



P4 WORLD

EBRAHIM RAEISI BECOMES IRAN'S 8TH PRESIDENT

Iran's supreme leader officially endorsed his hard-line protegee as the nation's next president on Tuesday, just two days ahead of the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi...

P6 THINK

NEWLY CONSTITUTED POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE HAS NO MEMBER FROM KASHMIR

In April this year, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) notified the formation of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) under the section 4 clause



P5 STATE

SSM COLLEGE ADMIN REGRETS DEMOLITION OF PROPERTY IN COLLEGE PREMISES

Authorities of SSM College in Parihaspora Pattan Tuesday protested against the demolition of the college property by the district administration.

**'Marvelous' Elsewhere, Why Online Learning Is 'Monotonous' In Kashmir?**

Jyotsna Bharti

On August 3, 2019, Farhana Hakeem—then 9th standard student from Srinagar's Hawal locality—realized amid rumours that her classroom outing would be soon cut short. She brusquely prepared small learning engagement for her forthcoming home confinement. But her 'plagued' screen-learning overwrote her entire schedule during consecutive lockdowns.

"Initially, the 2G-powered online classes were utter nuisance," Farhana, now Class 11 student, says. "And once

the high-speed internet was restored, we were engaged in the syllabus-completion race. The monotonous classes hardly kept the curiosity alive and drained us so much that most of my classmates hardly feel motivated for other online learning opportunities."

But while Farhana and swarms of students in the valley are making an "uneasy peace" with the "dull and demanding" online classes, their counterparts elsewhere are literally thriving on e-learning.

Goutham Ramesh, Coonoor, (Tamil Nadu)



As the online learning became a norm, I enrolled myself in a course with about 24

video lectures. The average time per lecture was 16 minutes. Most lectures had study

materials and assignment worksheets as PDF. Once enrolled, we've lifetime access. You've to take the classes on Udemy. I received a certificate after completing my course.

I enrolled for another course on voice training which I will be starting soon. I also attended college lectures for a few days. I found that to be more effective than regular classes. I'm a fan of online education. It's a marvelous learning engagement. I find more value in it because it gives me more democracy. In terms of choosing my pace, my comfort setting and the repetition helps

me understand better.

For people who can inculcate some discipline, online education is a fortune. They'll make the most out of it by going for many online courses.

Minu Nair, Ernakulam (Kerala)

Apart from studies, I realized that this online learning process is an opportunity to improve one's profile. Since I'm drawn into content writing, I decided to up-skill my profile—considering the whole job war going on now—especially in the

area I'm interested in: Digital Marketing.

You've got to be updated about every change on each platform. It's an industry that's constantly evolving. I came across LinkedIn Learning a while ago and explored the platform. There were so many courses for so many areas of interest. I decided I had to seize the opportunity now that I've all the time in the world to update my resume. I did a few digital marketing courses like Social Media Marketing: Strategy and Optimisation, Google Search Ads or Google Online Fundamentals. ● [More On P10](#)

Widom Quote!

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.
—Nelson Mandela

NEWS DIGEST

99.04 % Students Pass CBSE Class 10 Exams

NEW DELHI: Girls outshine boys by a slender margin of 0.35 per cent while 99.04 per cent students passed the class 10 exams, the results which were declared by the CBSE on Tuesday. According to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) data, 57,824 students have scored above 95 per cent marks, while 2,00,962 candidates have scored between 90 and 95 per cent. ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 140 Cases, 3 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 140 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the number of infected people to 321865, while three fatalities due to the disease in the last 24 hours pushed the toll to 4,384, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 70 were from the Jammu division and an equal number from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said. They said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 21 cases followed by 19 in ● [More On P10](#)

2041 KMs Of LoC Fenced: MHA

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 2041 kilometres of LoC and International Border has been covered with the fence. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik was responding to the queries raised in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday including the total stretch in kilometres on the borders where fencing is to be erected with ● [More On P10](#)

16 PSA Detainees Shifted To Haryana Jails

SRINAGAR: At least sixteen Public Safety Act (PSA) detainees from Kashmir Valley were shifted to Haryana Jails on Tuesday, official sources said. Official sources told a local news agency KDC that sixteen detainees have been shifted outside Kashmir on Tuesday by the government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory by an order no ● [More On P10](#)

BJP Leader Dies Of Heart Attack

SRINAGAR: A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) died due to heart attack at his home in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday. An official said that BJP leader DK Nehru fell unconscious at his home in Rafiabad area last night following which he was rushed to a nearby hospital. He said that he was referred to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. ● [More On P10](#)

Cop, Civilian Injured In Khanyar Militant Attack

Policemen in action after a militant strike left a cop and a civilian injured in Khanyar area on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Izhar Nazir Ali

SRINAGAR: A policeman and a civilian were injured on Tuesday in a militant attack in Khanyar area of the city; just a day after police released the list of ten wanted militants active in Jammu and Kashmir.

Around 6:15 pm, unidentified militants appeared in the Shiraz Chowk and opened indiscriminate fire upon two vehicles of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police

stationed at the busy crossing, eyewitnesses told Kashmir Observer.

Reporters said that the bullet marks were visible on the shop fronts and walls around the spot where the joint team of police and CRPF were standing. A scooter parked along the road was also hit by a bullet.

In the surprise militant attack, the first such in the city in a long time, a policeman and a civilian were injured. They have been identified

as Constable Abdul Waheed, posted at Police Station Khanyar, and Ishtiyak Ahmad Bazaz of Nowshahra.

"Two vehicles carrying CRPF men and police were stationed in the Chowk. All of sudden gunshots rattled the area. I heard some 15-20 rounds of fire before taking cover inside my shop," a shopkeeper, who wished not to be named, said.

The sudden attack, as per the witnesses, led to the diversion of traffic ● [More On P10](#)

Pakistani Militant Killed In Bandipora

A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant hailing from Pakistan was killed in an encounter with govt forces in Bandipora district of north Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Govt forces launched a cordon and search operation in Chandaji area of Bandipora in north Kashmir after inputs were received about the presence of ● [More On P10](#)

MMU Concerned At Rising Suicide Cases In Valley

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of several religious bodies, on Tuesday demanded the release of Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other people in detention

since August 2019 when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The MMU also said it will launch a sustained campaign against incidents of suicide, dowry and drugs abuse prevalent in society.

Addressing a press conference after ● [More On P10](#)

MPs Panel To Visit J&K, Ladakh From Aug 17

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel chaired by Congress leader Anand Sharma will be on a five-day visit to the Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir starting August 17 to examine the administration and development of the region and review the working conditions of central police forces, sources said on Tuesday.

The visit by the MPs comes nearly two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met top leaders of Jammu and Kashmir on June 24. It was the first high-level interaction between the Centre and political leaders from J-K after August 5,

2019, when the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two union territories.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs will visit Leh, Srinagar and Jammu from August 17-21, according to the communication shared by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat with the committee members.

The agenda of the visit will be to examine the subject 'Administration, Development and People's Welfare in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'.

"The Committee will also review the working conditions of three Central Armed Police Forces namely ● [More On P10](#)

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO REVIEW the working conditions of three Central Armed Police Forces namely Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF)."

Kashmir To Receive Monsoon Showers From Today

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Tuesday predicted two-day wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir from Wednesday leading to landslides and mudslides in the mountainous areas besides water logging in low-lying areas across the Union Territory.

"The predicted spell of wide-spread rainfall activity with isolated light showers to heavy falls is very likely to start tomorrow morning and will continue over Jammu and Kashmir till August 5th evening," Deputy Director Meteorological department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer on Tuesday.

"While Kashmir is expected to receive light showers, the Jammu division and its nearby areas like Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi will witness heavy rainfall for the next two

days," he added.

However, Ahmed said that the fresh rainfall will not occur under the influence of any western or eastern disturbance but as normal monsoon showers.

"There are no advisories of flash-floods due to the inclement weather. However, people are requested to stay vigilant as the weather may also trigger landslides in few districts like Samba, Reasi and Rajouri besides the extremely sensitive points around the Srinagar Jammu highway," Ahmed said.

"The weather may also lead to landslides, mudslides and water logging in low-lying areas," he added.

Pertinently, the last wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir had wreaked havoc in many districts, including Kishtwar and Ganderbal after cloudburst triggered massive flash-floods leading to death of ● [More On P10](#)

ACB Exposes Fake Driving License Racket, Case Filed

Raids Carried At Residence Of Officers, Agents

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Tuesday uncovered a fake driving license racket and filed a case against the ARTO officials in south Kashmir's Anantnag district for allegedly allowing touts and agents to prepare driving licences and other documents in lieu of "bribe".

According to a statement issued by the anti-graft body, a joint surprise check was conducted by the ACB sleuths to look into allegations that many touts and agents were

operating in ARTO Office Anantnag in league with the officials for preparation of registration and fitness certificates for heavy commercial vehicles, issuing driving licenses in lieu of bribe.

"During the surprise check conducted on the driving trial test day, the ACB said, it was found that most of application forms for issuance of driving licenses were having pencil written codes found to be abbreviations of names of some touts and agents operating in league with the board members of ● [More On P10](#)

Oppn Leaders Join Breakfast Meet

Chalk Out Strategy On Pegasus Issue

NEW DELHI: In a bid to present a united face on the Pegasus spyware issue, leaders of several opposition parties attended a breakfast meeting hosted by former Congress President Rahul Gandhi at the Constitution Club on Tuesday.

Several opposition MPs will cycle to Parliament after the meeting to highlight the issue of fuel price hike.

Apart from around 100 MPs of the Congress, leaders of several opposition parties including Trinamool Congress, ● [More On P10](#)



To place an advertisement

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**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

Wednesday| 04-08-2021

2

Office of the Principal SIDRAH INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ANANTNAG

REGD.NO :- 184-EDU OF 2017
SCHOOL CODE:- 01060302906

S.NO	NAME	QUALIFICATION	OCCUPATION	RESIDENCE	DESIGNATION	AADHAR NO
01	Showkat Nazir Reshi	M.SC	Unemployed	KP Road Anantnag	Chairman	889875576377
02	Salma Bashir	MA,BED	Unemployed	Khanabal Anantnag	Principal	707161403829
03	Nazia Shafi	BA,BED	Unemployed	New Qazi Bagh Anantnag	Member	560091906974
04	Faisal Shafi Trambo	B.TECH	Unemployed	KP Road Anantnag	Member	606909474598
05	Abid Hussain Dugga	Under Graduate	Unemployed	Khanabal Anantnag	Member	959883957092
06	Mohd Rafiq Ganie	BCOM	Unemployed	Babdar Fatehpore Anantnag	Member	940381012579
07	Kawseena Nabi	BA	Unemployed	Wanihama	Member	695547550642

RNA

Office of the Principal SIDRAH INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ANANTNAG

Ref No :- _____ Dated:- _____

FEE STRUCTURE OF SESSION 2020-2021

CLASSES	MONTHLY TUTION FEE
Nursery To UKG	1000
1ST TO 5 TH	1100
6 TH TO 8 TH	1500
9 TH TO 10 TH	1700

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one.
Shri : Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
S/o: Ghulam Nabi Bhat
R/o: Sogam Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing
No: JK04E-7535 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement
with M/S J&K Bank B/U Ranger..
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general
public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase
Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Trans-
port officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication
of this notice in the daily newspaper.
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2066 Dated 03-08-2021
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



MCB

بیروان ولایت جموں و کشمیر



بیروان ولایت جموں و کشمیر کے سربراہ
مولانا سبط محمد شہیرتی نے ایام عزاء میں
محاسن اور جلوس ہائے عزاء کے دوران بلا
حفاظت مسک و ملت شرکت کی اپیل کرتے
ہوئے باہمی اتحاد و اتفاق کی تلقین کی ہے
انہوں نے کہا کہ جموں و کشمیر کی یہ روایت
رہی ہے کہ یہاں باہمی اتحاد و اتفاق کے
ساتھ ملت کشمیر نے بلا مسک عزاداری
کے جلوسوں میں شرکت کی ہے اور ان
جلوسوں کو برآمد کرنے میں ہمیشہ اپنا کردار
ادا کیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ شریعتاً
ہمیشہ محرم الحرام یا دیگر مذہبی مناسبتوں پر مسک کی منافرت کو ہوا دینے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں لیکن
ملت اسلامیہ کشمیر نے ہمیشہ ان سازشوں کو بے نقاب اور ناکام کر دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے محرم الحرام
کے پیش نظر اس طرح کی شریعتاً منافی حرکتوں پر نظر رکھنے کے لئے متقدمہ مجلس علماء کشمیر کو
درومندانہ اپیل کی ہے۔ مولانا نے عزاداران امام عالی مقام سے اپیل کی ہے کہ وہ عزاداری
کے فرائض انجام دینے کے دوران کورونا کا ٹیڈ لائزنگ کا خاص خیال رکھیں اور ایسی جہانگیری اور اتحاد
و اتفاق کو برقرار رکھنے کی اپیل کی ہے

x

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) Sher-i- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura Srinagar.

Notice Inviting E- Tenders

NIT NO : SIMS/HEC/ET/20 of 2021-22 Dated: 31-07-2021.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T Jammu & Kashmir, E – tenders are invited from class of contract "BEE & CEE" of contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES/RAILWAYS.

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Docu- ment	Earnest Money	Class of contractor	Time of completion
02.	Site development of 100 bedded maternity hospital at SKIMS.	Rs. 17,26,000/=	Rs. 1100/=	Rs. 34,680/=	"BEE & CEE"	30 working days

1.	Major Head of Account	Capex 4210
2.	Position of AA	Revised AA submitted (work Approved vide Director SKIMS No. 2561 Dated; 27-07-2021)
3.	Technical Sanction	Accorded
4.	Position of funds	Committed
5.	Downloading/uploading of bidding documents	06-08-2021 to 16-08-2021 upto 3 PM
6.	Submission of hard copy end date	17-08-2021 to 18-08-2021 upto 3 PM
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	20-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	21-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Bids must be uploaded with scanned copy of cost/fee of tender document & earnest money (Bid Security) in the shape of DD & CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Director Finance, SKIMS Soura Srinagar.
- Qualification criteria for the work and other terms & conditions are contained in the bidding documents, available on skims website

DIPK-NB-2221/21

No: SIMS 139/ 90/2021-22-911-18

Dated: 31-07-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Civil)
Hospital Engineering Department
SKIMS, Soura

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U.T)

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Demarcation Forest Division Kashmir, Srinagar

:0-

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: - 05 OF 2021 DATED: - 31-07-2021

Landline/Fax No.0194-2485297
Office Address: Sheikh Bagh/Lal Chowk Srinagar
Email: demarcationkashmir7@gmail.com

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of Govt. of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K/Central Government Organizations for execution of the following Government works :-

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. in Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENT (Rs. Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Construction of 37 No. Demarcation Boundary Pillars as per approved design along the Forest Demarcation line [stretched upto 66.4678 kms mainline only] as per the Map/Tafseel-i-burjiyaat (Description of boundary pillar) and as per latitude and longitude found out by GPS in Kunzhalwan Forest (Co.43-52/Kg) of Bandipora Forest Division Bandipora.	2.14	"D"	200	20 calendar days
2	Construction of 101 No. Demarcation Boundary Pillars as per approved design along the Forest Demarcation line [stretched upto 40.5016 kms mainline only] as per the Map/Tafseel-i-burjiyaat (Description of boundary pillar) and as per latitude and longitude found out by GPS in Gurez Forest (Co.53-58,59/Kg,T1,T2,T3,T4) of Bandipora Forest Division Bandipora.	6.64	"C & D"	300	30 Calendar days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Scheme: CAMPA (Head 2406-FST/115 Works)

Position of Funds: Available.

