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P9 BUSINESS

MEHJABEENA OF OKEY HAMLET IN KULGAM PREFERS SELF-EMPLOYMENT OVER SEEKING GOVT JOB

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has ordered the suspension of a Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Enforcement Officer for bypassing his seniors while demolishing a...

P6 A VISION FOR LADAKH

August 5, 2021, marks two years of introducing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, which created the Union Territory of Ladakh. Before going any further, two facts about Ladakh need to be kept in mind. Its population is merely



P3 CITY

LG FLAGS OFF 'RUN FOR POLYTHENE-FREE SRINAGAR' & 'PEDAL FOR DAL'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday flagged off two sporting events in Srinagar in a run-up to J&K Administration's Independence Day



Widom! Quote!

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

—Mother Teresa

NEWS DIGEST

Explosives Recovered On Highway

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Saturday recovered explosives in Ramban district on the strategic 272-km Srinagar-Jammu highway. Official sources said that the recovered explosives are commercial in nature that was fixed in pipes. They said that commercial explosives and detonators lying separately at Ramsoo were found by a patrolling party. They added that these explosives were ● [More On P10](#)

2 Rape Accused Held In J&K

BANIHAL: Two men, facing charges in connection with alleged abduction and rape of a minor girl, were arrested after months of hunt from their village in Anantnag district of south Kashmir, police said on Saturday. Javed Ahmad Wagay and Mohammad Yousuf, wanted in the case registered at Gool police station in Ramban district early this year, went underground to evade arrest, they said. The duo was arrested from Larkipora village, a police spokesperson said. ● [More On P10](#)

Unregistered Medical Shop Sealed

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Saturday sealed an unlicensed and unregistered medical shop in north Kashmir's Handwara town. Reports said that a team from the Drug Department inspected various medical shops and during the inspection a medical shop was found unregistered and thus sealed on the spot. The medical shop in question is 'Sunshine' medical store. Reports added ● [More On P10](#)

Man Found Dead In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A man was found dead inside a pond in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday, officials said. According to reports, some locals spotted the body inside a water-filled pond in Suransoo—Shamsipora area and instantly informed the police about it. A police team, reports said, reached the spot and recovered the body. The deceased has been identified as Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh. ● [More On P10](#)

Ladakh Reports 9 Corona Cases

LEH: Ladakh has recorded nine fresh COVID-19 cases, taking its overall tally to 20,378, while the count of active cases in the union territory is at 65, officials said on Saturday. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. As many as 20,106 patients have recovered till date. ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Sees 142 New Cases, 136 Recoveries

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed on Saturday 142 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while no Covid-19 related fatality were reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 83 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from different parts of Kashmir Valley while 59 were reported from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 322428.

Giving district wise-details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 36 cases, Baramulla 3, Budgam 13, Pulwama 9, Kupwara 7, Bandipora 5, Ganderbal 7, Kulgam 3, Jammu 15, Udhampur 8, Rajouri 6, Doda 16, Kishtwar 7, Poonch 3, and two cases each were reported from Ramban and Reasi districts.

No new case of coronavirus was reported from south Kashmir's Anantnag and Shopian districts of the Valley and Kathua and Samba districts in the Jammu ● [More On P10](#)



Women devotees raise their hands in supplication as the unseen cleric of Hazratbal Shrine displays a relic believed to be from beard of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the annual Urs of Hazrat Umar (RA) on Saturday . KO Photo, Abid Bhat

..Kishtwar Cloudburst Fate Of 19 Missing Persons Unknown

Agencies

JAMMU: The fate of 19 persons who went missing after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in Kishtwar district last month, remain unknown even as rescue operations continued for the eleventh consecutive day Saturday.

Eight women among 19 persons went missing following the cloudburst and subsequent flash floods in the remote village on intervening night of July 27 and 28. On Monday last, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh had an aerial survey of the village. He also chaired a high-level meeting during which, among others, he stressed the need for intensifying the rescue operation to trace the missing persons.

Authorities have pressed teams of NDRF and SDRF for carrying out the rescue operation. Several teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with "sophisticated equipment" were earlier involved in the operation ● [More On P10](#)

Cop Killed, 2 Others Injured In Kulgam Attack

LG Says Those Responsible For Such Heinous Acts Shall Be Brought To Justice

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A policeman was killed and two others injured on Saturday in a militant attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A group of militants fired indiscriminately upon a police party at Poshwan area of Damhal Hanjipora at around 7:20 pm Saturday resulting in the on the spot death of one policeman. Two other police personnel sustained bullet injuries, according to police sources.

A police spokesman, quoting from preliminary investigations, later said a group of militants fired upon a police party headed by SHO Police Station DH Pora who were busy in managing the traffic at Adijan Crossing after ● [More On P10](#)

Militant Killed In Budgam Encounter, Another Held



Observer News Service

A local militant was killed on Saturday in a gunfight with government forces in central Kashmir's Budgam district, while his associate escaped the cordon but was arrested in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. Police, army's 50 RR and the personnel of CRPF 181 battalion started a joint cordon and search operation in Mochwa area of Budgam on the basis of specific information about the presence of militants, ● [More On P10](#)

Search Operation Continues In Rajouri

A massive search operation continued for the second day on Saturday in a dense forest area in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir where two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed in an encounter by security forces, officials said.

The joint operation by the police and the army in remote Pangai village, located in ● [More On P10](#)

2 Injured In Ramban Blast

Two people, including a teenage boy, were injured in a mysterious explosion along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Banihal town in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday. The blast occurred at M G Construction site at around 11.15 pm on Friday, they said. Two people, Gopal Sharma (35) of Udhampur ● [More On P10](#)

Karan Singh Calls On LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister & Member of Parliament met Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, here at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

Singh, who was accompanied by former legislator Vikramaditya Singh, discussed a host of developmental and other issues of public importance with the LG, he said. They also shared their views regarding the present development scenario of the UT.

"The Lt Governor observed that the present dispensation is taking result-oriented developmental and welfare measures, besides strengthening the concept of Jan-Bhagidari for ensuring transparency and credibility in the governmental processes to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the official spokesperson added.

Soldiers Get American Rifles On China Border

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Deployed along the Line of Actual Control for over a year to tackle Chinese aggression, Indian Army troops deployed at the forward bases have been armed with the latest American Sig Sauer 716 assault rifles and Swiss MP-9 pistol guns to guard the border there.

Army officials deployed in these high altitude locations said the troops are now getting the American Sig Sauer 716 assault rifles for operations as with its 500 meters range, it can prove to be an effective weapon in mountain warfare.

The rifles have been obtained

in large numbers with India placing orders for around 1.5 lakh of them under emergency provisions soon after the situation worsened along the border due to Chinese aggression in Eastern Ladakh and especially the Galwan valley.

The rifles are ambidextrous and allow troops to use them easily, in case they are required in operations, the officials said.

Meanwhile, India and China have disengaged troops from the Gogra heights area and moved them back to their permanent bases, in a step towards defusing tensions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

"The troops in ● [More On P10](#)

6 WITH THIS, ONE MORE SENSITIVE area of face-off has been resolved. Both sides have expressed commitment to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector."

Ex-PDP MPs Among Five Politicians Join PC

Press Trust Of India

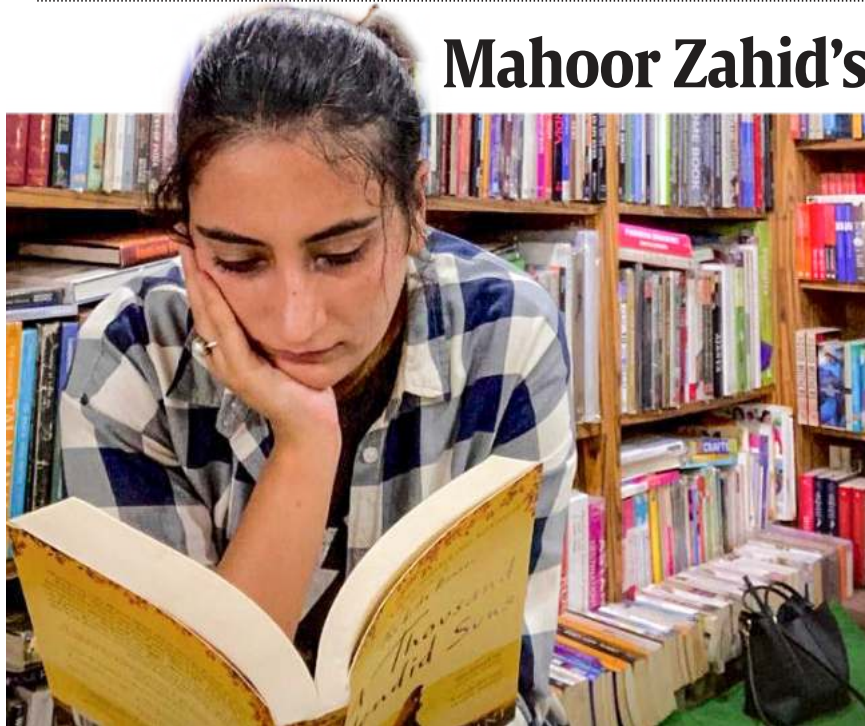
SRINAGAR: People's Conference received a shot in the arm to its expansion programme as five politicians, including two former PDP MPs, from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir joined the party on Saturday.

Former MLC and ex-PDP leader Murtaza Khan, former PDP MPs Nazir Ahmad Laway and Mir Mohammad Fayaz, DDC

chairman Baramulla Safina Baig and former deputy mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation Sheikh Mohammad Imran joined the People's Conference in the presence of party chairman Sajad Gani Lone.

Lone said the People's Conference will immensely benefit from the leaders' political experience and expand the outreach of the party beyond its strongholds.

"They are experienced leaders with a huge base of supporters and will in the coming years play a crucial role in shaping the politics and welfare of J-K. People's Conference is growing stronger with each passing day. The party is emerging as a formidable political force to reckon with. My dream is to see this caravan of change grow stronger. We will make more announcements ● [More On P10](#)



Mahoor Zahid's 'Traumatic Zombies' Notes Kashmir's Disregarded Distress

Zaid Bin Shabir

Barely a month before mental trauma apparently touched threshold and rattled Kashmir in June 2021, an unassuming Kashmiri girl had literally detailed the messy mindscape of the valley. The written attempt was to explain the pressure of a clandestine life that youngsters are currently going through.

"People call them unlucky mataladors," Mahoor Zahid talks about Kashmiri youth, "but they always forget to understand that someone's degrading mental health is also an outcome of the childhood trauma that he/she was never able to vent out, finally resulting into the augmenting suicide cases."

Mahoor's debut novel published in May 2021 is a story that talks about a paradigm shift in a family and an

individual's life without a character's name but pain, desperation and hurt, all going in circles. The narration of the events that unfold is a journey of how trauma shapes a person who is more of a dead than alive—to which the author refers as a zombie, making the title much clearer: Traumatic Zombies.

Mahoor's wit and ability to conceive nameless characters who feel "natural"—as she rather put it in the book's original introduction—enable the novel to outpace the didactic intentions, to become something far more lifelike and original than a morality tale.

When the conflict is resolved, about halfway through, the reader enters a

narrative full zone in which the author's more qualities come to the fore. The unnamed characters become a mouthpiece through which Mahoor delivers life lessons.

Mahoor's expertise in the field of mental health including anxiety and depression among the millennials amid the contemporary culture of Kashmir is undoubtedly scholarly. With a story to tell, she's a writer of sublime eloquence.

During her long stay in the valley witnessing various kinds of traumatic issues that mainly juveniles had to undergo has also helped her to produce a reference material for

the book.

But mainly, it's her childhood experiences that set her apart from the rest of her tribe. In the name of ethics, she argues, some adults have been abusing youngsters—framing them as a "strategic point to vent out stress".

However, fearing societal pressure, Mahoor had avoided writing about such topics for a long time but when the pandemic hit, she no longer could resist writing on the same.

But even before she would pen down details for her novel, she had written a torrent of essays mainly on mental health detailing every single issue that affects a child's mind.

"As a writer, I've tried my best to analyse the disturbing journey that youngsters usually have to travel through because of a ghoulish childhood," she says. "Such anxieties are, of course, one ● [More On P10](#)



To place an advertisement

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**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

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Sunday| 08-08-2021

High Pollution Levels Increase Dementia Risk, Says Study

Agencies

There is a link between improving air quality and a reduction in the risk of dementia, a new research in the US has shown. Using data from two large, long-running study projects in the Puget Sound region -- one that began in the late 1970s measuring air pollution and another on risk factors for dementia that began in 1994 -- University of Washington (UW) researchers identified a link between air pollution and dementia. In the UW-led study, a small increase in the levels of fine particle pollution (PM2.5 or particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or smaller) averaged over a decade at specific addresses in the Seattle area was associated with a greater risk of dementia for people living at those addresses. "We found that an increase of one

microgram per cubic meter of exposure corresponded to a 16 per cent greater hazard of all-cause dementia. There was a similar association for Alzheimer's-type dementia," said lead author Rachel Shaffer, who conducted the research as a doctoral student in the UW Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. The study, published on August 4 in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, looked at more than 4,000 Seattle-area residents enrolled in the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) Study run by Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in collaboration with UW. Of those residents, the researchers identified more than 1,000 people who had been diagnosed with dementia at some point since the ACT Study began in 1994. "The ACT Study is committed to advancing dementia research by sharing its data and resources, and we're



grateful to the ACT volunteers who have devoted years of their lives to supporting our efforts, including

their enthusiastic participation in this important research on air pollution," said Eric Larson, ACT's found-

ing principal investigator and a senior investigator at KPWHRI. Once a patient with dementia was identified, researchers compared the average pollution exposure of each participant leading up to the age at which the dementia patient was diagnosed. For instance, if a person was diagnosed with dementia at 72 years old, the researchers compared the pollution exposure of other participants over the decade prior to when each one reached 72. In these analyses, the researchers also had to account for the different years in which these individuals were enrolled in the study, since air pollution has dropped dramatically in the decades since the ACT study began. In their final analysis, the researchers found that just a one microgram per cubic meter difference between residences was associated with 16 per cent higher incidence of dementia. To put that difference into perspective, Shaffer said, in 2019 there was

approximately one microgram per cubic meter difference in PM2.5 pollution between Pike Street Market in downtown Seattle and the residential areas around Discovery Park. "We know dementia develops over a long period of time. It takes years -- even decades -- for these pathologies to develop in the brain, and so we needed to look at exposures that covered that extended period," Shaffer said. And, because of long-running efforts by many UW faculty and others to build detailed databases of air pollution in our region, "we had the ability to estimate exposures for 40 years in this region. That is unprecedented in this research area and a unique aspect of our study." In addition to extensive air pollution and dementia data for the region, other study strengths included lengthy address histories and high-quality procedures for dementia diagnoses for the ACT Study participants.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LAKE DIVISION NO. 2 ND,S.T.P HAZRATBAL, J&K LAKES AND WATERWAYS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SRINAGAR.

