admission of Online Application Forms for Common Entrance Test (CET) for Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing Courses, 2021.
Reference: i) Notification No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-06-2021;
ii) Notice No. 054-BOPEE of 2021 dated 26-06-2021;
iii) Notice No. 056-BOPEE of 2021 dated 12-07-2021;

Notice No: 059-BOPEE of 2021
Dated: 30-07-2021

It is notified for information of all such eligible interested candidates who are willing to apply for admission to Common Entrance Test (CET) for Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Courses-2021 that the Board has decided to extend the last date for submission of online Application Forms for the said Courses from 31-07-2021 to 07-08-2021 (mid-night)

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-Information Brochure and Notification No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-06-2021

DIPK-NB-2166/21
No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021
Dated: 30-07-2021

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Wajee Ahmad S/o Mohd Iqbal R/O Azad Basti Natipora Sgr (Transferor) of Grand I-10 bearing registration No. JK01AL- 5112 chasis No: 027721 Engine No: 87450 Model 2019 in favour of Sha-keel Ahmad Dar S/O Mohd Abdullah Dar R/O Gogji Pathri Budgam

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

NOJK-RTOK 5111
Dated: 31/07/2021
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Dr Abdi Hussain S/O Mohammad Bashirul Islam R/O Sharaz Colony Sou-ra Sgr (Transferor) of M/ Car bearing registration No. JK01G- 4839 chasis No: 1819634 Engine No: 2525304 Model 2002 in favour of Danish Jalal S/O Jalal Ud Din Rather R/O Nowpora Amlar Pulwama

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

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 4956
Dated: 29/07/2021
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mohsin Hassan Bhat S/O GHulam Hassan Bhat R/O Hamdaniya Colony Be-mian Sgr (Transferor) of Bajaj Pulsar bearing registration No. JK01U- 5852 chasis No: 55693 Engine No: 40303 Model 2013 in favour of Moomin Ahamd Malik S/O Abdul Gani Malik R/O Main Road Dreygam Khanpora Budgam

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

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 6001
Dated: 31/07/2021
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Fayaz Ahamd Penchoo S/O Ghulam Ahamd Penchoo R/O Dadi Kadal Tankipora Sgr (Transferor) and Shri New J&K Road Ways Prop: Mohd Maqbool Lone R/O E-10 Transport Nagar Parim-pora Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Innova carriage route Permit No / 1522/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01AK-9998

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

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S New J&K Road Ways namely Mohd Yaseen NO: JK/RTOK /5058 Dated: 31/07/2021 pko
Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly mentioned in School Records as 17/085/2009 While my correct DOB is 07/08/2011 which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GMS Chairhara Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Irshad Mushtaq
S/O Mushtaq Ahamd Parray
R/ Chairhara Magam
BMG

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Ab Majeed Kishitwari S/O Gh Mohamamd Kashitwari R/O Gulposh Colony Bypass Chanapora (Transferor) of Alto-k10 bearing registration No. JK01R-0881

chasis No: 268348 Engine No: 4326515 Model 2011 in favour of Javid Ahamd Dar S/O Ghulam Rasool Dar R/O Bhathar Coloni Parnewa Main Road Budgam

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

NOJK-RTOK 5078
Dated: 31/07/2021
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE



While as a joint application has been received for transfer of vehicle bearing Registration Mark JK22B- 1160 Shri Javaid Shafiq S/O Mohammad Shafiq Shah R/O Wani Mohalla Hirpora Shopian J&K 192303

(As Transferor) And Shri Firdous Ahamd Magray S/O Abdul Qayoom Magray R/O Wattoo Kulgam JK 192231 (As Transferee) and Cancellation of HPA with Axis Bank Ltd Sgr

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.
No: ARTO/Spn/458/2021
Dated 06-04-2021

AST
S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION KULGAM

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

FOR MACADAM WORKS

FRESH NIT No. 47/2021-22/RnB/Kull/e-tendering/ 3521-40 Dated .28-07-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of Kounserbal Khull Ringth road by way of P/L of 25mm thick semidense and 06mm seat coat in patches/stretchches	30.07	600	07 days	Cities & towns	AAY with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner

Position of AAA: Accorded

Technical Sanction: under process

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28- 07-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28-07-2021 from 10.00 AM to 04-08-2021 upto 4.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28-07-2021 from 10.00 AM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	04-08-2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04-08-2021 at 4.30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev/Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

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

11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No: 3541-43
Dtd 28-07-2021

DIPK-5624/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Kulgam

- 30 BC - Octavian (later known as Augustus) enters Alexandria, Egypt, bringing it under the control of the Roman Republic
- 527 - Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire
- 607 - Ono no Imoko is dispatched as envoy to the Sui court in China (Traditional Japanese date: July 3, 607)
- 902 Aghlabid emir Ibrahim I of Ifriqiya destroys Taormina, Sicily
- 1021 - Synod of Pavia: emperor Henry II convicts married priest
- Declaration of War
- 1177 - Peace Treaty of Venice: Emperor Frederik I and Pope Alexander III
- 1203 - Alexius IV Angelus appointed co-regent of Byzantium
- 1291 Everlasting League forms, basis of Swiss Confederation (dependence)
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus lands on "Isla Santa" (Venezuela)
- 1664 - Battle at St Gotthard: Earl Raimondo Montecuccoli beats Ahmed Kipurlu
- 1690 - Battle at Staffarda: French army beats Victor Amadeus of Savoy
- 1714 - Monarch Georg Ludwig becomes King George I of England
- 1717 - Nicholas Rowe is appointed British Poet Laureate by George I
- 1732 - Foundations laid for Bank of England
- 1759 - Battle at Minden, Westfalen: Ferdinand van Brunswick beats France
- Historic Invention
- 1774 - Joseph Priestley, English theologian, chemist and author discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state
- 1780 - Sweden declares neutrality
- 1781 - British army under general Cornwallis occupies Yorktown, Virginia
- 1785 - Caroline Herschel becomes 1st woman to discover a comet
- 1789 - US Customs begins enforcing Tariff Act
- 1793 - France becomes 1st country to use the metric system
- 1798 - Battle of the Nile: British Royal Navy under Admiral Horatio Nelson attacks and decimates the French fleet at Aboukir Bay off the Nile Delta, Egypt
- 1832 - The Black Hawk War ends.
- 1834 - Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire - Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect
- 1861 - Brazil recognizes Confederacy
- 1863 - Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas; start of Chattanooga campaign
- 1869 - 1st voyage down Colorado River
- 1868 - Great Britain annexes Kermadec Island near New Zealand
- 1907 - U.S. Army Signal Corps establish a small Aeronautical Division
- 1914 - France & Germany mobilize their troops at outbreak of WWI
- 1926 - Battles between Druze & French in Damascus
- 1943 - Japan declares Burma Independence under U Ba Maw
- 1958 - US atomic submarine USS Nautilus begins 1st transit of North Pole "operation Sunshine"
- 1960 - Islamabad declared as the federal capital of the Government of Pakistan.
- 1969 - Mariner 6 sends close-up photos of Mars
- 1974 - China's People's Liberation Army Navy, put into service Chang Zheng 1, their first nuclear-powered submarine
- 1982 - Heavy Israeli air bombardment on Beirut
- 1990 - Iraq pulls out of talks with Kuwait
- 1990 - Soyuz TM-10 launches
- 2000 - First patient to receive the Jarvik 2000, the first total artificial heart that can maintain blood flow in addition to generating a pulse
- 2001 - Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia and Slovakia join the European Environment Agency
- 2004 - A supermarket fire kills 396 people and injures 500 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
- 2014 - USA and UN announce a 72 hour ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, though it quickly breaks down
- 2016 - Anthrax outbreak in Yamalo-Nenets, Siberia kills one and infects 8 others, also kill 2,300 reindeer, global warming blamed

(Kashmir Observer, 01 August, 2005)

میعاد نذر کے بعد ذریعہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

US, Russia, China, and Pakistan to discuss Afghan crisis in Doha next month



DOHA: Representatives of the "Troika plus" comprising the US, Russia, China, and Pakistan have planned to hold a meeting in Doha next month, to discuss the war-torn situation of Afghanistan.

The primary goals of the Afghan settlement at the moment are to achieve a cease-fire, resume inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue, and form an interim coalition government with tasks to carry out constitutional reform and prepare for a general election in a short, preferably two-year term. The Express Tribune reported citing Russian Envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov.

"The Afghan government should have engaged in talks with the Taliban a year ago when the movement did not have military success, the insurgents would engage with Kabul from the position of strength," Kabulov said.

He also expressed concerns that the international terrorist organisations that were driven out of the Middle East could try to re-establish themselves in the country, The Express Tribune reported.

Kabulov was also asked which country has the greatest influence in Afghanistan's situation, he said there was no single most influential state, but rather four, namely China, Russia, the US, and Pakistan.

A few days back, the Afghan government and the Taliban have agreed to expedite the efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan and continue high-level talks.

The two sides issued a joint statement following the two-day talks in Doha as violence rages in Afghanistan.

However, the two sides fell short to mention de-escalation of violence or ceasefire. Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation and the head of the 7-member delegation of Afghan politicians in talks with the Taliban, assured the participants of the Afghan government's firm will and commitment to peace and said the two days of negotiations were a good opportunity for both sides to clearly share their position to each other.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan has witnessed a spike in violence in recent weeks. Taliban have stepped up offensive since the foreign forces began to withdraw from the country in May. The United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces will complete military drawdown till the end of August.

Taliban is taking control of more and more territory in Afghanistan, while Afghan forces have launched a counteroffensive to thwart the terrorists.

Airlifting Of Afghans Who Helped US Troops Begins



Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Some 200 Afghans were set to begin new lives in the United States on Friday as an airlift got under way for translators and others who risk Taliban retaliation because they worked for the United States during its 20-year war in Afghanistan, US officials said.

The operation to evacuate US-affiliated Afghans and family members comes as the US troop pullout nears completion and government forces struggle to repulse Taliban advances.

The first planeload of 200 evacuees arrived at Fort Lee, a military base in Virginia, for final paperwork processing and medical examinations. — Reuters

Englishman Who Knifed Nine Cats To Death Gets Five Years In Jail



LONDON: A former security guard who knifed nine cats to death in night-time attacks in the English seaside city of Brighton was sentenced Friday to more than five years in prison.

Steve Bouquet, 54, was convicted of attacking 16 cats, nine of them fatally, between late 2018 and mid-2019 in Brighton, 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of London.

He was caught after the owner of one of the dead cats set up a security camera. Bouquet denied involvement in the attacks, in which some cat owners found their pets bleeding on the doorstep. But prosecutors said a photo of a dead cat was found on his phone, and a knife with feline blood and Bouquet's DNA on it was found during a search of his home.

He was found guilty after a trial of possessing a knife in public and 16 counts of criminal

damage in relation to the cats — a crime that carries a higher sentence than animal cruelty.

Owners of some of Bouquet's feline victims were at Hove Crown Court on Friday to see him sent to prison for five years and three months. Judge Jeremy Gold said Bouquet's behavior was "cruel, it was sustained and it struck at the very heart of family life."

Jayne Cioffi, a senior prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service, said "none of us can comprehend what drove Bouquet to do this to family pets."

"This has been a tragic case for all the owners involved. Not only did Steve Bouquet inflict horrendous suffering to each of the animals he attacked, but he also caused real trauma to their owners, many of whom found their beloved pets injured and bleeding," she said.

Hard-Won Gains At Risk As Delta Variant Spreads: WHO



Agenceis

GENEVA: The world is at risk of losing hard-won gains in fighting Covid-19 as the highly transmissible Delta variant spreads, but WHO-approved vaccines remain effective, the World Health Organisation said on Friday.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has described the Delta variant of the coronavirus as being as transmissible as chickenpox and cautioned it could cause severe disease, the Washington Post said, citing an internal CDC document.

Covid-19 infections have increased by 80 per cent over the past four weeks in most regions of the world, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. Deaths in Africa — where only 1.5pc of the population is vaccinated — rose by 80pc over the same period.

"Hard-won gains are in jeopardy or being lost, and health systems in many countries are being overwhelmed," Tedros told a

news conference.

The Delta variant has been detected in 132 countries, becoming the dominant global strain, according to the WHO.

"The vaccines that are currently approved by the WHO all provide significant protection against severe disease and hospitalisation from all the variants, including the Delta variant," said WHO's top emergency expert, Mike Ryan.

"We are fighting the same virus but a virus that has become faster and better adapted to transmitting amongst us humans, that's the change," he said.

Maria van Kerkhove, WHO technical lead on Covid-19, said the Delta variant was the most easily spread so far, about 50pc more transmissible than ancestral strains of SARS-CoV-2 that first emerged in China in late 2019.

A few countries had reported increased hospitalisation rates, but higher rates of mortality had not been recorded from the Delta variant, she said.

Japan said on Friday it would

expand states of emergency to three prefectures near Olympic host city Tokyo and the western prefecture of Osaka, as Covid-19 cases spike in the capital and around the country, overshadowing the Summer Games.

Ryan noted that Tokyo had recorded more than 3,000 cases in the past 24 hours, among some 10,000 new infections in Japan.

In China, a cluster of infections in Nanjing city had reached the capital Beijing and five provinces by Friday.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been locked down in Jiangsu province, of which Nanjing is the capital, while 41,000 came under stay-at-home orders in Beijing's Changping district.

Meanwhile, the United States ramped up efforts to get people vaccinated in the face of a Delta variant-fuelled surge. With infections and hospitalisations rising, President Joe Biden asked every US federal worker to either declare they are fully vaccinated or wear masks and be tested.

WHO Urges Action To Suppress Covid Before Deadlier Variants Emerge

Agenceis

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: The Delta variant of Covid-19 is a warning to the world to suppress the virus quickly before it mutates again into something even worse, the WHO said Friday.

The highly-transmissible variant, first detected in India, has now surfaced in 132 countries and territories, the World Health Organisation said.

"Delta is a warning: it's a warning that the virus is evolving but it is also a call to action that we need to move now before more dangerous variants emerge," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told a press conference.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus added: "So far, four variants of concern have emerged -- and there will be more as long as the virus continues to spread."

Tedros said that on average, infections increased by 80 per cent over the past four weeks in five of the six WHO regions.

Though Delta has shaken many countries, Ryan said proven measures to bring transmission under control still worked -- notably physical distancing, wearing masks, hand hygiene and avoiding long periods indoors in

poorly ventilated, busy places.

"They are stopping the Delta strain, especially when you add in vaccination," he said.

"The virus has got fitter, the virus has got faster. The game plan still works, but we need to implement and execute our game plan much more efficiently and much more effectively than we've ever done before."

Price of vaccine inequity The UN health agency has consistently called for vaccines to be distributed evenly around the world and has branded the drastic imbalance a "moral outrage".

More than four billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines have now been administered globally, according to an AFP count.

In countries categorised as high income by the World Bank, 98 doses per 100 people have been injected.

That figure drops to 1.6 per 100 in the 29 lowest-income countries.