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Receiving/ Opening Committee: Designated Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date:-	31-07-2021
Download Start Date :	31-07-2021 from 03:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	31-07-2021 from 03:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	16-08-2021 upto 06:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bids through online:	17-08-2021 at 02:00 PM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Demarcation Forest Division Kashmir Srinagar at Sheikh-Bagh Srinagar.
Date of opening of Price Bids:	To be opened (Online) after Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- www.jktenders.gov.in
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Declaration in the shape of proforma enclosed as Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

- As per the rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may be demanded.
- 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 participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical / hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid security declaration in shape of proforma enclosed as Annexure "A" in Tender Document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
- The survey/delineation part of the work shall be carried out by demarcation staff concerned and locations/ survey points of B.Ps shall be identified by staff on spot to enable the contractor to construct the B.Ps at appropriate points.
- For any mislocation of boundary pillar either with malafide intention or due to negligence in execution of work no payment shall be made and if it is found that the mislocation has been done with malafide intention a penalty equivalent to twice the cost of the boundary pillar or as deemed appropriate shall be levied in addition to any other penalty under rules including black listing of the bidder from further such works.
- The contractor shall have to survey and inspect the entire boundary line of the forest at his own expense before submitting the bids and shall be bound for the complete execution of work(s) within the prescribed time limit.
- The works shall be monitored by the Demarcation staff concerned and payment shall be released to the contractor after proper check of the B.Ps with respect to approved specification and quality.
- The contractor should complete the work as per approved drawing & specification. All item-wise measurements shall be recorded during the execution of work, till its completion.
- The contractor shall be bound for protection of freshly constructed B.Ps and the bills shall be entertained only after handing over the B.Ps to the territorial staff properly.
- Photographic evidences should be put in place during the delineation of survey points by the concerned contractor and concerned demarcation party.

DIPK-5657/21

No. Dem/Estt/2021/30-36/NIT

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Demarcation Forest Division,
Kashmir-Srinagar
Dated: - 31-07-2021



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Kashmir, Old Secretariat, Srinagar-190001, Phone No. 0194-2473761,
0194-2950499 e-mail: dirswkmr@gmail.com

Subject:- Extension in last date for submission of On-line scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme from students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), Physically Challenged (PCP) & Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) for the year 2021-22.

NOTICE

In view of requests from the students of various institutes, the last date for submission of online scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship from students belonging to Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, Physically Challenged (PCP) & Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship to Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) categories for the year (2021-22) on State Portal under [URL:- https://jk.gov.in/jkeservices](http://URL:-https://jk.gov.in/jkeservices) has been extended upto 14th of August, 2021.

The applicants are advised to take print-out of the duly filled-in application form, after submitting it on-line and submit the same to the concerned Institution/College/University alongwith all requisite documents. The concerned Head of Institution/College/ University will verify the on-line applications with hard copies and forward the same to the concerned Domicile District Social Welfare Office for further scrutiny/verification and also for record and reference.

REVISED TIME-LINE FOR STUDENTS FOR SUBMISSION/ VERIFICATION OF ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:-

S.No.	Activities	Last Date
1.	Submission of Online applications by students.	14 th August 2021
2.	Submission of hard copies of online applications alongwith all required documents by the student to concerned Institute.	24 th August, 2021
3.	Verification/forwarding of On-line Applications by Institutes & submission of hard copies to concerned (Domicile) District Social Welfare Office.	4 th September, 2021
4.	Scrutiny/Verification of On-line application forms with Hard copies by concerned (Domicile) DSWO	14 th September, 2021

Other terms and conditions as laid down in previous Notification issued vide No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/1535-1634 Dated:-03-05-2021 shall remain un-changed.

DIPK-5680/21

Sd/-
(Bashir Ahmad Dar, KAS)
Director General
Social Welfare Department
Kashmir
Dated:- 31.07.2021

No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/3272-84

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Maasoud said we are thankful to the government that they responded positively to our offer of cease-fire and added that teams for future talks would consist of six members on each side. He also said that his side was serious about the ceasefire and process of restoring peace in the troubled state.

BMG

Afghan Army Urges Civilians To Evacuate Besieged City



Agenceis

Residents of a besieged Afghan city were urged to evacuate on Tuesday as the army prepared a major offensive against Taliban insurgents after three days of heavy fighting.

The Taliban have seized control of much of rural Afghanistan since foreign forces began the last stage of their withdrawal in early May, but are now focused on capturing provincial capitals, where they are meeting stiffer resistance.

Fighting is raging for Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand province, with the United Nations saying at least 40 civilians had been killed in the last 24 hours.

General Sami Sadat, commander of the 215 Maiwand Afghan Army Corps, told residents to get out as soon as they could.

"Please leave as soon as possible so that we can start our operation," he said in a message to the city of 200,000 delivered via the media.

"I know it is very difficult for you to leave your houses -- it is hard for us too -- but if you are displaced for a few days please forgive us," he added.

"We are fighting the Taliban wherever they are. We will fight them and... we will not leave a single Taliban alive."

Officials said earlier that insurgents had seized more than a dozen local radio and TV stations in the city, leaving only one pro-Taliban channel broadcasting Islamic programming.

"Deepening concern for Afghan civilians... as fighting worsens," the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) tweeted.

"UN urges immediate end to fighting in urban areas."

Rooftop chants

"Fighting was intense this morning," said Sefatullah, director of Sukon radio in the city.

He said the US and Afghan air force planes had pounded Taliban positions, adding fighting was ongoing near the city's prison and a building housing the

headquarters of police and intelligence agencies.

The loss of Lashkar Gah would be a massive strategic and psychological blow for the government, which has pledged to defend cities at all costs after losing much of the rural countryside to the Taliban over the summer.

In Herat, another city under siege, hundreds of residents chanted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) from their rooftops after government forces repulsed the latest Taliban assault. Afghan officials said government forces had managed to push back the insurgents from several areas of that city -- including near the airport, which is vital for resupplies.

Another official said US warplanes had carried out air strikes, but that could not be confirmed.

'War crimes'

Washington and London lashed out at the Taliban, accusing them of committing atrocities that may amount to "war crimes" in the town of Spin Boldak, which the insurgents captured last month along the border with Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission earlier said the insurgents had indulged in revenge killings there, leaving at least 40 people dead.

"The Taliban chased and identified past and present government officials and killed these people who had no combat role in the conflict," the group said. Top US diplomat Antony Blinken also slammed the militant leaders.

An Afghanistan without a democratic, inclusive government would be a "pariah state," he said, adding that the international recognition the group wants will not be possible if it "seeks to take the country by force and commits the kind of atrocities that have been reported."

Fighting across the country, meanwhile, has displaced around 80,000 children from the start of June, humanitarian organisation Save the Children said on Tuesday, adding that many schools and health facilities had also been damaged.

Ebrahim Raeisi Becomes Iran's 8th President



Agenceis

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader officially endorsed his hard-line protege as the nation's next president on Tuesday, just two days ahead of the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi at a sensitive time for Iran and the wider Middle East.

"Following the people's choice, I task the wise, indefatigable, experienced and popular Hojatoleslam Ebrahim Raisi as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei wrote in a decree read out by his chief of staff.

There was heightened security in Tehran for the ceremony with airports closed for two and a half hours, and traffic restrictions in place on the streets near the venue of the ceremony, the capital's Traffic Police announced.

Ex-judiciary chief Raisi secured sixty percent of the votes cast in the country's 13th presidential

election. He replaces moderate president Hassan Rouhani, whose landmark achievement was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers.

Critics charge the June 18 presidential election was skewed in Raisi's favour as strong rivals were disqualified, but to his loyal supporters he is Iran's best hope for standing up to the West and bringing relief from a deep economic crisis. Raisi is not renowned for great charisma but, as head of the judiciary, has driven a popular campaign to prosecute corrupt officials.

Considered ultraconservative, 60 year old Raisi, portrays himself as a pious figure and corruption-fighting champion of the poor.

Without commenting specifically on the stalled nuclear negotiations in Vienna, Raisi stressed in his speech he would "pursue the removal of oppressive sanctions" in order to salvage the crippled economy.

"We will not (tie) the people's dining tables and the economy to

the will of the foreigners," he said. Raisi won a landslide victory in the June election, which saw the lowest in the Islamic Republic's history. He will take the oath of office in an inauguration ceremony Thursday before parliament.

Raisi will take an oath of office in an inauguration ceremony at the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) on Thursday. Nezamoddin Mousavi, the spokesman for the Parliament's presidium, said Monday that a long list of foreign dignitaries are expected to attend the event despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said 115 officials from 73 countries have already declared their readiness to attend the inauguration ceremony.

The list includes 10 heads of state, 20 parliament speakers, 11 foreign ministers and 10 ministers, as well as special envoys, deputy parliament speakers and chairmen of parliamentary commissions and parliamentary delegations, the lawmaker said.

Iran-Israel: A Shadow War With Ships

Agenceis

In the latest incident, two crew members of the tanker MT Mercer Street, managed by an Israeli firm, are killed in what appears to be a drone attack off Oman on July 29

Since February this year, Iran and its arch-enemy Israel have been engaged in a "shadow war" in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Gulf in tit-for-tat exchanges.

MV Helios Ray

On February 25, the Israeli-owned vehicle carrier Helios Ray is hit off the Gulf of Oman while sailing from the Saudi city of Dammam to Singapore. An explosion holes the hull in two places but causes no casualties. Iran denies Israeli charges that it carried out the attack.

Iran Shahr-e-Kord On March 10, the Iranian ship Shahr-e-Kord, owned by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines group (IRISL), is en route from Iran to Europe when its hull is hit with "an explosive device".

In a March 11 report citing US and Middle East officials, the Wall Street Journal says Israel has targeted with mines at least a dozen vessels bound for Syria and mostly carrying Iranian oil since late 2019.

Tehran is "considering all options" in response, the foreign ministry says on March 15. "Given the location of the sabotage, there is every reason to think that the occupying regime in Jerusalem is behind this operation," it says.



Saviz

On April 6, Tehran says that the "Iranian commercial vessel" MV Saviz has been struck by a blast while off the coast of Djibouti.

Iran's Tasnim news agency reports that the Saviz had been damaged by "magnetic mines".

It says the ship has been stationed in the Red Sea for several years "in support of Iranian commandos deployed to escort commercial vessels".

The New York Times cited a US official as saying Israel had informed Washington it had struck the vessel in "retaliation for earlier Iranian strikes on Israeli vessels".

Hyprion Ray

On April 13, an Israeli-operated ship is attacked off the UAE opposite the Iranian coast.

Security sources quoted by Israel's Channel 12 television say the Hyper-

ion Ray was "lightly damaged" near the Emirati port of Fujairah, and suspect Iran of carrying out the attack.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television also reports that the Bahamas-flagged Hyperion Ray, operated by Israeli firm Ray Shipping, had come under fire.

MT Mercer Street

On July 29, two crew members of the tanker MT Mercer Street, managed by a prominent Israeli businessman's company, are killed in what appears to be a drone attack off Oman, the vessel's London-based operator and the US military say, with Israel blaming Iran.

Zodiac Maritime, owned by Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, says the incident killed one Romanian and a Briton who was a guard for maritime security firm Ambrey.

Tehran denies involvement and vows to respond to any "adventurism".

UAE Lifts Ban On Transit Flights, Including From India And Pakistan



Agenceis

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates will on Thursday lift a ban on transit flights, including from India and Pakistan, the National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA) said on Tuesday.

India and Pakistan are important markets for Emirates, Etihad Airways and other UAE carriers flydubai and Air Arabia.

The Gulf state, a major international travel hub, had banned passengers from many South Asian and African states travelling through its airports this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

NCEMA said on Twitter that passengers travelling from countries where flights had been banned would be able to transit through its airports from August 5 as long as they present a negative PCR coronavirus test taken 72 hours prior to departure.

Final destination approval would also have to be provided, the authority said, adding that UAE departure airports would arrange separate lounges for transiting passengers.

The transit ban had also included Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Nigeria.

Dubai state carrier Emirates welcomed the government's decision to allow travel to resume from the affected countries.

There was no immediate comment from other UAE airlines on the announcement, which also eased an entry ban on residents returning from countries where flights had been suspended.

NCEMA said a ban on entry to the UAE for passengers from these countries would also be lifted for those with valid residencies and who are certified by Emirati authorities as fully vaccinated.

However, they would need to apply for online entry permits prior to travelling and would need to present a negative PCR test taken 48 hours prior to departure.

Those working in the medical, educational or government sectors in the Gulf Arab state as well as those studying or completing medical treatment in the UAE would be exempt from the vaccination requirement as would humanitarian cases. Reuters

Turkey Battles Wildfires For 6th Day, 10,000 Are Evacuated

BOZALAN (TURKEY): Selcuk Sanli set his two cows loose, put his family's most treasured belongings in a car and fled his home as a wildfire approached his village near Turkey's beach resort of Bodrum, one of thousands fleeing flames that have coated the skies with a thick yellow haze.

For the sixth straight day, Turkish firefighters battled Monday to control the blazes that are tearing through forests near Turkey's beach destinations. Fed by strong winds and scorching temperatures, the fires that began Wednesday have left eight people dead. Residents and tourists have fled vacation resorts in flotillas of small boats or convoys of cars and trucks. Many villagers have lost their homes and farm animals and have had trouble breathing amid the heavy smoke.

Overall, some 10,000 people have been evacuated in Mugla province alone, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said Monday.

Sanli returned to check on his house Monday in Bozalan only to find that the fire had flared.

Firetrucks, with their sirens on, drove toward Bozalan, while villagers were seen herding cows away from the area.

On Sunday, residents were forced to evacuate the nearby village of Cokertme as flames neared. Some got on small boats and others left by cars as the fire got closer and closer -- scenes that Ahmet Aras, the mayor of the nearby resort of Bodrum, described as "hell." Precautions were taken to protect two nearby thermal power plants.

An evacuation order was also issued for the town of Turunc, near the seaside resort of Marmaris in Mugla province. People carrying suitcases fled on small boats.

Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said Monday that some tourists were able to return to their hotels after the threat dissipated.

The EU said it helped mobilize firefighting planes from Croatia and Spain to help Turkey. Planes from Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran have also been fighting the blazes. Spain said it was sending two water-dumping aircraft



"Property is an important part of life but life itself comes first," he said as he prepared to leave once again.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said on Twitter that crews were still tackling nine fires in the coastal provinces of Antalya and Mugla that are popular tourist areas. Other active fires were in the provinces of Isparta, Denizli, Izmir and Adana.

Another fire in Tunceli, in southeast Turkey, was contained on Monday, the minister said earlier. In all, 137 fires that broke out in over 30 provinces since Wednesday have been extinguished.

"We are going through days when the heat is above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), where the winds are strong and humidity is extremely low," Pakdemirli said. "We are struggling under such difficult conditions." In Bozalan, Esra Sanli sobbed as she pointed at a fire raging near the village.

"There's no plane, there's no helicopter, there's no roads. How is this going to be extinguished? How?" she said.

and one transport plane as well as 27 soldiers to help.

The EU announcement followed allegations that the Turkish government was compromising firefighting efforts by refusing help from Western nations. Pakdemirli refuted that, saying that the government had only refused offers for planes whose water-dumping capacities were less than five tons. A total of 16 planes, 51 helicopters and more than 5,000 personnel were tackling the fires, he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has also been widely criticized for failing to purchase state-of-the-art firefighting planes.

In Marmaris, Mayor Mehmet Oktay said fires were still burning in two locations and estimated that 11,000 hectares (28,000 acres) of forest had been incinerated. On Monday, a fire reached the edge of the village of Hisaronu, burning a number of homes and descending down a mountainside toward a road as police evacuated ambulance crews and journalists.

IN FOCUS

Study: Nearly 5 Million Fewer Girls To Be Born Worldwide Over Next 10 Years

Agenceis

An estimated 4.7 million fewer girls are expected to be born globally in the next 10 years because of sex-selective practices in countries with a cultural preference for male offspring, a trend that could undermine social cohesion in the long term, research showed on Tuesday.