(Phone and Fax No.0194-414194)
Email:executiveengineerlakedivision2@yahoo.com
departmental website: www.jklda.org

Gist of NIT No. LD-II/ 12 of 2021-22 (c)

For and behalf of the Lt. Governor of the Jammu and Kashmir U/T, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from registered PWD/CPWD/MES contractors for following work/s as per below mentioned terms and conditions:-

S.No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs.)	Class of contract	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rupees)	Time of completion
1	Introduction manholes at various spots of Ishber Guptganga and Habak Shanpora	858337.00	C&D	600.00	60 days
2.	Introduction of manholes in sewer at various spots of brain area/ Pahloo Genie Mohalla Nishat Area.	655056.00	C&D	500.00	45 days
3	Construction of sub lateral sewer line at Habak Homehair for Government Higher secondary school and vicinity households.	633101.00	C&D	500.00	45 days
4	Construction of lateral sewer/ secondary Sewer line at upper Danpora Brien.	537587.00	C&D	400.00	30 days
5	Raising of manholes/ clearance of sewer manholes around Habak Shanpora at various spots/ Mohallas	77358.00	DEE	100.00	20 days

Online Bidding schedule:-

01.	Date of publication of tender notice.	06.08.2021 : 10.00 AM
02.	Start date of down loading of bid documents.	07.08.2021 : 10.00 AM
03.	Bid submission start date	07.08.2021 : 11.00 AM
04.	Bid submission end date	30.08.2021 : 04.00 P.M
05.	Date and time of opening of bids on line.	31.08.2021 : 02.00 P.M
06.	Tender inviting authority.	Executive Engineer Lake Div.2nd J&K LWDA STP Hazratbal
07.	Tender Receiving/ Opening Authority.	
08.	Tender fee to be deposited in Bank A/C No. mentioned below.	Tender fee to be deposited into account No: CDG/01850102000003, JK Bank Upper Sathu through E-Challan/Treasury receipt/ Pay in slip. Note: NIT No. and S.No. of the work shall be mentioned on paying slip while depositing the fee. The fee must be deposited between publishing date of NIT and bid submission end date. No before or after-wards shall be entertained.

No: LD-II/1234-1260
Dated: 06.08.2021

DIPK-NB-2385/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Lake Division 2nd

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my 10th pass marks certificate Now I have apply for duplicate Marks Certificate with my correct name as Mohmad Hayat Hajam S/O Ab Ahad Hajam R/o Jalal Abad Sopore . I fanybody having any objection int this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the IGNOU CENTRE Maidan Garhi , New Delhi within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Mohmad Hayat Hajam
S/O Ab Ahad Hajam
R/o Jalal Abad Sopore**

gms

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Zaffar Ahamd Trambo S/o Haji Sonaulah R/o Vill No 7 BL-III Fros loar Suraj kund Faridabad (Transferor) of Aupi bearing registration No. HRSI AV- 6667 chasis No: 000282 Engine No: 112140 Model 2013 in favour of Khalid Khan S/O Hamidullah Khan R/o HNO 5 Khan Enclave Baghat Barzulla Opposite Hadika Complex Sriangar (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period. NOJK-RTOK 5470
Dated: 07/08/2021
p-ko

Sd/-

Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

District Employment & Counseling Center, Kulgam

Email id : decckulgam@gmail.com

Phone No: 01931295512

Subject: Registration under TEJASWINI-THE RADIANT Scheme

Public Notice

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, through the District Employment & Counseling Center, Kulgam, is inviting applications for registration under the TEJASWINI-THE RADIANT Scheme. The scheme is aimed at providing employment opportunities to the youth of the district. The registration process is open for a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The interested candidates are required to fill up the registration form and submit it to the District Employment & Counseling Center, Kulgam. The registration fee is Rs. 1000/- per candidate. The successful candidates will be eligible for employment under the scheme. The details of the scheme are given below:

- The scheme is aimed at providing employment opportunities to the youth of the district.
- The registration process is open for a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
- The interested candidates are required to fill up the registration form and submit it to the District Employment & Counseling Center, Kulgam.
- The registration fee is Rs. 1000/- per candidate.
- The successful candidates will be eligible for employment under the scheme.
- The details of the scheme are given below:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt. In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Construction of Ward robes and other allied Works in Various Govt. Quarters at Bernina Srinagar. (215-K, 153-L, 65-F, 68-F, 83-G, 115P, 117-P)	4.73 lacs	200/-	25 Days	DEE	4059-Plan

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06.08.2021 from 3.00 PM.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.08.2021 from 3.00 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	06.08.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17.08.2021 upto 3.05 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. 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 acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

8. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

9. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

DIPK-6121/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/3370-80/2021-22 /T-1
Dated: - 05-08-2021

Application Form for Livelihood Generation Programme for Young Women- **TAJESWANI**

Application ID:.....

Photo

S.No.	Particulars	
1.	Name of the applicant	
2.	Father's/Husband's name	
3.	Age in Years (as on 1 st Jan 2021)	
4.	Permanent Address (Complete Address with District)	
5.	Communication Address	
6.	Landline/Mobile No	
7.	Social Category (Tick the relevant one)	Gen ST SC OBC PHC Others
8.	Highest Qualification	
9.	Whether undergone Entrepreneurship Development Program	Yes
10.	Name & Address of Training	
11.	Nature of Business (Tick the relevant one)	Existing New
13.	Proposed Activity	
14.	Address of Proposed Unit	
15.	Estimated Project Cost in Rs.	
16.	Proposed Bank Branch Name & Address	

I certify that all information furnished by me is true, and that I and any of my dependent have not borrowed any money under any Subsidy Linked Scheme of Government of J&K / GoI or Bank for establishing any such project.

Date: _____ **Signature of the applicant**

(OFFICE USE ONLY)
Application Id No. _____ dated along with other relevant documents received by this office with the following remarks:

Accepted Rejected Returned for updation

Signature of the Dealing Assistant

Pic by Abid Bhat



Devotees seek blessings in Hazratbal Shrine as the head priest (not in the picture) displays the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on the occasion of Urs of Hazrat Umar (RA).

LG Flags Off 'Run For Polythene-Free Srinagar' & 'Pedal For Dal'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday flagged off two sporting events in Srinagar in a run-up to J&K Administration's Independence Day celebrations.

The first to be flagged off event 'Run for Polythene-Free Srinagar' witnessed more than 600 participants including students, sportspersons and people from different walks of life, according to an official statement.

The LG flagged off the event from iconic Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk. The participants passed through various areas of the city "to generate awareness against the use of polythene with a prime objective to make Srinagar a polythene-free zone".

"The path-breaking initiative is aimed at making cleaner streets, lakes, and communities to bring better environmental sustainability in the UT," the LG said in his address.

The other event of the day was a Department of Youth Sports and Services (DYSS) organised



cyclotron event, 'Pedal For Dal'. The event witnessed participation of more than 200 boys and girls from different age groups, along with professional cyclists.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG said that the young generation has a huge responsibility to ensure peace, prosperity and unity of the nation.

"A large number of youth par-

ticipating in the events commemorating the historical occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence will send a message across the world that J&K has ushered into the era of sustained peace and progress," he added.

"Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, H&UDD; Pandurang K. Pole,

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; besides Er Aijaz Hussain, DDC member; senior officers of Civil & Police Administration and large number of prominent citizens were present on the occasions," added the statement.

Mirwaiz Pays Tributes To Second Caliph Hazrat Umar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir's head priest and Hurriyat Conference chairperson Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Saturday paid glowing tributes to the Rightly Guided Second Caliph of Islam, Ameer-ul-Moomineen Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) on his martyrdom anniversary.

Mirwaiz paid tributes to Hazrat Umar (RA) for his glorious and unparalleled services to Islam, his conquests and his immense sacrifices and tireless efforts for the Islamic movement.

"This fearless, strong and the just leader of Islam, during his golden period, brought justice, fairness, freedom, equality, religious tolerance and humanity to the world, Mirwaiz said, adding that in addition to popularising Islamic and universal principles of serving the people, Hazrat Umar Farooq's (RA) contribution in preaching and propagating the message of Islam is unparalleled and historic and they remain a beacon of light until the Day of Judgement."

Mirwaiz termed the invaluable deeds and benevolence of the Rightly Guided Caliph (RA) as immortal and unforgettable at every level and in every respect.

At this stage, Mirwaiz said the life and teachings of Ameer-ul-Moomineen Hazrat Farooq-e-Azam (RA) is ideal for Muslims, and termed his high teachings, principles and etiquette of governance as a beacon for the present rulers and nobles all over the world.

"There is a dire need to follow the instructions of Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) in our lives," Mirwaiz said.

AAC Condolences Demise Of Party Leader Sheikh Ghulam Hassan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee (AAC) has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of a senior leader Haji Sheikh Ghulam Hassan, who was the former president of the organisation's Nowshera constituency of Srinagar.

Sheikh Ghulam Hassan passed away at the age of 85 on Friday night. He devoted his lifetime to the Awami Action Committee, the movement and the Mirwaiz Family.

AAC in a statement paid rich trib-

ute to Hassan for his selfless political services and sacrifices over the past six decades and his positive activities in spreading the organisation's programmes in his area.

Highly appreciating his services, the AAC said that Sheikh Ghulam Hassan started his political activities as a young activist in the Muslim Conference led by Muhajir-e-Millat Mufassir-e-Quran Mirwaiz Moulana Muhammad Yusuf Shah (RA).

Haji Sheikh Ghulam Hassan joined the Awami Action Committee when it was founded by the

Shaheed-e-Millat Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq (RA) after the migration of the Muhajir-e-Millat (RA), the statement said.

The deceased, despite his old age, remained active till his last breath with the current head of the organisation Mirwaiz Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq and set an example for the leaders and workers of the AAC by his morals, character and abilities, it said.

The Awami Action Committee Chairman Mirwaiz Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq, who could not attend the funeral prayers of the

late Sheikh Sahib due to continued house detention, termed the sacrifices made by the deceased for the organisation and the movement as "unparalleled in every respect".

Mirwaiz expressed heartfelt condolence and sympathy with the deceased's sons - Sheikh Shabbir Ahmed and Sheikh Farooq Ahmed, and younger brother Sheikh Bashir Shakir. Terming the demise of Sheikh Sahib as a great loss to the organisation and leadership, Mirwaiz prayed for patience of the bereaved family.

Div Com Kashmir Flags-off Run For Athletes



SRINAGAR: Celebrating Independence Day Sports Week- 2021, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir today flagged-off 5 kilometre short run for athletes today at Gupkar Road near Police Golf Course in Srinagar.

As many as 200 athletes participated in the run which culminated at TRC Turf Field.

The run was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council as part of Independence Day celebration Sports Week- 2021.

Div Com who interacted with many athletes on the occasion laid emphasis on sports promotion and involving youths on different sports activities.

He appealed to youth to play sports to stay fit, healthy and stay away from drugs. Among others, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, Sports Officer Kashmir, Nuzhat Ara, Sports Officer Central, Nusrat Gazala all coaches and a good number of parents were also present on the occasion.

SDA Seals Structure In Nowgam

SRINAGAR: In continuation to its ongoing demolition drive, the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) today sealed one structure/ building carried out in violation/deviation of Building permission at Nowgam Bye-pass, here.

The sealing drive was successfully executed under the direction of Vice Chairman, SDA



Dr. Bashir Ahmad Lone.

Meanwhile, it was informed that the general public is hereby advised not to indulge in any

illegal/unauthorized construction whether residential or commercial without obtaining proper building permission from SDA.

Further, any structure raised without obtaining building permission/land use or deviations of building permission shall be directly sealed/demolished as per the provisions of COBA Act 1988.

Swimming Competition Held At Nigeen, Dir Tourism Distributes Prizes

SRINAGAR: A swimming competition organised by Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir in collaboration with some local NGOs at Nigeen Sports Center concluded here today. More than 100 children including girls from various areas of Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Ganderbal participated in the event. Events held during the event included one km Long

distance, 50 mts freestyle, 100mts freestyle, Water Rescue, CPR training, Boating etc. Director, Tourism Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo was the chief guest on the occasion who gave away prizes among the winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Itoo said the idea of holding the swimming competition is to hone the adventure talent among the children so that they are able

to beat the stagnation crept in among them out of the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the Department has been conducting such events to further widen the scope of adventure tourism in Kashmir and attract more and more adventure tourists. He said already trekking and other mountain activities have been getting attraction among the tourists which is set to give tourism here a big boost.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

28
ZIL HAJ
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
4:12
ZUHR
12: 37
ASR
5:28
MAGRIB
7:30
ISHA
9:01

This Day in History

- 1983 - Military coup in Guatemala, Dictator and former General Efraín Ríos Montt flees
- 1984 - Future 5-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts of New Zealand wins the Finn Class sailing gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics
- 1985 - Japan launches Planet A, a probe to Halley's comet
- 1986 - Altaf Hussain's address at Nishtar Park Karachi, announcing the establishment of the MQM political movement.
- 1988 - Angola, Cuba & South Africa sign cease fire treaty
- 1988 - Discovery of most distant galaxy (15 * 10 ^ 12 light yrs) announced
- 1988 - Russian troops begin pull out of Afghanistan after 9 year war
- 1988 - Ceasefire between Iran & Iraq takes effect after 8 years of war
- 1989 - US space shuttle STS-28 launched
- 1989 - New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange resigns after 5 years on a no confidence issue
- 1990 - Iraq annexes Kuwait as its 19th province

From KO Archives

Concern Grows Over Fragile Talks As Deadline Nears

Hizb threatens to 'Stun' India

Agence France Presse

Islamabad: Hizbul Mujahideen today threatened to "stun" India if it fails to agree to unconditional three-way talks with Pakistan ahead of Wednesday's ceasefire deadline.