If the four billion doses had been administered equally to people aged over 60, "we basically could have gotten two doses into everybody at highest risk of severe consequences when we got to a strain like Delta", said Bruce Aylward, the WHO's frontman on the Covax scheme which aims to get donor-funded jabs to poorer countries.

Instead, those nations, "in the face of the Delta variant -- they're

going to pay a very, very different price as a result".

"No magical solutions"

The WHO wants every country to have vaccinated at least 10 percent of its population by the end of September; at least 40 percent by the end of this year, and 70 percent by the middle of 2022.

"We are a long way off achieving those targets," Tedros lamented.

He said that just over half of the 194 WHO member states have fully vaccinated 10 percent of their population; less than a quarter have vaccinated 40 percent; and only three countries have vaccinated 70 percent.

Meanwhile the WHO says Burundi, Eritrea and North Korea are the only remaining member states yet to start Covid-19 vaccination campaigns.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 4.2 million people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, while nearly 196.6 million cases have been registered, according to tallies from official sources compiled by AFP.

Tedros said that on current rates of infection, the 200 million known infections mark will be surpassed within the next two weeks, although the true figure will be much higher.

Deadly Attack On Israeli Ship In Gulf Was Carried Out By Drones

Agenceis

DOHA: The attack that killed two people aboard an Israeli-operated vessel off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea on Thursday, is believed to have been a drone strike, US Navy's Fifth Fleet, which operates in the region, has claimed.

American explosives experts, who have examined the Mercer Street product tanker, have discovered "clear visual evidence that an attack had occurred" on the ship, the Fifth Fleet said, in a statement on Saturday.

"Initial indications clearly point to a (drone)-style attack," it stated, without elaborating on how such a conclusion was reached.

Two US warships - nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and guided missile destroyer USS Mitscher - have been escorting the merchant vessel to a nearby port, it added.

Israeli officials later told the New York Times that several drones had targeted the tanker, crashing into its living quarters, located beneath the vessel's command center.

Iranian authorities haven't officially commented on the incident in the Arabian Sea. However, state run al-Alam broadcaster has cited "sources in the resistance axis," who claimed that the ship had been targeted in response to recent Israeli airstrikes against Syria.

Explosions and fires aboard Israeli and Iranian-owned vessels have

been frequent in the waters around the Gulf since the start of the year. Israel has also repeatedly targeted Iranian positions in Syria in recent years, resulting in many casualties and widespread destruction.

The Jerusalem Post meanwhile reported that the incident "looks like a serious and complex attack that is not just a major escalation, but a new use of Iran drone technology."

"The reported use of numerous drones against the Mercer Street could mark a new era in the Middle East. Using several drones to precisely target parts of the ship, such as the bridge or living quarters, may indicate advanced surveillance and intelligence," it said.

"It is not clear if Iran's drones can be piloted once they are launched by a ground control station. That means that an attack on a ship is complex because ships move and it's unclear how Iran might program the drones to strike the ship precisely. Even at anchor a ship will shift around with the tide or wind. So how could the drone target specific areas, unless it was controlled up until the impact?" it added. "If Iran has reached a new level of precision drone strikes and is using them against shipping in deadly attacks, this is a major milestone."

Dryad Global said the attack was the fifth against a ship connected to Israel since February. Two ships tied to Iran were attacked in that period, the firm said.

Iran To Cure Cancer Using Particle Therapy



LONDON: The UK government has unveiled a GBP 338 million package to boost cycling and walking across the country as part of a post-pandemic active travel initiative.

UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced the plans alongside infrastructure upgrades, changes to the Highway Code and new requirements to ensure that active travel schemes' effects are properly assessed with the launch of the Summer of Cycling and Walking document on Friday.

It comes after last year saw cycling rise more than in the previous 20 years put together, with the number of miles cycled on British roads rocketing by 45.7 per cent to 5 billion.

"Millions of us have found over the past year how cycling and walking are great ways to stay fit, ease congestion on the roads and do your bit for the environment. As we build back greener from the pandemic, we're determined to keep that trend going by making active travel easier and safer for everyone," said Shapps.

"This GBP 338 million package marks the start of what promises to be a great summer of cycling and walking, enabling more people to make those sustainable travel choices that make our air cleaner and cities greener," he said.

The Department for Transport (DfT) said that as the UK prepares to host the COP26 climate summit in November, these initiatives will play a key role in the government's

drive to build back greener from the pandemic and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The GBP 338 million is a 30 per cent increase to the GBP 257 million announced for active travel in last year's spending review.

This funding is aimed for the construction of hundreds of miles of new "high-quality cycle lanes" and aid the delivery of new schemes to encourage walking.

This will include the delivery of improvements across the National Cycle Network.

As well as improving safety for cyclists, the DfT is also aiming to make cycling easier and more accessible through a new scheme aiming to increase awareness of e-cycles and tackle barriers to their use.

An e-cycle support programme will be launched later this year and comes after the government's earlier funding to help nine local authorities deliver e-cycle initiatives.

Other key measures in the Summer of Cycling and Walking include plans to publish a new road safety strategic framework and commitments to help train hundreds of new Bikeability instructors and explore how historic railway structures can be converted into cycle routes.

The UK government has also announced that the new Active Travel England (ATE) commissioning body, which will hold the national cycling and walking budget, will begin work later this year.

Japan Declares State Of Emergency Till August 31 To Prevent Spread Of Covid

Agenceis

TOKYO: Japan on Saturday declared a state of emergency to Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Osaka, and Okinawa Prefectures and applied priority measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to Hokkaido, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Hyogo, and Fukuoka Prefectures till August 31.

"Government of Japan applies the declaration of a state of emergency to Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Osaka, and Okinawa Prefectures and applies priority measures to prevent the spread of #COVID19 to Hokkaido, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Hyogo, and Fukuoka Prefectures till August 31st," tweeted PM's Office of Japan.

This comes as cases surge throughout the country. The Tokyo metropolitan government confirmed 3,865 new cases on July 29; the nationwide figure was 10,699. Both numbers are the highest since the start of the pandemic. And even though about three weeks have passed since the declaration, there is



no sign that the wave of infections is slowing, reported NHK World.

"For the period until August 31, we have decided to apply the declaration of a state of emergency to Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Osaka, and Okinawa Prefectures, and to apply priority measures to prevent the spread of disease to

Hokkaido, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Hyogo, and Fukuoka Prefectures," said Prime Minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga.

Tokyo and Okinawa's states of emergency were originally set to expire on August 22. The measures, which already covered the Olympics and mid-August Obon holiday, now

extend to part of the Paralympics, which will start on August 24 and end on September 5, reported NHK World.

Moreover, the Government of Japan decided to focus on administering vaccines to people in the younger generation.

"From now, we will focus on

administering vaccines to people in the younger generation, with the aim of having more than 40 per cent of the public finish receiving their second dose by roughly the last week of August with mild cases over 50 years old and others a revolutionary pharmaceutical treatment that slashes the risk of developing severe symptoms by 70 per cent," tweeted PM's Office of Japan.

Japan also urged its citizens to refrain from going out or travelling for non-essential, non-urgent reasons.

"We ask people to refrain from going out or travelling for non-essential, non-urgent reasons, and to be as careful and restrained as possible regarding returning to their hometowns during the summer and other travel," PM's Office of Japan tweeted.

"We will continue to do everything in our capacity to implement measures to prevent infections and administer vaccines," added the tweet.

J&K Among Top States, UTs With Highest Number Of ACs In 6 Months

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As per the data released by National Health Authority (NHA) Government of India, the Jammu and Kashmir UT figures amongst the top 5 states/UTs with highest number of Ayushman Cards to have been generated in the last six months.

As per the data, J&K generated 19 Lakh Ayushman Cards in the last six months and proportional to the total beneficiary base J&K is the best performing state/UT vis-à-vis Ayushman Card generation in the last six months.

The AB PM-JAY SEHAT was launched by the Prime Minister on 26th December, 2020. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT in convergence with AB PM-JAY aims to provide Universal Health Insurance Coverage of Rs.5.00 lakh per family on a floater basis.

AB PM-JAY SEHAT has the same benefits as available under AB-PMJAY and this scheme covers all residents of Jammu and Kashmir including employees/pensioners of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and their families.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT in convergence with PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital. It envisions helping mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir and covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization ex-

penses such as diagnostics and medicines.

There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender; all pre-existing conditions are covered from day one. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any of the more than 24000 empanelled public or private hospitals (including 226 hospitals empanelled within Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir) under AB PM-JAY in India to avail cashless treatment.

The scheme has been accorded top priority by Lieutenant Governor, who is monitoring the implementation of the scheme closely.

Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency J&K, Dr. Sagar Doifode informed that the State Health Agency, besides other initiatives, has started a unique initiative, 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman' which is aimed to provide Ayushman Bharat Cards to entire population within shortest period of time.

To ensure all eligible beneficiaries are registered under Ayushman Bharat PMJAY-SEHAT scheme, camps are being set-up for on spot registration of beneficiaries by CSCs where VLEs are stationed for ensuring 100 percent registration and mobilization at grass roots level is being done by PRIs involving door to door campaign by ASHA's. The drive is being conducted in coordination with PRI representatives of respective areas.

This being the most prestigious scheme is being monitored by Additional Chief Secretary Health & Medical Education, Atal Dooloo, on a daily basis.

Ancient Temple Declared 'Protected Monument' In Jammu

Agencies

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared the ancient Radha Krishan temple at Miran Sahib near here as a "protected monument".

The order to this effect was issued by the Secretary of the Department of Culture, Sarmad Hafeez.

"In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Ancient Monuments, Preservation Act, Samvat, 1977 (1920 AD), and in super-

session of notification SO 73 dated 03.03.2021 ab initio, the government hereby declares the ancient monument namely "Radha Krishan Temple situated at Miran Sahib, R S Pura, Jammu, along with land measuring three kanal and six marlas under survey no. 174, as "protected monument", " the order read.

It said that objections from the public, if any, have also been sought and can be made before August 14 before the office of the culture department secretary.

Utilisation Of Public Buildings Rationalised In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In pursuance to the directives issued by Lieutenant Governor regarding rational utilisation and allocation of vacant public buildings, the district administration Anantnag has allotted sixty (60) vacant buildings to RDD, ICDS, Health, Revenue and other departments.

An order to this effect was issued by the District Development

Commissioner, Dr. Piyush Singla on Friday.

The fresh allocation has been made in response to the requisition received from various departments after they ascertained the feasibility of utilisation of these buildings.

Further, the respective heads of allottee sectors have been asked to take over the possession of allotted buildings immediately.



Govt Determined To Make Youth Stakeholders In Overall Development: LG's Adv

Addresses Consultative Workshop At SKICC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, Saturday reaffirmed government's resolve of taking youth along in overall growth and development of the Union Territory making them crucial stakeholders in progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while speaking at a one-day consultative workshop on Interdepartmental Synchronisation on Mission Youth Initiatives organised by Mission Youth J&K at SKICC here.

Khan maintained that synchronisation plays an important role where these two agencies have constant coordination and synergy so that

the initiatives for the youth would be taken forward in a missionary zeal.

"There is always a need for synchronisation among various departments for handholding and resolution of youth's issues for which there is an opportunity for the officers to work for a large portion of the population consisting of youth so that their future would be secured," Advisor Khan said.

He said that the idea behind establishment of Mission Youth, a specialised organisation, was to bring various government departments working for empowerment and development of youth under one umbrella. He added that there are numerous challenges being faced by youth and one among them is uncertainty

in them with respect to their future prospects.

He hoped that the interaction during the day-long workshop would help in a long way where all the participants could provide their inputs and special requirements about their respective areas.

Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, said that there is always a need for directions coupled with experience and knowledge to provide youth opportunities with regard to employability.

She also highlighted the efforts with respect to synchronization between the two agencies to achieve the desired objective of development and empowerment of youth in the region.

Trehgam-Kunanposhpora Road In Shambles

Residents Protest, Demand Macadamisation

KO News Desk

Kupwara: Civil society members of villages of Trehgam, Poshpora, and Kunan on Thursday held a protest demonstration outside the District Commissioners office in Kupwara demanding repair and macadamisation of the road that connects areas with district headquarters.

The protestors raised slogans against the administration for failing to repair the road that is full of potholes, ditches, and craters.

The aggrieved protesters said, "for the last few years our road reflects a look of a riverbank."

"To reach Kupwara from my village would hardly take 10 minutes but now it takes more than an hour and the cabbies are reluctant to drive on the road," said Advocate Fayaz Mir, former Sarpanch of Poshpora.

In the past, the villagers had approached the civil administration demanding macadamisation of the road but despite assurances, no work was done, alleged Fayaz.

"This road was built decades ago connecting a bunch of villages with Kupwara town and now the second most important road in Kupwara constituency after the highway and yet it is a victim of official neglect," said Aabid Quadri, a political activist and Panchayat representative in Poshpora.

He said that a few weeks back his cousin got injured after his motorcycle fell in a crater while making way for a truck near Kunan.

Quadri also pointed to how politics has played its part in sidelining the upgradation of the road. "Some three kilometers of the road from Kupwara to Hanjpora is well covered with tar coal but from there onwards, everything is in shambles and it is because some politicians ensure the road is not macadamised ahead."

Interestingly the villages of Kunan and Poshpora were declared model villages by the government of Mehbooba Mufti in 2017 and thereafter the road was widened all along but the upgradation

work came to a standstill.

"We want to know what has stopped the administration from upgrading the road for years. The government makes tall claims of progress but there is nothing on the ground. We urge the administration to repair and macadamise the road on priority," Mohammad Abdullah Mir, Block Development Chairman (BDC) Trehgam said while speaking with the media at the protest.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Imam Din told KNO that he met the protesters and heard their demands.

"The road was to be upgraded under Central Road Fund (CRF) and as it was to be executed the funding was closed in the entire Jammu and Kashmir," Imam Din said, adding the R&B department has now submitted the project in languishing category.

"I have asked the executive engineer to fill the ditches and potholes under the annual repair and maintenance fund so that the difficulties faced by the people are averted for a time being," he said.

Man Defames Aunt On Social Media, Apologises After Police Complaint

Agencies

Bhaderwah: In a bizarre incident, a 21-year-old man shared a picture and mobile number of his aunt along with objectionable remarks against her on social media over a family feud, prompting the woman to lodge a police complaint in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Tanzeema Begum (42), an employee in the social welfare department and mother of two, however, pardoned the culprit after he made a public apology.

I had to go through a lot of mental trauma at my workplace, in my neighborhood and at home as I started getting numerous weird calls after the social media post on July 27," she told reporters here.

Begum said she was unable to comprehend what suddenly prompted others to make obscene calls and behave in a different way with her.

I locked myself in my room and switched off my phone for two days before realising that it was the handy work of none other than my sister's son. I decided to face it to set an example for other women who

face similar circumstances, but punish themselves instead of ensuring punishment to their tormentors, she said.

She lodged a complaint against her nephew Saqib Tanveer (21) at the Bhaderwah Police Station.

Saqib, a college student, meanwhile sought an apology from her aunt and said he did a blunder in the heat of the moment without thinking of its serious repercussions.