The research suggested that the projected shortfall in the number of girls being born will lead to a surplus of young men in around a third of the global population by 2030, which could lead to increased anti-social behaviour and violence.

Sex-selective abortions have been on the rise for the past 40 years in countries throughout southeast Europe along with south and east Asia, with as-yet undetermined demographic impacts.

To model what short- and long-term effect sex selection will have on societies, an international team of researchers analysed data from more than three billion births over



the last 50 years.

Focusing on 12 countries where the male-to-female ratio had increased since 1970 and another 17 where that ratio was at risk of increasing due to social or cultural trends, they simulated two scenarios.

The first assumed an increase in the rate of sex selection, based on statistical evidence.

The second scenario assumed increased sex selection in certain countries, based on observed trends and decreased fertility, but for which specific data were

lacking.

In scenario 1, countries saw a shortfall of 4.7 million in the number of girls being born by 2030. For scenario 2, the figure jumped to more than 22 million globally by 2100.

Authors of the research, pub-

lished in the BMJ medical journal, said the bias towards male offspring could lead to a "marriage squeeze" in affected countries.

"Fewer-than-expected females in a population could result in elevated levels of anti-social behaviour and violence, and may ultimately affect long-term stability and social sustainable development," they wrote.

The United Nations defines sex-selective practices alongside child marriage and female genital mutilation as harmful practices targeted under the Millennium Development Goals.

The authors of the new study called for better data collection of such practices in order to stamp them out, as well as wider education initiatives.

"A broader objective relates to the need to influence gender norms which lie at the core of harmful practices such as prenatal sex selection," they wrote.

"This calls for broader legal frameworks to ensure gender equality."

Kulgam Admin Revives Glory Of 70 Years Old Pond

Observer News Service

Kulgam: The district administration Kulgam Tuesday revived the glory of a 70 Years old pond in Pehlu area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The work of the pond was inaugurated by DC Kulgam Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din along with ACD Kulgam Muhammad Imran Khan accompanied by other officials.

ACD Kulgam said that all neglected old ponds and streams

will be revived and pure drinking water will be supplied to people.

the efforts of the administration have been widely hailed by the locals as the pond will be a source of Fresh and Pure drinking water for thousands of households in the adjoining area.

However PHE officials have also assured that they will recommend installation of a filtration plant at the same place to ensure the safe and pure drinking water to people.

Masoodi Seeks Hassle Free Civil Traffic On NH-44 In Meeting With Defence Minister

Observer News Service

New Delhi: J&K National Conference MP Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi Tuesday met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and apprised him of immense hardship faced by people travelling by private and public transport from Anantnag and other towns on NH and NH - 44 to Srinagar due to frequent halts enforced by security forces.

He informed the minister that students, employees commuting daily to Srinagar

and patients travelling to visit healthcare centres for consultation end up spending twice the normal time on the travel because of frequent blockades, most the times unwanted in the name of movement of SF convoys.

Masoodi demanded that traffic regulations need to be rationalized so that there are minimum disruptions in traffic movement and least inconvenience is caused to general public. He pointed out that in some cases avoidable mishaps were reported because of long disruptions.

Samoon Stresses On Officers To Deliver Doables On Set Timelines



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon Tuesday stressed on all the officers to deliver the doables on the set timelines fixed for each of them.

The Principal Secretary asked the officers to establish an IT lab in each of the ITI and provide high speed internet access to them. He said that it is essential requirement that would help both faculty and students in these institutions alike.

Dr Samoon asked about the status of placement cells in Polytechnics and ITIs. He said

that every institution should have a placement cell established in it.

He asked the officers to tender all the works kept in the plan and authorise taking up of works the funds against which had been received from the Finance department. He urged them to submit the Utilisation Certificates of the funds spent under centrally sponsored schemes.

Earlier the department had made a list of doables to be finished at specific periods of time in a year. These had been classified into three categories of deliverables to be finished within one month, three months, six months and a year.



Technological Interventions, Effective Enforcement Precursors To Reduce Road Fatalities: LGs Adv

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Tuesday remarked that necessary technological interventions and advancements with effective enforcement are precursors to reduce the fatalities on the road.

The Advisor made these comments while chairing the 7th meeting of J&K Road Safety Council (RSC) at Civil Secretariat here.

Bhatnagar emphasised that the council should maintain coordination and synergy with all departments and agencies for prescribing and enforcing road safety standards and procedures as well as advising the government on Road Safety Policies which is the basic objective of establishing the RSC.

The Advisor delved upon the officers that the Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) should be

used effectively as it provides onspot, standard and accurate accident data after any such mishap occurs. He asked them that the data obtained from RADMS should be collated and analyzed on a regular basis so that black spots and accidental road stretches are identified and rectified on a timely basis to reduce fatalities.

While emphasising on the implementation of prescribed road safety measures, Advisor Bhatnagar stressed upon the officers for constant and effective coordination with district disaster management committees, Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), organisations dealing with road safety management and other agencies to ensure better traffic management and road safety on the roads.

The Advisor directed the Chief Engineer, R&B and other agencies to conduct safety audits of bridges and roads on critical stretches through De-

sign Inspection and Quality Control, J&K, so that road accidents are mitigated and precious human lives are saved.

Advisor Bhatnagar further asked the officers to explore the possibilities of constructing the over bridges and underpasses at critical junctions on highways, so that the pedestrian movement is facilitated and no loss of lives occurs due to that movement on highways. He directed the officers for effective implementation of the Road Accident Victim Fund.

The Advisor also delved upon the officers for effective implementation of Intelligent Transport Management system (ITMS) for better traffic management on the roads besides regular awareness camps on road safety should be organised so that the general public as well as the stakeholders of transport are made aware about various traffic rules and regulations.

SSM College Admin Regrets Demolition Of Property In College Premises

KO News Desk

Pattan: Authorities of SSM College in Parihaspora Pattan Tuesday protested against the demolition of the college property by the district administration.

Chairperson of the college Dilafroza Qazi said if the administration has any issues with our institution, "I am ready to voluntarily hand over the college, but the demolition process should be stopped."

She said that a team of SSM college management reached Parihaspora Pattan on Tuesday morning

and were shocked to see that a wall of the college, volleyball court, tennis court, security quarters and a canteen had been demolished.

"Although we tried to stop the operation, they did not listen to us and continued to demolish the structures," she said.

She claimed that no prior notice was issued to management of the college before demolition drive and the team carrying out the operation did not have any written order for the operation.

She said that on the one hand the government is

spending crores of rupees for the promotion of sports and on the other hand the district administration has demolished the sports infrastructure of the college.

She said that at present 3,000 students are studying in the college and such actions could endanger their future.

"If the government has any issue with our college, I am ready to voluntarily hand over the college," she said.

She appealed the LG administration to take immediate action to save the future of students studying in the college.

Dulloo Directs Authorities To Redress Grievances Of Pharma Association On Priority

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Govt Pharmacists Association (JKGPA) Tuesday called on Additional Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and presented a memorandum of demands to him.

The deputation was led by JKGPA's president, Sheikh Mehraj-ud-Din who presented a list of demands before ACS who gave a patient hearing to the visiting deputation.

The Association brought forth the matter of issuance of

nization of certain posts up to the level of District Pharmacy Officer, establishment of pharmacy council at Jammu/Kashmir, change of nomenclature of Pharmacist Cadre working in Health Department and amendment in SRO-20 among other issues.

On the occasion, Dulloo directed the concerned authorities to redress all the genuine grievances and issues on priority.

While appreciating the role of health professionals amidst covid-19 pandemic,



fresh registration in favour of Pharmacists who are working in Health Department.

To this, ACS informed the Association that matter is presently under examination with the Pharmacy Council of India and as soon as opinion is received the same will be shared with the administrative department.

The Association's demands also included the recognition of J&K Pharmacy Council and inclusion of members to the Council amongst the Association, conduct of DPC on the scheduled date, reorga-

ACS impressed upon the Association to work with zeal and dedication in the wake of this global pandemic.

He assured them that administration is committed to resolve all their demands and genuine issues.

Later on a one minute silence was observed to commemorate those covid-19 warriors who have lost their lives while serving the people.

On the occasion, Dulloo also handed over 96 promotion orders of senior Pharmacist, Supervisory Pharmacist and Head Pharmacist.

Developmental Projects Reviewed In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna Tuesday convened a meeting of officers to review ongoing developmental projects of Municipal Council Ganderbal.

Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal briefed the chair about the progress of works taken under different schemes. The meeting also discussed the bottlenecks hindering the progress of these projects.

The DC impressed upon the concerned officers to gearup the field functionaries so that the approved projects are completed within a set timeline.

The Executive Engineer

R&B Division Ganderbal was directed to tender the left out projects/ works within weeks time besides submit the weekly progress of these developmental projects to Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal.

While discussing the issues hampering the progress of few projects, the DC directed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue and Tehsildar Ganderbal for transfer of land where required for these developmental projects so that they are completed in time.

The Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal was directed to follow-up and complete all projects of the Municipal Council Ganderbal within a time bound manner.

Govt Committed For Focused Development Of Border Areas: Dr Shahid

JAMMU: Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and Prabhari Officer for BADP, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, reviewed the progress on various projects under implementation and feedback on

Border Area Development Programme in District Poonch. Proposals related to various projects were discussed for developmental initiatives in border villages.

Dr Shahid Choudhary informed that Government is keen to develop infrastructure on modern lines in border areas with special focus on connectivity, livelihood, education, essential services and over-all socio-economic development. Highlighting the recent steps taken by the Government for initiating concerted develop-

ment he sought feedback from elected members and local administration for steps required to ensure overall development in border villages. He highlighted that Govt is committed for focused development of border area and accordingly steps are being taken.

Chairperson DDC Poonch, Tazeem Akhter, dwelled in plan formulation for 2021-22 and inclusion of provision for Model Villages under BADP. Vice-Chairman, Mohd Ishfaq projected the need for border tourism and inclusion of new projects.

VICE-CHAIRMAN DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY BANDIPORA,

E-mail address: dpmubandipora@gmail.com Telefax: 01957-225535

NOTICE

Whereas approved by the Chairman District Health Society Bandipora ,the candidate figuring at S.No 03 namely Arifa Akther D/o Gh Ahmad Rather R/o Ajas Bandipora was hired as JSN under NHM for DH Bandipora vide notification no. 002 of 2020 dated:- 9/9/2020 and issued vide this office order no:- CMO/NHM/BPR/2021-22/269-273 dated 15-05-2021.

Where as the candidate did not join within the stipulated time period, the candidate was again informed to join her duties as JSN in district hospital Bandipora vide letter no:- CMO/BPR/NHM/21/419-422 dated 11-06-2021 and CMO/BPR/NHM/21/508-511 dated:- 14-07-21 through registered post.

Where as the candidate approached this office that she has been selected as JSN in GMC Srinagar and will not join her duties as JSN in DH Bandipora.

In order to operate the waiting list for the post of JSNand as approved by the chairman District Health Society, the candidate figuring at S.No. 4 namely NAHIDA GAFFAR D/O:- Lt Abdul Gaffar wani resident of Nadihal Bandipora with total points (75.30) is here by provisionally selected for the said post.

S NO.	FORM NO.	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	RESIDENCE	10th				Diploma/Degree				Written Test		VIVA			
					Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage	Total Points out of 10	Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage	Total Points out of 15	Max Marks	Marks Obtained out of 40	TOTAL INVI-11 NV-2+1 NV-3+4 NV-4+1	TOTAL POSTS OUT OF 15	TOTAL	
4	279B	NAHIDA GAFFAR	LATE AB GAFFAR WANI	NADIHAL	500	318	63.60	6.36	1300	1100	84.62	12.69	60	43	53	13.25	75.30	

NO:-CMO/BPR/NHM/21/601-607
Yours Faithfully,

Date:-02-08-2021.

DIPK-5769/21

Vice-Chairman DHS,
Bandipora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Sub:- Application for registration of Guest House "The Montreal" located at Bongam, Shalimar, Srinagar.
Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Khar S/o Late Gh. Nabi Khan and Mr. Shahnawaz Khar S/o Mohammad Yousuf Khar R/o Abi Karpora, Dal Lake, Srinagar have approached this office for grant of Registration to the Guest House under the name and style "The Montreal" located at Bonigam, Shalimar, Srinagar;

Whereas, the applicants have submitted the requisite documents like building permission issued by LAWDA for Guest House vide No. 24 Bldg/LDA of 2016 dated 02.02.2016, NOC from PDD/PHE, NOC from Fire and Emergency Services, Consent to Operate from JK PCB, State Subject, Character certificates from Additional District Magistrate, Land Ownership Certificate issued by Tehsildar North, Srinagar, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, Revenue papers of the land, General Affidavit etc;

Whereas, the proposed guest house has been inspection by the prescribed authority and found fully operational;

Whereas, grant of registration certificate for the guest house is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership of the guest house upon the transferees;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before issuance of registration certificate in favour of Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Khar S/o Late Gh. Nabi Khar and Mr. Shahnawaz Khar S/o Mohammad Yousuf Khar R/o Abi Karpora, Dal Lake, Srinagar the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered strictly as per norms.

Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration

No: Reg/UP-18/242/DTK

dated: 02.08.2021

DIPK-5788/21

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

K O V I E W

Line under control

The number of ceasefire violations and incidents of cross border firing in Jammu and Kashmir until June 2021 stands at 664, the ministry of home affairs (MHA) told Lok Sabha on Tuesday. In January 280 such incidents were reported as opposed to the 278 in February. The month of March witnessed no incident at all. The months of April, May and June reported 1, 3 and 2 incidents, the MHA also said.

In comparison, in 2020, 5,133 such incidents were reported, while in the year 2019 it was 3,479. The year 2018 witnessed 2,140 such incidents.

The drastic drop in ceasefire violations was made possible the ceasefire agreement that was dramatically signed by the militaries of the two countries in February. The move came reportedly following an extended back channel dialogue between the two countries.

Ever since there have been more efforts to improve the relations. Over five months into ceasefire along Line of Control, there is already ample evidence of life returning to normal among border dwellers. There have been many reports about the marriage celebrations in border areas. Similarly, there have been similar reports from across the line of control.

There are, however, still apprehensions among the people that the things might go still back to square one. More so among the people living alongside the LoC. There is already an example of what happened to original ceasefire agreement between the two nations which was signed in November 2003. However, by 2010, the agreement had lost its relevance due to frequent ceasefire violations that touched an all-time high in 2020 with over 5,000 incidents of firing and shelling being recorded.

A halt to the frequent firing exchanges will make a redeeming difference to the lives of lakhs of border residents on both sides of the Line of Control. But it won't change anything as far as the situation in the Valley where militancy continues to reign supreme.

The issue of militancy can be addressed if India and Pakistan go back to dialogue. Talks could go a long way to reduce the tension between the neighbours. The calm borders had become an important factor in the normalization of the relations between the neighbours, enabling them to start one of the most promising dialogue processes through 2003-2007 which by accounts of the top leaders of the two countries who were at the helm of it was close to a breakthrough on Kashmir. We need a similar engagement between the two neighbours.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The World is Burning

The year 2020 saw a record number of natural disasters, including wildfires and hurricanes which cost the global economy billions of dollars in damages.

Half-way into the year 2021, and it seems that almost half of the world is on fire. With what started out as wildfires in parts of the US and Canada, as temperatures soared record highs, numerous cities across the world are now alight. Since Wednesday, Turkey alone has seen 98 wildfires in its different parts, and has not been able to control 10 of them. The most serious ones have struck along the Turkish Mediterranean coast, where high temperatures and gusty winds have set forests and resort areas around Antalya and Manavgat alight.