Hizb supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, in a letter to diplomats here Monday, accused India of dodging the group's central demand for peace talks involving Pakistan and pleaded for foreign help to "give peace a chance".

He also said other mujahideen groups which are still fighting Indian rule in Kashmir could be "convinced" to make peace if India agreed to allow Pakistan a seat at the proposed talks.

"Let the world community decide by itself who is laying the impediments,"

Salahuddin wrote in the letter, a copy of which was sent to AFP.

"We are still in a position to continue our targeted com-bat missions and stun India but we kept our guns silent temporarily (to wait for) a proper response."

CONCERN OVER FRAGILE TALKS

Meanwhile, concern grew Monday over the future of fragile peace talks in Kashmir, as the Indian government and the Hizb struggled to find a common framework for dialogue.

The two sides held an initial round of discussions here on Thursday, agreeing to set up negotiating teams for further talks on cementing a formal ceasefire.

Since then, however, the Hizbul Mujahideen militant outfit has accused Indian security forces of violating the current temporary ceasefire, and reiterated a Tuesday deadline for India to agree to tripartite talks outside the framework of the Indian constitution.

TALKS UNCONDITIONAL, BUT...

New Delhi, meanwhile has been sending mixed signals over the crucial issue of whether the talks will be held within the framework of the Indian constitution, which rules out Kashmir's secession from India.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee failed to clarify the issue on Monday when he told parliament that there were "no conditions" for the talks, but then added that any agreement would be bound by the constitution. "While the talks with the Hizbul Mujahideen are unconditional, no decision will be taken outside the constitution," Vajpayee said. The Hizb leadership has insisted that "unconditional" should mean without any constitutional constraints. Vajpayee's latest formulation was an apparent attempt to balance the militant demand that the talk; can cover any issue including secession against political pressure not to compromise on the constitution. The prime minister had art to signal a move in the government's stance last week when he argued that the main touchstone for peace talks should not be the constitution but "insaniyat (humanity)". On the question of a Pakistan role in the dialogue, Vajpayee reiterated Monday that Islamabad could not take part so long as it sponsored militant groups fighting in Indian Kashmir. "We have always main we are willing for talks, for warmer relations, but first we need an environment for these talks to take place. He reiterated that Islamabad could not take part as long as it continued to sponsor the Muslim separatist groups which have waged a bloody rebellion in the Indian zone of divided Himalayan territory since 1989. "We have reached out several times to Pakistan and been betrayed," Vajpayee said.

Hizbul Mujahideen Syed Salahuddin has set the deadline of 5 p.m. on Wednesday for India to sit for three-way talks to resolve the dispute. After the initial optimism, that followed Thursday's first round of mood in Srinagar has more muted

(Kashmir Observer, August 08, 2000)

Taliban parade US Humvees, arms after capturing provincial capital



Taliban militants are seen after seizing Zaranj, the capital of Afghanistan's Nimroz Province, on August 6, 2021. (Photo via RT)

Agencies

Numerous videos have emerged showing American-made military vehicles and equipment used by the Taliban in the newly-captured southwestern Afghan province of Nimroz as the militant group ramps up offensives to seize further territory across the conflict-ridden country.

Video footage shared on Twitter and other social media networks on Friday displayed the Taliban militants making victory laps in US-made Humvees after seizing the city of Zaranj in Nimroz Province, the first regional capital to fall to the group in months-long clashes with the Afghan government forces.

Multiple videos circulating online also showed the aftermath of the assault on the southwestern Afghan province, including Humvees flying the Taliban's flag and the militants in possession of US weaponry.

In a post on Twitter, a user employed upper-case letters to

blast Taliban riding in US-manufactured Humvees in Zaranj, saying, "THE TALIBAN WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER FOR THEIR RECENT LARGE DONATION OF HUMVEE VEHICLES."

Other footage showed a deserted airfield in Zaranj, where American forces once had a presence, apparently abandoned by the Afghan government troops during the Taliban invasion.

The Afghan videos shared on twitter were reminiscent of past memories relating to the members of the Daesh terrorist group that used American-made military equipment and weaponry in Iraq to perpetrate their barbaric crimes against Iraqi civilians.

Various reports indicated that the US-led coalition forces assisted the terrorist outfit in their brutal campaign and provided Daesh with safe havens and airdropped weapons to the terrorists.

Violence has been surging

across Afghanistan amid the withdrawal of US-led foreign forces from the country. The 2001 invasion of Afghanistan ousted the Taliban from power, but it worsened the security situation in the country.

Several provincial capitals have been encircled by the Taliban, and heavy fighting has been going on for days in the capitals of Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south, and in the city of Herat in the west.

The Taliban militants are believed to be in control of about half of Afghanistan's roughly 400 districts.

The United Nations (UN) warned this week about the safety of tens of thousands of people trapped in the strategic city of Lashkar Gah — the capital of southern Helmand Province — as the Taliban intensified clashes with Afghan military forces to take control, there.

The government has pledged to defend strategic centers after losing many rural districts to the Taliban in recent months.

Afghan war enters new, deadlier, more destructive phase: UN envoy

Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's special representative for Afghanistan, has said that the war in the country has "entered a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase" in the past few weeks as the Taliban is continuing its relentless battles against government forces. In a special briefing to the UN Security Council on Friday, Lyons said: "In the past weeks, the war in Afghanistan has entered a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase. The Taliban campaign during June and July to capture rural areas has achieved significant territorial gains.

"From this strengthened position they have begun to attack the larger cities. The provincial capitals of Kandahar, Herat, and Lashkar Gah in particular have come under significant pressure.

"This is a clear attempt by the Taliban to seize urban centres with the force of arms. The human toll of this strategy is extremely distressing and the political message is even more deeply disturbing."

Lyons added that "Afghanistan is now at a dangerous turning point" and what lies ahead for the country is a "genuine peace negotiation or a tragically intertwined set of crises: an increasingly brutal conflict combined with an acute humanitarian situation and multiplying human rights abuses".

She stressed that the Security Council must issue an unambiguous statement that attacks against cities must stop now.

"Those countries that meet with the Taliban Political Commission should insist in these meetings on a general ceasefire, a resumption of the negotiations, as well as reiterate the position of the Security Council and that of the regional and international community that a government imposed by force in Afghanistan will not be recognised.

"As I have already mentioned, the travel ban exemption on Taliban members exists to allow them to travel for the sole purpose of peace negotiations. The exemption is to be renewed on 20 September. Further extension must be predicated on real progress on peace.

"To attack urban areas is to knowingly inflict enormous harm and cause massive civilian casualties. Nonetheless, the threatening of large urban areas appears to be a strategic decision by the Taliban, who have accepted the likely carnage that will ensue," the envoy further said.

According to Lyons, fighting has been especially severe in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province.

Since July 28, just 10 days ago, at least 104 civilians were killed and 403 wounded, as registered by the two main hospitals. Ground engagements and airstrikes are causing most of the civilian harm. All roads leading to and going out of the city are closed by the Taliban., she said

Israeli Jets Bomb Gaza in Response to Fire Balloons

Palestinians say the balloons aim to pressure Israel to ease restrictions on the coastal enclave that were tightened in May.



Agencies

Israeli aircraft bombed Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip on Saturday in response to incendiary balloons launched from the Palestinian enclave, Israel's military said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the attack that targeted what the Israeli military said was a rocket launching site and a compound belonging to Hamas, the political group that governs Gaza. Hamas had no immediate comment. A social media post by New Press publication, showed streaks of lights coming from Gaza, as shots were fired targeting Israeli planes in retaliation of the attack.

New Press also reported that three sites were targeted by Israel including Beit Hanoun and Jabalya.

Since a May 21 ceasefire ended 11 days of Israel-Hamas fighting, Palestinians in Gaza have sporadically launched balloons

laden with incendiary material across the border, causing fires that have burned fields in Israel.

The incendiary balloons have been used previously in response to the tightening of Israel's blockade on the coastal enclave, after new restrictions were issued during Israel's bombardment of Gaza in May.

Balloon launches had mostly ebbed after Israel eased some restrictions on Gaza.

But on Friday, balloons were again launched from Gaza, causing at least four brush fires in areas near the Israel-Gaza frontier.

The Israeli military said its air raids were in "response to continual launches of incendiary balloons from Gaza into Israel throughout the day".

The blazes along the Gaza frontier broke out on Friday as Israel separately traded fire over its northern border with Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah, in a third day of cross-border salvos amid wider regional tensions with Iran.

Air raids were in "response to continual launches of incendiary balloons from Gaza into Israel throughout the day". Israeli military said...

Unvaccinated People Twice As Likely To Be Reinfected With Covid: US Study

Agencies

Washington: Unvaccinated people are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with Covid-19 as the fully vaccinated, a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday.

The agency said the finding supports its recommendation "that all eligible persons be offered Covid-19 vaccination, regardless of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection status."

Some US politicians, including Senator Rand Paul, have in the past said they do not plan to take a Covid-19 vaccine because of their natural immunity derived from prior infection.

The new study was based on 246 Kentucky adults who were reinfected in May and June this year after previously being infected in 2020.

They were compared with 492 "controls" who were matched by sex, age, and time of initial positive test.



The analysis found that unvaccinated people were 2.34 times as likely to be reinfected compared to people fully vaccinated with the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

The duration of infection-acquired immunity remains poorly understood and may be affected by the emergency of newer variants, the paper said.

For example, laboratory studies have shown that blood samples from people previously infected with the original Wuhan strain had poor antibody responses to the Beta variant first identified in South Africa.

One of the limitations of the study is it was conducted before Delta became the dominant strain in the United States.

17 journalists join RSF's complaint against NSO over Pegasus spyware

Agencies

KARACHI: Seventeen journalists from seven countries who were listed last month as potential or actual victims of Pegasus spyware have filed complaints with prosecutors in Paris against the NSO Group.

Their complaints complement the one Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and two journalists with French-Moroccan dual nationality have already filed on July 20. In addition, the RSF has referred their cases to the United Nations. The organisation had even included NSO Group in its list of "digital predators" last year.

Pegasus is a spyware developed by the NSO Group, an Israeli cyber-arms firm. It can be covertly installed on mobile phones running most versions of iOS and Android.

The 17 journalists — two each from Azerbaijan and Hungary, five each from India and Mexico, and one each from Morocco, Spain and Togo — were among the nearly 200 journalists on

a list of persons identified last month by the Pegasus Project investigation as potential targets or actual victims of clandestine surveillance by NSO



Group's Pegasus spyware.

The plaintiffs know, or have serious grounds, for fearing that they were spied on by their governments for having carried out

independent reporting in public interest. A number of the plaintiffs have been facing verbal attacks by their governments for years. Among them are Moroc-

co's Hicham Mansouri and India's Swati Chaturvedi, who was

awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize for Courage in 2018.

The RSF referred her case to

the UN the same year.

Some were even spied on by foreign governments. They include Spain's Ignacio Cembrero, who was almost certainly the victim of surveillance by the government of Morocco.

"No doubts must remain" "The complaints filed by these journalists, who are from every continent, confirm the scale of the surveillance carried out with NSO Group's Pegasus spyware," RSF spokesperson Pauline Adès-Mével said.

"The investigation should identify all those involved, whether company executives or senior government officials in the countries concerned. In the face of a scandal so fraught with consequences for press freedom, no doubts must remain. The veil must be lifted completely and justice must be done."

The RSF has referred the cases of these 17 journalists to four UN special rapporteurs, asking them to seek explanations from the governments suspected of using Pegasus to spy on journalists.

US makes five additions to global terrorist list

The designations also expose to possible US sanctions individuals or foreign financial institutions who engage in certain transactions with the five. The State Department on Friday announced the addition of five alleged Islamist militants to its Specially Designated Global Terrorist list, requiring the blocking of any ownership or interests in US properties they hold.

The designations also expose to possible US sanctions individuals or foreign financial institutions who engage in certain transactions with the five.

They include Bonomade Machude Omar, the senior military commander of Islamic State's affiliate in Mozambique, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. Omar led a group of extremists who killed dozens of people in an attack on the Amarula Hotel in the town of Palma in March, Blinken said.

He also is responsible for attacks elsewhere in Mozambique and in Tanzania, Blinken said. Sidang Hitta and Salem Ould al-Hasan, senior leaders of Mali-based al Qaeda-linked Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, also were designated, as were Ali Mohamed Rage and Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, leaders of the al Shabaab group of Somalia, Blinken said.

99-year-old woman modelling for granddaughter's beauty products wins hearts



This 99-year-old great-grandmother's charm has captivated one and all and the social media is all gaga admiring her. California-based Helene Simon recently modelled for Saie Beauty, a beauty brand run by her granddaughter Laney Crowell.

Talking to the People magazine, Simon, also called Nanna, admitted that she had second thoughts about it initially as she thought she was no competition for other beautiful models. However, Crowell didn't give up on the idea that was proposed to her by one of brand's followers.

Nanna, who has six kids, 11 grandkids and six great-grandkids eventually agreed for the shoot. Talking about how difficult it was to convince Nanna, Crowell told the magazine that Nanna eventually changed her mind after the granddaughter found the photographer who had clicked Nanna's favourite basketball player,

Steph Curry and described it as the tipping point. Starring in Saie's "Keep Glowing" shoot, Nanna is winning hearts all over the world and also believed to be one of the oldest makeup models. In the brand's recent post with caption, "Nanna in the spotlight," Simon is posing with a flower, followed by interview bites with the People magazine. Nanna described the shooting experience as fun while being surrounded by family and friends who made her laugh throughout.