I am ashamed of what I did as it has embarrassed my entire family. Hope my aunt will forgive me as I will never repeat this mistake with anyone again," he said as he, along with his mother, publicly apologized to Begum in front of the camera.

When contacted, Station House Officer Jatinder Singh Rakwal said an officer was deputed for investigation into the incident.

We are waiting for his report for further course of action," he said, adding it is better that the youth has realised his mistake and apologized, but we are waiting for both the parties to give a written undertaking to us before closing the complaint," the officer added.

DC Gbl Directs Officers To Complete B2V1 Works In 15 Days

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna Saturday chaired a meeting of District and Sectoral Officers to review the progress under District Capex Budget and Back to village program (B2V) at Mini Secretariat.

The meeting discussed detailed proposals under the District Capex Plan 2021-22

that ongoing works of B2V1 should be completed within 15 days.

The officers also raised the issue of availability of material in the Central store for which DDC directed them that a tendering process should be initiated for procurement of material without compromising with the quality.

The DDC directed all the departments to overcome all lacunae and ensure speedy disposal of bottlenecks if any



including physical status of projects targeted for completion in the current fiscal, besides progress of works approved under B2V program.

The DDC sought details about the approved works in the last and current financial year and was informed that under regular schemes 146 works are approved which include ongoing and new works besides 1452 works of PRIs, 111 works of BDCs and 543 works of DDCs.

Reviewing the progress under the B2V program, the DC directed the concerned

besides, all departments shall submit reports about the works that are not feasible or need to be replaced at an earliest.

The DDC emphasised on completion of all the pending works on priority so that the projects are completed within the stipulated time frame.

She further directed all the executing agencies to take up the new projects/schemes for execution only after the said scheme/projects are free from encumbrances, having administrative approval, technical sanction and provision for funds.

MD NHIDCL Inspects Progress Of Work On Ongoing Projects

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, Keshav Kumar Pathak inspected progress of work on several projects in Jammu region during his 4-day visit to UT of J&K from July 28 to 31st July 2021.

The MD, accompanied by Executive Director (Project) NHIDCL Jammu, Executive Director (T) NHIDCL New Delhi and other senior officers of the Corporation inspected various projects of NHIDCL in districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar viz the western portal of the upcoming Sudhmahadev tunnel at Sudhmahadev and the eastern portal of the upcoming Sinthanpass tunnel (Singh-



pora - Vailoo Tunnel). He also inspected NH-244 from Batote to Sinthan Top and the Jammu-Akhnoor Road (NH-144A).

The MD NHIDCL also informed that works costing around Rs. 10,000 crore are being executed by NHIDCL in UT of J&K.

In addition to the above, new works costing around Rs. 8,500 crore including Sudhmahadev Tunnel-I, Sudhmahadev Tunnel-II, Sinthanpass Tunnel and Jammu-Akhnoor (Pkg-I) are likely to

be awarded by NHIDCL in the UT of J&K during 2021-22. The MD NHIDCL assured the UT Government that the construction of Z-Morh Tunnel is likely to complete in 1 year ahead of the schedule date of completion and that efforts shall be made to keep the Sinthan Pass open during winter months by employing high end snow clearance equipment like snow cutters which shall be procured by NHIDCL specifically for this work.

Two Children Among Six Injured In Separate Ganderbal Road Accidents

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: At least six persons including two minor children were injured on Saturday in three separate road accidents in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

An official said that a youth was injured after a vehicle (wagon R) turned turtle and fell into a deep gorge at Kachnambal Gujerpatti, resulting in injuries to the three persons including two kids.

However, the two kids suffered minor injuries and a driver of a vehicle identified as Akhter Sheikh from Naranag, who has suffered grievous injuries, has been shifted to SKIMS Soura for specialized treatment.

Another road accident took place at Wusen near the petrol pump between Tipper (JK17-1306) and Alto (JK16A-1371) in which two persons namely Rafiq and Alto driver Yasir Ahmad Rather—residents of Bobsipora Gbl were injured. The both injured were shifted to PHC Wusen Kangan wherefrom they were referred to SKIMS Soura.

In the third accident, a 60-year-old woman from Managam was hit by a sumo in Wussan area, leaving her wounded.

Progress Of Developmental Projects Reviewed In Bla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Chairperson Safeena Beigh Saturday chaired a meeting of officers at Dak Bungalow here to review the pace and progress of various developmental projects undertaken by different executing agencies in the district.

On the occasion, a comprehensive discussion was held wherein the ADDC briefed the chair about the current status of developmental activities undertaken by different departments. He gave sector wise briefing of different works and presented in depth details during the meeting.

DDC Chairperson stressed upon the concerned agencies to ramp up the pace of work so that all the undertaken projects

are completed well within the stipulated timeframe.

She emphasized for mobilising all the available resources productively and effectively for achieving the desired results. She also assured her full cooperation on her part and added that socio-economic development should be sole priority.

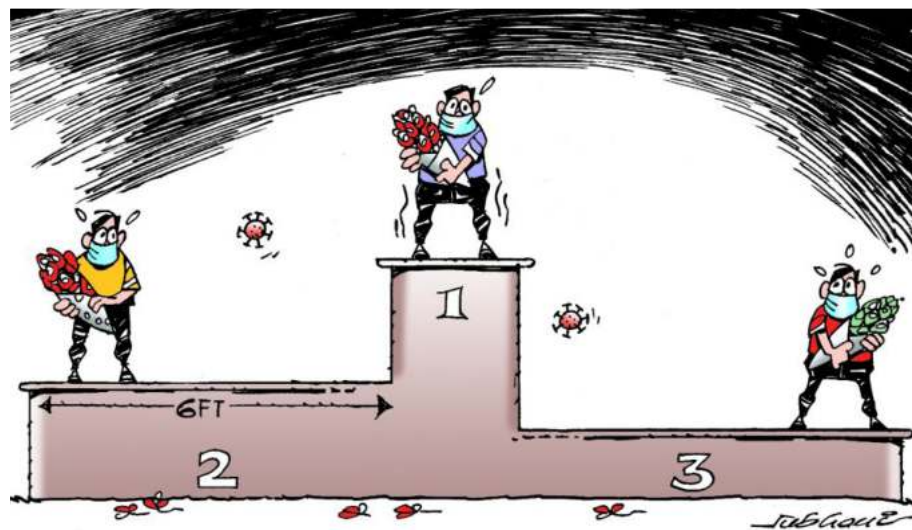
Meanwhile, various issues hampering the path of development, were thoroughly discussed in the meeting during which the chairperson assured that all the impediments shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their time bound redressal.

Meeting was attended by DDC members, ADDC Baramulla Aijaz Abdullah Saraaf, Joint Director Planning, PRIs, heads of concerned departments, among other functionaries.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



It is freedom from hunger, humiliation and violence. Democracy is public disgust for callous employers who mistreat workers paid a pittance for unblocking stinking sewers and scraping s**t from latrines. Democracy is saying no to every form of human and non-human indignity

Manufactured Medalists

Malik Javid

Our university is still quantifying the quality of students by comparing their three digits i.e. marks earned in exams, instead of doing an overall assessment of student's performance

At a time when athletes from all over the globe are competing for medals in Tokyo Olympics to bring laurels to their nation, Kashmir University held its long awaited 19th convocation ceremony to award gold medals to its toppers from previous years. I am not going to waste newspaper space here on comparing Olympic medals with medals being awarded at University convocation ceremonies as it equates to comparing proverbial apples with oranges. Being an academic product of Kashmir University myself, I know and understand the working of Kashmir University and I don't hesitate in calling these gold medallists as "Manufactured Medallists." I don't want to play spoilsport here but want to vent my spleen of long growing resentment against the working of our university especially with regard to criteria for deciding the subject toppers for awarding gold medals.

Our university is still quantifying the quality of students by comparing their three digits i.e. marks earned in exams, instead of doing an overall assessment of student's performance.

Let me turn the clock back. I vividly remember the day when I entered the picturesque campus of Kashmir University for admission in my master's program. High on confidence after scoring top rank in entrance examination, I was on cloud nine albeit transiently. Before I could find my feet on the ground to study my subject in-depth, I felt I had landed in the wrong place. I had heard that universities tend to liberate students from shackles of rote learning endorsed in our schools and colleges but I was wrong. Instead, I witnessed a worst-case scenario at KU. Like many of batch mates, I received an advice in the form pep talk from my seniors. The advice went like: if one wants to survive and finish with good grades from this university, one must stop studying from books and instead cram whatever is being taught by professor in classrooms from his worn out and faded yellow paper notes which is to be then reproduced verbatim in answer scripts during examination. The second advice was to never dare to question the professor as that equates to challenging professor's ego and if you crush their ego by repeatedly asking questions you are asking for trouble, as evaluation of your internal and external assessment answer scripts is done by the same professors. Third, is to be a sycophant of your teachers, praise them even if they don't deserve it and try to develop good rapport with them as this will certainly pay you off in getting good grades in internal assessment and practical marks.

Quite contrary to advice of my senior fellows, in



my first semester, I didn't pay any heed to their advice. I trusted my own way of learning and kept exploring books instead of cramming class notes for learning without knowing I might have to pay price for doing so. My ignorance changed into reality, when results of my first semester examination were declared and I had only somehow managed to cross a line with meagre percentage. Being once beaten and twice shy, I didn't want to repeat my old mistake and I started doing what my seniors had asked me to do and it paid off in my next three semesters. My grades saw a sudden spike and I finished with first division. But this time, I had to pay bigger price — I got good grades at the cost of compromising on superficial knowledge gained from notes over classified knowledge from books.

I realised that after two years of my stay in uni-

versity, the mantra for getting gold medal is simple: be a master of rote learning, shun books prefer notes, prefer silence over questioning, prefer sycophancy over denunciation. Need of the hour is for our university to amend these archaic rules and come up with a better evaluation system which takes into account all aspects of being "meritorious" and move beyond numbers.

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 malikjavid@gmail.com

How do democracies die?

The old question has a new urgency because global surveys are everywhere reporting dipping confidence in democracy and marked jumps in citizens' frustrations with government corruption and incompetence. Young people are the least satisfied with democracy — much more disaffected than previous generations at the same age. Most worrying are the survey findings for India, which is fast developing a reputation as the world's largest failing democracy. In its Democracy Report 2020, Sweden's V-Dem Institute noted that India "has almost lost its status as a democracy". It ranked India below Sierra Leone, Guatemala and Hungary.

Things are serious. Not since the 1920s and 1930s has democracy faced so much trouble. That period saw the destruction of most parliamentary democracies. Only 11 survived. Since then, political scientists have pointed out, democracies have wilted in two connected ways. Some have suffered sudden death, in puffs of smoke and rat-a-tat gunfire. But death by cuts is more common.

Democide is usually a slow-motion and messy process. Wild rumours and talk of conspiracies flourish. Street protests and outbreaks of uncontrolled violence happen. Fears of civil unrest spread. The armed forces grow agitated. Emergency rule is declared but things eventually come to the boil. As the government totters, the army moves from its barracks onto the streets to quell unrest and take control. Democracy is finally buried in a grave it slowly dug for itself. As the government totters, the army moves from its barracks onto the streets to quell unrest and take control.

During the past generation, around three-quarters of democracies met their end in these ways. The military coup d'états against the elected governments of Egypt (2013), Thailand (2014),

Myanmar and Tunisia (2021) are obvious examples.

Less obvious is the way democracies are destroyed by social emergencies. Think of things this way: Democracy is much more than pressing a button or marking a box on a ballot paper. It goes beyond the mathematical certitude of election results and majority rule. It's not reducible to lawful rule through independent courts or attending local public meetings and watching breaking news stories scrawled across a screen. Democracy is a whole way of life.

It is freedom from hunger, humiliation and violence. Democracy is public disgust for callous employers who mistreat workers paid a pittance for unblocking stinking sewers and scraping s**t from latrines. Democracy is saying no to every form of human and non-human indignity. It is respect for women, tenderness with children, and access to jobs that bring satisfaction and sufficient reward to live comfortably.

In a healthy democracy, citizens are not forced to travel in buses and trains like livestock, wade through dirty water from overrunning sewers, or breathe poisonous air. Democracy is public and private respect for different ways of living. It is humility: The willingness to admit that impermanence renders all life vulnerable, that in the end nobody is invincible, and that ordinary lives are never ordinary. Democracy is equal access to decent medical care and sympathy for those who have fallen behind. It's the rejection of the dogma that things can't be changed because they're "naturally" fixed in stone. Democracy is thus

insubordination: The refusal to put up with everyday forms of snobbery and toad-eating, idolatry and lying, bulls**t and bullying.

Fine principles, you may say, but what happens to a democracy when successive governments allow their social footings to be damaged, or destroyed? The shortest answer: Democracy suffers a slow-motion social death.

Especially when a constitution promises its citizens justice, liberty and equality, the splintering and shattering of social life induce a sense of legal powerlessness among citizens. The judiciary becomes vulnerable to cynicism, political meddling and state capture. Massive imbalances of wealth, chronic violence, famine and unevenly distributed life chances also make a mockery of the ethical principle that in a democracy people can live as citizen partners of equal social worth. If democracy is the self-government of social equals who freely choose their representatives, then large-scale social suffering renders the democratic principle utterly utopian. Or it turns into a grotesque farce.

Domestic violence, rotten health care, widespread feelings of social unhappiness, and daily shortages of food and housing destroy people's dignity. Indignity is a form of generalised social violence. It kills the spirit and substance of democracy. When famished children cry themselves to sleep at night, when millions of women feel unsafe and multitudes of migrant workers living on slave wages are forced to flee for their lives in a medical emergency, the victims are unlikely to believe themselves worthy

of rights, or capable as citizens of fighting for their own entitlements, or for the rights of others. Ground down by social indignity, the powerless are robbed of self-esteem.

No doubt, citizens' ability to strike back, to deliver millions of mutinies against the rich and powerful, is in principle never to be underestimated in a democracy. But the brute fact is social indignity undermines citizens' capacity to take an active interest in public affairs, and to check and humble and wallop the powerful. Citizens are forced to put up with state and corporate restrictions on basic public freedoms. They must get used to big money, surveillance, baton charges, preventive detentions, and police killings.

But the scandal doesn't end there. For when millions of citizens are daily victimised by social indignities, the powerful are granted a licence to rule arbitrarily. Millions of humiliated people become sitting targets. Some at the bottom and many in the middle and upper classes turn their backs on public affairs. They bellyache in unison against politicians and politics. But the disaffected do nothing. Complacency and cynical indifference breed voluntary servitude. Or the disgruntled begin to yearn for political redeemers and steel-fisted government. The powerless and the privileged join hands to wish for a messiah who promises to defend the poor, protect the rich, drive out the demons of corruption and disorder, and purify the soul of "the people".