Meanwhile, the regional countries of Greece and Lebanon have not been immune from this phenomenon either, with a pine fire in a forest across Athens damaging over a dozen homes. The global phenomenon of high and dry temperatures causing arbitrary wildfires suggests that this is likely due to climate change. Despite this, Turkish authorities have suggested that arson attacks by PKK could be behind the simultaneous fires in four locations and have launched a probe into the matter. Given that the same is being experienced by different parts of the world, the theory seems more of a diversion by the government.

In the past few months, Turkish civil society has been raising its voice against the pollution of the Marmara Sea, which has resulted in a decline in marine life and visible foaming of the sea due to industrial waste. The disregard for the environment in exchange for maximum industrial production is not new in the developing world. Lax environmental laws often allow corporations to conduct business while irreversibly damaging the country's environment and ecosystem. Climate change and global warming are very much real and the frequent occurrence of global wildfires is proof of that. It is time that countries looked to protect their environments, individually and in multilateral corporations, rather than finding scapegoats.

The Tribune

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

There are several Govt and non-Government institutions in Kashmir which should have been part of the newly constituted J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC). By bypassing Govt institutions like SMC, UEED Kashmir, WUCMA, Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing Department, Kashmir University, LWDA, the CPCB has done a great disservice not only to the people of Kashmir but to Kashmir's fragile environment as well

Uncanny Absence

Newly Constituted Pollution Control Committee
Has No Member from Kashmir

In April this year, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) notified the formation of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) under the section 4 clause 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Section 6 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. As per the guidelines, 14 members were appointed as members of newly constituted committee but ironically not even a single member belongs to Kashmir valley.

For a few days, NGOs and activists criticized this undemocratic move of the Govt but that had no effect on the Government. Mr Suresh Chugh, the Chairperson of J&K Pollution Control Board (now called PCC) told me that he had no role in the constitution of J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC). The member secretary of PCC Mr B M Sharma also showed reluctance. I was told that the proposal went from the civil secretariat to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) but how can that be?

Through a gazette notification dated 25th March 2021, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) constituted a 14 member committee in J&K which includes a Chairperson and Member Secretary who are the senior Govt officers from India Forest Service.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been empowered to perform the functions of the State Pollution Control Board for all Union Territories (UTs) across India. This is mentioned in section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 6 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

However, Section 4(4) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 6 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 provides that CPCB may delegate all or any of its powers and functions of a State Board in a UT under the said Acts to such person or body of persons as the Central Government may specify. The CPCB has thus delegated all its powers and functions as a State Board in respect of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to a committee of 14 persons who include various administrative secretaries of J&K Govt, officials of health & medical education and municipal corporation and even NGO's. Ironically all the 14 members are non-Kashmiris.

The Administrative Secretaries of Industries, Housing & Urban Development, Health & Medical Education & Transport Departments are official members of the Pollution Control Committee. The Additional Secretary of Forest and Environment has also been included as a member of the pollution control committee. There is a post of a Chairman who will most probably be the Administrative Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment. Pertinently in the UT of Delhi, Sanjeev Khirwar the Principal Secretary of Environment & Forests is the Chairman of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee. Other members of J&K Pollution Control Committee include Commissioner JMC, Medical Superintendent GMC Jammu, Regional Officer Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate change Govt of India Jammu, Dr Pankaj Chandan Director Nature, Wildlife and Climate Change an NGO based in Jammu, Prof Anil

Raina Department of Environmental Science Jammu University, Member Secretary Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or his/her nominee, MD Small Industrial Corporation, Member Secretary J&K Pollution Control Committee.

If Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Medical Superintendent Govt Medical College Jammu are part of the Pollution Control Committee, what was it that kept the Govt from including Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), health specialists from Govt Medical College (Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla) or SKIMS?



As a Kashmiri, I have no issues with the administrative secretaries of IFS officers as these officials represent the Govt of J&K but I have reservations when Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Medical Superintendent Govt Medical College Jammu or a Professor from Jammu University are made part of the group and their counterparts in Kashmir are bypassed?

It's no new news that pollution in Srinagar has been increasing especially in water bodies like Dal Lake, Jhelum and Doodh Ganga. It only makes sense for Kashmir to have members from here, who understand local nuances.

Additionally, with the constitution of the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) it seems that granting statehood to J&K is being delayed now as many state institutions of J&K set up in the past are being shut down one by one. Some of these institutions were shut down soon after the abrogation of article 370 like State Information Commission (SIC), State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), State Women's Commission (SWC), and now institution like State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has been closed down which has been replaced by J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC). Now any bureaucrat can head the PCC, which otherwise in the past would be headed by only a senior Indian Forest Officer (IFS) not below the rank of a Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).

The JKPCC is now directly controlled by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) New Delhi. It seems that the Govt of India has no plans for restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir in near future. I have been criticizing PCBs (now PCC) style of working for a long time as PCB never took pollution in water bodies seriously. They act either after direction from National Green Tribunal (NGT) or J&K High Court. I wish the pollution board was proactive in its working in the past as

it is now. Drinking water supplied from several sources like Doodh Ganga was not even tested by PCB on its own. For the last 2 years, the PCB (now PCC) has been on the tenterhooks and has produced some good reports on the orders of J&K High Court which treated pollution in Doodh Ganga as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) (Court on its own motion).

There must be a division of scientific work in the J & K Pollution Control Committee (PCC). We need well equipped labs in PCC as the same were not set up for the last 34 years since SPCB was constituted. The Srinagar water lab of PCC is not well equipped to do in-depth water analysis. Some minor

physio-chemical parameters are seen while there is no facility to trace metals or polluting chemicals in the water samples. No scientific studies are carried out by the scientists associated with PCC in Kashmir. The action plan on wetlands was also prepared in the PCC office while very little field work was carried out. As the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has been replaced by the Pollution Control Committee, one more institution of erstwhile State of J&K is being shut down.

There are several Govt and non-Government institutions in Kashmir which should have been part of the newly constituted J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC). By bypassing Govt institutions like Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) Kashmir, Wullar Conservation & Management Authority (WUCMA), Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing Department, Kashmir University, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LWDA), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has done a great disservice not only to the people of Kashmir but to Kashmir's fragile environment as well. Kashmir based NGOs like Nigeen Lake Conservation Organization (NLCO), Environmental Policy Group (EPG), Peoples Environment Council (PEC) should have been taken on board by the Government as they have been playing a great role for conservation of environment and ecology in Kashmir.

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

The author is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman of J&K RTI Movement and Anant fellow for Climate Action. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com



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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

CUK's DIC Project in Shambles

The Design Innovation Centre is one of the prestigious projects of the Central University of Kashmir. It was established in the year 2018 under the National Initiative of Design Innovation of MHRD, GoI with the appointment of Prof. N A Nadeem, a noted academician as its first Project Director. The DIC at Central University of Kashmir follows the Hub & Spoke model with 09 spokes established across the Kashmir valley. These

Spoke Centre's offers One-year Diploma Courses.

Ironically, the varsity has shifted all the spoke centres from these degree colleges to Green Campus of Central University of Kashmir without providing any notice to the spoke centres. This has directly affected the students of other districts of Union Territory of J&K and Ladakh. However, it was decided with the Ministry of Education before getting this project that the university will open

the spoke centres at various districts and will bridge the gap to provide an opportunity to the students.

Additionally, there are 11 ongoing 06 month Research Projects in different specializations/trades at DIC CUK. Among which 04 are senior research fellows and 07 are junior research fellows. These research fellows were admitted in the month of December 2018 but till now their research projects and prototypes were not evaluated. The university is sup-

posed to draft/make some prototypes to submit the same with the Ministry of Education but the university failed to do the same. From the last three years no patents were filed.

The university in its first phase received 1.5 crore rupees in 2018 and then 1 crore rupees in 2021 for various research based innovative products which is the actual theme of Design Innovation Centre.

ex-Staffer DIC

The Worrisome Chinese Space Programme

Asad Mirza

China's "Space Silk Road", forms a very crucial part of its ambitious space goals. The commissions' report further states that China has already succeeded in undercutting some US and other foreign launch and satellite providers in the international market, threatening to hollow out these countries' space industrial bases

Most countries around the world whether big or small, developed or developing pursue a space programme of their own or in collaboration with advanced countries. Most aspects of these programmes are in the public domain and are targeted towards scientific and human advancement.

The spectre of a space war was between US and Russia came to an end with signing of the START Treaty in 1991 between the two. However, China has emerged as a country, which pursues a very secretive space programme and may force the mankind in a space war and global dominance.

There is enough evidence to prove that China's space programme is targeted to move ahead and use space to dominate not only the US but also the rest of the planet. In terms of the US national security, and for the rest of the world also, China's space capabilities have been defined as one of the most significant future threats to the global peace.

China's plans were outlined very clearly when shortly after becoming president in March 2013, Xi Jinping made his ambitions for China's space power very clear. "Developing the space program and turning the country into a space power is the space dream that we have continuously pursued", he said. "The space dream is part of the dream to make China stronger."

China's aim is to become the world's leading space power by 2045. China Daily had editorialised in 2017 that "China will become an all-round world-leading country in space equipment and technology. By 2045, it will be able to carry out man-computer coordinated space exploration on a large scale."

US concerns

The advances and secret dimension of the Chinese space programme have been duly noted and concerns have been raised by the United States in this regard. The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission in its 2019 Annual Report to Congress stated that "China is taking steps to establish a commanding position in the commercial launch and satellite sectors relying in part on aggressive state-backed financing that western market-driven companies cannot match."

The US Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, in his written testimony prior to his confirmation hearing in January 2021 declared that Chinese and Russian space activities present serious and growing threats to US national security interests. Chinese and Russian military doctrines also indicate that they view space as critical to modern warfare and consider the use of counter-space capabilities as

both a means of reducing U.S. military effectiveness and for winning future wars.

A Pentagon report in 2020 stated that the PRC continues to strengthen its military space capabilities, despite its public stance against the weaponisation of space.... the PRC is developing electronic warfare capabilities such as satellite jammers.... and China probably intends to pursue additional anti-satellite weapons capable of destroying satellites.

Chinese Space Programme

A significant aspect of China's space initiative is the Beidou Navigation Satellite system (BDS), a global navigation satellite system that provides positioning, navigation and timing, in addition to data communication. The Chinese military has created the programme in order not to be dependent on the US-controlled GPS network. A report by the Jamestown Foundation states, "In recent years, the PRC has actively sought to promote the image of Beidou as a civilian-led programme intended primarily for commercial and scientific purposes, however, the program is under overall military direction, with the People's Liberation Army in charge of Beidou's development."

Beidou can also be termed as China's "Space Silk Road", which expands China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its land-based and sea-based versions to space. Beidou makes countries participating in the BRI, dependent on China for precision navigation and other space based services.

Malcolm Davis of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute wrote in 2017 that, "Chinese provision of satellite communications, weather monitoring and earth observation add to this vision for a Space Silk Road that overarches and underpins the Belt and Road Initiative. By signing up to the BRI 'Space Information Corridor', the BRI states would become dependent on Chinese-provided space services. That would give Beijing greater power to influence the policy choices of those states, because it would control the vital space capabilities that sustain their economic growth".

We have already seen the negative impact on countries like Sri Lanka and Brazil, which participated in the land and sea versions of the BRI.

The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission further expressed caution in its 2019 Annual Report thus, "Beijing has specific plans not merely to explore space, but to industrially dominate the space.... Beijing uses its space programme to advance its terrestrial geopolitical objectives, including cultivating customers for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)... China's promotion of... the Beidou

global navigation system under its 'Space Silk Road' is deepening participants' reliance on China for space-based services."

China's "Space Silk Road", forms a very crucial part of its ambitious space goals. The commissions' report further states that China has already succeeded in undercutting some US and other foreign launch and satellite providers in the international market, threatening to hollow out these countries' space industrial bases. The aggressive pursuit of foreign technology and talent continues to be central to this strategy and to China's space development goals in general.

China's Moon Programme

The China Daily in 2019 reported that, "The next steps in China's manned space programme will be manned exploration of the moon. We will set up bases on the moon to conduct scientific operations, expand a habitable place for mankind and gain experience and expertise for deep-space expeditions beyond the moon. The long-term goal is to send humans to Mars."

Another worrisome development is Chinese cooperation with Russia in this regard. In March, China signed an agreement with Russia to work together to build a research station on the moon, which will carry out research on exploration and crucially, utilisation of the moon. Already in 2013, China launched its first lunar rover to explore the surface of the moon, hoping, among other things, to discover rare earth minerals, which are reportedly abundant on the moon. China's Chang'e 5 lunar probe mission landed on the moon and brought back geological samples to China, which became just the third country to do so after the US and Russia.

In view of these developments it is a foregone conclusion that China will also move ahead to use space to dominate not only the US but also the rest of the world. Its plans for the future wars are space-based, in addition to utilising its large stockpile of surface to air missiles, ballistic and cruise missiles – which can strike from 500 to 5,500 kms, thus covering a major part of the globe, without putting its soldiers' boots on foreign soil and indeed it may not portend well.

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs

Kabul's Afghan Coats, Hippie Must-Haves

Tim Bonyhady

The London launch of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in May 1967 was a musical and fashion landmark. While the clothes worn by all four Beatles startled the journalists and disc jockeys, John Lennon stole the show. He wore a green, frilly, flowered shirt, maroon corduroy trousers, canary-yellow socks, corduroy shoes with two particularly unusual additions. One was a leather sporran, the other an Afghan sheepskin coat, worn with the fur inside and the skin outside, which was tanned yellow and embroidered with big red flowers down its front and sleeves.

These coats became a craze with extraordinary longevity. "Afghans", as they were often called, were worn by many celebrities through the late 1960s. Then, for the best part of a decade, they became standard youth clothing — an archetypal hippie garment and emblem of the counterculture.

They had a resurgence inspired by Penny Lane's character in the 2000 film Almost Famous and remain a favourite among lovers of bohemian fashion on Instagram.

Their embrace internationally transformed where and how the coats were made and what they looked like. Yet the craze for these coats could only happen because Afghanistan's relationship with the rest of the world was changing.

Short, medium or very long

Afghan coats traditionally came in three forms — sleeveless or short-sleeved hip-length vests known as pustinchas; knee-length, long-sleeved coats known as pustakis; and ankle-length cloaks called pustins.

In a gendered division of labour, men cured the skins, tanned them yellow with the rinds of pomegranates, cut them into pieces and sewed them together, while women and girls embroidered them with geometric and floral designs, usually in red or yellow. Their skins were occasionally bear, fox or goat, but usually karakul (a long-haired breed of sheep).

Although often written about as if only men wore them, women did too, and they were such ubiquitous winter-wear they were considered Afghan national dress.

The poor could typically afford only the smaller pustinchas or pustakis. If they bought the bigger pustins, these

coats were usually plain which made them cheaper.

Senior government officials, successful merchants and wealthy clerics bought lavishly decorated pustins that demonstrated their status. In 1946, Maynard Owen Williams — the National Geographic Society's first field correspondent — considered the pustin to be "the ultimate in masculine chic". The archetypal Afghan man, he wrote, was "clad in red-embroidered sheepskin".

Their prime source was Ghazni, south of Kabul. In 1955 British archaeologist Sylvia Matheson found "one shop after another offering nothing but pustin" there.

While entranced by those with white fur, Matheson rejected them as impracticable for her fieldwork that winter. Instead, she opted for a brown-furred pustinch that was still "enchancing, the yellow skin entirely covered in closely stitched flowers of pillar-box red, with

was the most westernised part of Kabul. Once a domain of poultry vendors, Chicken Street became a tourist strip lined with antique shops, clothing, embroidery and jewellery stores, and carpet dealers. In Across Asia on the Cheap, the first Lonely Planet guide, published in 1973, Tony Wheeler described Chicken Street as "the freak centre of Kabul".