20 People Arrested, Case Against 150 Others Over Attack On Hindu Temple In Pakistan

Agencies

Lahore: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province on Saturday said they have arrested 20 people and booked over 150 others for their alleged involve-

ment in an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town of the country, a day after the Supreme Court admonished the authorities for their failure to protect the shrine.



ment in an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town of the country, a day after the Supreme Court admonished the authorities for their failure to protect the shrine.

A mob attacked the Ganesh temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district of the province, some

suspects allegedly involved in attacking the temple in Bhong," District Police Officer (DPO) of Rahim Yar Khan Asad Sarfraz told reporters.

He said more arrests are expected in the coming days as police are identifying the suspects through video footage.

An FIR has been registered under terrorism and other sections of the Pakistan Penal Code against over 150 for their involvement in attacking the temple, he said.

"We will arrest every suspect involved in this crime. On the order of the top court, restoration work of the temple has been started," he said.

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday pulled up authorities for failing to stop the attack and ordered the arrest of the culprits, observing that the incident has tarnished the image of the country abroad.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed said that vandalism at the temple had brought shame to the country as police acted like silent spectators.

The Chief Justice wondered at the arrest of the eight-year-old boy and asked whether police were incapable of understanding the mental capacity of the minors.

The hearing in the case has been adjourned till August 13.

Pakistan's Parliament on Friday condemned the temple attack. The

National Assembly passed a unanimous resolution condemning the attack. It was moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Mohammad Khan.

"This House strongly condemns the ransacking of the temple," the resolution stated.

"The Constitution of Pakistan provides complete protection to the rights of minorities and this House also affirms that the rights of minorities and their places of worship will be fully protected. The whole nation and government are united on this point," it said.

It said that the House "reassures the Hindu community and Pakistan Hindu Council of their safety."

India on Thursday summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in New Delhi and lodged a firm protest, expressing grave concerns at this reprehensible incident and the continued attacks on the freedom of religion of the minority communities and their places of religious worship in Pakistan.

LG Applauds Kulgam Boy For Suggesting Measures To Check Spurious Pesticides

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In his recently concluded episode of public outreach programme 'Awaam ki Awaaz' Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha applauded Abdul Shakoor Nengroo, a local lad from Kulgam for suggesting measures to curb the availability of poor quality pesticides in markets of J&K.

The LG has praised the boy for his concern and acumen in propounding the measures to check the quality of these chemicals. The boy had further offered the action plan for making good quality pesticides/fungicides available to farmers in the market.

Shakoor suggests that most orchardists do not have any knowledge of the means to gauge the quality of pesticides/fungicides to be used in their orchards. He says that while buying pesticides and fungicides farmers do not know if it is listed or not due to lack of knowledge and awareness which has an ill

impact on his crop.

He claims that due to limited pesticide testing facilities and huge price variations the scenario has become frustrating for a common farmer.

Shakoor has suggested that the horticulture department should take the charge of distributing or selling the pesticides to farmers which will have benefits for the farmers. He says that it will check availability of substandard pesticides in the market.

He further assures that this would also check that no price variations takes place as department will fix the rate and would publish the same at the start of the season (in March). He is hopeful that it will eliminate the proxy sellers like fruit commission agents who do not possess expertise of the trade.

Shakoor is grateful that his suggestions has been considered by the LG of J&K himself and is sure that it would definitely have positive impact on the ground.

X-Ray Machine Defunct At PHC Gund

Agencies

Ganderbal: The X-ray machine at Trauma Care Centre at Gund Kangan in Ganderbal is defunct for the last three months due to which patients are facing huge inconvenience.

"We have to turn patients to Kangan or other hospitals for X-rays, which not only wastes patients' time but also makes it difficult for doctors to treat the patients," the locals alleged.

The Primary Health Center (PHC) Gund was upgraded to trauma care centre last year.

Riyaz Ahmad, a local said that PHC Gund did not have the facilities that a Trauma Care Centre is supposed to have.

"More doctors have been deployed here and people are now hoping for better medical facilities but three months ago the X-ray machine in the hospital got damaged due to which patients now have to undergo X-ray at Kangan or Ganderbal," he said adding that as a result of which not only the patients and attendants are facing difficulties but doctors are also facing inconvenience in treating patients.

The locals threatened that if a new X-ray machine is not installed in the hospital within two days, they will be forced to take to the streets to protest against the health department and all the responsibility will lie on the department.

Hospital sources said that there is also shortage of medicines in the hospital due to which patients often have to buy medicines from the market at high prices.

Tourism Dept Holds Capacity Building Programme For Pahalgam Stakeholders

Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: The Department of Tourism held a training session for various stakeholders on Saturday.

During the training, expert from University of Kashmir, Dr. Shah Nawaz dwelt in detail about the protocols and precautions to be exercised while conducting tourism business.

He impressed upon the stakeholders to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time in this regard and help build the confidence among tourists visiting the place.

The training is expected to increase the awareness level among the tourism stakeholders at all the tourist destinations. It would not only help in picking up of the tourism here but would also secure all of them including the guests from this deadly virus.

The capacity-building programme, it may be recalled, is an ongoing exercise to be replicated at other tourist destinations in the days to come. The said exercise is going to inculcate the necessary encouragement among both the tourists and service providers to start their activities afresh.

Senior officers of Tourism Department were also present on the occasion.

The Tourism department has already inoculated more than 95% of registered tourism players including hoteliers, service providers, horsemen, shopkeepers, and others with the covid vaccine.

All these measures are set to infuse new lease of life in the tourism business and help all of the tourism-related tradesmen to bring their business back on track in the ensuing tourist season post ebbing of the pandemic.

'Anantnag District Making Significant Development At Grassroots Level'

ANANTNAG: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla Saturday said that the district is making significant development at grassroots level with active involvement of the PRLs and other elected public representatives.

He said that more than 277 Panchayat works will be inaugurated besides foundation will be laid for 215 new works from 09th of this month upto the Independence Day.

The DDC said this while taking a comprehensive review of the activi-

ties being taken in the district in run up to the 75th Independence Day Celebrations besides the progress made by the district in Mission Youth, Forest Rights Act, Vaccination, District Capex, Back to Village, construction of toilets along Yatra Route, PMJAY- Sehat, 100 percent water supply to Schools, AWCs and Health institutions, JJM, public grievance resolution and other thrust areas.

host of activities like Safai Abhiyan, Covid Awareness programmes, inauguration of completed works and laying foundation for new works by PRLs during the next week.

Directing the concerned officers to make coordinated efforts for smooth implementation of Mission Youth programme, the DDC said that Youth clubs, playfields and self employment schemes and various other key initiatives of the government will empower the youth of the district.

Directions were passed to the



Calling these sectors as top priorities of administration, the DDC impressed upon the officers to expedite the ongoing work so that desirable results are achieved in a time bound manner. The DDC called for taking a

concerned officers to compile and forward the claims received under Forest Rights Act so that the genuine claimants are conferred with the forest rights in a time bound manner. Reviewing the status of toilets on Yatra Routes, the DDC directed for working in mission mode for installing the public utilities at important locations.

Dr. Singla issued instructions for 100 percent provision of water connections to AWCs and schools in near future. The concerned were also directed to resolve the issues being faced in this regard.

Taking stock of B2V works, the DDC

Ashmuqam Residents Rue Shortage Of Drinking Water

Agencies

Anantnag: The residents of Grendwan village in Ashmuqam hamlet of South Kashmir's Anantnag district are up in arms against the Jal Shakti department for failing to provide drinking water to the area.

Locals said that the tall claims of the government that they are providing all basic facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir are proving hoax on ground as in 21st century Grendwan residents are yet to get potable water supply.

"Eleven years before a tube well meant to provide drinking water to the area was constructed but it was functional for just 15 days and residents continue to face water crisis," said Aijaz Ahmad a local resident.

He said that despite spending lakhs of rupees on the tube well,

the people of the area are longing for a single drop of water.

Locals demanded that the matter must be investigated that after spending lakhs of rupees why the well was left defunct just after 15 days and erring officials must be taken to task.

"Our women folk have to go by foot for over one kilometer to bring water from a nearby stream which is highly contaminated," they said.

Locals said they have brought the issue in notice of concerned authorities' up to 100 times but to no avail.

"We were assured by the concerned officials several times but their assurances on ground have proved a hoax," they said. "We once again request higher ups to look into the matter at an earliest so that locals can heave a sigh of relief."

Div Com Emphasises On Aggressive Vaccination In 18-44 Years Age Group

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday chaired a meeting to take stock of progress of Covid-19 vaccination drive in Kashmir division. The meeting was attended by Director HS Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather along with Incharge and various senior level officers of Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir (DCCRK). The Div Com appreciated the efforts put in by all the DCs in achieving the nearly 100 percent target of vaccination; age group of 45 years and above. At the same time he also directed the District Administrations of all districts to pace up the vaccination coverage in the 18-44 years of age group on a war footing. He also stressed upon further augmentation in their efforts by involving all the line departments in their districts in order to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage of this age group by the end of this month in order to reduce the risk of transmission of this dreadful virus.

exhorted for completing the tendering and allotment process so that they are completed within stipulated time frame. Since there are many works identified in each Panchayat, their completion is pivotal for overall development and welfare of rural areas, he remarked.

Stress was also laid for preparing the remaining estimates under District Capex and monitoring the execution of those works on ground besides enhancing the speed of work in Linguishing Projects.

Regarding public grievance resolution, Dr. Singla enjoined upon the officers to promptly send factual replies, responses and action taken reports on all grievances.

Health authorities were directed to expedite pace of registrations under PMJAY_Sehat besides intensifying vaccination drives for both 18-44 and above 45 categories.

Instructions were also passed to enforce CAB at all places so that the 3rd Covid wave is averted.

The meeting was informed about 85 percent that is more than 3000 works under District Capex have been estimated and accorded with more than 50 percent funds released to the executing agencies for those works so far. Besides, more than 1050 works under B2V have been accorded, out of which more than 170 are under execution. Further the district capex budget has been enhanced 3 times to more than 885 crore this year and works in multiple sectors are being taken across the district.

During the proceedings, threadbare discussions were held to work out practicable ways and modalities for achieving palpable progress on these vital sectors and initiatives.

I-Day Arrangements...

Focus On Programmes Involving Youth: LG's Adv Directs Officers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, Saturday convened an officers' meeting regarding activities in the run-up to Independence Day celebrations and flag hoisting ceremony.

Advisor while discussing various arrangements like flag hoisting, cultural programmes, security arrangements, traffic plan, sanitation, sports activities, medicare, illumination, distribution of scholarships, inauguration and foundation stone laying of various projects, assigned responsibilities to various departments with directions to the HoDs for undertaking their responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

Advisor directed all the Deputy Commissioners for strict follow up action regarding the activities being conducted by all the departments on the day. He asked the officers to prepare a booklet of activities highlighting each activity in detail with

Rs 30 Cr Scholarship Outlay For Tribal Students, Pending Backlog Cleared

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated steps for strengthening the support to education of tribal students. In line with an announcement made by Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha for effective steps aimed at welfare of tribal population in J&K, the Tribal Affairs Department has approved the highest ever outlay of Rs 30 Cr scholarship for tribal students in the current financial year. This year scholarship will be provided to 42,000 more students above previous years target.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that education of tribal students is a top priority of J&K Government and with keen interest of Lieutenant Governor Sh Manoj Sinha the department has received highest ever scholarship outlay of more than Rs. 30 Cr to support the students at Post-Graduate, Graduate, Post-Matric and Pre-matric level. This also includes many cases of the previous two years pending due to various reasons. The department has made an immediate release of Rs 6.22 Cr to cover 4622 students for 2020-21 scholarship.

The outlay of scholarship includes Rs 770.91 Lakh for 6561 post-matric students, 386.40 Lakh for 12868 Pre-matric students of class IX and X, and Rs 1800.00 Lakh for 2.15 Lakh students studying in class 1 to 8th. The department has also cleared an amount of Rs 90.75 Lakh in favour of 964 students whose scholarship for

the year 2019-20 was pending due to lack of required authentication. The department has also cleared an amount of Rs 761.50 Lakh in favour of 4776 students for the year 2019-20 which was pending due to various reasons. With inclusion of backlog clearance the department will be disbursing an amount of Rs 38 Cr.

Dr Shahid added that the scholarship plan was actively supported by Advisor Sh Farooq Khan and Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta sanctioned the budget enabling the department for release of funds. He also expressed gratitude to Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India Sh A K Jha for unparalleled support to J&K Tribal Affairs Department for clearing backlog of scholarship and new budget.

Director Tribal Affairs, Mushir Ahmed Mirza has initiated the scholarship disbursement through Direct Benefit Transfer in favour of students, with backlog of 2019-20 and 2020-21 as first priority. Financial Advisor and CAO Sadiq Ali formulated the budget estimates and facilitated timely clearances for release of funds. The Finance Department of J&K Govt ensured timely release of pending funds and also new budget for current year in a very short time.

The annual budget of 2021-22 will benefit 6561 students in post-matric compared to 4622 in previous year, 12,868 students in Class 9 and 10 compared to 2506 in 2020-21 and 2,15,864 students in class 1 to 8 compared to 1,73,100 students in 2020-21.

the meticulous micro-planning done so that same is rolled out at various locations on the dates as earmarked for each activity.

Advisor said programmes in-

ing beautification of river banks, parks, roads and other installations. He also directed the Director Urban Local Bodies to organize cleanliness drives across all the



volving youth should be given special focus. He asked the Director Tourism to organise Shikara rally as part of the celebrations.

He asked the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to display hoardings, bill boards at important locations signifying and highlighting activities of various departments. He also asked them to conduct cleanliness drives besides ensur-

districts besides asking the officers to launch sanitation and cleanliness drives by involving community members.

He instructed the Director Information to highlight all the activities being organized during the national event besides ensuring proper media coverage and working out a list of special activities for the Independence Day.

Training Programme On 'Criminal Justice System' Organised

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Under the supervision of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief J&K Judicial Academy) and guidance of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chairman, Governing Committee of J&K Judicial Academy, the Judicial Academy today organized one day training programme on "Criminal Justice System with stress on role of prosecutor, sensitization towards victims of sexual violence with need for reforms in investigation process, in order to meet expectations of accused, victim and society" for Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers of Kashmir division.