When this happens, demagoguery comes into season. Citizen disempower-

ment encourages boasting and bluster among powerful leaders who stop caring about the niceties of public integrity and power-sharing. They grow convinced they can turn lead into gold. But their hubris has costs. When democratically elected governments cease to be held accountable by a society weakened by poor health, low morale, and joblessness, demagogues are prone to blindness and ineptitude. They make careless, foolish, and incompetent decisions that reinforce social inequities. They license big market and government players — poligarchs — to decide things. Those who exercise power in government ministries, corporations, and public/private projects aren't subject to democratic rules of public accountability. Like weeds in an untended garden, corruption flourishes. Almost everybody must pay bribes to access basic public services. The powerful stop caring about the niceties of public integrity. Institutional democracy failure happens.

Finally, in the absence of redistributive public welfare policies that guarantee sufficient food, shelter, security, education, and health care to the downtrodden, democracy morphs into a mere façade. Elections still happen and there's abundant talk of "the people". But democracy begins to resemble a fancy mask worn by wealthy political predators. Self-government is killed. Strong-armed rule by rich and powerful poligarchs in the name of "the people" follows. Cheerled by lapdog media, phantom democracy becomes a reality. Society is subordinated to the state. People are expected to behave as loyal subjects, or else suffer the consequences. A thoroughly 21st century type of top-down rule called despotism triumphs.

Might this be how democracy dies in India?

The Indian Express



Illustration depicting young women in the 19th century relaxing and reading on an August afternoon. (Universal Images/Getty Images)

Book Clubs: The ‘All Women’s’ Clubbing?

Neha Sheikh

In 1989 when New York based photographer Lynn Gilbert decided to set in motion a reading group, she didn't know she was setting an antecedent for urban New Yorkers to come together and enjoy the experience of reading. Book clubs were not common in the late 1900's and Gilbert occasionally found it hard to gauge the interest of people. Audrey Zucker, a founding member of Gilbert's club, said that they wanted this club to only be open to women. They wanted to create a space free from the shackles of society where women's voices are frequently stifled. In a society that has been inherently patriarchal it is not an odd occurrence, even in the 21st century to come across predominantly male centric societies. Reading groups or book clubs started to become safe spaces for women to voice their opinions and be heard without being shunned down. It gave a new dimension and purpose to their identity. In 19th century England it wasn't rare to witness instances where women were prohibited from reading and engaging in literature. The idea of a woman getting inspired by literature and speaking her mind often scared men. This was mainly because it would result in a shift in paradigm, from one where women were only seen as homemakers to one where women could openly be creators, thinkers and enjoy their independence.

Today the question "What is your favorite genre of books?" evokes feelings of nostalgia, vivid memories and life altering experiences that often sprout with the power of a good book. To pin down one specific genre and a book within it is a feat for any avid reader. From science and horror fiction to poetry and biographies there is no unified structure when it comes to writing books. From Ryunosuke Akutagawa's Rashomon to Robert Fisk's The Great War for Civilization literature manifests in a variety of magnificent forms. While one deals with fiction and the other with accounts of an English Journalist, upon explication common themes can be extracted from both the texts. To have a place to curate these ideas and stimulate a variety of discussions on one's favorite books in an intellectual and thoughtful setting is vital. Book clubs created for this purpose, is a meeting of people with common or even varying interests in books, who upon reading a decided book for the set week come together to discuss the nuances in the explication of the book in question. For years now many readers have engaged in book clubs and with the onset of the pandemic these clubs have even adopted a virtual format.

Literature engaging with colonialism, poetry and fiction have often been the favorites of many book clubs. Contemporary authors and poets from Tayeb Salih and Mahmoud Darwish to Carol Ann Duffy and Amin Kamil have proven to be an influence in the lives of many.

*"What fire is this, O Lord? City after city is burning.
The reason turned into pitch-smoke, ifs and buts are burning.
The roof's aflame, the walls come down, the rooms ablaze
Houses light up houses, person after person is burning."*

This snippet from Amin Kamil's Cities on Fire touches the heart of many whilst evoking painful lived experiences. These lines among other interpretations can be nestled in various contexts in the current catastrophic political situation across the globe. From war torn areas to severely milita-

tained from discussions and reading texts. The support of other people in the process also often plays a huge role in finding one's voice. This time we spoke to our readers to find out their experiences with book clubs and their relationship with reading.

"I think one of the things that got me through the pandemic-ridden monotony of summer is joining this book club at my university. Initially, I was a bit intimidated to commit to anything as last semester had been a big tragedy. But, I did not want to let go of a community where there was no compulsion or competition to finish readings as it generally is in classrooms. That sense of freedom to sit and decide democratically on subjects that you wanted to explore really piqued my interest and en-

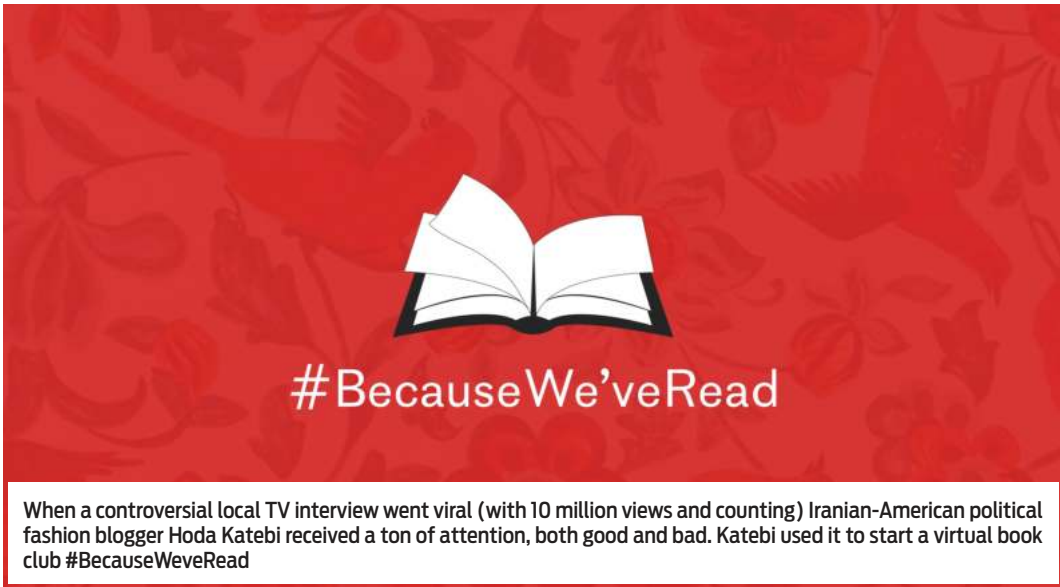
share our views on the designated book of the week. During the span of the pandemic we have covered a wide variety of genres from fiction to true crime. The one hour that we spend discussing the nuances of the book, helps us grow closer and gives us a different perspective into things, it also provides an opportunity for us to discuss serious and pressing matters. The book club brings us a sense of comfort and community in these trying times."- Saadiya Ahmed, student

"Book clubs were the essence of my childhood and I owe my well-versed linguistic and grammar

“Book clubs were the essence of my childhood and I owe my well-versed linguistic and grammar skills to the time I spent there. Even today I meet up with my book club friends and we enact classic plays, read philosophy books and enjoy Paulo Coelho's writing with our favorite cup of noon chai. Joining book clubs also made me fall in love with reading which is something I shall cherish for life

skills to the time I spent there. Even today I meet up with my book club friends and we enact classic plays, read philosophy books and enjoy Paulo Coelho's writing with our favorite cup of noon chai. Joining book clubs also made me fall in love with reading which is something I shall cherish for life."- Anoura Gani, student

"Book clubs promote a love of literature. They invoke a pleasant and nurturing environment. Its purpose is to bring a community of book lovers together to learn about and discuss something they all have in common, their love for books. They give us a chance to read and explore genres that you wouldn't usually pick. I meet up with my book club every Friday and we discuss a lot of female authors and poets. We love Sylvia Plath and keep the first Friday of every month to discuss our poems."- Did-da Ashish, student



rized and conflicted zones "city after city burning" indeed encapsulates the destruction of not only houses but the very foundation and essence of one's identity. To be able to come together, pour over one's favorite poets and discuss the impact of exceptional work is the cornerstone of any book club. On similar themes as Amin Kamil's Cities on Fire, Tayeb Salih's Season of Migration to the North is a post colonial work that grapples with an interesting and thought provoking plot settled on prominent themes of colonization. With characters meeting acrimonious deaths, forced marriages and troubled pasts, this text traces the journey of a mysterious man, via an unknown narrator, who comes to Wad Hamid. Owing to a highly patriarchal culture in the village of Wad Hamid in Sudan, this text presents a complex yet very touching glimpse into the life of postcolonial Sudan.

Such interpretations are reflective in book clubs as these meetings are not only places of solidarity but also safe spaces for people to sit and discuss their thoughts. Liberation can often be ob-

couraged me to take this leap forward. It was a wonderful experience - reading for reading's sake. We explored many themes and genres ranging from fiction to poetry to non-fiction to essays; all of which were done so with tenderness and curiosity that betrayed the stifling and uncompromising rigor that academia demands of one. Reading across multiple topics such as gender, sexuality, media, politics, and sometimes bits of fiction with the group, ensued by discussions that were uninhibited by any worry of having to say the right points all the time, made the experience enriching. These discussions would sometimes take anecdotal tangents and end up being the best part of the discussions. I loved the reading group, it helped me reconcile with my own love for reading and kept me a wonderful company throughout my otherwise dreary summer."- Rania Raja, student

"Like most things this year, my book club too has gone virtual. The virtual mode allowed the membership of the club to grow manifold. We now have a 15 member group and meet once a week to

Rain Proof Makeup In Monsoon

Shahnaz Husain

Summer's sweltering heat may be gone, but the humidity is here to stay.

With the advent of the monsoon, the humidity will be at its peak and that will lead to sweating and dripping of makeup

While rainy days are fun and romantic if you stay in, Heat, humidity, and rain; all put together can be pretty disastrous if you have to step out, especially for a date night or a special occasion.

& Makeup traditionally never went hand in hand and it has always been really difficult to maintain your look. The rainy season brings patchy foundation, dripping mascara, smudging lip colour, and unmanageable hair. Monsoon may be the worst season for makeup lovers. Dealing with melting makeup is certainly a big task during monsoons,

While it may not be the wisest idea to step out with layers of make-up and succumbing to nature's tantrums, going completely barefaced isn't an option either. So, what do you do?

Waterproof make-up products may be more suitable. They contain ingredients like fats, waxes, and silicon, which do not allow the make-up to get wet and become runny.

A powder-based foundation will last longer in the humid weather. Also, using a primer is very essential before applying the makeup, the reason being that it acts as a barrier between your skin and the makeup. This is the most essential step for prepping up your skin and holding the makeup for a longer time

If you can get hold of a light-textured primer, it would be good for the monsoons. It would help to absorb oil and sweat and thus help the foundation last longer. During the monsoons, a powder or gel primer may be better.

Stay away from heavy foundations. Or, leave out foundation and go for compact powder. Compact powder is pressed powder and lasts longer than loose powder. Also, they reduce the oily look. Compact powders are also ideal



for touching up. Carry wet tissues and compact powder in your handbag, to refresh both skin and make-up.

If you want to apply foundation, apply an astringent lotion first, using cotton wool. After a few minutes, wrap an ice cube in a clean cloth and apply it on the skin, for a few seconds at a time. This also helps to close the pores. Or, try cold compress with chilled rose water. It closes the pores, refreshes the skin, and adds a glow. Go for a water-based foundation, adding a drop or two of water for a lighter coverage.

The trend is towards the natural look, with less blush-on. A faint flush would be suitable. Powder blushers are easier to apply and are best for humid weather. Apply on the cheekbones and slightly below it. You can use your fingertips to dot the area with a blusher. Then, blend with the brush, outwards and slightly upwards, making sure there are no harsh lines or a blotchy effect.

Using waterproof eye makeup basics (liner, kohl, and mascara) are recommended in rainy weather to save your makeup from dripping away.

First apply a light shadow over

the eyelid and a dark one in the crease of the eyes. Light grey on the eyelid would look glamorous. Apply a line of black waterproof eyeliner close to the lashes on the upper lid. Extend the liner outwards and slightly upwards, beyond the outer corner of the eyes. For the lower lid, apply liner as close to the lower lashes as possible, but start from the middle of the lower eyelid and take the line towards the outer eyes. Apply waterproof mascara, in two coats, waiting for a few minutes after applying the first coat.

Use brow gel for your brows to give it the best look. Also, try using brown waterproof mascara for your eyebrows.

Gloss and cream lipstick should not be used as they would bleed in the humid weather,

For the lips, frosted sheen, or glimmer would be good, instead of too much gloss. Opt for soft mattes, pink shades, or soft browns instead of the bold and bright reds. Go for earthy colors. Keep your lipsticks in the fridge during the monsoons.

Tips to make your make-up last longer:

For oily skin, the use of an astrin-

gent lotion before foundation or the powder will help make-up last. After applying astringent lotion, wait for a few minutes, and then apply foundation.

When you apply powder, press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

Compact powder, rather than loose powder lasts longer and provides a smooth finish. Carry powder compact to touch up make-up. Blot the make-up with tissue. Liquid eyeliners last longer than eye pencils.

Applying foundation on the lips before helps lipstick last longer.

"Make-up is all about enhancing your features. Since humidity is at its peak, keep it minimal and use a lightweight foundation or powder-based foundation as it lasts longer in humid weather.

It's best when it's neither too much nor too little. The right kind of shades matter. Less is more, that's the beauty of makeup.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Scientist develops easy-to-use sensor for detecting arsenic in water

Press Trust Of India

A scientist with the Mohali-based National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute has developed an ultra-sensitive and easy-to-use sensor for detecting arsenic contamination in water and food within 15 minutes, the Department of Science and Technology said on Tuesday.

The sensor is highly sensitive, selective and is applicable for various water and food samples. It can be easily operated and one can know about contamination by matching the colour change on the sensor's surface with reference labels, it said.

"The sensor developed by Dr Vanish Kumar, a recipient of the INSPIRE Faculty fellowship of the Department of Science and Technology, and currently positioned at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Mohali, can be tested with three modes- spectroscopic measurements, colour intensity measurement with the help of colorimeter or mobile application, and with naked eyes," according to a statement.

Developed on mixed metal (cobalt/molybdenum) based metal-organic frameworks, it can detect a wide range of arsenic, it said.

In the case of paper and colorimetric sensors, the colour of the metal-organic framework (MOF) changes from purple to blue after interaction with arsenic, the statement said.

The intensity of the blue colour increases with an increase in the concentration of arsenic, it said.

It has been tested successfully for the fabrication of spectroscopic as well as paper-based tools for testing arsenic in groundwater, rice extract, and plum juice, the statement said.

This research has been accepted for publication in 'Chemical Engineering Journal', the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said.

Identification of arsenic before consumption of water and food is imperative to protect people from possible health issues associated with



arsenic. However, none of the existing methods of detection can be easily used, it said.

The developed testing kit is 500 times more sensitive in comparison to the improved version of the molybdenum-blue test, which is one of the most common and traditional tests used for detecting arsenic ions, the statement said.

It is also economical and simple as compared to the other commonly used analytical techniques such as atomic absorption spectroscopy and inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometry, which require expensive set-ups, lengthy and complicated methodologies, skilled operators, complex machinery, and difficult sample preparations, it added.