Hippie capitalism became commonplace. As some travelled, they looked for local products to sell back home in the West and, if they made a good profit, imported more.

Richard Neville, the Australian of Oz Magazine fame, who bought a pustinch for himself while travelling overland from Sydney to London in 1965, encouraged this commerce.

In Play Power, his 1970 manifesto and manual for hippies, Neville recognised the larger exchange of dress occurring in Afghanistan and other countries

That summer and autumn, pustinchas were in Bloomingdale's and Macy's and all the glossies. Vogue reported that Afghan "coats and weskits beautifully embroidered in silk floss colours" were being "shovelled out the door" by Limbo, a boutique in New York's East Village

here and there a spot of periwinkle blue".

Hippie commerce

Many more foreigners visited from the early 1960s as Afghanistan embarked on a program of modernisation which saw significant numbers of women in the country's cities unveil and find new forms of paid work.

A small number of westerners, typically older, arrived by plane, with lots to spend, prompting the Afghan government to build Kabul's first five-star hotel.

In 1969 it opened, under lease to the Intercontinental Group, with rooftop dining and dancing facilities, a cocktail lounge, brasserie coffee shop, tennis courts and swimming pool. Most western visitors were hippies who, as English poet J. C. E. Bowen put it, travelled overland "in every imaginable kind of clapped-out motor vehicle [...] through the bottleneck of Kabul on their way towards the imagined Elysium of Kathmandu".

Their prime destination was Chicken Street in the Shahr-e Naw, a garden suburb close to the city centre, which

on the Hippie Trail. He advised:

Sell your western-styled jeans in Nepal, and your long leather boots in Morocco. Once you could make 500% profit bringing back sheepskin jackets from Kabul, and you can triple your money with antique robes.

Rock 'n' roll

Craig Sams, a young American who also travelled through Kabul in 1965 before settling in London, became a supplier.

His prime outlet was Granny Takes a Trip — London's weirdest, most extreme, most exotic, hippest boutique — on the King's Road in Chelsea, which soon eclipsed Carnaby Street as London's fashion centre. At first, Granny Takes a Trip sold Victorian clothes, often modified to create a slightly modern feel. By 1967, when it began stocking pustinchas, its range included Charleston dresses of the 1920s, Victorian bustles from the 1880s, Boer War helmets, African fezes, Arab headdresses and Chicago gangster suits from the prohibition era.

The pustinchas were bought by men and women as Granny Takes a Trip was

one of the first boutiques not to differentiate male from female dress. But it was men, particularly rock and pop stars, who brought Afghan jackets and coats to public attention.

Jimi Hendrix wore his orange-red, brocaded, sleeveless pustinch over an iridescent purple shirt with huge flared sleeves in one of the first all-star rock events in England, at the Kensington Olympia in London. Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd and Pete Townshend of The Who also wore them on stage. Eric Burdon, of House of the Rising Sun fame, got married in his.

All four Beatles wore pustinchas inside-out in their film of the Magical Mystery Tour and on the album's cover. When the Beatles tried their hand at retail, their Apple Boutique had shelves of them. From across the Atlantic, it appeared to Life in 1968 that pustinchas had been "launched last season in Eng-

land by the Beatles and their followers".

Global appeal

Abracadabra, Manhattan's first psychedelic boutique, soon followed. Its interior was lit by fluorescent tubes set on a flicker-flash sequence, which had particular impact since Abracadabra was filled with mirrors like a penny arcade. Its shop window featured a motorised hanger that made the clothes on it "rock 'n' roll".

When one hippie traveller returned from Afghanistan with five pustinchas at the start of 1968, Ira Seret of Abracadabra put them in its window where they were spotted by designer Anne Klein, who had just made leather fashionable for the New York outfitter Mallory's. When Klein asked Seret to secure more and his original provider failed to deliver, Seret went to Afghanistan himself.

That summer and autumn, pustinchas were in Bloomingdale's and Macy's and all the glossies. Vogue reported that Afghan "coats and weskits beautifully embroidered in silk floss colours" were being "shovelled out the door" by Limbo, a boutique in New York's East Village.

Life magazine featured pustinchas sent by Ira Seret to Mallory's, worn by five female models "over bright silk jump suits and slung about with yards of Mideast jewelry". Harper's Bazaar devoted two pages to Mallory's embroidered and braided vests, again presented as womenswear.

Peak pustinchas

The coats were cheap compared to most fashionable western clothes, even after Afghan makers more than doubled their prices in response to international demand. The one complaint was that they smelled foul when wet, due to a skin curing process more akin to pickling than tanning. This led to Kabul's first drycleaners to offer "exclusive no-smell treatments".

By 1969, many more pustinchas were being worn outside Afghanistan than within it, as they maintained their appeal with the most beautiful people and became part of youth's uniform.

The enduring audience for the pustinch was, however, downmarket — their iconic status confirmed in 1971 by artist Ronald Searle in a cover drawing for the New Yorker of a long-haired, bearded, barefoot hippie with flared trousers, shoulderbag, headband and pustinch.

Their international embrace fuelled new enthusiasm for Afghan clothing among some of Kabul's elite who accepted that women should unveil but wanted Afghans to fight against foreign influences and keep Afghan customs alive.

Kabul also replaced Ghazni as the Afghan centre of pustinch production.

In 1968, the biggest sweatshop employed 30 workers. In 1970, when demand surged not only in the United States and Europe but also, for the first time, in Japan, one company employed 160 embroiderers who completed 30 to 40 coats each day. Another company built a hostel for its 250-300 embroiderers, primarily widows and young women from the provinces where there were many skilled needleworkers.

As these coats spread round the world, they fuelled awareness of Afghanistan, even if not quite as much as one Kabul dealer boasted to the New York Times "Before no one remembered Afghanistan," he said. "Now everybody remembers."

The Conversation

Four Reasons Why More People Are Not Buying Electric Cars Yet

Agencies

Electric vehicles can play an indispensable role in tackling climate change. However their performance in comparison to diesel and petrol cars and lack of battery charging points is hindering them from overtaking fossil fuel vehicles.

More and more governments have set deadlines to ban fossil fuel vehicles within the next decade or so. So why haven't the number of electric vehicles increased?

Reasons vary across countries explains World Economic Forum. A survey in UK explained that 37% found lack of fast charging ports the most common reason followed by 35% concerned about range and 33% about cost.

Pew Research surveyed that two-thirds of Americans agreed electric vehicles being environmental friendly, a same proportion thought of them as expensive, and a third had concerns regarding their reliability.

Here are four reasons behind the slow adaptation of Electric Vehicles in the world.

Too Expensive

One of the main reasons for people's hesitancy is that electric cars are more expensive than petrol or diesel vehicles. In the long run electric cars are cheaper due to lower charging cost, maintenance, and servicing.

A cost comparison data issued by the comparethemarket.com website showed significant gap between prices of elec-

tric cars and petrol cars. In Spain, lowest electric car price of Nisan Leaf was at \$28,620 in comparison to petrol car price of \$17,255.

Costs could be reduced when the car's battery is leased rather than including it in the upfront price. Experts claim that a battery costs between \$69 and \$138 a month under the condition of leasing the battery with the advantage that it will be replaced at the end of its life.

Industry analysts have predicted in the near future a decline in electric cars' prices is expected due to the falling cost of lithium batteries which power them. Subsidies have helped maintain up-take of electric and hybrid cars.

Not Enough Chargers

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reported growing installation of battery charging points globally, however, the ratio between battery charging points and electric cars on road is significantly at par.

IEA's statistic shows that among numerous countries only France, Italy, and Netherlands so far have delivered the number of charging points required by European Union's Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Directive. China is the fastest in installation of public charging infrastructure with 44% increase in the year 2020 to accumulated number of 310,000. According to IEA, Europe had 38,000 fast charger points and United States had 17,000 at the

end of 2020.

Chip Shortage

There has been the assumption that you can buy electric cars anytime you want. However, electric cars' deliveries have fallen short due to shortage of microchips. IHS Markit stated that production of 1.4 million cars and light vans was lost in the first quarter of 2021 alone.

Increase in production of electric cars after COVID-19 lockdowns has resulted in challenging situation for chip makers to meet the demand. The shortage will continue throughout 2021 and 2022, which will have direct impact on deliveries of all types of cars

Battery fire risk

A survey by Deloitte found that 31% of people surveyed in China showed concerns regarding safety of battery technology. Various media outlets drew attention to battery fire in electric cars. Whereas, Ola Willstrand, project manager at RISE, the Swedish State research institute, stated that there is no such evidence to indicate higher fire risk with electric cars.

Apart from all backdrops of electric cars, the sale has risen across the globe. IEA reported that electric car sale rose by 140% in the first quarter of 2021 as compared to same period in 2020. China led the way to sale half a million electric cars and Europe in the second place with sale of 450,000 electric cars.

IEA forecasted increase in electric presence on the world's roads from 10 million to 145 million electric cars by 2030. However, the number could increase globally with government incentives and initiatives.

The World Economic Forum took the initiative by convening the Global Battery Alliance, which brought 42 global organizations in order to increase battery production and performance. The Alliance reported that approximately 290 million charging points will be needed globally in order to complete power transition to electric vehicles by 2040, with required investment of \$500 billion.



Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council

Administrative Block Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar (May- October),
MA Stadium, Jammu J&K 180001 (Nov.-May),
E-mail: jkstatesportscouncil@gmail.com, activitysection.jkssc@gmail.com
Contact No: 0194-2311207, 0194-2310064 | 0191-2570423, 0191-2560771.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION

Due to poor response of applicants for leftover centres in response to previous notification dated: - 05-02-2021, Applications through offline mode on prescribed format are again invited from domicile of J&K for engagement of past champion Athletes as Coach/Mentors in the following Sports disciplines at the Centres approved by SAI under Khelo India District Level Centres to strengthen Sports ecosystem at the grass root levels & also to have sustained source of income for proponents:-

S.No.	Name of the District	Name of Sports Discipline	Name of Sports Centre
1.	Budgam	Football	Sports Stadium Kerawa - Budgam.
2.	Baramulla	Volleyball	S.A. Sports Stadium, Baramulla.
3.	Anantnag	Wrestling	Indoor Sports Complex, Nilandrus, Bijnbehra Anantnag.
4.	Kulgam	Football	Sports Stadium, Anantnag. Kho-Kho Mini Stadium, Kulgam.
5.	Pulwama	Korfball	Sports Stadium, Pulwama.
6.	Shopian	Volleyball	Sports Stadium, Shopian.
7.	Kupwara	Wushu	Indoor Sports Hall - Handwara, Kupwara.
8.	Samba	Table Tennis	Indoor Sports Hall, Samba.
9.	Kathua	Judo	Indoor Sports Hall, Billawar, Kathua.
10.	Udhampur	Football	Subash Stadium, Udhampur.
11.	Reasi	Wrestling	Indoor Sports Hall, Reasi.
12.	Doda	Football	Sports Stadium, Reasi. Sports Stadium, Doda.
13.	Kishtwar	Yoga	Indoor Sports Hall, Kishtwar.
14.	Ramban	Volleyball	Playing Field, Chatroo, Kishtwar.
15.	Rajouri	Volleyball	Playing Field, Banihal, Ramban. Sports Stadium, Rajouri.

The applicants who fulfil the following eligibility criteria shall apply on the prescribed format duly supported by coaching experience, Sports achievements, Academic/technical qualification certificates, I.D & address proof:-

Orders of preference:	Individual Sports	Team Sports
1 st preference	Represented India at recognized International competition under recognized NSF/Association of respective Sport.	Represented India at International competition under recognized NSF/Association of respective Sport.
2 nd preference	Medal winner at Senior National Past championship conducted by recognized NSF OR Medal winner at Khelo India Games.	Part of medal winning team at Senior National past championship conducted by recognized NSF OR Part of medal winning team at Khelo India Games.
3 rd preference	Medal winner at National AIU Past championship	Part of medal winning team at National AIU past championship
4 th preference	Represented State in Senior National Past Championships conducted by recognized NSF OR Participation in Khelo India Games	Represented State in Senior National Past Championships conducted by recognized NSF OR Participation in Khelo India Games

Terms and conditions:-

- The maximum age on the last date of receipt of application should be 40 years. However relaxation shall be accorded in deserving cases upto 01 year subject to condition that candidate has represented in recognized International Competitions.
- Incomplete application forms without requisite documents shall not be entertained.
- The engagement is purely temporary and shall not confer any right for regularization.

- The prescribed eligibility criteria are the minimum and mere possession of the same does not entitle applicant for engagement.
- Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information. They are warned that they should in no case alter or otherwise temper with any entry in a document nor they should submit/upload a tampered fabricated document which shall be dealt with in terms of law. It will be mandatory for each past champion Athlete to register themselves as a Coach on the National Sports repository system (NSRS) portal of SAI @ <https://nsrs.kheloindia.gov.in> to become eligible to apply for support under the component.
- Past champion Athletes will be eligible for maximum remuneration of Rs. 3.00 lacs per year subject to the condition that minimum number of trainees should not be less than 30 regular trainees on any given Sports discipline.
- Past champion Athlete will be eligible to avail financial assistance for only one Sports discipline to which that past champion belongs to. However Coaches with NIS certification could also be considered eligible.
- Each Centre must strive to have equal ratio of male and female trainees.
- Identification of talent pool will be done by respective past champion Athlete in consultation with the Regional Director, SAI of the region/Divisional Sports Officer of J&K Sports Council.
- The agreement/MOU will be entered between J&K Sports Council and the proponent before start of coaching.
- The Khelo India Centre, Sub Scheme will be run for a period of 4 years coinciding with the Olympic Cycle and Coterminous with Khelo India Scheme.
- Minimum academic qualification should not be less than matric.
- Criteria for selection of candidates for engagement as coach/mentor will be carried out on following basis:-

A) Sports Achievements:

- International Medallist/Participation: 10 points.
- Senior National/Khelo India Games Medallist: 07 points (G-7, S-6 & B-5)
- Medal at All India Inter University Level: 05 points (G-5, S-4, B-3)
- Participation in Senior National/Khelo India Games: - 03 points.

B) Educational Qualification:-

- Post-Graduation: - 05 points.
- Graduation: - 03 points.
- 10 + 2: - 02 points.
- Matric: - 01 point.

C) Coaching Experience:-

- 05 years: - 05 points.
- 03 years: - 03 points.
- 02 years: - 02 points.
- 01 year: - 01 point.

E) Technical Qualification relating to NIS:-

- NIS Diploma: - 10 Points.
- NIS Certificate Course: - 03 points.

E) Interview/Viva:- 20 points.

In case of tie, higher sports achievements of the candidate shall be given preference. Next priority to academic/technical qualification followed by seniority of age for breaking the tie.

The prescribed application forms shall be available on Official website of J&K Sports Council viz www.jkstatesportscouncil.com from 2nd of August, 2021 onwards.

The documents alongwith application form should reach in the office of Secretary, J&K Sports Council, New Administrative Block/Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar on or before 23-08-2021 upto 4.00 P.M. Any query for the purpose shall contact **Sh. Jahangir Mir** or **Mr. Sahil Chopra** on contact no: - **+91-706287107 & +91-9086625103** during office hours.

DIPK-NB-2220/21

No: - SC/3767/3006-13
Dated: - 02-08-2021

SECRETARY
J&K SPORTS COUNCIL

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION
SOUTH AWANTIPORA**

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: pchemechsouth@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Providing, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electromechanical Equipments at W.S.S Kandizal under CAPEX.

Reference: This office ENIT No.: 13 of 2021-22 S No.: 02
Dated: 19-07-2021.