S D Singh Jamwal, Director, Police Academy, Udhampur and Nisar Hussain Draboo, Director Prosecution, Kashmir were Resource Persons and the participating officers.

Director, Judicial Academy gave an overview of the programme and emphasized that foundation for the criminal justice system is fair investigation by the police and efficient prosecutor. Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in his inaugural address said that foundation of Criminal Justice system in India is based on four main pillars including Police, Prosecution, Prison and Judiciary besides correctional ser-

vices. "The Prosecutor must be fair, impartial and constantly guided by the principles of equity, justice and good conscience in all actions to secure justice", he added.

Justice Koul said that foremost functioning of criminal justice system must focus on protecting the rights and interests of the victim. "A victim of crime has only hope in four pillars so we have added responsibility towards them. We should pursue and serve hard to achieve this goal dedicatedly to provide a crime-free-society to our next generations.

Director, Police Academy Udhampur and Director Prosecution, presided over the working sessions and deliberated in detail upon various issues relating to sensitization towards victims of sexual violence, role of prosecutor with need for reforms in investigation process, in order to meet expectations of accused, victim and society.

Both the resource persons gave their presentations to the participants comprising Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers who had been nominated by Home Department of the UT administration. They stressed upon the need that all stakeholders in Criminal Justice System should work with synergy in raising efficiency in the individual delivery of services by each institution.

Figures on Domicile Certificates Suspect: Soz

Srinagar: Senior Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz Saturday said that the trust deficit between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Central Government is the courtesy of New Delhi. He said people have deep suspicions on the domicile certificate figures published by the Union Territory Government.

He said the UT Administration has camouflaged the figures on Domicile Certificates issued by it by highlighting figures on West Punjab Refugees, Valmikis and Gorkhas, which constitute less than one lakh people.

"The UT Government has itself indicated figures - 55931 WPRs, 2754 Valmikis and 789 Gorkhas. The number of certificates issued to these segments of society totals up to one lakh only," he said.

Soz said the Administration must explain how 25 lakh Domicile Certificates were issued in Jammu and 15 lakhs in Kashmir, during just one year!

"The UT Administration must come clean on this subject. It would be in its own interest to issue a 'White Paper' on its policy and criterion, giving details of important statistics, while covering social segments of the J&K State."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

FAMILY WELFARE, MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH & IMMUNIZATUIN J&K BARZULLA SRINAGAR

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL

NOTICE

Whereas, the following Class-IV employees of District Cadre Srinagar have submitted their representation for their promotion to the post of Jr. Asstt. in Distt. Sgr:-

- Ms. Soodia Farooq
- Mr. Shahbaz Alam Rather

Whereas, as per seniority list of Matriculate Class-IV employees of Distt. Cadre Srinagar notified on 01-01-2021, only above two Class-IV employees have completed more than three years services as required for the post of Jr. Asstt.

Whereas, in addition to above, it is mandatory for the Matriculate Class-IV employees having three years service, to qualify the type test

from ITI Srinagar possessing 25 words speed per minute

In view of above, it is hereby informed both the above named Class- IV employees to obtain the requisite certificate for ITI Sgr. enabling this office to consider their claim for promotion to the post of Jr. Asstt.

(Sushil Kumar Sharma)

Administrative Officer, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization Sgr/Jmu

No:- DFW/JK/EST-Class-IV/20212436-40

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Undoubtedly, the results that liberal interventionism has produced has led many people to adopt anti-liberal views and staunch support for their own cultural/national values. However, the adoption of specific national values is also a result of another liberal phenomenon, interconnectedness

Pitfalls of Liberal International Order

Suhail Ahmad Khan

The liberal international order underpinned by liberal principles is not as extraordinary as the West often puts it. The order's quest to remake the world with the help of liberal democracies may bear desirable outcomes for a short period, but in the long run, it produces self-defeating results

When the Soviet Union was on the brink of disintegration, political scientist Francis Fukuyama declared the end of history and victory of liberalism. In his famous essay, 'The End of History?', he argued, "what we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold war or the passing of a particular period of postwar history, but the end of history as such: that is, the endpoint of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government." It was an expansive claim to make as the interwar period (1919-1939) had already revealed the shortcomings of liberal internationalism. During that period, liberal internationalism had led to the rise of Germany and subsequently to the Second World War. Three decades have passed since Fukuyama declared the victory of liberalism, and it is safe to say that he was wrong. Today, the liberal international order is in retreat due to the results it has produced.

Several core liberal values inform the liberal international order, and prominent among them are (1) individual rights, (2) free trade, and (3) institutionalism. These three values are contingent on each other since individual rights are essential for free trade, and institutions or rules are necessary to safeguard both individual rights and liberal markets. Under the liberal international order, it is expected that more and more countries will comply with standard international rules, and in the long run, will adopt twin political concepts of liberalism and democracy. Thus, the aim is to increase the number of liberal democracies in the international sphere. Liberal democracy, according to American journalist Fareed Zakaria is "a political system marked not only by free and fair elections, but also by the rule of law, a separation of powers, and the protection of basic liberties of speech, assembly, religion and property." For decades, many have considered the US the leading liberal democracy and the protector and promulgator of the liberal international order, but this may not be entirely true.

The US, it is argued, renewed the liberal international order after the end of the Second World War. Liberal theorist of international relations, John Ikenberry, in his essay 'The End of Liberal International Order?' argues that "for seven decades the world has been dominated by a western liberal order." It suggests that liberal values informed the US-led order during the bipolarity of the Cold war (Ikenberry uses Atlantic Liberal order for the same). However, if the international order led by the US had liberal undertones then it is difficult to explain why the US fostered good ties with Communist China during that era, toppled several democratically elected governments, improved relations with dictatorial regimes, such as the Shah of Iran, and armed the so-called fundamentalist groups like the Taliban. In essence, only under a realist framework can these acts be explained. In his essay 'Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of Liberal International Order', John Mearsheimer—a realist scholar of international relations, argues that the order led by the US during the Cold war was "neither international nor liberal. It

was a bounded order that was limited to the West and was a realist in its all-key dimensions." Essentially, it means that via this bounded order, the US and its allies wanted to pursue their ends by any means possible, liberal or illiberal alike. Moreover, it underscores that the liberal international order cannot emerge under a bipolar or multipolar political system, as under such circumstances, strategic competition undermines almost every liberal value. Thus, as realist scholars of IR argue, the liberal international order can only sprawl when the political system is unipolar, and the hegemonic power is a liberal democracy.

Indeed, when the international system was unipolar, and the hegemonic power was a liberal democracy (the US), the liberal international order sprawled. The years between the disintegration of the USSR and the global financial crisis of 2008 were the "golden years"

During the golden years of the liberal international order, one of the ideas that emerged among the liberal circles was liberal interventionism. By virtue of liberal interventionism, liberal states would intervene in the internal affairs of other nation-states to promote liberal principles

of the liberal international order. The US, both passively and aggressively, spread liberal values, the liberal ethic attracted large masses around the world, and liberal economics progressed. As Ikenberry writes, "at the end of the Twentieth century, liberal democracies dominated the world—commanding 80% of the global GNP." However, this "golden period" also led to the rise of China, and Russia regained its geopolitical status. With this, the US lost its hegemonic position, the international system became multipolar, and eventually, the liberal international order faced a crisis. As such, the current challenges to the order is due to the results it has produced.

During the golden years of the liberal international order, one of the ideas that emerged among the liberal circles was liberal interventionism. By virtue of liberal interventionism, liberal states would intervene in the internal affairs of other nation-states to promote liberal principles. Liberal interventionism was put to effect by the US and its allies in the Iraq war. On the pretext of ensuring world peace, the US invaded Iraq, toppled Saddam Hussein's regime and caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians. The US invasion also gave birth to terrorist factions, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which have caused much destruction to Iraq. Not only has ISIL left Iraq devastated, but the group which was a result of the US's actions has led to anti-Muslim bigotry in the West. Other than Iraq, the US also intervened in Libya to promote democracy, which resulted in a decade long crisis in the country. Undoubtedly, the results that liberal interventionism has produced has led many people to adopt anti-liberal views and staunch support for their own cultural/national values. However, the adoption of specific national values is also a result of

another liberal phenomenon, interconnectedness.

The interconnectedness between different nation-states is essential to ensure free trade, and the phenomenon operates through the flow of capital and people between these states. For many years, almost every individual enjoyed equal rights in most liberal states. However, more recently, the clash of values among different groups has led to a sudden surge of right-wing groups in liberal states, which has further led to xenophobia and the undermining of liberal values. France provides the best example of this phenomenon as there is an evident clash of values between French Muslims and French Secularists. The French government has adopted several measures to force the former to comply with French ideals and principles. Thus, national values have been given precedence over liberal ones. Conclusively, interconnectedness has fueled parochial

nationalism and disregard for individual rights.

The clash of values has also proved detrimental to the growth of liberal democracies in non-western societies. Non-western societies view liberal values as a European product and the result of its certain socio-historical realities. According to Hamza Tzortzis, a Muslim researcher, "the claim by some liberal ideologues is that Liberalism is universal; however, there are some philosophical issues with this line of thought. Firstly it is a logical fallacy to take something specific and make it general." As such, there is a rejection of western liberal values in many non-western societies. And any superimposition of liberal values backfires as people tend to adopt more anti-liberal attitudes. With rising illiberal attitudes, the liberal international order cannot survive for long.

The liberal international order underpinned by liberal principles is not as extraordinary as the West often puts it. The order's quest to remake the world with the help of liberal democracies may bear desirable outcomes for a short period, but in the long run, it produces self-defeating results. The assumption made by many liberal proponents that liberal values will hold centre stage in most societies has fallen flat during the current crisis. In essence, liberal political ideology is as strong as any other ideology. Only during a crisis can any ideology's weak theoretical and philosophical underpinnings be identified, and nowadays, liberalism is revealing its own weaknesses.

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

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August 5, 2021, marks two years of introducing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, which created the Union Territory of Ladakh. Before going any further, two facts about Ladakh need to be kept in mind. Its population is merely 2.7 lakh, and more or less all natives are recognised as scheduled tribes.

A lot has happened in the past two years. Yet two processes seem vital to highlight. First, Ladakh, the natural entity, and our home, seems to be absent in the workings of the UT administration. To explain the phenomenon of an absent Ladakh, a description of its landscape and the native inhabitants is required. Ladakh, a part of the Trans-Himalaya, shares more geographical and geological similarities with Tibet and Baltistan than with the rest of the country. All of Trans-Himalaya is a unique ecological niche that hosts the highest volume of ice, snow cover, glaciers and permafrost outside the two poles. But all is not well in here. It is the hotspot of the unfolding global climate crisis. In a study conducted for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, scientists suggest that even if the global heating is restricted to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a Paris Agreement target, the Karakoram and the northwestern Himalaya will have a temperature that is at least 0.7 degrees Celsius higher. On similar lines, the 2019 IPCC report on the cryosphere maintains that the rate of temperature increase in the high mountains of Asia will be much higher than the average rate of global warming. Scientists suggest that the higher temperature could lead to unpredictable water availability, pronounced glacier melting and biodiversity loss.

In Ladakh, these scientific reports are a lived reality. For Ladakhis, most of whom are still engaged in agriculture, the recession of glaciers, erratic water availability and flash floods have become com-

mon. Two villages in Ladakh — Kulum and Kumik — have to be abandoned due to water scarcity. Moreover, in the last 15 days, flash floods were reported from every sub-region of Ladakh. Amid this disheartening reality, some of us look for hope in the local knowledge system to provide a silver lining. Native ways of doing agriculture, building houses and

Ladakh, a part of the Trans-Himalaya, shares more geographical and geological similarities with Tibet and Baltistan than with the rest of the country. All of Trans-Himalaya is a unique ecological niche that hosts the highest volume of ice, snow cover, glaciers and permafrost outside the two poles. But all is not well in here. It is the hotspot of the unfolding global climate crisis

lavatory systems show us how to inhabit this cold, dry and high place less violently.

How is Ladakh absent in the workings of the UT administration? The Vision 2050 document imagines the region's future based on defining Ladakh by enumerating what it does not have. Ladakh does not have 100 per cent electricity, connectivity, literacy and so on. I am not saying that such infrastructure is not needed or wanted. But it would have been another matter if Ladakh was primarily defined as what it has: unfolding climate catastrophe and people with

indigenous knowledge. But this positive definition of Ladakh is absent in the vision document which has been prepared by a UK-based accounting firm. Another example is that in the drive to increase the export of pashmina, Changthang, the geographical location where the pashmina goats are reared, is missing. The pastures of Changthang are degrading,

and one of the reasons is the uptick in the goats' population due to an increase in the demand for pashmina, ecologists inform us.

The second significant development in the last two years has been the joining of hands by the political and social leaders of Leh and Kargil, the two districts of Ladakh. The powerlessness of locally-elected representatives compared to centre-appointed bureaucrats, fear of demographic change, and lack of protection of land, jobs, and culture has brought the perennially quarrelsome two districts to the same

table. After the abrogation of Article 370, social, religious and political organisations in each district formed a common platform to negotiate the political future of Ladakh. The apex body of Leh and Kargil-based Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) was the product of administrative status change. On August 1, 2021, both groups reached a consensus on the demand for statehood for Ladakh. The joint statement also demanded protection for Ladakh similar to that available under Articles 35A and 370 in the erstwhile state. The message from here is clear: the future of Ladakh cannot be under the control of locally unaccountable bureaucrats answerable only to the Union Home Minister. However, there is one drawback in the recent changes in the political landscape of Ladakh. It is that all the members of the KDA and the apex body are men.

Cutting across religious and political lines — although not gender lines — Ladakh has thrown the ball in the central government's court. The government cannot brag about increased budget and sanctioned universities. For, even Tibet, Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan have universities and public sector investment. The funds will have no value without having natives in the driving seat. It is hoped that democratic India will respect the wishes of its tribal borderland inhabitants. Some of us are also hopeful that the natives will not replicate the phenomenon of making Ladakh absent from their visions if they reach the driving seat.