Kumar's team is the first to explore MOF for the sensing of arsenic ions on the basis of interaction, the DST said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Email id:- std2rajbagh@yahoo.in Fax No. 0194-2310042

Extension Notice No.3

Due to zero response, the date of submission of bid in respect of below mentioned e-NIT's is hereby extended with the details enumerated below:-

SNO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	STD-II / 32of 2021-22 Dated:- 01-07-2021	Replacement/ installation and commissioning of equipments in Pilot Receiving Stations of STD II for making them SCADA ready	2021_PDD_129205_1	1000.00	31000/- OR Submission of Bid Security Declaration Form provided in the tender document

Last Date of Bid Submission extended upto
Bid Opening Date

06-08-2021; 2.30pm
07-08-2021; 2.30pm

No:-STD-II/1382-84/Ts
Dated:- 29-07-2021

DIPK-NB-2139/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

State Mission Directorate, Of ICPS, J&K

Rehmat Avenue Baghat Berzulla Srinagar.
1st floor Haj House Rail Head Complex Jammu.
email. psicpssgr@gmail.com

NOTICE.

Subject:- Office Accommodation Required for Mission Directorate of ICPS, State Resource Centre for Women and Women's Commission J&K.

Jammu and Kashmir State Child Protection Society intends office for Mission Directorate of ICPS J&K, State Resource Centre for Women and Womens Commission in Srinagar City.

Proposals are invited from individuals who possess suitable accommodation minimum 8 Rooms, one big Hall, adequate number of washrooms with facility for parking disable friendly, easy to access and approach preferably in Srinagar city like Hyderpora, Sanatnagr, Barzulla.

Interested parties can apply to the Mission Directorate of ICPS J&K Rehmat Avenue Baghat Berzulla with a copy to this office preferably through email within 10 days from the publication of this notice. The applicants should mention following specifications at of the building with an application stating the intent for renting out of the building to Mission Director J&K.

1. Complete Address of the building with pin code and landmark.
2. Copy of necessary ownership documents.
3. Total built up area and parking facility.
4. Necessary copies of statutory building permission.

For any clarification interested parties may contact State Mission Director ICPS J&K during office timing at Rehmat Avenue Shahdad House Baghat Berzulla Srinagar

No:- SMD/CPS/Acctts/2021/RRT 551-553
Dated;30-07-2021

Shabnam Shah Kamli) KAS
Mission Director, ICPS J&K

DIPK-5581/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Horticulture (Planning and Marketing) J&K Office of the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Pachaar Pulwama.

Fresh E-Auction Notice AUC 21of2021-22 Dated 29-07-2021

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

The minimum reserve bid is fixed at Rs.4,25,000/= (Four Lacs Twenty-Five Thousand Only) The tender document should accompany CDR of Rs. 12,750/- (Rs Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only) Pledged to Member Secretary MAC Fruit & Vegetable Market Pachaar Pulwama. The tender documents can be downloaded from <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Critical dates table.

1.	Publishing date	29-07-2021
2.	Document download/sale start date	29-07-2021
3.	Bid submission start date	29-07-2021
4.	Bid submission closing date	03-08-2021 up to 05:00 PM
5.	Bid opening date (online)	04-08-2021 up to 11:00 AM

The gate entry fee for each type of transport vehicle entering the F&V Market Pachaar Pulwama s shall be as per the following schedule:-
TARIEF SCHEDULE

S.No.	Type of Vehicle/transport	Rate (in Rs.)
1.	14 Tyre/18 Tyre/20 Tyre Trolley	Rs.200/-
2.	10 Tyre/12 Tyre	Rs.150/-
3.	Truck/Bus	Rs.80/-
4.	Tata Mobile, Tata Sumo, Trolley, Matador, Tractor and Jonga	Rs.25/-
5.	Auto/Load Carrier, Rehra/Horse Cart, Tonga	Rs.10/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Successful bidders shall have to enter into an agreement with the Member Secretary MAC Fruit Mandi, PACHHAR PULWAMA. The other terms and conditions are as under:-

- 01 The offer shall be super scribed as gate entry Tender Document of Fruit and Vegetable Market PACHHAR PULWAMA.
- 02 The Entry fee shall be charged by the successful Bidder every time on entry in the Fruit & Vegetable Market PACHHAR PULWAMA as per the above prescribed fee structure.
- 03 The successful Bidder shall have to enter into an agreement with MAC PACHHAR PULWAMA before taking over of gate.
- 04 The successful Bidder have to deposit the whole amount as one installment i.e first installment must be 100% of contract amount.
- 05 The Agreement shall be executed within three days after allotment of contract.
- 06 The contract of weighing bridge to the successful bidder shall be given after two days of opening of bids.
- 07 The defaulters of the MAC PACHHAR PULWAMA are not eligible to unless they clear their previous outstanding if any.
- 08 The Successful bidder is bound to maintain a register regarding outflow of trucks (destination wise) as per the format provided by Member Secretary, AGMO, Grading/ Marketing Inspector or any other official of the Department for record and reference of this office.
- 09 The Successful bidder shall have to maintain the weighing Bridge and the equipment provided by MAC PACHHAR PULWAMA in proper condition and in case of any technical fault or any other damage the successful bidder shall have to make arrangement for making good the damages and maintenance of weighing bridge and equipment of his own and no compensation shall be entertained on this account.
- 10 The successful bidders shall have to utilize the room available with the weighing bridge for collection of weighing fee and cannot raise any other structure for any purpose in the Mandi premises during the contract period.
- 11 The Successful bidder shall have to abide by all laws and regulations governing the operation of the facility, especially labour laws as applicable from time to time.
- 12 The offered highest bid shall be the Net amount that the highest bidder is expected to deposit with the Member Secretary MAC and all taxes and levies, liabilities due to any local laws shall be borne by the successful highest bidders.
- 13 The specimen of the receipt to be used by the successful bidder shall be provided by the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee
- 14 In case of any dispute between the parties the matter shall be referred to the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing shall be final and his decision shall be final and binding upon both the parties.
- 15 The MAC F&V Market PACHHAR PULWAMA shall not be responsible for less or nil dispatches in the market due to Curfew / Hartals / Strikes or for any other reason.
- 16 The Member Secretary MAC F&V Market PACHHAR PULWAMA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- 17 The trucks like agency vehicles and tippers with load of bricks, stone, Iron etc shall not be allowed to enter the Market premises by successful bidder. Violation if any shall amount to the fine of Rs.5000/- per vehicle and action violation under rules thereof shall be taken.
- 18 The workers engaged by the contractor for the purpose of collection of the gate entry fee shall wear proper uniform as shall be prescribed by the MAC PACHHAR PULWAMA.
- 19 The bid amount offered in the tender shall be mentioned in words as well as in figures and tenders with over writing/cuttings shall be rejected out rightly.
- 20 The successful Bidder shall have no right to sublet the contract during the contract period/agreement. The main entry gates of F&V Market PACHHAR PULWAMA and service roads shall remain open on Sundays as well and after 3.00 P.M. onwards the vehicles shall be allowed to proceed towards Mandi blocks on Sundays.

Ref.No 125/DDK/HPM/2021/1099-1105
Dated: 23-07-2021

Sd/-
Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC)
Pachaar Pulwama.

DIPK-5526/21

DG Horticulture Kashmir Conducts Extensive Tour Of South Kashmir



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Director General (DG), Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today conducted an extensive tour of South Kashmir.

During the tour, the DG visited various CA Stores established in the area with Government support. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the scope of post-harvest management and stressed on increasing the CA Store capacity, so as to avoid any distress sale of fruit crops.

Later, the DG visited various High Density orchards at Gogloora and interacted with young entrepreneurs.

He appreciated their hard work, and said that the same would serve as an inspiration to others.

He further said that the Department is committed to bring more area under High Density plantation, for which the Government has launched the Modified High Density Plantation Scheme.

Bhat also urged on diversification of fruits and said that a good area will be brought under various fruit crops like Pear, Plum, Cherry, Almond etc., besides Apple under the said scheme.

The DG during the visit was accompanied by field functionaries of the department and members of Joint Inspection Team (JIT).

Static Fortnight: No Change In Fuel Prices



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Oil marketing companies (OMC) have continued with the pause on fuel price revision for the 14th consecutive day on Saturday, the longest period in weeks, as a wait-and-watch process continues amid rising global crude prices.

Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold at Rs 101.84 per litre, while diesel also is unchanged at Rs 89.87 a litre.

The pump price of fuel has been static since July 18.

One of the main reasons for the pause in fuel price rise is an over 10 per cent fall seen in global oil prices with benchmark crude sliding to \$69 a barrel earlier this month from a high of over \$77 a barrel just couple of weeks back. It had again risen close to over \$76 a barrel on strong demand projections.

With OPEC reaching an agreement to raise crude production, oil prices were expected to re-

main soft. This could make way for fuel prices in India to actually fall after a long interval.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed the Rs 100-mark for the first time ever on May 29, the fuel price is at Rs 107.83 per litre. Diesel prices in the city is also at Rs 97.45, the highest among metros.

Petrol prices in all metros have now crossed Rs 100 per litre mark.

The fortnight long price pause comes after fuel prices increased on 41 days and remained unchanged on 50 days since May 1. The 41 increases has taken up petrol prices by Rs 11.44 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel have increased by Rs 9.14 per litre in the national capital.

Since April 2020, petrol prices have increased by Rs 32.25 per litre from Rs 69.59 a litre to Rs 101.84 a litre now in Delhi. Similarly, diesel prices during the period has increased by Rs 27.58 per litre from Rs 62.29 to Rs 89.87 a litre in the national capital.

Handicraft Designs Now Just A Click Away

Design Nodes Set Up At IICT& SOD

KO NEWS DESK

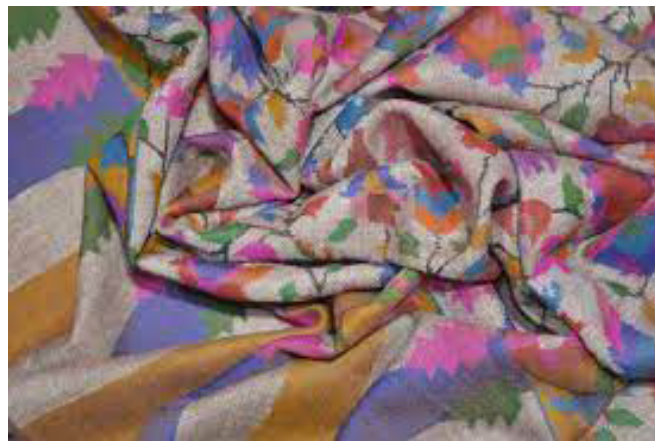
SRINAGAR: To consolidate the age old legacy of Kashmir Carpets and Kani Shawls, a design bank/ design studio has been set up in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar utilizing software's like Ned Graphics and NAQASH (Kashmir).

These software's have helped to digitize the age old traditional Talim and generation of digitized Talim in Carpets and Kani Shawls.

Another such facility to support the artisans/weavers of Kani segment has been set up at School of Designs, Kashmir Haat Srinagar wherein a Design node has been set up by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir.

The designer studio has the ability to resize any design, change the color scheme and modification of forms and features in any design. The design studio also has the ability to convert photograph into digitized Talim which can be utilized by artisans and weavers for creation of new patterns and master pieces.

The IICT provides this service to weavers and artisans at subsidized rates. With respect to Kani



designs the rates range from Rs 500/- to Rs 1200/- per sq.ft. and for the Carpet designs the rate ranges from Rs 250/- to Rs2000/- per sq.ft.

To make this facility available to maximum number of artisan/weaver community and other interested persons, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir has set up another design node at School of Designs, Kashmir Haat Srinagar that will support Kani Designs.

In this behalf, a meeting was held today wherein Director IICT,

and representatives from the Pashmina Testing lab and SOD were also present.

Weavers, Artisans, Manufacturers and Exporters can avail this facility by approaching IICT camps located at Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan Srinagar or for the Kani segment they can visit SOD Srinagar.

It has been observed that the awareness about the design studio needs to be spread out so that the interested segments can avail maximum benefits through the design studio facility at IICT camps or SOD Srinagar.

Financial Reforms Showing Impact On Ground: LG



'J&K Achieved Unprecedented Level Of Transparency In Execution Of Works'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday observed that the financial reforms and interventions initiated by the Finance Department are now showing impact on the ground. He said that out of the total projects, 6167 projects have been completed within one year, which itself is an example of transparent and speedy implementation on the ground.

He was speaking during the release of an e-book consisting of pictorial compendium of 9514 projects worth Rs 3900 Cr completed in J&K under various UT sector schemes during 2020-21.

The e-book is available for public viewing on the official website of the Finance Department www.jakfinance.nic.in under the head

"Publications". It is a visual glimpse of the progress made in various sectors of the economy and provides basic information about the projects completed.

The pictorial compendium would act as an inspiration for the executing agencies for timely completion of the projects with all quality parameters in place, said the LG.

"We are putting every government work into public domain to bring about greater accountability and transparency in the work culture in the UT, besides ensuring that the money was spent as per the developmental needs of the people. More reforms are underway which will help to further fine-tune the developmental strategy and give an impetus to the efforts of the Government," he said.

The Lt Governor observed that proper documentation of development projects with photographic evidence with geo-coordinates is an effort towards enhancing transparency and accountability in the execution of works.

The UT of J&K has achieved an

unprecedented level of transparency in the financial management through a host of financial reforms and interventions made by the Government which include the activity-wise online release of funds through "BEAMS" (Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System); "EM-POWERMENT" (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works Being Executed & Resources for meaningful Transparency) web portal whereby the details of projects and related expenses are put in the public domain, making administrative and technical approvals, e-tendering, geo-tagged photographs mandatory for payments; online billing through "JK Payment System"; streamlining of GST; e-stamping; e-GRAS; digital payments; implementation of GeM; publication of important manuals relating to Budget and Audit, Back to Village and My Town My Pride initiatives and 100% physical verification of projects, added the Lt Governor.

Director AP&FWD Holds Joint Meeting With Officers, Saffron Growers At IIKSTC



KO NEWS DESK

PULWAMA: In view of the upcoming saffron season and to provide quality facilities to the saffron growers, the Director, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department (AP&FWD), Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today held a joint meeting of officers of the department, Saffron Growers and representatives of Saffron Growers Association at India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC) at Dussu Pampore.

The Director on the occasion said that the saffron growers will be provided requisite facilities including hi-tech stigma separation, grading, quality analysis, packing, e-auction marketing and above all G.I. authenticity from IIKSTC.

During the meeting, the Director stressed upon the Chief Agriculture Officers to educate the saffron growers regarding latest marketing trends and other scientific innovations regarding saffron harvesting and post harvest technology.

On the occasion, Iqbal said that IIKSTC is one of the best in Asian

subcontinent and that it is all set to provide Cutting-edge technology to revive the Saffron industry.

During the interaction with the representatives of Saffron growers, the Director assured them that their genuine issues will be addressed.

He said the IIKSTC establishment will boost the economy of this area as their saffron will be sold, graded and imported to various countries from this platform. It will be sealed and certified here, which will be a trademark for Kashmiri saffron, he added.