Due to technical error in BOQ please read:

Providing, Installation, testing & commissioning of horizontal pump as per the following specification

- PUMP:-**
 - Make: Wilo/Kirloskar/KSB
 - Type: Horizontal split casing
 - Speed: 1440 rpm or less
 - Discharge: 6000 GPH
 - Dynamic Head: 30 Meters
 - Efficiency: > 83%
 - NPSH_r ≤ 2.5

Instead of this:

Providing, Installation, testing & commissioning of horizontal pump as per the following specification

- PUMP:-**
 - Make: Wilo/Kirloskar/KSB
 - Type: Horizontal split casing
 - Speed: 1440 rpm or less
 - Discharge: 6000 GPH
 - Dynamic Head: 60 Meters
 - Efficiency: > 83%
 - NPSH_r ≤ 2.5

The said tender is extended for 5 days i.e. 07/08/2021 (04:00 PM)

Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Sd/-
No:- JSD/PHE/MDSE/892
Dated: 02/08/2021
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

DIPK-5728/21

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM

E-mail: edbudgam@gmail.com | Tel No: 01951-255218

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: EDB_43_of_2021_22

Dated: 30/07/2021.

For and on behalf of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, are hereby invited from govt. approved Electrical Contractors for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning for Augmentation of 63kva & Improvement cum stabilization of HT/LT Network under District Capex Budget - accord of administrative approval Order No.: 54 DDCB of 2021; Dated: 05/07/2021 for various sites under the jurisdiction of ESD Chadoora of ED Budgam, KPDCL.

1.	Name of work(s)	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning for Augmentation of 63kva & Improvement cum stabilization of HT/LT Network under District Capex Budget - accord of administrative approval Order No.: 54 DDCB of 2021; Dated: 05/07/2021 for various sites under the jurisdiction of ESD Chadoora of ED Budgam, KPDCL.
2.	Estimated Cost	INR 36.15 Lacs
3.	Period for completion of work.	Within 15 days from the issue of Letter of Award

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	e-Bid document Publishing date & time	The e-Bid document to be published on website https://jktenders.gov.in on 30/07/2021; 5:45 PM.
B	e-Bid document downloads start date &	30/07/2021; 5:45 PM.
C	Clarifications start date	30/07/2021; 5:45 PM.
D	Clarifications end date	02/08/2021; 03:00 PM.
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	02/08/2021; 03:00 PM.
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	20/08/2021; 03:00 PM.
G	Online Technical e-bid opening date & time	21/08/2021; 03:00 PM.
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam.
I	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 1000.00
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	INR 72300.00

- Bidders/tenderers are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The bidder/tenderer needs to submit the cost of e-Bid document in the government treasury and upload the challan/receipt as proof of cost of tender document. Any tender uploaded without the scanned copy of the challan/receipt is liable to be rejected. **No demand Draft shall be accepted.**
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR from any Schedule Commercial bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, ED Budgam. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD is required to be submitted by the successful bidder to the office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam prior to the issuance of Letter of award only.
- The technical e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder/tenderer's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. Only those tenders shall be considered for evaluation who have deposited the earnest money and tender cost.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids of the technically responsive bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified bidder/tenderers automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- Corrigendum, if any would be published on the website.
- In no case shall the hard copy of the BOQ submitted with the Techno-Commercial bidder which shall lead to rejection of the bid. Price Bid shall be uploaded only in the BOQ format provided online.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division Budgam.
No: EDB/3577-80
DIPK-NB-2227/21

Sebi Exempts J&K Govt From Making Open Offer In J&K Bank Share Acquisition Case



NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday exempted the Jammu and Kashmir government from making an open offer to the shareholders of Jammu and Kashmir Bank following a proposed equity infusion that would hike the promoter stake by 6.06 per cent in the lender.

The directive comes after Sebi received an application from the bank on behalf of its promoter, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, seeking exemption from the open offer obligation arising under SAST (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) norms due to the proposed acquisition.

The government of Jammu & Kashmir is infusing a capital up to Rs 500 crore towards equity infusion or recapitalization of the bank against allotment of equity shares.

The bank will allot 16,76,72,702 equity shares at Rs 29.82 apiece.

During the financial year 2021-22, post the preferential allotment, the proposed acquirer's shareholding will increase from 68.18 per cent to 74.24 per cent i.e., a change of 6.06 per cent, which is in excess of 5 per cent of

the equity paid up capital of the bank, thereby attracting the provision of the Takeover Regulation.

In its order, Sebi said there will be no change in control of Jammu and Kashmir Bank following proposed acquisition as the change will only be in the quantum of holding the shares by the government who in fact is the promoter of the bank and will remain promoter and entity in control of the lender.

The bank, pursuant to the completion of the proposed Acquisition, will however remain compliant with the minimum public shareholding requirement of 25 per cent.

Sebi, further, said the infusion of additional capital by the government is stated to be utilized to improve the capital adequacy and to fund general business needs of the bank.

Accordingly, the regulator has granted "exemption to the proposed acquirer, viz., the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, from complying with the requirements of the Takeover Regulations with respect to the proposed acquisition of 6.06 per cent equity shares in J&K Bank in 2021-22."

New ATM Rules Take Effect; Interchange Fee Increased By Rs 2

Agenceis

The Reserve Bank of India's new directions on raising interchange fee and making available the facility of bulk clearing round the clock have become effective from Sunday onwards.

The RBI in June raised the interchange fee for financial transactions from Rs 15 to Rs 17, while for non-financial transactions the increase was done from Rs 5 to Rs 6. These new rates have become applicable from August 1, 2021, as per the RBI's direction.

An interchange fee is a fee charged by banks to the merchant who processes a credit card or debit card payment. Besides, National Automated Clearing House (NACH) has been made available on all days of the week, effective August 1, 2021.

NACH, a bulk payment system operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) facilitates one-to-many credit transfers such as payment of dividend, interest, salary and pension.

It also facilitates collection of payments pertaining to electricity, gas, telephone, water, periodic instalments towards loans, investments in mutual funds and insurance premium.



During the bi-monthly monetary policy review in June, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had announced that in order to further enhance the convenience of customers, the NACH will be available on all days of the week.

The facility was available only when banks were open, usually between Monday to Friday. Auto-debit instructions given by the bank account holder were not processed on days the bank were closed like Sundays, bank holidays and even gazetted holidays. Further, since most companies use NACH for salary credits these also did not happen on bank holidays.

Meanwhile, ICICI Bank has revised charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs, cheque books and other financial transactions from August 1. The revised charges will be applicable for domestic savings account holders including salary accounts.

Navin Asks SKUAST-K To Prioritise Research On Farmer Issues



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The two days workshop on promotion of organic farming in Jammu and Kashmir was today inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department (AP&FWD), Navin Kumar Choudhary in presence of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. JP Sharma here.

The workshop is being organized by SKUAST(K) in collaboration with Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department Kashmir with an aim to develop a frame work for promoting organic farming system in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary AP&FWD, laid stress that scientists and officers of the department should develop a mechanism for inculcating organic culture among the farming community. He informed that hard targets have to be kept for next 3 years in order to make transition towards organic agriculture. He added that marketing and packaging along with regress certification in organic products have to be undertaken to facilitate promotion of organic farming at grass root level.

The Principal Secretary asked the scientists of the university to prioritize the research based on farmer issues. He further asked them to work in an integrated manner in order to convert farmer into agri-

entrepreneur and also encourage value addition of low volume-high value products.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor SKUAST (K) complimented the Principal Secretary for his active role in conceptualizing this workshop in order to make the dream of organic farming a reality in the UT.

He apprised the Principal Secretary that the university is working in close coordination with the department for mapping different districts in order to revise the organic map in the UT so that One District One Product is identified for its further promotion and branding.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted that the recommendations of this workshop will not be merely an academic exercise but a plan to be implemented on the ground. He informed that the syllabus of organic farming has been devised and handed over to department of education for incorporation in the school curriculum.

On the occasion Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary M. Iqbal expressed gratitude to the Principal Secretary AP&FWD for his efforts in notifying two organic certification agencies for the UT and devising programs for strengthening the Organic farming. He desired that this workshop shall be helpful for farmers and entrepreneurs to learn standards of organic farming from the experts/

scientists across the country.

Director General Horticulture, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, while speaking during the workshop, stressed on augmenting organic input production to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and termed the workshop a good beginning.

Earlier prominent progressive farmers, Bharat Bhushan Tyagi (Padmashri Awardee), Masarat and Irshad Ahmad Dar spoke about the opportunities of organic farming and identified issues pertaining to FPO's, Package of Practices and augmenting vermin compost units across the UT to promote soil health and livelihoods. They hoped that this workshop will be a platform to learn and earn from organic farming.

During the technical session of the workshop deliberations were made upon the opportunities and challenges and devising policy guide lines for promoting organic farming in JK encompassing the transition process, production to marketing, value chain as well as issues related to certification.

The workshop was attended by Galaxy of scientists, National advisory within and outside UT, Director Extension, Director Research, Deans of Faculties, Registrar, Directors of Development Department, Scientists, Joint Directors, District Officers, National/ Local Farmer and budding entrepreneurs in organic farming.

RapiPay Launches Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Service, Micro ATMs In Kashmir

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: Fintech firm RapiPay on Tuesday announced expansion of its presence in Kashmir with the launch of Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AEPS) and micro ATM here.

The company claimed that it has become the first Indian company to start assisted payments services like AEPS and micro ATM here.

"RapiPay becomes the first Indian company to start assisted payments services like Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) and Micro ATM in Srinagar. RapiPay has also become the first Indian company to install Micro ATMs on Dal Lake's shops," the company said in a release.

The expansion is in line with Jammu & Kashmir's high demand for banking services like ATM and domestic remittance for its under-banked population, the company said.

It said Jammu and Kashmir has around 25 lakh beneficiaries of Jan Dhan account which includes 15 lakh beneficiaries who possess a



Debit / ATM Card.

"The potential market of Micro ATM and AEPS in the state is approximately Rs 1,800 crore. RapiPay is targeting 60 per cent share of this market by installing 10,000 Micro ATM machines this fiscal year through its Direct Business Outlets (DBOs)," it added.

The company said these DBOs will be it's business correspondent or agents and they will earn commission on the banking and financial transactions they provide through RapiPay.

RapiPay plans to have over 15,000

new DBOs in the region over the next one year, said Yogendra Kashyap, Managing Director and Founder of RapiPay Fintech.

The company said the number of ATMs in Kashmir are far and few. Adjoining areas like Harwan, Khimber, Dara and inner areas of Dal Lake — Golden Lake and Nigeen Lake — are without an ATM for years.

"RapiPay entry into the valley will ensure that the local population gets cash withdrawal and other banking services near their house through its DBOs," it added.

'World Applauding India's Fintech Sector': PM Modi At Launch Of 'e-RUPI'



Agenceis

One person, one payment, one electronic voucher: The promise of the E-RUPI launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday is to simplify and secure the process of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT).

"E-RUPI vouchers are purpose-specific. It will ensure that the benefits of the voucher are availed for the service it is meant for," PM Modi said at the virtual launch on Monday.

E-RUPI will function via an SMS string or QR code which can be sent to the beneficiary's phone and which will be redeemable at designated centres. There will be no need for any physical interface like a debit or credit card, mobile banking application, or anything else.

The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the merchants accepting e-RUPI. e-RUPI would be shared with the beneficiaries for a specific purpose or activity by organizations or Government via SMS or QR code.

"This contactless e-RUPI is easy, safe and secure as it keeps the details of the beneficiaries completely confidential," the National Payments Corporation of India says on its website. "The entire transaction process through

this voucher is relatively faster and at the same time reliable, as the required amount is already stored in the voucher," it said.

"e-RUPI voucher will play a role in boosting digital transactions and DBT in the country. This will help everyone in targeted, transparent and leakage free delivery," PM Modi said.

"Not only government but if a non-government organisation wants to support anyone in their education or medical treatment, then they can use e-RUPI instead of giving cash. This will assure that the amount donated is being used only for the said work," the prime minister added.

To begin with the e-RUPI facility is available for health services and will be expanded to other segments.

"Today the country is giving a new dimension to digital governance. e-RUPIvoucher is going to play a huge role in making digital transactions, and DBT more effective. This will help everyone in targeted, transparent and leakage-free delivery," the Prime Minister said.

"India is showing the world it is not behind in adopting new technology," he said. With growing interest in cryptocurrencies from governments across the world, Rajeev Mantri of Navam Capital tweeted asking if e-RUPI could be considered a "non-fungible (rupee) token that can be issued / distributed by Government of India as well as private entities?"

Fuel Prices Remain Static For 17 Consecutive Days



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The oil marketing companies (OMC) continued to pause fuel price revision for the seventeenth consecutive day on Tuesday, the longest period in weeks, as wait and watch continues amidst fluctuating global crude prices.

Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold for Rs 101.84 per litre, while diesel is also being sold at the unchanged price of Rs 89.87 a litre on Tuesday. The pump price of fuel has been static since July 18.

One of the main reasons for 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 last month. It, however, rose again to over \$75 a barrel on strong demand projections but has softened again around \$72 a barrel now.

With OPEC reaching an agreement to raise crude production, oil prices are expected to remain 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 Rs 100 mark for the first time ever on May 29, the fuel price is at Rs 107.83 per litre. Diesel price 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.

Amazon, Microsoft, Google Grab 63% of \$42 Bn Cloud Infra Market

Agenceis

The enterprise spending on cloud infrastructure services reached \$42 billion in the second quarter (Q2), increased by \$2.7 billion from the previous quarter and up 39 per cent from the second quarter of 2020, according to a new report.

Amazon's worldwide market share nudged back up to 33 per cent. Microsoft and Google accounted for another 30 per cent of the market and the next 20 cloud providers combined had a 28 per cent market share, the data from Synergy Research Group showed.

"This market continues to be a runaway success story for Amazon, Microsoft, Google and some other cloud providers. You would not normally expect to see growth rates actually increasing in such a huge and rapidly developing market, yet once again that is what our research has shown," said John Dinsdale, a Chief Analyst at Synergy Research Group.

Amazon, Microsoft and Google in aggregate are typically investing over \$25 billion in capex per quarter, much of which

is going towards building and equipping their fleet of over 340 hyperscale data centres.

"There remains a wealth of opportunity for smaller, more focused cloud providers, but it can be hard to look away from the eye-popping numbers coming out of the big three," Dinsdale said in a statement.

For the fourth successive quarter, the year-on-year growth rate increased, which is unusual for such a large, high-growth market.

In previous quarters, Microsoft and Google had been slowly gaining ground on Amazon, but after achieving 10 per cent growth from the previous quarter, Amazon's worldwide market share nudged back up to 33 per cent, the report noted.

Public IaaS and PaaS services account for the bulk of the market and those grew by 41 per cent in Q2.

"The dominance of the major cloud providers is even more pronounced in public cloud, where the top five control 80 per cent of the market. Geographically, the cloud market continues to grow strongly in all regions of the world," the report informed.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Inkishaf

Troubled Waters of Doodhganga



Watch to know more in this episode of Inkishaf on
KASHMIR OBSERVER
YouTube Channel

States Empowered To Release Prisoners After 14 Years Of Jail Term Under CrPC: SC

Agenceis

However, the top court said if the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of actual imprisonment, the Governor has the power under Article 161 of the Constitution to grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence on the aid and advice of the state government and this authority de-hors the restrictions imposed under CrPC.

The observations were made by a bench of justices Hemant Gupta and A S Bopanna in a judgement by which it set aside the May 12, 2020 verdict of a single judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The apex court upheld the Haryana's policy of August 13, 2008 on power to release prisoners by the state government, saying it was issued in exercise of powers conferred under CrPC and in supersession of earlier order.

The earlier policy cannot be put at a higher pedestal than the policy of 2008 for the reason that it seeks approval from the Governor, it held.

Under the 2008 policy, the case of premature release is being considered by the state government and individual cases are not required to be put up before the Governor as envisaged under earlier policy. The high court had directed the Haryana government to consider the feasibility of drafting a fresh policy on premature release of prisoners particularly in respect of exercise of powers conferred under Article 161 (power of governor to grant pardon, reprieves etc) of the Constitution.