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

Of Dogs, Faith and Imams

Mohammed Hanif

Today, if someone in his position tried to cuddle a dog in public, he would surely lose his status as imam, if not his head. Like Muslims everywhere in the world, we also yearn for more innocent times, when we could stay pure by keeping dogs at bay. There are many more worshipers in the mosques now than there were in my childhood, but there are no imams to tell the religious stories about dog love

WHEN I take my dog for a walk on the beach near my house in Karachi, this is how people react: Mothers tell their kids, look, a dog; kids ask me the dog's name and if they can touch him; most grown men either recoil or ask me about the price and the breed. Sometimes when I see someone heading to the neighbourhood mosque, I cross to the other side of the street. There is a popular belief among the pious that if they come in contact with a dog, they become unclean. You have to take a ritual bath before you can offer your prayers.

Worshipers are usually in a hurry in Karachi. These are perilous times, and I don't want to come between men of God and God by delaying their prayers. They are, after all, fulfilling their obligation as I am trying to do.

I grew up in a very religious household where dogs weren't exactly loved, but our faith wasn't threatened every time a dog appeared on our doorstep. As a teenager in our village in central Punjab, I saw our local imam, who led the prayers, playing with his Russian poodle. His grandsons, who were visiting one summer, brought it and left it behind. I would see the imam with his poodle out on the street, petting her, cuddling her. His long snow-white beard and the poodle's electric shiny curls sometimes touched. In almost a decade of devoutness that I prayed behind him, I never saw anybody object to his coming into physical contact with a dog. Maybe it was the imam's authority. Maybe the poodle looked cleaner than some of us peasant worshipers. Maybe people thought a man as old and as pious as he knew what he was doing.

Today, if someone in his position tried to cuddle a dog in public, he would surely lose his status as imam, if not his head. Like Muslims everywhere in the world, we also yearn for more innocent times, when we could stay pure by keeping dogs at bay. There are many more worshipers in the mosques now than there were in my childhood, but there are no imams to tell the religious stories about dog love.

If you go by the Fatwas issued by today's religious scholars, some dogs are allowed in Islam and other dogs are not. At best, they make it sound as if Islam were not the second-largest religion in the world comprising various cultural histories, ancient myths and thousands of ways of relating to animals but a posh kennel club.

Sometimes I wish I could ask our neighbourhood imam to tell us the story that, as children, we heard in many Friday sermons. It's an Islamic fable about compassion and forgiveness and dogs. Since most religions use a woman's virtue to teach us about morality, this one happens to be about a prostitute who had lived all her life in sin. One day she stopped by a well to have a drink of water and spotted a dog, a very thirsty dog panting at the edge of the well. She lowered a shoe into the well to draw water and quenched the dog's thirst. As a result of this single act of mercy, Allah forgave all her sins. The fable is about sinners getting a chance at redemption, but it's the image of a thirsty dog panting by a well that stuck with me. In some versions of the story, the dog is so thirsty that he tries to eat mud.

The Quran itself is mostly silent on the subject of dogs. The only real dog that appears in the text



CREDITS: Babylona Bora

is a companion of the People of the Cave, a small group of young men who, threatened by an ancient king after refusing to abandon their faith, hide in a cave and take a 309-year-long nap. During these three centuries of hiding, their dog lay stretched out at the entrance of the cave to keep any intruders at bay. The fable evokes not revulsion but time travel and companionship. The Quran's other significant mention of the dog is in a story about a man in lust with earthly desires, of whom it is said, "If thou attackest him, lolleth out his tongue; and if thou leavest him alone, lolleth out his tongue."

Most of Muslims dog hate comes to us via the Hadith, a collection of sayings attributed to the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). There are various, often contradictory hadiths about whether or not you are allowed to keep a dog as a pet. Dogs are allowed for security, says one. Their fur is fine but their saliva is unclean, says another. But if the fur gets wet, it becomes unclean. You can pet dogs, but you may not kiss them. You can keep them if they are not allowed inside the house. You can have them as long as you use them for hunting. What about the saliva they leave on the hunted animals? That's fine.

A popular Hadith about dogs says that angels won't enter your abode if there is a dog in the house. Apparently, the angels don't mind if the dog is out on the lawn or playing in the courtyard. Which basically leads you to the conclusion that angels don't much care for believers living in small apartments or houses without big lawns?

The Hadith warning us about the angels' revulsion for dogs is sometimes said to have been narrated by one of the Prophet Muhammad's close companions and the most prolific of his scribes. His name was Abu Huraira. He was also the most famous cat lover in Islamic history. In fact, his name means Father of the Cats. Some competing scribes from the era have called him an unreliable narrator, but nobody can call him out on any perceived

bias against dogs: He tells the story about the forgiven prostitute.

Many other stories support the fact that caring about dogs doesn't automatically make you a heathen. In one story, the Prophet Muhammad was leading his army into a battle when he came upon a female dog with a litter of puppies. He posted a companion to protect them. Umar, the second caliph, stated that he would be personally responsible if even a stray dog went to sleep hungry under his administration.

There are lots of people who hate dogs but care about the human condition; they care about children begging on the streets, or transgender people not getting jobs. Like them, I worry if it's O.K. to care about a mutt when the world around us is falling apart. Then I tell myself it's exactly when the world is falling apart that you should care about mutts. After all, our prophet cared about the safety of dogs in the middle of a battle.

Our classical poetry, religious and romantic, heretic and Sufi, is full of verses where a lover wants to be a stray dog living on the street corner of his beloved's home. Sufi poets have held dogs as a symbol of devotion and superhuman dedication. But even when the pious ones are crooning away about their desire to be a dog in the holy city of Medina, they can't stand a real dog when it happens to pass by.

I have had to drag my dog away from speeches and recitals because he gets excited and starts barking. He probably wants to join in, but poets and protesters religious or godless don't want dogs joining in their celebrations. I am reminded of the Arabic proverb: The dogs bark and the caravan moves on. Sometimes it's the caravan that barks and the dogs that have to keep moving.

Mohammed Hanif is the author of the novels "A Case of Exploding Mangoes" and "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti".

What to Read This August

From tales of belonging and coming-off-age stories, to guides on growing up as a Black woman and how to navigate life and work under capitalism, below are our Amaliah Bookclub picks for this month!

1. The Roles We Play by Sabba Khan

"Sabba Khan's debut graphic memoir explores what identity, belonging and memory mean for her



and her family against the backdrop of this history. She paints a vivid snapshot of contemporary British Asian life and investigates the complex shifts experienced by different generations within migrant communities."

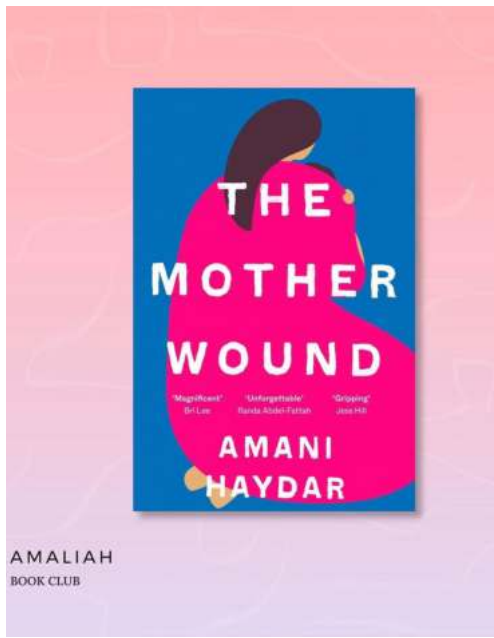
2. The Mismatch by Sara Jafari

"With unforgettable characters at its heart, THE MISMATCH is a pitch-perfect coming-of-age story



and a fresh take on how what you think you want isn't always what brings you happiness."

3. The Mother Wound by Amani Haydar



"After her mother's death, Amani began reassessing everything she knew of her parents' relationship. They had been unhappy for so long – should she have known that it would end like this? A lawyer by profession, she also saw the holes in the justice system for addressing and combating emotional abuse and coercive control.

Writing with grace and beauty, Amani has drawn from this a story of female resilience and the role of motherhood in the home and in the world. In The Mother Wound, she uses her own strength to help other survivors find their voices."

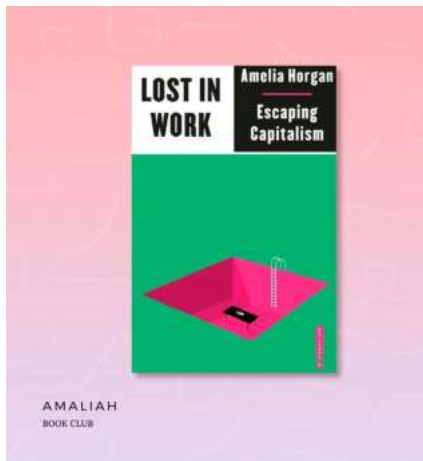
4. My Hair is Pink Under This Veil by Rabina Khan

"Clear-sighted and often deeply affecting about the struggles facing Muslim women, My Hair is Pink Under This Veil is at its heart an inspiring story about the power of self-belief and determination to



create a fairer world."

5. Lost in Work: Escaping Capitalism by Amelia Horgan



"'Work hard, get paid.' It's simple. Self-evident. But it's also a lie – at least for most of us. For people today, the old assumptions are crumbling; hard work in school no longer guarantees a secure, well-paying job in the future. Far from a gateway to riches and fulfillment, 'work' means precarity, anxiety and alienation.

ety and alienation.

Amelia Horgan poses three big questions: what is work? How does it harm us? And what can we do about it? While abolishing work altogether is not the answer, Lost in Work shows that when we are able to take control of our workplaces, we become less miserable, and can work towards the transformative goal of experimenting with 'work' as we know it."

6. Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Growing Up by Melissa Cummings-Quarry and Natalie A. Carter

"Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. Period. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher. Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Growing Up was written with one thing in mind sis. You.

From understanding identity to the politics of hair to maintaining squad goals to dealing with



microaggressions to consent to figuring out what career you might want, Grown has got your back. Natalie A. Carter and Melissa Cummings-Quarry share stories – the wins and the Ls – and offer honest, practical advice that will show you how to own your choices. To live your truth without fear. To be grown on your own terms without limits or apologies. With a foreword from the inimitable Spice Girl Melanie Brown and contributions from inspirational Black women such as Diane Abbott MP, Dorothy Koomson and Candice Carty-Williams and gorgeous illustrations from Dorcas Magbadelo, Grown is a celebration of Black British girlhood that will empower you to live your very best life."

Amaliah.com

Study shows adolescents who eat potatoes have higher quality diets

Agencies

A recent study conducted among nine to 18-year-olds has suggested that eating potatoes can be an effective strategy to modestly improve intake of key shortfall nutrients. The results of the study were published in the journal 'Nutrients'. Compared to no potato consumption, results showed that eating potatoes in any form (baked, boiled, mashed, in mixed dishes and fried) was associated with higher intakes of several essential nutrients, including dietary fibre and potassium - two nutrients of public health concern - and improved nutrient adequacy. "The potato is a nutrient-dense vegetable that provides important, critically under-consumed nutrients to adolescent diets," said Victor Fulgoni, III, PhD and study co-author.

"Given their popularity--more than half (56 per cent) of those surveyed reported eating some form of potatoes--there are opportunities to lean into these findings to make it easier for young people to find, cook and enjoy potatoes as part of a healthy dietary pattern," added Fulgoni. Researchers gathered dietary information from 16,633 nine to 18-year-olds participating in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2001-2018. This study used the Healthy Eating Index-2015 (HEI), a validated measure of diet quality, to determine how closely the participants' diets adhered to the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Although differences in HEI scores between potato consumers and non-consumers were statistically significant, the changes were modest; for many nutrients, intake and adequacy improved with increasing potato

consumption. Specifically: 1. HEI scores were 4.7 per cent higher among those who consumed potatoes that were baked/boiled, mashed or eaten as part of a mixed dish compared to those who ate no potatoes. 2. HEI scores were 2 per cent and 1.6 per cent higher than potato non-consumers, respectively, among adolescents who ate either fried potatoes or those who ate fried potatoes and/or potato chips. "Our findings show that potatoes play an important role in helping adolescents better meet the recommendations set forth in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans," noted Fulgoni. "This is an important goal as, according to the USDA Agricultural Research Service, children and adolescents have the lowest HEI scores among any age group in the US - just 53 out of an ideal HEI score of

100," added Fulgoni. "Our results also bring attention to the 'company potatoes keep'. Fried potatoes and potato chips are often paired with less nutrient-dense foods, which can't be teased out in this type of study but may explain the slightly lower diet quality scores among these groups of potato eaters compared to baked/boiled potato eaters. Additional clinical trials are needed to better elucidate this situation," concluded Fulgoni. Study Design, Strengths and Limitations Nutrition intake was determined by using two 24-hour dietary recalls. The first was conducted in person; the second was performed over the phone. Adolescents aged nine to 11 were assisted by parents or guardians, while those aged 12 to 18 provided recalls on their own. Based on their responses, participants were classified into one of four groups:

- Potato non-consumers
- Consumers of baked, boiled, mashed potatoes and potato mixtures
- Consumers of baked, boiled, mashed potatoes and potato mixtures + fried potatoes
- Consumers of baked, boiled, of baked, boiled, mashed potatoes and potato mixtures + fried potatoes + potato chips

Usual intake of nutrients was determined using the National Cancer Institute method, and diet quality was calculated using HEI-2015 scores after adjusting for demographic factors. The HEI-2015 includes 13 subcomponents, each reflecting an aspect of the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The strengths of the study included its use of a large nationally representative database (NHANES 2001-2018) and the use of multiple covariates to help eliminate potential confounding factors.