Earlier, Deputy Managing Director NHB who is also Consultant Ministry of Agriculture Gol, Bijendra Singh, Joint Director NHB CP Gandhi, along with Director Agriculture Kashmir inspected different sections of IIKSTC and took stock of its working.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Agriculture Farms, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, officials of IIKSTC and Saffron Growers.

StayHappy Pharmacy Starts Operations In Kashmir



Agencies

Srinagar: With over 620 functional stores across the country, StayHappy pharmacy has managed to reach the width and length of the country. Recently, this medicine brand set forth in the province of Jammu and Kashmir not as a competitor to the local chemist retailers but as a collaborator. Through this initiative, the aim is to not only boost access to healthcare in remote regions of the country, but to also support the local retailers in a slow economy. StayHappy Generics works with an objective to provide high-quality medicines at 'real and affordable' prices. With the principle of 'Healthcare for all' in mind, the company aims to make healthcare affordable, accessible and available to all in the truest sense.

Executive Director, Arushi Jain commented, "We are full of hope and excitement about our new breakthrough as we increase our presence across the nation. Arrival in Kashmir makes us very happy and content as it's a great leap in our mission to make 'healthcare for all' a reality. So far the response has been phenomenal leaving customers with repeat purchases and positive feedbacks endowing quality products. StayHappy is confident of further association with more stores by the next few months in Kashmir."

Despite being a territory that comes with challenges, StayHappy stuck to its resolve and used all possible resources to overcome them. Print media, Radio and active awareness building proved to be instrumental in ensuring a smooth arrival and establishment in Kashmir.

Big Tech Booms Even As Lockdown Living Wanes

SAN FRANCISCO: Big Tech giants like Facebook and Amazon unveiled whopping profits this week, showing their dominance in lockdown lifestyles is on course to grow well beyond the pandemic.

"Tech wins the day, the week, and seemingly the year," Futurum Research analysts said of the surging revenues, driven by digital advertising, cloud computing, gaming and booming use of smartphones and e-commerce.

"The strength of tech is clearly unthethered from Covid," they added.

Powerhouses Facebook, Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet all reported higher revenues even as they face heightened scrutiny from antitrust regulators for their growing dominance of key economic sectors.

Amazon said on Thursday that second-quarter profit jumped 48 per cent from a year ago to \$7.8 billion, even if that showing was below high Wall Street forecasts.

A growing number of consumers turned to Amazon during the pandemic to get everything from tofu to toilet paper, and its cloud computing division also grew to help businesses and consumers stay connected.

The Amazon results capped a series of earnings from the major tech firms that benefited from successive lockdowns, but also the



gradual lifting of restrictions.

Earlier in the week, Apple said its profit in the just-ended quarter nearly doubled amid improving consumer spending and a "growing sense of optimism" as pandemic lockdowns eased.

Revenue from iPhone sales jumped some 50pc and Apple posted increases for its services such as digital payments, music, streaming television and gaming.

Facebook reported its profit doubled in the recently ended quarter as digital advertising surged, but warned of cooler growth in the months ahead in an update which sent its shares sinking.

Google parent Alphabet report-

ed quarterly profit that had nearly tripled, as money poured in from ads on its search engine and YouTube video platform.

Revenue at the global video sharing platform topped \$7bn, a leap from the \$3.8bn brought in during the same period a year earlier, according to Alphabet.

Techspontaneous analyst Avi Greengart said that hybrid work, online entertainment and internet shopping are now facts of life.

"Those are overarching trends that got accelerated by the pandemic but aren't going away," he added.

However, a gradual resumption of in-person activities, will require adjustments from Big Tech.

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LG Chairs Meeting Of Central Committee Of Cultural Academy

‘J&K is Cultural gateway of Northern India; a Symbol of National Integration, Unity in Diversity’

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today chaired the meeting of the Central Committee of Cultural Academy here at Raj Bhavan.

As many as 30 agenda points were taken up during the meeting for discussion including framing of Annual Activity Calendar; Promotion of various languages; accreditation and empanelment of artists; fine-tuning of skills of staff of JKAACL; Cultural Policy; Affiliation for continuing Calligraphy Course; Automation & Digitization of JKAACL Library; Setting up of Ethno-linguistic & Cultural Research Centre etc.

“J&K is the cultural gateway of northern India. The land is blessed with rich cultural

heritage, literature and wisdom of Saints and Sufis. It is also a symbol of national integration, Unity in diversity, and its legacy of knowledge needs to be shared with the world,” the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor laid special emphasis on encouraging the youth to be a part of the intensive campaign to promote the cultural heritage of J&K.

“Youth engagement in cultural activities would provide the much-needed platform and exposure to the young rising talent of the UT, and at the same time channelize the energy of youth towards productive and constructive activities”, the Lt Governor maintained.

Teachings and Writings of

our Sufi Saints and literary legends need to be disseminated to the younger generation to revive and preserve J&K’s rich cultural heritage, added the Lt Governor.

He further called for organizing regular cultural programmes across the UT by actively involving schools, colleges and universities, besides promoting the places of historic significance for the attraction of visiting tourists.

J&K has abundance of cultural wealth to offer to the world. J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages has to play an important role in taking the diverse culture of the UT across the globe through innovative interventions in the respective

field, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor asked the concerned officials to come up with a comprehensive Cultural Policy for propagating and promoting local languages and cultures with their ethnic relevance, besides providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to all the associated stakeholders.

He further instructed for increasing the presence of Cultural Academy at grassroot level and preparing Activity Calendar of the Cultural Academy so that the artists, all stakeholders, and the public would know what’s in the offing for them.

Reiterating the directions passed in previous meetings

with Culture department, the Lt Governor directed the concerned functionaries to submit a detailed report on the plan of action for upcoming mega Sufi and other literary festivals in the UT.

Rahul Pandey, Secretary JKAACL gave a detailed presentation on the agenda points of the meeting.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; BK Singh, Secretary School Education; Ms. Sushma Chauhan, Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department; Sarmad Hafeez, Administrative Secretary, Culture Department; Faculty members of various Universities attended the meeting.

Farmer’s Son Shines in IES Exam Conducted by UPSC

SRINAGAR: Tanveer Ahmad Khan, a farmer’s son from Nigeenpora Kund village of Kulgam district has brought laurels to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by securing second rank in the prestigious Indian Economic Services (IES) examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Tanveer who hails from a remote village approximately 80 kms from capital city Srinagar, has done his primary schooling from Govt. Primary School, Kund and later did his matriculation from Govt. high school Waltengoo. After that, Tanveer did his 12th class from Government Higher Secondary school, Razloo Kund and later did his Bachelor of Arts degree from Government Degree College Anantnag in the year 2016.

Tanveer, who has been a bright student from the very beginning later on secured third rank in University of

Kashmir entrance test and got himself admitted in the post graduate course in Economics at Kashmir University.

Continuing with his brilliance, Tanveer achieved another feat by securing Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) during his last year of post graduate programme. Being a JRF Fellow he went to Institute of Development Studies, Kolkatta for Masters in Philosophy (M.Phil) in Development Studies, which was awarded to him in April 2021.

Tanveer, who is son of a farmer, believes that hard work pays off when one is focused and nothing seems impossible after that. “During the Covid period, I confined myself to the four walls of my room and started preparing for IES examination while doing my M.Phil and I never let Covid impact my schedule of studies”, an elated Khan said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jaish Chief’s

spokesperson said that on a specific input regarding the presence of militants, a joint cordon and search operation (CASO) was launched by Police and army in the forest area of Nambian and Marsar, general area of Dachigam forest.

During the search operation, he said, the hiding militants fired on the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

“In the ensuing encounter two terrorists were killed. One of the killed terrorists has been identified as top most Pakistani terrorist Mohammed Ismal Alvi @Lambooo @Adnan, affiliated with proscribed terror outfit JeM. However, the identification of the other killed terrorist is being ascertained,” the police spokesperson said.

Lambooo, as per police spokesperson, was an A++ categorized militant and figured among the list of most wanted militants operating in the valley. He said the killed commander was especially expert in making of IED and was instrumental in planning and executing attacks on security establishments and civilian killings of which several cases have already been registered against him.

“He was the mastermind and main accused in the February 2019 Lethpora Fidayeen attack. He was also involved in the killing of SPO Fayaz Ahmed, his wife and daughter in Tral, recently. Besides, other terror crimes, he was also instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds and also motivating local youth for stone pelting and other criminal activities,” the police spokesperson said.

Moreover, the killed commander, he said, was carrying out militant activities in the police district of Awantipora, Pulwama and Anantnag districts. Lambooo, he said, was a close associate of militant Abdul Rehman alias Fauji alias Idrees Bhai of Multan Pakistan, who alongwith 2 local associates were killed in an encounter at Kangan Pulwama on June 3, last year.

“He was trying to re-establish and strengthen JeM terror outfit and utilize Awantipora especially Kakpora and Pampore area of Pulwama as a hot bed for receiving new terrorist groups and transporting them to the other parts for carrying out terrorist attacks,” the police spokesperson said.

He further said that Lambooo was closely associated with Jaish chief Masood Azhar and had infiltrated into this side of Kashmir in the year 2017 through Sakargadh Sector.

“He had also visited several training camps of JeM in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He has earlier escaped from many encounters/cordon & search operations including at Doniwar Chadoora Budgam on 04/03/2020, Parigam Jagir Pulwama on 19/11/2020 & Kalenvan, Bijbehara Anantnag On 07/07/2021,” he added.

Among the 19 militants and OGWs involved in Lethpora terror attack case, the police spokesperson said that seven, including militants Adil Dar, Mudasir Khan, Umar Farooq, Kamran, Qari Yasir, Sajjad Bhat and Lambooo were killed in encounters. He said 7 militants /OGWs have been arrested and 05 are still absconding.

“Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 AK rifle, 01 M-4 Carbine, a Glock pistol and a Chinese Pistol were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes,” he added.

‘89 Militants Killed

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said. He was addressing a joint press conference with GoC of Army’s 15 Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey and GoC of south Kashmir-based Victor Force Major Gen Rashim Bali.

To a question about the number of militants present in J-K, Lt Gen Pandey said about 200-225 ultras were active across the UT.

He, however, said there has been no successful infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC) so far this year.

“There has been information about one or two infiltrations. We have launched operations, which are on to check or neutralise them (infiltrators). But, according to ground inputs, there has been no successful infiltration or intrusion in the 15 Corps zone in the Valley so far,” Lt Gen Pandey said.

Asked about the operation in Shokbaba Sumlar-Aragam area of Bandipora in north Kashmir in which three militants were killed last week, the Army officer said out of the three ultras, two had travelled through proper visa route to Pakistan in 2017-18.

“This is a design to take youth from here, train them there (in Pakistan), and then send them back as terrorists. At least 40 youth have

travelled on visa to Pakistan for studying purpose after being given proper certificates for visa, but they were sent back here as terrorists,” he said.

The GoC said those youth who return from there in the “right manner” will be welcomed, but those who come back with weapons will be neutralised.

The IGP said out of the 40 youth who had taken visa and travelled through the Wagah border route in Punjab to Pakistan, “27 came back with weapons and have been killed in encounters”.

“Rest are still across, a few of them are in touch with their families. We are keeping a watch,” he said.

Security forces on Saturday killed two Jiaish-e-Mohammed militants, including a top Pakistani ultra belonging to the family of the group’s chief Masood Azhar and involved in the planning of the 2019 Pulwama attack, in an encounter in Pulwama district, police said. (PTI)

LG Orders

series of events showcasing the patriotic ethos of our great nation, besides giving glimpses of a new and resurgent J&K treading the path of unprecedented progress and development along with the spirit of Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

“Independence Day celebrations should rekindle the spirit of freedom movement and undying love of our freedom fighters for the country. We must show gratitude to the martyrs and unsung heroes of Jammu & Kashmir who laid down their lives for the nation. The inspiring stories of great personalities who have played a major role in building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir should also be shared with young generation,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, advised the nodal departments to follow the details of programmes designed by Gol and plan similar events in the UT.

Laying emphasis on the coordination of various departments, the LG, he said observed that Departments of School Education, Higher Education, Culture, Youth Services and Sports and Mission Youth have an important role to play in the upcoming mega celebrations.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG gave suggestions for a comprehensive plan of the celebrations involving each and every citizen of the UT and passed specific instructions to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions. Sinha, he said also directed the Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department to make arrangements for the celebrations at the Panchayat and Block level functions with active involvement of public representatives and local people.

“Everyone must come together to build a new Jammu Kashmir and a new India under the majestic tricolor flying high. In the new Jammu Kashmir, the grass root development must ensure that no person is left out of the journey of peace, progress and prosperity,” the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG directed the officers to organize the National Anthem Singing competition at district and divisional level and select the winners for the event at the UT level.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG also directed to hold sports and cultural events on the occasion of Independence Day. CEO, Mission Youth was directed to ensure that the youth clubs pledge to serve the people and spread awareness about the transformation taking place in the UT

The LG, he said, asked the Secretaries of School Education and Higher Education departments for observing the celebrations of Independence Day in every school, college, and university of the Union Territory.

“Teachers and students should celebrate the national festival following all Covid SoPs and other necessary protocols,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

J&K Logs 118

said that Srinagar reported 19, Baramulla 15, Budgam 9, Pulwama 14, Kupwara 5, Anantnag 1, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 10, Kulgam 4, Jammu 10, Udhampur 5, Rajouri 2, Doda 10, Kishtwar 2, Poonch 2, Ramban 1 and Reasi 8 fresh cases of coronavirus. No new case was reported from the three districts of Shopian, Kathua and Samba in the Union Territory.

Also, the officials said, 113 more patients in last 24 hours have recovered—43 from Jammu Division and 70 from Kashmir, taking the number of people who have recovered in J&K to 315908.

With this, there are now 1176 active cases—455 in Jammu and 721 in Kashmir.

While there was no fresh death due to the virus, they said, 4378 people have fallen victim

to the pathogen so far in J&K—2142 in Jammu division and 2236 in Kashmir.

Hope Fades

Rasool, Almina Tasbassum (22) daughter of Mohammad Iqbal, Mata Begum (45) wife of Lala Tantry, Ghulam Mohammad (70) son of Ghulam Rasool, Fazal Hussain (18) son of Rustom Ali Chopan, Tariq Hussain (50) son of Nazir Ahmed, Zarina Begum (40) wife of Tariq Hussain, Mata Begum (45) wife of Ghulam Rasool, Fatima Begum (56) wife of Ghulam Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed (45) son of Rustum Ali, Begum (45) wife of Abdul Rehman, Sharifa Begum (38) wife of Ghulam Mohammad, Shakir Hussain (22) son of Ghulam Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmed (65) son of Abdul Aziz, Zubaida Banoo (25) daughter of Ghulam Ahmed and Khalid son of Haji Gami.

Meanwhile, police have started a community kitchen to provide meals to affected people of village Hounzar. The police have begun the tent pitching to provide the temporary shelter at the site.

“ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh (IPS) accompanied by Udayabhaskar Billa (IPS) DIG DKR concluded his two day camping at Hounzar who reviewed the course of ongoing rescue operations for speedy recovery of those missing due the natural calamity,” the official said.

SSP Kishtwar Shafqat Hussain, he said, is camping there at the cloudburst-hit site to supervise the ongoing rescue and relief operations being carried out by JKP, NDRF, SDRF, Army and civil administration of district Kishtwar: (GNS)

Father Of 5 Dies

the network connectivity was suspended in the entire Bagtore area this morning following the incident. After Hajam’s death, his relatives and locals held a protest in the area, the report said.

However, refuting the allegations of custodial death, an army spokesperson said that the elderly man died of an accident after slipping into a nallah.

Srinagar based Defence Spokesman Colonel Emron Musavi in a statement issued here said that last night the middle-aged man saw some suspicious movement in the forest area ahead of Tharbal village.

“He immediately informed the nearest army post about the suspicious activity. Army search party along with him went to search the area in the darkness. While the party was moving through a slushy patch, he unfortunately slipped into the nallah,” he said.

“The soldiers immediately rescued him and brought him to the nearest military doctor. The doctor immediately examined him and gave first aid. However, despite the best efforts of the doctor, Abdullah Hazam could not be saved and passed away due to his injuries at 8 am,” he added.

The Defence spokesman further said that Post mortem has been conducted and the body is being handed over to the family.

“All possible assistance is being provided to the family of Abdullah Hajam,” he said—(KNO)

‘Terrorist’ Held

During the raid, the NIA also recovered digital devices including mobile phones, pen drives, shells of used bullets, plastic face masks used during stone-pelting and hand written jihadi material, the spokesperson said.

No CID Clearance

“Also, digital evidence like CCTV footage, photographs, videos and audio clips, quadcopter images available in the records of the police, security forces and security agencies be also referred,” the circular reads.

It added that any subject found involved in any such cases must be denied the security clearance. (Agencies)

J&K Mulls Reopening

manner,” Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Saturday.

Sinha made these remarks while chairing a series of meetings with Covid Task Force, Deputy Commissioners and District SsP to review the Covid situation across the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said. The meetings were the latest in the series, wherein the LG takes district-wise assessment of the Covid scenario in the UT and seeks action-taken report from the District Administrations.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson, also directed the Health Department to prioritize vaccination of college and university students.

He further said that the LG called upon adherence of Covid appropriate behaviour (CAB), maximum vaccination coverage, testing and, strict implementation of micro containment zones to eliminate the looming threat of third

coronavirus wave.

“J&K’s average vaccination coverage of the first dose in 45 and above age group clocking 99.9 %; positivity rate dropping to 0.2 % and all districts falling under Green Zone as per the stringent indicators for consecutive weeks are results of strenuous efforts by all,” Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

“J&K government is getting full support from the Government of India in its fight against the global pandemic. Against the committed 6.5 lakh doses of vaccination for the current lot, the Government of India has provided more than 16 lakh doses to J&K which itself speaks about the undeterred commitment and dedicated attention of Gol towards saving precious lives,” he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that with Gol’s help, the UT government will achieve its target of covering 60 % of the population with the first dose by August.

In a meeting with the DCs and SsP, the LG, he said, directed for adopting zero-tolerance against non-observance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour to ensure that the Covid situation remains under control.

He further said that the Divisional Commissioners and DCs were instructed to monitor the working of Joint teams for effective enforcement of containment measures.

“Adherence of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, 100% vaccination coverage of the targeted population, maximum testing, wearing of face masks, strict implementation of micro containment zones, effective clinical management need to be ensured in a mission mode to eliminate the threat of the 3rd wave,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed district-wise analysis of Covid-19 pandemic including the status of vaccine availability and coverage; daily trend of COVID 19 cases; trend of daily testing done and daily positivity rate etc.

LG Discusses Film

shortly. The discussion also focused on reviving J&K glory in Bollywood and making it a favourite film shooting destination,” the office of LG posted on its official Twitter handle.

On Thursday, Khan visited Amar Singh College here in this capital city and had reportedly expressed his desire to shoot some scenes of his upcoming film ‘Laal Singh Chadda. He visited Kashmir after wrapping up his shooting in the newly carved Union Territory of Ladakh.

Azad For Participation

started preparing for the assembly polls, Azad said that all parties, including the Congress, should make preparations. “All people should take part in the elections,” he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls are likely to be held after the completion of the de-limitation exercise in the Union Territory.

PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti had announced that she will not contest elections until both the constitutions of India and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir are made applicable to J&K.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre had abrogated the special status of the erstwhile stated of J&K and bifurcated into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Personally, it (abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A of the Constitution) is a very emotional for me. I contested the first election taking oath under the constitutions of India and the state. I took both flags in my hands. Until both constitutions will not be (existing) together (in J&K), I have said I will not personally contest elections,” Mehbooba had said.

On the Pegasus snooping row, Azad said the opposition has already raised the issue in Parliament and are demanding a discussion on it.

I am on a three-day tour of Jammu and am available for every one across the Jammu division, including my own party workers and others who want to discuss their problems with me, the Congress leader said.

He expressed grief over the loss of the lives and damage to property in the recent cloudbursts in Kishtwar, Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas, and expressed hope that the government will take care of victims and their families.

Earlier, a large number of Congress workers assembled outside the Jammu airport to receive Azad and raised slogans in his support.

We have assembled here to demand ouster of all those who took part in a protest against Azad and set ablaze his effigy, Congress leader and JMC councillor Gaurav Chopra said.

He was referring to the protest staged by a group of Congress workers led by former

general secretary and District Development Council (DDC) member Mohammad Shahnawaz Choudhary outside the press club here on March 2.

The first-of-its-kind protest against Azad by members of his own party came days after a rally addressed by ‘G-23’ leaders ostensibly to felicitate Azad on his retirement from Rajya Sabha. The rally was seen as a show of strength to convey a message to the party leadership.

The Group of 23 or ‘G-23’ leaders had demanded an overhaul of the Congress party organisation.

Chopra on the same day in March had led a counter-protest against Choudhary and said that a person who fought the recently held DDC elections against the party mandate is not a Congressman and is working on the directions of the BJP and the RSS to weaken the Congress.

PDP Only Party

in Jammu and Kashmir.

While talking with reporters after meeting workers in Pulwama district, Mehbooba said that PDP is the only party which is standing as a challenge before Gol and is resisting on every front.

“If you stop resisting, you will stop existing. PDP is the only party which is resisting the moves of the Union Government that is why they tried to break PDP by giving offers to some leaders who fell prey, however, who didn’t fall prey. New Delhi used NIA, ED like agencies to break them,” she said.

“Even our leaders are thrown out of their quarters, their security is being taken back and even cases are being registered against them and are being kept in jails like Waheed Para,” Mehbooba said.

Mehbooba said PDP is not a party but a movement and BJP can’t break it.

“PDP came into existence for the peaceful solution of Jammu and Kashmir,” she said. “We don’t leave this path till Jammu and Kashmir will become a bridge of peace between India and Pakistan.”—(KNO)

Old Brew Is Back

between Rs 5000 to Rs 30000.

“Samovar making usually takes three to seven days, depending on its size and design,” Sajad says. “And then it also depends on the demand which is quite good now.”

Interestingly, the old brew is back when power kettles and flasks have almost made Samovar an obscure cultural object.

“Samovar is the ultimate gift for any occasion,” Sajad says. “It’s being praised by all and sundry—especially sightseers who quietly arrive in the valley to learn from our culture and tradition.”

IAAS Probationers

shared with the LG about the learning gained by them during their visit to the UT.

“The Lt Governor observed that the new initiatives and reforms made in various sectors including financial rules, Tourism Sector, Employment generation, Industry, Agriculture and Horticulture has led to the beginning of a new era of development in J&K,” the official spokesperson said.

He quoted LG as saying that the reforms in the Land laws and Government’ people-centric and development-oriented policies have given impetus to the progress of J&K.

IED Defused

detection of the IED by the Road Opening Party (ROP) of the security forces, they said.

The militants are believed to have planted the IED during the intervening night under the cover of darkness, the officials said, adding that a massive search operation is on to arrest the militants who were planning to set off the blast.

The officials said the experts removed the IED from the road to a secluded place in the nearby forest and later detonated it in a controlled explosion without causing any damage.)

Ex-MP Laway

Party for anti-party activities as he attended the swearing-in ceremony of first Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Girish Chandra Murmu against the directions of the party. (KNT)

Active Cases Drop

16,775. Kargil had recorded a total of 3,553 cases, the officials said.

Twelve Covid patients were discharged in Leh and two others in Kargil after successful treatment in the past 24 hours.

The number of active cases in Ladakh has dropped to 50 with 44 in Leh and six in Kargil, the officials said.

#	COUNTRY	G	S	B	T
60	INDIA	0	1	0	1
1	CHINA	21		12	46
2	JAPAN	17	5	8	30
3	UNITED STATES	16		13	46
4	ROC	11		11	37
5	AUSTRALIA	10	3	14	27
6	GREAT BRITAIN	8	9	11	28
7	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	5	4	7	16
8	FRANCE	4	9	6	19
9	NETHERLANDS	4	7	5	16
10	NEW ZEALAND	4	3	3	10



Herschelle Gibbs Claims BCCI Is Threatening Him Over Kashmir Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former South African star cricketer Herschelle Gibbs on Saturday accused the BCCI of threatening him over his participation in the inaugural Kashmir Premier League saying the Board was bringing its "political agenda with Pakistan into the equation".

Gibbs is part of KPL's Overseas Warriors franchise and made the revelations public in a Tweet adding that the BCCI also threatened him of denying entry into India.

"Completely unnecessary of the @BCCI to bring their political agenda with Pakistan into the equation and trying to prevent me playing in the @kpl_20. Also threatening me saying they won't allow me entry into India for any cricket related work. Ludicrous." The Proteas great said in the Tweet.

According to media reports, Gibbs has blamed BCCI Secretary Jay Shah for the threats. "It came from Mr Shah. (The) message was sent to Graeme Smith who passed it on to me," he told Sportskeeda.

Gibbs' accusations come a day after former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif made similar remarks.

"The @BCCI warning cricket boards that if their former players took part in Kashmir Premier League, they won't be allowed entry in India or allowed to work in Indian cricket at any level or in any capacity. Gibbs, Dilshan, @MontyPanesar & several others have been selected in KPL," Latif had tweeted. The Pakistan Cricket Board also issued an official statement in this regard.

"The PCB considers that the BCCI has brought the game into disrepute by issuing warnings to multiple ICC Members to stop their retired cricketers from featuring in the Kashmir Premier League, further threatening they will not be allowed entry into India for cricket-related work."

"Such conduct from the BCCI is completely unacceptable, against the preamble of the Spirit of Cricket and sets a dangerous precedence, which can neither be tolerated nor ignored," an official statement by PCB read.

The first edition Kashmir Premier League (KPL) is scheduled to be played from August 6 to August 16. The tournament will have six teams including: Overseas Warriors, Muzaffarabad Tigers, Rawalakot Hawks, Bagh Stallions, Mirpur Royals and Kotli Lions. Imad Wasim, Mohammad Hafeez, Shahid Afridi, Shadab Khan, Shoib Malik and Kamran Akmal are the captains of their respective teams.

Each team will have 5 local players from Pakistan administered Kashmir with the matches set to be played at the Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium.

J&K BANK XI Lifts JKFA Professional League 2021 Title

R Elahi

SRINAGAR: The last round of JKFA Professional League 2021 matches were played on Saturday at the Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

The final day fixtures included J&K Bank XI vs Kashmir Avengers FC and a battle for the 2nd position between Hyderya Sports FC and Downtown Heroes FC.

The unbeaten J&K Bank side played a customary match knowing well they had already secured the 1st position. For Kashmir Avengers the match up was a test against a formidable opponent in which only a win could take them into the top half of the table.

The match started gingerly for the Avengers as Bank XI dominated the possession and created opportunities. But as the minutes ticked off on the clock, the Avengers became more composed in their defending, earning a 0:0 half time score in the process.

The second half began on the same note as the first but in the 75th minute the J&K Bank side scored through Faissal Thakur to take the lead. The goal led to Kashmir Avengers creating goal-scoring chances of their own, scoring the leveller through Saqib in the 80th minute. The match ended in a 1:1 draw, a first for the Bank XI side who had won 6 out of 6 of their other Pro League matches. Saqib of Kashmir Avengers FC was man of the match.

The second match of the day between I-League 2nd Division aspirants Hyderya Sports FC and Downtown Heroes FC was billed as the most important match of the 19 days and 28 matches long Professional League.

A victory for Downtown Heroes FC, 5th in the table with 10 points, would have lifted them above Hyderya Sports FC, who sat 2nd on the table with 12 points. With Lonestar Kashmir already finishing their campaign on 10 points, a draw for Downtown Heroes would have been enough to help them leapfrog their nearest rival. For Lonestar KFC, who were ahead of Downtown



Heroes via goal difference, a Hyderya victory was the only way to qualify.

Kashmir province's Divisional Commissioner, PK Pole was the chief guest on the occasion and took the field before kick off, along with other JKFA and JKSC officials and dignitaries, to meet and greet the players of the two clubs.

The match started on high expectations as the jam-packed TRC football ground buzzed in anticipation. Not willing to leave their fate in the hands of lady luck, the Downtown Heroes played attacking football from the get-go – creating chances and dominating possession in the process. Hyderya Sports players expertly handled the pressure and defended in droves to ward off any attack on their goal.

In a nerve-wrecking fixture both Hyderya and the Heroes showed composure and experience

to make sure there were no defensive errors. Ensuring the first half ended 0:0.

The second half of the match progressed similarly to the first with Downtown Heroes creating chances and Hyderya Sports defending astutely. The match ended 0:0 with TRC's flood lights in full glare. Metro Melvin was declared as man of the match.

The JKFA held the awards function after the match and presented J&K Bank XI with the Professional League 2021 trophy. Donning all-blue, the triumphant J&K Bank players lifted the cup to a round of warm applause from the spectators.

The jubilant Hyderya Sports FC players also received their runner-up medals and trophy.

Aakif Javaid Reshi of J&K Bank was awarded Highest Scorer award. Malik Sahil Khurshed of Real Kashmir FC received the best Emerging

Sindhu Loses Semifinal Match, To Play For Bronze Now

TOKYO: World champion P V Sindhu's hopes of securing India's first-ever Olympic gold in badminton came crashing down as she slumped to a straight-game defeat against world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the women's singles semifinals here on Saturday.

The 26-year-old silver-medallist from the Rio Games, however, remained in the hunt for a bronze medal and will be competing against China's He Bing Jiao in the third place play-off at Musashino Forest Plaza on Sunday.

Indian Boxers Panghal & Rani Ousted

TOKYO: In a disappointing day for Indian boxing, Pooja Rani (75kg) joined world number one Amit Panghal (52kg) in exiting the Olympic Games after an underwhelming performance, going down 0-5 in her quarterfinal bout against China's Li Qian here on Saturday.