It had said the state may also consider the feasibility of having a policy with retrospective operation, provided the same does not lead to discrimination amongst substantial number of identically situated prisoners.

The high court had observed that till framing of the policy, the state government can exercise its powers under CrPC in terms of its policy of August 13, 2008 while strictly adhering to the restrictions imposed under CrPC.

We find that the directions issued by the High Court are not sustainable for the reason that the policies have to be read

keeping in view the period of imprisonment undergone by a prisoner.

The power of remission is to be exercised by the State Government, as an appropriate Government, if the prisoner has undergone 14 years of actual imprisonment in the cases falling within the scope of Section 433-A of the Code and in case the imprisonment is less than 14 years, the power of premature release can be exercised by the Governor though on the aid and advice of the State Government, the bench said.

Consequently, the directions issued by the learned Single Bench are not sustainable and are hereby set aside, it held.

Justice Gupta, writing the judgement for the bench, discussed the relevant provisions of CrPC and the Constitution and said that section 433-A of the Code starts with a clause restricting the right of the government, to suspend the sentence of imprisonment for life imposed on conviction of a person for an offence for which death is one of the punishments provided by law, that such person shall not be released from

prison unless he has served at least 14 years of imprisonment.

Therefore, the power of the appropriate Government to release a prisoner after serving 14 years of actual imprisonment is vested with the State Government, it said, adding the Governor is not bound by any such restrictions, but he will have to act on the aid and advice of the state government.

The top court referred to several policies, issued in 1988, 1991, 2000, 2002 and 2008, of the Haryana on release of prisoners and agreed with the submissions of the government that they have been issued from time to time and the later policy has superseded the earlier one. So there was no hiatus when a policy of premature release was not in operation or at any given point of time, the two policies were operational, the state government said.

The policy dated August 13, 2008 has been issued in exercise of powers conferred under CrPC and in supersession of Government Memorandum of April 12, 2002 and all other policies, it said, adding that the policy of 2008 is a statutory policy .

'Edge' Of Warfare In Afghanistan Will Be Deeply Felt Not Just In Neighbourhood But Well Beyond If Left Unattended : Jaishankar

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday warned that the "edge" of the warfare in Afghanistan, if left unattended, will be deeply felt not just in that country's neighbourhood but well beyond, and emphasised that legitimacy cannot be derived from mass violence, brutal intimidation or covert agendas.

In an address at the inaugural session of BRICS academic forum, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said that the warfare in Afghanistan has "sharpened the challenge" of terrorism and therefore, all stakeholders are in the quest for a clear, coordinated and undifferentiated response to terrorism.

In his virtual address, he said structural inertia, competitive gridlocks, uneven resourcing and skewed navigation have disadvantaged the multilateral institutions, resulting in certain "gaps".

"Terrorism thrives in some of these gaps. Its nursery lies in conflict-ridden spaces made fertile for radicalisation by malign players, including states. The transition in Afghanistan that we are seeing today and the warfare that has yet again been forced

upon its people has sharpened this challenge.

"Left unattended, its edge will be deeply felt not just in Afghanistan's neighbourhood but well beyond," the minister said.

"We are therefore all stakeholders in the quest for a clear, coordinated and undifferentiated response to terrorism. In the 21st century, legitimacy cannot be derived from mass violence, brutal intimidation or covert agendas. Representation, inclusion, peace and stability are inextricably linked," he added.

The Taliban has been making rapid advances across Afghanistan by resorting to widespread violence since the US began withdrawing its troops on May 1. The US has already pulled back the majority of its forces and is looking to complete the drawdown by August 31.

Jaishankar also called for reform of the multilateral institutions saying an "updating and recalibration" of the post-World War II multilateral architecture cannot be postponed any further.

The pandemic and the normative breakdown in its wake have "rudely" reminded us that institutions built to tackle problems of the 1940s desperately need to be upgraded and

made fit-for-purpose for our century, he said.

He said an expansion of the permanent membership of the UN Security Council is a necessary ingredient but by itself, it is not sufficient.

"Multilateral institutions have been disadvantaged by structural inertia, competitive gridlocks, uneven resourcing and skewed navigation. The proliferation of new and smaller platforms, including of plurilateral and regional groups, is, therefore, a response to such felt gaps," he said.

"BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) itself was actually among the earliest in this regard. Too often, we obsess with one or the other response; more effort and action is actually required to fill the gaps," Jaishankar said.

On dealing with COVID-19, he talked about the imbalance between the emphasis on intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical industry and the meeting of public health goals. Left untouched, the current practices will only delay the elimination of the pandemic by several years, he said, and added that "this is simply not acceptable. But beyond health is a larger economic lesson for the world from the pandemic."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Marvelous' Elsewhere

There's so much to learn from the internet and I'd be stupid to not use this to my advantage. The courses were really good and informative. Some of them even allow practical exercises.

SachinTantry, Bengaluru (Karnataka)

Online learning was an interesting experience when everything is happening online. The best part was—there was no attendance problem, and I could watch these sessions whenever I had free time and even watch it repeatedly.

E-learning is good and equally the new normal. And this new normal has already opened so many learning opportunities for me.

Ryan Jena, Rayagada (Odisha)

A world without internet is like a world without meaning. I say this because of the progressively rushing world around me. I've been taking up workshops online, ever since the lockdown has commenced.

The pandemic gave us all enough time to retrospect and I've been working on myself — as a budding writer, photographer and a self-taught musician.

Monisha Phukan, Jonai (Assam)
I've been highly inclined towards art and music ever since I remember. I guess I get this from my mother. She's a professional Bihu dancer in Assam. It's really difficult to get any online classes or courses which teach you art, painting, doodling.

But fortunately, I came across an InstagramLive session by ShikhaKarn, founder of Artistick. She drew like magic and I couldn't resist but joined.

I learnt to doodle and paint in those online sessions by her. It was a great experience. I'm very happy that I took it. Now, my house looks more 'Artistick' than ever.

Prithviraj Kulkarni, Ranabennur (Karnataka)
With the digital platform paving the avenue in the structural educational sector, seldom did any of us harbour a thought of whether or not we would be able to make full use of the resources this platform would offer.

As a student, I was exposed to the idea of online educational programs. Sure enough there were enticing courses and materials that one, sitting in any corner of the world, could benefit from with a mere click of a button. But that is more of an idealistic vision. There wasn't a concrete effort to harness this vision with real-time resources, but that was only until Covid-19 bulldozed its way into this paradigm.

What transpired next was the obvious paradigm shift, as everything that was jotted on a piece of paper was now being pitched as the central idea.

At the outset, I found online learning to be intimidating, but it wasn't too late that I found comfort in the supposed pedagogical revolution that was taking place.

The routes I have established through online sessions have done wonders and helped me learn more finely. Internet coupled with traditional pedagogy is helping students like me tap into the recesses we always aspired to work with.

Cop, Civilian

through Miskeen Bagh and Kaw Mohalla. They said that the militant attack also prompted a security alert at the Shiraz Cinema camp, housing the paramilitary CRPF. Witnesses said that CRPF deployed additional men atop the erstwhile cinema to keep a check on suspected persons.

Soon after the militant attack, additional reinforcements of police and CRPF reached the area. The joint team also searched the lane through which militants are believed to have carried out the attack. Passersby, mostly young boys, were also frisked by the joint team.

Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer that the policeman had received a single gunshot injury in his left side of the chest.

"He has been operated upon. His condition is

stable," Singh added.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here this evening, a police spokesperson said that preliminary investigation has revealed that militants had fired upon the party of Police Station Khanyar near Shiraz Chowk area of Srinagar.

In this incident, he said, one policeman and a civilian sustained bullet injuries and were immediately shifted to hospital for the treatment. The condition of both the injured is stated to be stable.

"Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the circumstances which lead to this terror crime. Area has been cordoned off and search in the area is going on," the police spokesperson said.

Pertinently, today's attack comes a day after police released a list of ten wanted militants, including seven old ones and three new recruits.

Pakistani Militant

militants there, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire on the forces, who retaliated.

He identified the slain as Babar Ali who had managed to escape from the Shokbaba encounter site on July 24.

Ali was a resident of Ugada district of Punjab in Pakistan and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter.

Three militants of the LeT, including Sharik Altaf, were killed in the Shokbaba encounter.

However, the official said, Ali had managed to escape from the site and was being continuously tracked thereafter.

After pinpointing his presence in the Chandaji forest area on Tuesday, an operation was launched by the security forces, the official said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK-rifle, two AK-Magazines, 40 AK-rounds, a pouch, a wireless set and a medicine bag were recovered from the site of the encounter, the official said.

He said Inspector General of Police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar has congratulated the joint team of police and security forces for successfully tracking down the terrorist and conducting operation in a professional manner without any collateral damage .(PTI)

Army Chopper

carrying out the search operation and the picture will be clear in next four to five hours, he added.

The exact place of the crash has been identified and some floating material has been recovered, the SSP said, stressing that it is a huge lake and the operation will take time.

The depth of the crash site has been measured to be over 200 feet.

As per the unconfirmed reports, the chopper belonged to the 254 Army Aviation Squadron and had taken off from Mamun cantonment and it came down during low-level sortie when it lost control.

Eyewitnesses said the chopper was flying over the lake and suddenly it came down and crashed into the water with a loud thud.

It was a Dhruv chopper, which crashed at Purthu area in Basohli in the lake area, they said.

According to reports, two people were on board.

During the search operation, a helmet, two big size bags, one shoe and some helicopter parts were recovered.

6 CFVs Along

following scheduled talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan over hotline, a joint statement was issued on February 25, 2021 in which both India and Pakistan agreed to the strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors with effect from the February 24-25 midnight 2021.

While there were 380 incidents of ceasefire

violations in January and 278 in February, there was not a single incident of ceasefire violation in March, just one in April, three in May and two in June.

The minister said immediate and effective retaliation by the Indian Army and the BSF personnel is carried out during instances of unprovoked firings and ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB).

Rai said the government's consistent position has been that India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence.

The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border terrorism against India in any manner.

India and Pakistan continue to maintain regular channels of communication through the respective High Commissions and other established mechanisms, he said. PTI

Kashmir To Receive

as many as ten people, while 19 are still missing.

"There are no warnings of cloudbursts and flash-floods in J&K during the two day wet spell but it's better if the people living in the far-flung and mountainous regions stay alert," Ahmed said.

As per the IMD official, the department has four colour-coded warnings based on the intensity of an extreme weather and on the basis of it, the department places the valley in an ascending order of green, yellow, orange and red.

"Earlier, during the last week's flash-floods, J&K was placed at an orange level but it has now been placed at the yellow level that warns people to stay alert as the inclement weather may lead to Landslides and Flash floods," he said.

ACB Exposes

ARTO Office Anantnag," the ACB spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said, some applicants who appeared for driving test revealed that they had paid bribe for issuance of driving licenses through agents and touts for board members of ARTO Office.

"It was found that the officer/officials of ARTO office Anantnag, for their ulterior motives were conducting both driving test trials and fitness test of vehicle in hasty manner just to accommodate the applicants recommend by touts/agents," the ACB spokesperson said.

"In addition, social, networking chats have been found amongst the touts and ARTO officials wherein candidate application numbers alongwith the name of touts have been forwarded to the officials for issuance of certificate/licenses," he added.

Accordingly, the ACB spokesperson said that a case FIR no. 4/2021 was registered at the ACB Police Station Anantnag against the accused.

He further said that during investigation, search warrants were obtained from the Anti corruption court Anantnag and searches conducted at the residences of ARTO Shabir Ahmad in Qazigund, Motor Vehicle Inspectors Shahid Mehboob at D.K. Marg Kulgam, Manzoor Ahmad at Bemina and Asif Amin at Sanat Nagar, Srinagar.

"Moreover, the residential houses/ shops of touts/ agents including Khalid Hakim at Qazibagh Anantnag,, Mubarak Bhat at Laisoo Gudder Kulgam, Zahoor Ahmad at Sarnal Anantnag, Aijaz Wagey at Khanbal Anantnag, Nadeem Ahmad alias Nadeem Photostat at Anantnag, Farooq Mir- Nazrana Photosat near DC office Anantnag were searched, the ACB. "During searches various incriminating documents were seized," the Bureau spokesperson said.

He added that further investigation of the case was going on.

Oppn Leaders

NCP, Shiv Sena, CPI-M, CPI, RJD and Samajwadi Party attended the meeting.

Leaders of JMM, JKNC besides IUML, RSP, KCM and RSP were also present at the meeting.

Trinamool Congress, which had skipped the last meeting of Opposition leaders by Gandhi, was also present at today's breakfast meet.

Besides Gandhi, senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh were present at the meeting.

The meeting comes amid continued standoff between the opposition and the government over the Pegasus snooping issue with the opposition demanding a discussion in Parliament and a Supreme Court monitored probe in the matter.

The government is, however, saying that this is a non-issue and does not want it to be discussed in Parliament.

Leaders of 17 opposition parties were invited at the breakfast meeting, but the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) did not attend.

Kharge said leaders of various parties have been invited for the meeting and are expected to discuss issues like Pegasus, farmers' matter, and the need for a joint Parliament strategy.

"Nobody in the government is listening. So we have decided to get together. The opposition is united and we are all together," Kharge said at the meeting.

Among the leaders who attended the meeting were Kalyan Banerjee, Mohua Moitra (TMC), Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena), Manoj Jha (RJD), Kanimozhi (DMK) and Ram Gopal Yadav (SP). PTI

MPs Panel

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF), the communication reads.

The majority of the members of the committee are from the ruling BJP.

As many as 14 leaders including Congress' Ghulam Nabi Azad, National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah; PDP's Mehbooba Mufti and J-K Apni Party's Altaf Bukhari attended the meeting with Prime Minister Modi.

Most of the leaders in the meeting had raised the issue of restoration of statehood.

MMU Concerned

deliberations with the Muslim Personal Law Board, senior MMU member and J-K's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said a unanimous resolution was passed, seeking the release of Mirwais as well as others detained since August 2019.

Islam said he will also write to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to seek Mirwais's release. The grand mufti said the MMU has decided to launch a sustained campaign against drug abuse, dowry, moral degradation and incidents of suicide.

99.04 % Students Pass

Trivandrum region has achieved the highest pass percentage of 99.99 per cent followed by Bengaluru (99.96 per cent) and Chennai (99.94 per cent)

"The result of 16,639 students is till under process. No merit list will be declared this year and no merit certificates will be issued to students," said BSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bharwadaj.

A total of 17,636 candidates have been placed under compartment.

The number of Children with Special Needs scoring above 95 per cent is 53 while 224 students in the category have scored above 90 per cent. In CBSE-affiliated schools abroad, 99.92 per cent students have passed class 10.

Kendriya Vidyalayas and the schools under the Central Tibetan Schools Administration have achieved a 100 per cent pass percentage as against 99.23 per cent and 93.67 per cent respectively last year.

The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have improved their pass percentage from 98.66 to 99.99 this year. The pass percentage of government and government-aided schools is 96.03 and 95.88 pc respectively.

The pass percentage of private schools has increased by over six per cent since last year.

"The compartment examination will be conducted between August 16 and September 15. The exact dates will be announced in some time," Bhardwaj said.

The board exams were cancelled this year in view of the aggressive second wave of COVID-19. The result has been announced on the basis of an alternate assessment policy.

According to the policy, while 20 marks for each subject were for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks were calculated on basis of the students' performance in various tests or exams throughout the year.

J&K Logs 140 Cases,

Rajouri district.

The number of active cases rose slightly to 1,293 in the union territory, while 3,16,188 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

They said the number of confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) stands at 35 in the UT as no fresh case was reported. (PTI)

2041 Kms Of

neighbouring countries and the details, the target that has been achieved and the border areas along Pakistan and Bangladesh where fencing has been completed and the details thereof.