Scientist develops human-based models to study neurodevelopmental disorders

Agencies

Yogita K Adlakha, an Inspire Faculty Fellow, has developed human-based models to study neuron development and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, which can help design treatment strategies for such brain disorders, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said. For decades, animal models have been used to understand brain-related disorders and the drugs that function in animal models have failed in clinical trials. The dearth of human models has led to a lack of knowledge of the pathophysiology of such disorders, an essential requirement for designing their treatment strategies. Adlakha, a recipient of the IN-

SPIRE Faculty fellowship instituted by the DST, filled this gap by generating human-based stem cell models to understand brain development and dysfunction at the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, Haryana. Currently, she works as a scientist at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, NCR biocluster, Faridabad, the DST said. Along with her research group, Adlakha established a protocol from India for the first time by generating and producing induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from human peripheral blood. They have further refined the protocol of differentiation of iPSCs into brain-specific stem cells, i.e., neural stem cells (NSCs). Her group has contributed im-

mensely in understanding the role of microRNA in the neural stem cell fate, which revealed how certain small non-coding RNAs called microRNA, which do not form protein but regulate expression of other genes, can enhance differentiation of neural stem cells into neurons. Her research has contributed to expanding the knowledge of neuron development and the role of small non-coding miRNA in brain-specific stem cells fate, thereby changing the face of neuroscience and stem cells. She filled this gap and developed a human-based model that could help study how the brain develops, particularly the neurons, and what goes awry during brain development, leading to cognitive decline, impairment in language and social interaction.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

GIST of e- NIT (Short Term)
JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No: 20 of 2021-22
DATED: 07/08/2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir online e-tenders are invited in Single Cover System on item rate basis from registered and experienced contractors/firms whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules and are active for execution of the following Works:

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lac	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of Contractor	Programme/ Funds/ AA Accord No/ Technical Sanction No.
1	Repairs to 7.5 HP submersible motor at WSS Dogripora under M&R.	0.08 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R
2	Rewinding of 15 HP Submersible Motor at water supply scheme Kanilbagh.	0.10 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R
3	Electrical Works To Be Carried Out At Water Supply Scheme Kanilbagh Of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division Pampore.	0.22 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R
4	Repairs to 15 HP submersible motor at WSS Maldair under M&R.	0.118 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R
5	Repairs to 6,000 GPH X 30 Mtrs Head Horizontal Split Casing Pump at Water Supply Scheme Padgampora Dangerpora under M&R.	0.12 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R
6	Electrical repair works to the 63 KVA HT transformer to be carried at Water Supply Scheme Reban Khojpora under M&R.	0.36 Lac	50/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors / Workshop Holders & SSI Units with GST registration.	M&R

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q)s set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and www.phekashmir.com as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish Date	07-08-2021 (04:00 PM)
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	07-08-2021 (04:00 PM)
03	On line bid uploading start date	07-08-2021 (04:00 PM)
04	Last date of uploading of bid	17-08-2021 (04:00 PM)
05	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	18-08-2021 (11:00 AM)
06	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified

Note: - CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning NIT No and Work shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed. Head 0215 – Revenue & Miscellaneous. All other details can be had from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and www.phekashmir.com.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
(South) Awantipora

DIPK-6168/21

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/988

Date: 07/08/2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division
(North) Sopore

Sub: Extension e-tenders.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-09, S. No. 04 of 2021-22, Issued under No. PHE/MDNS/DB/1307-14, dated: 29-06-2021.

Due to poor response, the above referred e-tender is hereby rescheduled as under

S. No.	Particulars	Dates
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	12-08-2021 (06:55 pm)
2.	Pre-bid meeting	09-08-2021 (11:00 am)
3.	Date of online opening of tender	13-08-2021 (03:00 pm)

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/2195-99
Dated: 06-08-2021

DIPK-6096/21

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (P.H.E)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION HANDWARA
Email: xenpheHandwaral@gmail.com Phone & Fax No:01955-252-868

TENDER NOTICE
GIST E-NIT No:- 05 of 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (In Double Cover System) are invited on Item wise from approved and registered Govt contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following work.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rupees)	Time of Completion in days	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AA
01	Providing and Fixing incl. Successful commissioning of pipe Network, Constt of Sedimentation tank, Constt of Clear water Storage Reservoir, Constt of Sluice/Washout Chamber's, Constt of catch water drain, Constt of intake channel/Intake chamber, Constt of toe wall, Constt of Barbedwire fencing around various structures for WSS Doodad Mohalla Hangnikote under JJM programme	Rs.82.52 Lacs	Rs.2200/-	60 Days	AAY	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	Accorded

The N.I.T of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan or Bank Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Handwara (tender inviting authority)

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

01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice .	06-08-2021
02	Start of Downloading	06-08-2021
03	Bid Submission Start Date	06-08-2021
04	Bid submission end date	10-08-2021 (02:00pm)
05	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	11-08-2021 (10:00am)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract as per following break up within four days from the opening of tenders

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% below	3%

The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work. If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e- Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar & forfeiture of CDR.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION OF TENDERS:-

TECHNICAL COVER 1ST :

2. The contractor should possess the experience having successfully completed works which should be any one of the similar nature works:-

a. Similar works means:-

I. Similar works means works like Rapid sand Filtration plant /Slow Sand Filtration Plant, Clarif-floculator, PST, OHT, RCC Service Reservoir, Laying & fitting of Pipes pipe appurtenances & other water retaining & water conducting works excluding cost of pipe material

II. The completed work means successfully completed work upto ending 31.03.2021

i. One similar completed work costing not less than 80% of advertised cost (during last seven years) or

ii. Two similar completed works costing not less than 50% each of advertised cost (during last seven years) or

iii. Three similar completed works costing not less than the 30% each of advertised cost (during last seven years)

IV. In case of similar works self-attested proforma as per annexure in the bid document to be uploaded subject to the verification by the tender opening authority.

b. All the bidders shall include the following information and documents with their technical bids in addition to above :

a. Copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status, Place of registration and principal place of business; scanned copy of instrument permissible on a/c of Bid Security and cost of Bidding Document as specified in NIT.

b. Financial turn over year wise achieved on execution of civil engineering works for the last five years i.e 2015-16 to 2020-21. The bidder shall have an average turnover of at least 30% of cost of advertised duly certified by Chartered Accountant / Bank , which shall be calculated from best three years out of last five years ending on 03/02/21.

c. Copy of PAN card issued by the Income TAX Authority. The PAN Uploaded should be same as registered /reflected in TDS/Balance sheet.

d. Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns in GST-3/GSTR-3B

Technical Criteria (In case of Joint venture):

I. Any member or members of Joint Venture should have satisfactorily completed at least one work of similar nature work costing not less than 80% of advertised cost during the last 07 years ending on 31.03.2021.

a. Two similar completed works costing not less than 50% each of advertised cost(during last seven years) or

b. Three similar completed works costing not less than the 30% each of advertised cost.(during last seven years)

Sd/-
ExecUtive EngIneer,
JAISHAKTI PHE DIVISION
Handwara

DIPK-6085/21

SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

e-TENDER NOTICE NO: 02/EE of 2021-22

For and and on behalf of The Srinagar Development Authority, the Executive Engineer, Srinagar Development Authority, invites tenders by e tendering system on item rate basis from Registered PWD contractors of J&K UT for below mentioned works:*

S, No	Name of work	Amount of work	Class of contractor	Cost of T (Docum	Time of completion
01	Development of Public park in Mini Housing colony Bemina near House No 21 (Zareena Akhtar) 1.76 kanals.	Rs 22.41 lacs	A&B	Rs 1500/-	(90) days
02	Development of Public park in Sector-04, MIG Colony Bernina Srinagar near Masjid Salfia 1.5Kanals.	Rs 19.35 lacs	A,B&C	Rs 1300	(90) days
03	Face lifting /Renovation of Sangarmall City Centre at M.A Road Srinagar including 2 No Guard Rooms, Kiosks	Rs 5.72 lacs	C&D	Rs 500	(90) days
04.	Repairs of septic tank at Pamposh Shopping Complex at Batmalo Srinagar	Rs 0.68 Lakh	DEE	Rs 100	30 Days
05	Construction of drop gate for parking lot near Baqa Masjid at Batmallo Srinagar	Rs.1.03 lacs	DEE	Rs 150	45 Days
06	Construction of Reception Centre, sign Boards, wooden flooring of SDA office at SDA office complex at Bernina Srinagar.	Rs 3.21 lacs	DEE	Rs 300	60 days

Position of Funds (Available)

01. Date of publishing 04/08/2021.

2. The Bidding document can be downloaded from the webiste <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10.00 PM on 05/08/2021 to 25/08/2021 upto 4 pm.

a. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format ont he webiste <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12/08/2021 to 25/08/2021 UPTO 4.00 PM . The bids received will be opened at 12.00 Noon on 27-08-2021 online.

B. The complete bidding process will be online. No; SDA/EE/392/401 Dated 04/08/2021

Executive Engineer,
Srinagar Development Authority

DIPK-NB-2359/21

Jammu industrialists seek fiscal incentives to encourage export of goods outside J-K

Bazar Observer -August 7, 2021
Jammu: Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of USD 400 billion in exports this year, an organisation of industrialists in Jammu on Saturday requested for fiscal incentives in the shape of reimbursement of road freight to the local unit holders to encourage them to export their goods outside the country.

Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) president Lalit Mahajan said Jammu and Kashmir is sitting at the far end of the country and face additional cost of production and transportation for sending finished goods by road to nearest port due to non-availability of Inland Container Depot or Dry port in the Union Territory.

"We request Prime Minister to grant the fiscal incentive in the shape of reimbursement of road freight to industrial units located in J&K to the nearest port to encourage the export of quality goods till the creation of necessary infrastructure for Inland Container Depot and Dry Port in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, Mahajan said.

Referring to the virtual meeting with Modi which was among others attended by stakeholders of Jammu here on Friday, he said the Prime Minister assured all sort of help to the exporters and investors to take brand India to each and every corner of the world and achieve the target of USD 400 billion.

PTI

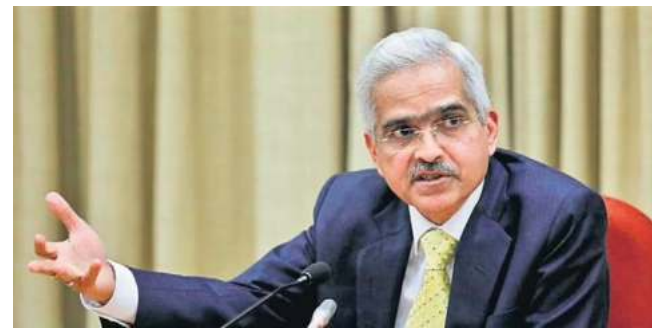


Digital currency model likely by the end of year: RBI

China has already started a trial run for its digital currency, while the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve are also looking at it.

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank expects to come out with a model for operations of fiat digital currencies by the end of the year, Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said on Friday.

He reiterated that the RBI is internally evaluating the pos-



sibility of introducing a fiat digital currency, going into a slew of aspects like its scope, technology, distribution mechanism and validation mechanism. In a July 22 speech, Sankar had said that India is also thinking for a phased introduction of a digital currency saying the time for them is now. China has already started a trial run for its digital currency, while the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve are also looking at it.

"It will be difficult to pin a date on it (introducing DC). We should be able to come out with a model in the near future, probably by the end of this year," Sankar told reporters at the post-policy review press conference.

In the July 22 speech, Sankar had said that such currency is likely to be in the arsenal of every central bank going forward and setting up such a system will require a nuanced approach.

Work on the central bank DC has been on for many years now, which have seen a massive popularity gained by private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin which are based on blockchain technologies. Speaking at the same press conference, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das made it clear that the central bank continues to have concerns with the private DCs which are not regulated and has conveyed the same to the government.

Meanwhile, he said an expert panel tasked with studying the digital lenders following instances of suicides by borrowers is in the final stages and will be submitting its report by the end of this month. Once the report is received, the RBI will be studying the same and take appropriate action based on the recommendations, Das added.

....Bangus Tourism festival Bangus has scope to be developed as world class tourist destination: Dir Tourism

KUPWARA: Director Tourism, G. N. Itoo today visited Bangus valley in Kupwara district to review the preparatory arrangements for holding of tourism festival at the virgin tourist destination. The dignitaries visited across the length and breadth of the tourist destination and discussed various issues relating to its development. On the occasion, Director Tourism said that the aim of visiting this North Kashmir tourist location was to



physically assess the possibilities to exploit the tourism potential of the virgin valley Bangus. Dr. Itoo said that the Bangus has great scope to be developed as a world class tourist destination. He said the Government is committed to fully develop this high altitude tourist destination where national and international tourists can visit. He said that the Department will develop infrastructural facilities in the area so that tourists can easily stay at the tourist location. He also said that development of Bangus valley will also improve the socio-economic status of the whole of the district, especially living in nearby villages.

Dr. Itoo said that the department is organizing a Tourism Festival at the Bangus with active participation of local stakeholders and the district Administration. He said that holding of Tourism Festival will attract the tourists across the country to visit this place and enjoy the scenic beauty of the virgin valley.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara on the occasion assured full possible support for the development of the Bangus Valley.

7th National Handloom Day celebrated at Craft Village Kanihama Weavers urged to update designs as per contemporary need of customers

BUDGAM AUGUST 07: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, exhorted upon the weavers to update their craft and designs keeping contemporary clientele in mind as customers would have a vast choice to buy products.

Principal Secretary made these remarks while addressing the 7th National Handloom day celebration at Craft Village Kanihama organized jointly by Union Ministry of Textiles and district administration Budgam.

The daylong event was also attended by Director Handloom and Handicrafts, Mehmood Ahmad Shah and Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam, Akramullah Tak, as guests of honor.

Principal Secretary maintained that weavers under present scenario had to face a lot of challenges as world has changed and the customers had vast options and choices available with them. He said the thrust should be on publicity and demonstrations as these are proving pivotal pillars in selling products at national and international level.

Regarding craft village Kanihama, Ranjan Prakash highlighted the importance of the location saying that the main objective should be to ensure that

any tourist visiting Gulmarg shall also go to the centre. "Their visit will not only enhance purchasing but will also boost publicity of this famous product globally",



he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Handicrafts and Handloom presented a curtain raiser on establishing of craft village Kanihama. He said apart from boosting potential and talent of weavers of Kani Shawl the department's motive is to give national and international market directly to the weavers besides saving them from exploitation at the hands of middleman. He said the government is going to introduce several beneficial schemes like Education Scheme policy for small weavers having bunch of

incentives for their children.