Qian, who is a former world champion and a Rio Olympics bronze-medallist, thoroughly outpunched Rani in the quarterfinals, quite literally taking away her belief with a clinical performance.

This was after Panghal bowed out with a 1-4 loss to Yuberjen Martinez, beaten by the Colombian's relentless attacks and pace in the pre-quarterfinal bout.

Indian Archery Campaign Ends As Atanu Das Exits In Pre-Quarters

TOKYO: A day after his world number one wife Deepika Kumari choked in the last-eight stage against eventual gold medallist An San of Korea, Atanu Das exited in the pre-quarterfinals of the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday.

Das, who knocked out London Olympics gold medallist Oh Jin Hyek in the last-32, failed to overcome home favourite Takaharu Furukawa, a silver winner in the 2012 edition, and lost 4-6.

Das' compatriots Pravin Jadhav and Tarundeep Rai had already exited the competition. India had made quarterfinal exits in both the men's team and mixed pair events, going down to Korea in their respective matches.

Indian Shooters Moudgil, Sawant Fail To Reach Finals

TOKYO: Indian shooters Anjum Moudgil and Tejaswini Sawant failed to make the finals of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event, settling for the 15th and 33rd position respectively, at the Olympics on Saturday.

This meant the Indian shooting team's disastrous outing at the Games continued with none of its participants except for Saurabh Chaudhary qualifying for the finals, having entered Tokyo on the back of some stunning performances and soaring expectations.

Switzerland's Nina Christen won gold with a finals Olympic record score of 463.9, while Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) athletes Yulia Zykova and Yulia Karimova bagged the silver and bronze respectively.

Spain, Brazil Advance To Olympic Men's Football Semifinals

Agencies

SAITAMA: Mikel Oyarzabal helped Spain into a second semifinal in a month. Brazil remains on track for a quick return to another final.

With youthful squads, Olympic men's football lacks the status of the European Championship or Copa America. The Tokyo Games still offer the chance for the countries to collect trophies this year.

The Spanish were taken by Ivory Coast to extra time before winning 5-2 on Saturday with the go-ahead goal scored from a penalty by Oyarzabal, who also netted the winning spot kick in a shootout in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals. The continental semifinal was lost to Italy. Now a more youthful Spain squad will be hoping to find a way past Japan, which was taken to penalties by New Zealand before winning the shootout 4-2.

The gold medallist on home soil in 2016, Brazil continued its title defence with a 1-0 victory over Egypt secured by Matheus Cunha's low strike in the 37th minute.

The goal was set up by Richardson, who has been allowed by Premier League club Everton to do double-duty in the off-season, having already been in the side that lost to Argentina in the Copa America final three weeks ago. Egypt wasn't allowed to bring players from England's top league like Brazil — particularly Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah as one of the three



players over the age of 24 permitted in the men's competition.

For Brazil, standing in the way of reaching another final on Tuesday is Mexico, which ousted South Korea 6-3 with a pair of goals from Henry Martin.

The favourite for the title will be Spain given the high calibre squad chasing its first Olympic soccer gold since 1992. This is the furthest it has reached in the competition since losing the final in 2000 to Cameroon.

The Spanish came close to being eliminated after Oyarzabal missed a chance to put them ahead just before Max-Alain Gradel put Ivory Coast in front in the first minute of

stoppage time.

But Rafa Mir salvaged an equalizer for the Spanish two minutes later, having only just come off the bench. In extra time, Eric Bailly's handball won the penalty that Oyarzabal converted. And it was a far smoother conclusion thanks to two more goals from Mir to complete a hat trick for the Wolverhampton forward.

It was far nervier for Japan, which had to rely on goalkeeper Kosei Tane saving a penalty from Liberato Cacace and seeing Clayton Lewis miss the target before the shootout winner from captain Maya Yoshida.

Srinagar Administration Holds First-Ever Sports Conclave In Downtown



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a move to boost the morale of budding sports talent in Shahr-e-Khaas, the District Administration Srinagar conducted first ever Downtown Sports Conclave on Saturday at MPML Higher Secondary School here.

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The conclave was attended by players of different Teams/Clubs/Academies/young achievers and Veteran Sports personalities from Shahr-e-Khaas.

Addressing the conclave, the DDC said that sports plays a pivotal role in building sound mental and physical health of an individual and therefore focused attention is being given to the sports sector by the government.

The DDC assured sports enthusiasts that every possible support in terms of equipment, infrastructure upgradation and general hand-holding will be provided by the administration to showcase their talent.

He said sports personalities of Downtown have always excelled in varied type of sports and are pride of Kashmir valley. He said youth of the area have vast sports potential and various measures are being taken to channelize their hidden talent besides provide them a suit-

able platform to exhibit their talent.

Asad congratulated the sports talent of the downtown who have excelled at J&K level and National level and extended his best wishes to them to achieve new heights of success at International level sports competitions and bring laurels to the country. He further encouraged the sports person to work hard and bring laurels to Shahr-e-Khaas.

Later, the DDC distributed Sports equipment's and Kits among the Sports Clubs of Shahr-e-Khaas. He also felicitated Veterans and young achievers with Awards of Honour.

Earlier, the District Youth Services & Sports Officer Srinagar, Balbir Singh, briefed the gathering regarding the programmes and schemes of the department. He further stated that so far DYSSO Srinagar has registered more than 400 sports clubs in Football, Cricket, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Badminton, and Chess & Carom during the current session and the process is going on.

During the Conclave, the speakers including young achievers highlighted various issues and demands before the DDC for the upliftment of sports sector in the Downtown area of Srinagar.

Among others, the Principal MPML Higher Secondary School, Romana Qazi, Former National Referee and former Joint Secretary Sports Council, Nazir Ahmad, all Zonal Physical Education Officers of District Srinagar.

Ben Stokes Takes Indefinite Break: Cricketers Come Out In Full Support

Agencies

LONDON: After England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes announced that he will be taking an indefinite break from all forms of cricket "to focus on his mental well-being", many of his cricketing peers have come out in support of his decision. The "indefinite break" means that Stokes, who is also nursing a finger injury, will not feature in the five-match Test series against India, which starts at Trent Bridge next week. Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara said that the players could "only deal with so much".

"It must be a very, very tough time for Ben and his family. It won't be a decision made easily but (it) brings into focus the level elite players play at – your coping mechanism can only deal with so much," Sangakkara told Sky Sports.

"We've had a host of elite athletes who've spoken about mental wellbeing and the effects of Covid and the pressure around it, and of course pressure in the limelight, that have led to them making some very tough decisions," he added.

How Summer 2021 Has Changed Our Understanding Of Extreme Weather



A succession of record-breaking natural disasters have swept the globe in recent weeks. There have been serious floods in China and western Europe, heatwaves and drought in North America and wildfires in the sub-Arctic.

An annual report on the UK's weather indicates extreme events are becoming commonplace in the country's once mild climate. August 2020 saw temperatures hit 34°C on six consecutive days across southern England, including five sticky nights where the mercury stayed above 20°C.

In the future, British summers are likely to see temperatures greater than 40°C regularly, even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C.

The Canadian national temperature record was shattered in June 2021 meanwhile, with 49.6°C recorded in Lytton, British Columbia – a town that was all but destroyed by wildfires a few days later.

Many of these events have shocked climate scientists. The Lytton temperature record, for example, was head-and-shoulders above those set during previous heatwaves in the region. Some scientists are beginning to worry they might have underestimated how quickly the climate will change. Or have we just misunderstood extreme weather events and how our warming climate will influence them?

Everything is connected

Floods and wildfires are not discrete events: they are the result of numerous interconnections and feedback loops in the climate system. Take the mid-July flash floods in London.

These were caused by summer rainstorms, which were in turn driven by warm air rising from the Earth's surface that built up during the preceding heatwave, stacking the deck for the downpours that were to follow. The wildfires raging in the western US, meanwhile, are a catastrophe whose stage was set by long-term drought.

The Earth's climate is complex, dynamic and chaotic, involving interactions and energy fluxes between the land, ocean and atmosphere.

The idea that scientists can study one part of this system in relative isolation is flawed. But it was not always possible to model or understand all of these complexities, so scientists had to break them into manageable

pieces in order to fit them into linear systems and models.

These were often split across the scientific disciplines that most of us are still somewhat confined to today, such as atmospheric sciences, hydrology, Earth systems sciences, or engineering.

As a result, we are used to treating each natural hazard independently from another. But it takes more than rain to create a flood, and more than a spark to start a wildfire. All of the elements of our climate system – and the hazards it produces – are connected in one way or another.

It's not that these interactions and combinations are new, it's just that we haven't always thought about them in such a joined-up way. It may seem shocking when disaster follows disaster, seemingly in increasingly quick succession. This is because we are trained to think about weather hazards singularly, focused on one type – a drought or flood, for example – at a time. Just about all risk assessments underestimate the risks associated with interconnected events.

But as our climate continues to warm, its baseline is shifting. How these hazards and their causes interact is therefore also changing fast, challenging the very definition of extreme weather events.

The interconnections between extreme weather events have, until recently, been largely overlooked by the science community. But there is now growing international research tasked with mapping these complex relationships.

Compound events – a term only adopted by the IPCC in 2012 – describe the outcomes of a combination of causes that ultimately surpass the capacity of an underlying system to cope. These include events where a hazard like a wildfire was made worse by something which had preconditioned the environment, like drought.

Wariness of these compound events should influence the way we live our lives in a warmer world. More research across disciplines is needed, as well as new approaches to disaster risk assessment and climate change adaptation that look across all weather-driven hazards and their complex and changing interactions. Improvements in climate modelling mean we can do more of this type of science – the climate crisis dictates that we must. Reuters

India, China Hold Military Talks; Focus On Disengagement In Gogra, Hot Springs



Agenceis

India and China are holding another round of high-level military talks on Saturday with an aim to move forward on the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh to end an over 14-month standoff, sources in the security establishment said.

The 12th round of Corps Commander-level talks is taking place at the Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The talks started at 10.30 am as scheduled, said a source.

India is hopeful of a positive

outcome on the disengagement process in Hot Springs and Gogra, sources said about the talks.

The latest round of talks is taking place after a gap of more than three and a half months. The 11th round of military dialogue had taken place on April 9 at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the LAC and it lasted for around 13 hours.

The 12th round of military talks is taking place over two weeks after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar firmly conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that the prolongation of the existing situation in eastern Ladakh was visibly impacting the bilateral ties in a "negative manner".

The two foreign ministers had

held a one-hour bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Tajik capital city Dushanbe on July 14.

In the meeting, Jaishankar told Wang that any unilateral change in the status quo along the LAC was "not acceptable" to India and that the overall ties could only develop after full restoration of peace and tranquillity in eastern Ladakh.

In the last round of military talks, both sides discussed ways to take forward the disengagement process in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang with a larger aim to bring down tensions in the region. However, there was no forward movement in the disengagement process. PTI

Babul Supriyo To Leave Politics; To Quit As MP

Agenceis

Kolkata: Former Union Minister and BJP leader Babul Supriyo said on Saturday that he has decided to quit politics and will be resigning as an MP.

He hinted the decision was partly due to losing the ministerial berth and also differences with the state BJP leadership.

Supriyo, who had held several portfolios as MoS in the Narendra Modi government since 2014, was removed earlier this month during a major cabinet reshuffle.

"Leaving, Alvada. Spoke to my parents, wife, friends, and after listening to the advice I am saying that I am leaving. Am not going to any other party - TMC, Congress, CPIM, nowhere. I am confirming that nobody has called me.

"I am going nowhere. I am a one-team player! Have always supported one team #MohunBagan - Have been with only one party - BJP West Bengal. That's it!! Leaving," Supriyo said in a Facebook post.

"I have stayed for too long... I have helped somebody, have disappointed somebody, it is for the people to decide. To be involved in social work, you can do that without being involved in any politics," his post read.

The two-time MP from Asansol



was among the several ministers who were dropped from the union cabinet on July 7 as part of a major rejig. His unsuccessfully contested assembly polls against Trinamool Congress's Aroop Biswas in the last assembly elections.

Both Supriyo and Debasree Chaudhuri were dropped as ministers. Four other MPs from West Bengal – Nishit Pramanik, Santanu Thakur, Subhas Sarkar and John Barla were inducted as MoS in the ministry.

"If someone ask that whether leaving the politics is somehow connected to losing ministry. Yes then it is true to some extent.... Also had differences with the state leadership since the assembly poll campaign," he wrote.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh declined to comment on it. PTI

Eat More Beef Than Chicken, Mutton, Fish: BJP Minister

Agenceis

SHILLONG: BJP minister in the Meghalaya government Sanbor Shullai encouraged the people of the state to eat more beef than chicken, mutton and fish, dispelling the apprehension that his party was against it.

Mr Shullai, a senior BJP leader who was sworn in as a cabinet minister last week, said everybody was free to eat whatever they want in a democratic country.

"I encourage the people to eat more beef than chicken, mutton or fish. By encouraging people to eat more beef, the perception that BJP will impose a ban on cow slaughter will be dispelled," he told reporters on Friday.

Mr Shullai, who is the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Minister, also assured that he would speak to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to ensure that cattle transportation to Meghalaya was not affected by the new cow legislation in the neighbouring state.

On the vexed boundary dispute between Meghalaya and Assam, the three-term legislator said it was high time the state utilise its police force to protect the border and its people.

"If the people of Assam keep on harassing our people in the border area, time has come not only to talk and drink tea... We have to react, we have to act on the spot itself," he said.

He, however, clarified that he

was not pro-violence.

"We should have the spirit to protect our people, we have to utilise our force -- the police should go to the front to talk with the Assam Police."

Lauding the Mizoram Police for "standing up to protect" its land and people, the BJP minister criticised the Meghalaya Police who are always "seen at the backfoot" when it comes to protecting border residents.

"We have seen from time to time -- the police are behind and the civilians are at the fore-front. The higher-ups should give orders that police should be in the front to protect the people," he said.

"If enemies come to your house, attack you and your wife and children, you also have to attack in self defense. The same thing should be done at our borders... If your enemy comes to your house to steal or rob your house, you have to protect yourself, whether it is legal or illegal, you have to protect," Mr Shullai asserted.

He said the issue of border dispute has been pending for a long and needs to be resolved at the earliest.

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"Many political parties have given commitments in their manifestos that if they come to power they will resolve the issue -- but it's more than 50 years, no party could resolve it. So, we have to do a post-mortem of the problem here," he said.

Punjab Schools To Reopen For All Classes From August 2



Agenceis

The Punjab government has allowed the reopening of schools for all classes from August 2 as it further relaxed restrictions in view of declining COVID-19 cases.

The state government had allowed the reopening of schools for classes 10 to 12 from July 26.

"All schools are allowed to open for all classes from August 2. They shall follow proper protocols to ensure COVID-19-appropriate behaviour," according to fresh guidelines.

The department of school education shall issue instructions in this regard, it stated.

The district authorities shall continue to ensure strict implementation of all directives on Covid-appropriate behaviour, the guidelines said.

Punjab has so far reported a total of 5,99,053 COVID-19 infections and 16,292 deaths.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Inkishaf

Troubled Waters of Doodhganga