In a written reply filed to the parliament, the MoS Homesaid that the fencing is being erected on the Indo-Pakistan border, Indo-Bangladesh border and Indo-Myanmar border. "So far 5187 Km length of the International border has been covered by a fence", the reply reads.

It reads that the total of 2041 kilometres of the Border of Indo-Pakistan has been covered by a fence.

It further reads that the unfenced area includes non-feasible stretches where fencing could not be constructed due to riverine and marshy land. "These stretches are being covered through technological solutions. Fencing along remaining feasible stretches has been hampered due to firing/objections from the counterpart country, difficult terrain, short working season, land acquisition problem, public protests and Covid-19 situation etc. Government has been persistent in its efforts to remove obstacles and ensure timely completion", the reply filed by MoS Home reads.

"To check fake Indian currency and animal trafficking, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which inter-alia includes round the clock surveillance and patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts", the reply reads. "Increase in the number of BSF personnel. Construction of border fencing & floodlighting. Use of water crafts/boats and floating Border Out Posts (BOP) for domination of riverine areas."

It also mentions the advance technological equipment like Hand Held Thermal Imager (HHTI), Night vision Device (NVD), Twin Telescope, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV); upgradation of intelligence setup and enhanced coordination with the State Governments/concerned intelligence agencies in the steps taken by the government—(KNO)

16 PSA Detainees

PB-V/585 of 2021 dated 2/8/2021. All the sixteen detainees were lodged in central Jail Srinagar from 2019- 2020 and 2021.

"The powers conferred under section 10-B of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act 1978, the government hereby directs to remove/shift the 16 detainees who have been detained under the provision of Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act 1978 from Srinagar central jail to Haryana central jail and district jail," the Home Department order, as per the news agency reads.

The reason has not been given for the move of sixteen PSA detainees which comes barely a couple of days ahead of the second anniversary of the Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the report added.

BJP Leader Dies

where he died Tuesday morning—(KNO)

4th Edition Cricket Champions Trophy Begins At Srinagar’s TRC



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The 4th Edition Champions Trophy cricket tournament began at TRC Ground on Tuesday in Srinagar with Director General, Youth Services and Sports, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat inaugurating the event.

Organised by Cricket Fraternity Dalgate (CFD), the tournament will see the participation of about 32 teams from across the Valley.

On the occasion of the inaugural match of the tournament, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Youth Services and Sports Muhammad Ashraf Bhat congratulated the Dalgate Cricket Fraternity for organizing such tournaments.

He said that it was the social responsibility of every fraternity to organize such sports activities so that the youth could be engaged in sports.

He said that the government would extend all possible support

for organising such sports activities. The director said that holding such tournaments gives an opportunity to the young players to showcase their talents and hone them.

“We want our players to be able to participate in national as well as international sports competitions,” he said.

Later, the inaugural match between Back Country Bashers (BCB) and Kings XI Muran Pulwama was held in which BCB won the toss and elected to bat first.

The BCB scored 195 runs in the allotted 30 overs, Wasim scored the highest with 64 runs. The BCB in reply were bundled out for a miserly 61 runs by the Kings XI Muran, losing with a huge margin of 134 runs. Mohsin of Kings XI Muran was declared man of the match for his bowling spell in which he took six wickets.

All the matches are live broadcasted on Cricket Fraternity Dalgate’s official YouTube and Facebook channels.

Downtown Heroes’ I-League 2nd Division Qualification A Giant Leap



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Newly formed Old City, Srinagar-based football club Downtown Heroes has taken a giant leap forward by qualifying for the I-League 2nd Division from Jammu & Kashmir.

In its first year of existence, the Heroes secured the qualification from J&K after performing brilliantly in the recently concluded JKFA Professional League 2021.

Downtown Heroes finished third in the tournament and second in I-League qualification. They started the League in brilliant

fashion, winning three out of three of their opening games. After fumbling in the latter half of the League, the Heroes had to battle it out till the final day.

The Heroes have been hailed for their performances by fans and experts alike, impressed by their attacking and entertaining style of play. In matches where they could easily sit back and secure points, they continued to press up the field and made it clear that they want score goals.

In a statement, the Downtown Heroes FC lauded the immense capabilities of JKFA in successfully hosting the Professional

League 2021 in Srinagar.

“It was very encouraging to see a number of people turning up and enjoy the football here. We are equally thankful to our fans without their support and encouragement it would not have been possible”, the statement read.

“We would also express our gratitude to friends from the media fraternity and our revered sponsors who contributed to the league brilliantly.”

“We believe that our local players are full of talent, intelligence along with being technically sound. We are therefore keenly looking forward to seeing the top-quality talent in Kashmir,” the statement added.

JKCA Sub-Committee Forms 3-Member Advisory Panel

Agencies

JAMMU: The BCCI appointed three-member Sub-Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has announced the formation of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) which includes two former J&K captains.

“The JKCA today unanimously approved the formation of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the cricketing season 2021-22,” an official JKCA statement said Monday.

“The CAC comprises a three-member panel of ex senior cricketers of J&K and includes Abdul Qayoom Bagaw, Ashwani Gupta, both ex-Ranji players and Captains of J&K team, and Roopal Slathia, the most prominent woman cricketer and the only level 3 coach in J&K. The CAC will work as a team and report to the Sub-Committee,” the statement added.

“Besides appointing men’s/women’s selection committees, the CAC will also evolve norms for the fair and transparent process and also do a periodic review of the selectors/coaches/support staff/match officials and forward their recommendations to the Sub-Committee,” it said.

The members of the CAC were handed over their appointment letters duly signed by Mit-hun Manhas, Sub-Committee member of JKCA.

“The Sub-Committee expects that CAC will create an environment in which every deserving cricketer gets an opportunity to display his/her talent and only the best gets the honour to represent the JK UT team,” the JKCA said.

“It is hoped that with the appointment of CAC, transparency and fairness will get prominence and restore the confidence of the players both men and women in the system,” the statement concluded with comments from Brig. Anil Gupta, and advocate Sunil Sethi, the other members of the JKCA Sub-Committee.

DYSS Zone Langate Holds Annual Road Race Competition

Agencies

LANGATE: Youth Service and Sports Department (DYSS) Kupwara, Zone Langate on Thursday held a road race event in Langate.

In the event 355 students from around 40 schools participated. DYSS, Sports Officer Kupwara, Jatinder Singh was the Chief guest on the occasion. Mehraj Din from UPS Hampora registered the first rank, Yasir Altaf from BMS Panditpora came 2nd, Rashid Maqbool from HS Kachloo came 3rd.

The Road Race Competition began at 6 in the morning from Khan Tulwari and culminated at Langate’s Steel Bridge.

Besides DYSS officials, the occasion was also graced by Municipality Chairman Langate, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, PEM GHSS Langate and Activities Incharge, Mir Tufail and Anderpal Harjeet Singh and other field staff were also present on the Occasion. Locals of the area appreciated the efforts of YSS department. Indian army’s 30RR, Langate, Medical department and police department also assisted the organisers in smooth functioning of the event. DYSS staff gave thanks to principal GHSS Langate for its support.

ENG Vs IND, 1st Test: Squads, Schedule & Live Telecast



Press Trust of India

NOTTINGHAM: The toughest four months of Virat Kohli’s eventful leadership career start here on Wednesday when his strategic acumen will be tested while selecting a perfect Indian combination to take on a good England side in the first Test of a five-match series.

Joe Root and his squad will be raring to play against India having already beaten them 3-1 in India earlier this year. The English will be playing a near full-strength squad excluding Jofra Archer (injury), Chris Woakes and Ben Stokes.

India on the other hand will be missing injured Shubman Gill and Washington Sundar. Mayank Agarwal has also been ruled out after suffering a blow from a Muhammad Siraj bouncer.

Squads

India: Virat Kohli (c), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Yadav, Prithvi Shaw, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Hanuma Vihari, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel,

Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav

England: Joe Root (c), Rory Burns, Dominic Sibley, Jos Buttler, Mark Wood, Sam Curran, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Zak Crawley, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Craig Overton

Schedule

First Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham starting on August 4 at 3:30 PM

Second Test at Lord’s, London starting on August 12 at 3:30 PM

Third Test at Headingley, Leeds starting on August 25 at 3:30 PM

Fourth Test at Kennington Oval, London on September 2 at 3:30 PM

Fifth Test at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester on September 10 at 3:30 PM

Telecast

The matches will be telecasted live on Sony sports channels: Sony Six, Sony Ten 3 and Sony Ten 4. While the live streaming of the Test series will be available on SonyLIV app.

James Anderson Says India Can't Complain If England Exploit ‘Grass’

Press Trust of India

NOTTINGHAM: Just like India did at home earlier this year, the seasoned James Anderson says, England must play to their advantage in the five-match Test series against the fancied visitors, by preparing “good pitches” with pace and bounce.

The return series begins with the opening Test here from Wednesday.

“I don’t think India can have any complaints if we do leave a bit of grass on because what we came up against (them) on our tour of India last time, we certainly played into India’s hands.

“They used their home advantage to their benefit and I think a lot of teams around the world do it,” Anderson said during a con-call with select Indian journalists on Monday.

One of the game’s finest seamers with 617 Test wickets to his name, Anderson added, “So, if there is grass left on it, India have got a strong seam attack as well.

“I would be hoping for some good pitches, we want pace and carry in our pitches, certainly from seam attack’s selfish point of view, we want pace and bounce, because we know it’s going to swing, so nicks just carry. “That picture of the pitch (here) was taken three days before the first Test. A lot can change in between. I’m sure they are going to trim some grass and roll it as well.”

Anderson, who has played 162 Tests since his debut in 2003, said that the IPL generation of batters have a fearless approach and cited Rishabh Pant as an example.

“It is something that I feel fortunate to have done and it has been a real experience, playing against different generations of batters.

“I think IPL generation of players, you can definitely see a difference and a more fearless approach, not scared of playing any shot in any format okay.

“Use Rishabh Pant as an example, reverse sweeping me in the last tour of India with a new ball and you never see Sourav Ganguly do that,” he said.

“So, it is something that is exciting to see, it is a different challenge as well for bowlers, when you get this sort of style of player who is not afraid to go over the top in Test cricket, or play extravagant shots. I think it is great for the viewer at home to watch,” he added.

The veteran seamer refused to single out any Indian batsman ahead of the series and maintained that the team has a very strong batting line-up.

“India have a very strong batting line up and as an opposition you don’t want to single out players because they have quality batsmen right throughout.

“Kohli is obviously an important wicket since he is the captain and the positive influence he has on the team. Pujara is someone who can stay at the crease for long time and holds things together. So yes, he’s an important wicket.

“But if you look through the whole squad, the guys who are going to miss out have huge quality and it’s very difficult to single one batsman out. We have got to make a plan for everyone and every wicket is important,” elaborated Anderson.

PM Modi To Invite Olympic Contingent To Red Fort On Aug 15

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will invite India’s Olympic contingent to the Red Fort as special guests on August 15 when he will deliver his eighth straight independence day speech.

Official sources said Modi will also invite them to his residence for interaction.

India has been represented by a 228-strong contingent, including over 120 athletes, at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics.

India Lose 2-5 Against Belgium In Men’s Hockey Semifinal

TOKYO: Indian men’s hockey team lost 2-5 to world champions Belgium in the last-four stage but the side is still in the hunt for a bronze in the Tokyo Games here on Tuesday.

For Belgium, Alexander Hendrickx (19th, 49th, 53rd minutes) scored a hat-trick while Loick Luybaert (2nd minute) and John-John Dohmen (60th) also scored Belgium their second successive entry into the final of the Olympics.

India’s goals came from Harmanpreet Singh (7th) and Mandeep Singh (8th). They could play the bronze medal match against Australia or Germany on Thursday.

PV Sindhu, Olympic Bronze Medallist, Returns Home

NEW DELHI: The only Indian woman to win two Olympic medals, shuttler PV Sindhu on Tuesday received a warm welcome on her return to the country after claiming a bronze at the Tokyo Games. She walked out of the Indira Gandhi International Terminal amid a round of applause from the airport staff. She was flanked by security officers and wearing a face mask.

“I am very happy and excited of course, everybody congratulated me and I am thankful to BAI and everyone for supporting and encouraging me. It is an exciting day and happy moment,” Sindhu said.

Sonam Malik’s Wrestling Debut Ends In First-Round Defeat

TOKYO: Young Indian wrestler Sonam Malik’s Olympic debut ended with a first-round defeat on criteria against Mongolia’s Bolortuya Khurelkhuu in the 62kg category.

The 19-year-old led the bout 2-0 but the reigning Asian silver medallist Khurelkhueffected a take-down move with just 35 seconds left in the contest to level the score. The score remained 2-2 till the end but since it was the Mongolian who scored the last point with her move, she was declared winner on criteria.

On Wednesday, Ravi Dahiya (FS 57kg), Deepak Punia (FS 86kg) and Anshu Malik (WW 57kg) will begin their respective campaigns.

Shot Putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor Fails To Qualify For Final

TOKYO: Asian record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor’s Olympic campaign ended miserably as he failed to qualify for the final after finishing 13th in the qualification group A in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Toor, who had qualified for Olympics with a personal best of 21.49m in the Indian Grand Prix 4 in June, could only manage one legal throw of 19.99m, in his first attempt, to finish at 13th out of 16 competitors.

The below-par show meant that Toor made an exit even before the start of second qualification.

Double Semifinal Heartbreak For Egypt In Men’s Wrestling

TOKYO: There was a double Olympic semifinal heartbreak for Egypt’s Mohammed Ibrahim Elsayed and Mohammed Metwally as the athletes on Tuesday lost their respective last four contests in the men’s wrestling Greco-Roman competition at Tokyo 2020.

Elsayed exited after a tense 7-6 semifinal loss to Ukrainian Parviz Nasibov at Makuhari Messe Hall. Metwally lost 9-2 to Viktor Loricz of Hungary. They will now fight in 67-kg, 87-kg bronze medal matches, respectively.

Chinese Finish 1, 2 In Balance Beam, Biles Takes Bronze

TOKYO: Two Chinese gymnasts stood on the top two spots of the Olympic podium Tuesday, collecting their country’s first medals in the women’s gymnastics competition in its final event.

Guan Chenchen won the gold medal in the balance beam, edging out teammate Tang Xijing. They pushed American superstar Simone Biles into third place in the process.

Both gymnasts thanked their coaches, who they said guided them through injury, difficult times and anxiety.

Brazil To Face Spain For Men’s Olympic Football Gold Medal

Agencies

SAITAMA: Defending champion Brazil will face Spain for the Olympic gold medal in men’s soccer on Saturday.

Spain beat host Japan 1-0 Tuesday with Marco Asensio scoring a curling shot in the 115th minute in Saitama. Brazil was taken to penalties by Mexico, winning the shootout 4-1 after a scoreless draw in Kashima.

Brazil goalkeeper Santos stopped Mexico’s first penalty from Eduardo Aguirre, and Johan Vasquez’s attempt then hit the post. Reinier converted the winning kick for Brazil.

Mexico will play Japan for the bronze medal in Saitama on Friday. The gold-



medal match is set for Saturday in Yokohama.

Brazil won its first Olympic title at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games in a penalty shootout with Germany. Neymar converted the clinching penalty at the iconic Maracana Stadium.

Spain’s only Olympic title also came at home — at the 1992 Barcelona Games. The country’s last final was at the 2000 Sydney Games, losing to Cameroon.

“Playing the final of the Olympics is a dream,” said Brazil coach Andre Jardine. “The film I also saw tonight was the film of life... Everything we’ve gone through. Although we didn’t win in the 90 minutes, we took more risks,” he added.

Caringly yours



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General Insurance
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