ADDC said that 90 percent work on Kanihama craft village has already been completed while the remaining 10 per-

cent will be completed within 2 months. He said out of Rs 2.59 crore project cost Rs 1.3 crore have been spent till date adding that the craft village centre has been equipped with many basic facilities.

Earlier, Principal Secretary inspected the stalls established by many national award winners. He appreciated the efforts of weavers for their overwhelming participation in this unique art.

Meanwhile, he also visited demonstration centers where weavers demonstrated their weaving skills on the spot.

Income Tax dept issues 3 email IDs for registering grievances under faceless assessment scheme

New Delhi, August 7: The Income Tax (I-T) department on Saturday notified three official email IDs for taxpayers to register grievances under the faceless or e-assessment scheme.

The department issued a message on its official Twitter handle saying: "In a move aimed to further improve taxpayer services in alignment with the Taxpayers' Charter, the Income Tax Department creates dedicated e-mail IDs for registering grievances in respect of pending cases under the Faceless Scheme."

It said grievances could be furnished under three separate email IDs created for the purpose.

"For faceless assessments: samadhan.faceless.assessment@income-tax.gov.in; For faceless penalty:



samadhan.faceless.penalty@income-tax.gov.in; For faceless appeals: samadhan.faceless.appeal@income-tax.gov.in," the department said.

Under the faceless assessment system, a taxpayer or an assesse is not required to visit an I-T department office or meet a department official for income tax-related businesses.

A central electronic-based system picks up tax returns for scrutiny based on risk parameters and mismatches, and then allots them randomly to a team of I-T officers in any city. The scrutiny by these officers is stated to be reviewed by officers at another randomly selected location.

The scheme was launched by the Union government in 2019. — PTI

NEWS MAKER

Mehjabeena of Okey Hamlet in Kulgam prefers self-employment over seeking Govt Job

KULGAM, AUGUST 07: Energetic, dedicated and qualified Mehjabeena Akhtar from hamlet Okey in district Kulgam had dreamed of establishing her own business venture to become a job provider and live a dignified life rather than ending up as a government job seeker.

Coming from a humble background, financial constraints were a barrier to make this dream come true, but, the decision was unchanged and spirit was high despite of all odds, Mehjabeena maintained her focus and set her eyes on the target to utilize every opportunity to give wings to her dream.

She remained eagerly trying to trace out opportunity and platform and thus came to know about National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which was rolled out to organize the poor into SHG (Self Help Groups) and make them capable of self-employment.

Mehjabeena's consciousness about the importance of her time led her to utilize available time in the best possible manner. She said that without wasting time she joined hands and became part of SHG namely Village Organisation, (VO) where from she encapsulated the main ideas and basics to nourish her dream.

"I received a share of Rs. 5000 as basic financial assistance from NRLM, and immediately started work on assignments with all dedication and sincerity along

with other members of SHG established under the patronage of NRLM," she said.

Mehjabeena said that she remained focused, got well acquainted in knitting and started to produce handmade garments at her own knitting unit, and it is from this that the small earnings started to pour in.

"To double the production of garments, I planned to shift to a machine and decided to procure it," she said adding "I put my savings and raised a loan thus purchased a knitting machine which doubled my garment production and improved my income and now my monthly earnings are more than 20 thousand per month".

Besides earning for herself, Mehjabeena said that she has eight members and some workers associated with her and they too are earning livelihood.

"I still remember the days when there was no source of income to me but today there is a change," she said.

Mehjabeena said that presently she also owns a willow wicker works unit and has recently started a kiriyana shop in the vicinity.

She now plans to establish a showroom in the main town and is preparing for it. "I want to establish a showroom in the main market where I can put my products on display for sale," added Mehjabeena.

Companies to spend \$342 billion on AI solutions in 2021: IDC

New Delhi: Worldwide revenues for the artificial intelligence (AI) market, including software, hardware and services, are estimated to grow 15.2 per cent (year-over-year) in 2021 to \$341.8 billion, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC).

The market is forecast to

growth rate (CAGR) of 33.2 per cent.

"Disruption is unsettling, but it can also serve as a catalyst for innovation and transformation. 2020 was the year that accelerated digital transformation and strengthened the value of enterprise AI," said Ritu Jyoti, group vice



accelerate further in 2022 with 18.8 per cent growth and remain on track to break the \$500 billion mark by 2024. Among the three technology categories, AI software occupied 88 per cent of the overall AI market.

"However, in terms of growth, AI Hardware is estimated to grow the fastest in the next several years. From 2023 onwards, AI Services is forecast to become the fastest growing category," the report showed. In AI Server market, there were a total of six companies that generated over \$500 million each in 2020 – Dell, HPE, Huawei, IBM, Inspur, and Lenovo. Together, they held 62 per cent of overall market share.

Meanwhile, in the AI Storage market, Dell, HPE, Hitachi, Huawei, IBM and NetApp achieved over \$100 million each in 2020. Within the AI Software category, AI Applications has the lion's share at nearly 50 per cent of revenues.

In terms of growth, AI Platforms is the strongest with a five-year compound annual

president for AI and Automation Research at IDC.

"We have now entered the domain of AI-augmented work and decision across all the functional areas of a business. Responsible creation and use of AI solutions that can sense, predict, respond, and adapt at speed is an important business imperative," Jyoti said in a statement.

The AI Services market was estimated at \$19.4 billion in 2020, representing the fastest growth relative to hardware and software.

For 2021, it is forecast to grow at 19.3 per cent. Over the next five years, it is expected to enjoy the best CAGR at 21 per cent.

"AI has emerged as an essential component of the future enterprise, fueling demand for services partners to help organisations clear the many hurdles standing between pilot projects and enterprise AI," said Jennifer Hamel, research manager, Analytics and Intelligent Automation Services. IANS

Choudhary reviews functioning of IIKSTC Dussoo, Pampore

PULWAMA, AUGUST 07: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, today reviewed

He asked the officers to ensure that every effort is put in place so that the centre could play a key role in the revival and development of the saffron sector.



the functioning of India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Center (IIKSTC) Dussoo Pampore.

Principal Secretary visited different sections of the centre where he was apprised by the Director Agriculture Kashmir about the functioning of the centre.

While interacting with the concerned officers, Principal Secretary highlighted the importance of IIKSTC saying that the government is committed to promote saffron sector of the valley on a global platform.

tor.

Principal Secretary was informed that the e-auctioning facility at IIKSTC provides saffron farmers an access to a multiple marketing platform where the growers can fetch maximum returns for their produce.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, gave a detailed presentation on different activities and future plans regarding promotion and development of the saffron sector in the valley.



Cong Claims Rahul's Twitter Account Temporarily Suspended, Twitter Denies; Party Says It Is 'Locked'

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday claimed that Twitter has "temporarily suspended" the account of its former chief Rahul Gandhi, but later said it has been "temporarily locked" after the microblogging platform denied having suspended the account and stated that it continues to be in service.

The action by Twitter came over a controversial post of Gandhi with a picture of him meeting the family of a nine-year-old Dalit girl who died here following an alleged sexual assault. Twitter has deemed that the account violated its rules against posting private information.

According to party sources, some features of Gandhi's account have been temporarily limited, and while he could browse the social media site and send direct messages to his followers, no tweets, retweets, follows, fleets or likes were allowed.

Twitter has communicated that all the features of the account could be restored in 12 hours once the tweet violating its rules is deleted by him, the sources said.

Sources in the party claimed that Gandhi had done nothing wrong and they had the consent of the family of the girl for posting the photograph.

"Shri @RahulGandhi's Twitter account has been temporarily suspended & due process is being followed for its restoration," the Congress

tweeted from its official Twitter handle.

"Until then, he will stay connected with you all through his other SM platforms & continue to raise his voice for our people & fight for their cause. Jai Hind!" the party said.

Responding to queries about the Congress' claim, Twitter said it can confirm that the account has not been suspended and continues to be in service.

When any account is suspended, Twitter removes it from global view, the microblogging platform said.

Tagging its previous tweet, the Congress later tweeted, "The account has been temporarily locked."

Posting a picture of his meeting with the girl's family on Wednesday, Gandhi had tweeted in Hindi: "Parents' tears are saying only one thing -- their daughter, the daughter of this country, deserves justice. And I am with them on this path to justice."

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had asked the Delhi Police and Twitter on Wednesday to take action over Gandhi posting the photo of the girl's family on the microblogging website, saying it violates the Juvenile Justice Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Gandhi met the girl's family members on Wednesday and asserted that he is with them on the path to justice and "will not back down even an inch".

Pak Regrets Not Being Invited To UNSC Discussion On Afghanistan

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Pakistan on Saturday regretted that it was not invited to an UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan, despite being the war-torn country's closest neighbour.

In a statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) said the UN platform was used to propagate a false narrative against Pakistan, while denying it the opportunity to present its point of view.

The powerful 15-nation UNSC, currently under India's Presidency for the month of August, held a meeting on the situation in Afghanistan on Friday. Pakistan was not invited to attend the meeting.

At the discussion, Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ghulam Isacgai launched a scathing attack on Pakistan, saying it was providing safe haven and logistical support to the Taliban.

Reacting to the charge, the FO said: "Pakistan's request to the President of the Security Council to address the Council's session and present its perspective on the Afghan peace process and the way forward was not acceded to."

"On the other hand, the Council's platform was made available to enable the peddling of a false narrative against Pakistan," it said.

The FO alleged that Afghanistan's representative, in his statement at the UNSC,



propagated disinformation and levelled baseless allegations against Pakistan with a view to mislead the international community.

"Pakistan categorically rejects these accusations. Pakistan's position on the issue has been shared with Security Council members, it said.

The FO said Pakistan has repeatedly shared its perspective on peace and stability in Afghanistan by reiterating that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that a negotiated political settlement is the only way forward for durable peace and security in the country.

It said Pakistan was seriously concerned at the growing violence in Afghanistan and lack

of substantive progress in the Intra-Afghan negotiations as the U.S. and NATO forces were nearing completion of the withdrawal of troops from the country.

"Expressing deep concern at the reports of human rights violations, we urge all sides to ensure full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law," it said.

Pakistan called upon all warring sides in Afghanistan to eschew the military approach, engage constructively in negotiations, and work together to secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) visited the

Line of Control and was briefed about the prevailing situation in the volatile region.

The delegation comprised members of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the OIC. They visited the Chirkot sector of the Line of Control (LOC), according to a statement by the Pakistan Army.

"The delegation was given a comprehensive briefing on the prevalent security environment along LOC," said the Army, adding that it was also apprised on the arrangement of community bunkers.

A 12-member delegation of the IPHRC is visiting Islamabad and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir from August 4 to August 9.

Striking Traders Threatened With FIRs: Mehbooba

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday accused government of threatening shopkeepers with cases for observing a shutdown on the second anniversary of special status revocation.

Mehbooba, who led a protest march on August 5 against the scrapping of Kashmir's semi-autonomous status, took to Twitter on Saturday to slam the alleged intimidation of shopkeepers by the government.

"GOI threatening shopkeepers with FIRs for shutting their shops on 5th Aug as a mark of protest is the latest addition to the growing number of CBMs for Kashmiris since all party meeting," the PDP President posted on her Twitter handle.

'First CBM - firing govt employees on trivial grounds followed by denying jobs & passports,' she added.

Pertinently, on Wednesday various trade bodies accused police of warning them against observing a strike in this capital city on the second anniversary of special status revocation.

A day later, pictures and videos went viral on social media websites showing men in civies accompanied by cops directing shopkeepers to open their business establishments. In one such viral video, one of the police officials can be even heard asking for a hexa-blade to cut open the lock of one of the establishments.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Sees 142

division. Also, officials said no coronavirus related death was witnessed for the second time in a row, so far 4386 people have fallen victim to the pathogen in J&K—2148 in Jammu division and 2238 in Kashmir.

Moreover, officials said, 136 more patients have recovered, 49 from Jammu Division and 87 from Kashmir Valley.

There was no confirmed case of black fungus reported today. So far 37 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added. (With GNS inputs)

Fate Of 19 Missing

along with other rescuers from police, Army and local volunteers, the officials said.

Success has been eluding the search teams after seven bodies were recovered and seventeen persons rescued in injured condition after the calamity on Wednesday last.

The missing persons include Saja Begum (60) wife of Ghulam Mohidin, Khurshheed Ahmed (31) son of Mohammad Iqbal, Fida Hussain (26) son of Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Sharif (40) son of Ghulam Rasool, Almina Tasbassum (22) daughter of Mohammad Iqbal, Mata Begum (45) wife of Lala Tantry, Ghulam Mohammad (70) son of Ghulam Rasool, Fazal Hussain (18) son of Rustum Ali Chopan, Tariq Hussain (50) son of Nazir Ahmed, Zarina Begum (40) wife of Tariq Hussain, Mata Begum (45) wife of Ghulam Rasool, Fatima Begum (56) wife of Ghulam Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed (45) son of Rustum Ali, Begum (45) wife of Abdul Rehman, Sharifa Begum (38) wife of Ghulam Mohammad, Shakir Hussain (22) son of Ghulam Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmed (65) son of Abdul Aziz, Zubaida Banoo (25) daughter of Ghulam Ahmed and Khalid son of Haji Gami.

The police have also started a community kitchen since last Saturday to provide meals to affected people of village Hounzar. The police said to have erected tents to provide the temporary shelter at the site. (GNS)

Cop Killed, 2 Others

escorting Abdul Majid Padar, a protected person, up to his residence.

"In the attack, he said, three police personnel sustained gunshot injuries and were evacuated to hospital for medical treatment. However, Constable Nisar Ahmad succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom", the spokesman said.

"It is pertinent to mention that taking undue advantage of huge traffic jams and presence of large numbers of civilians, the terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the SHO and his escort party and managed to escape from the spot. However, to avoid collateral damage in view of the huge rush, the police party exercised maximum restraint. Both the injured personnel are stable and have been discharged from hospital after medical treatment," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law and 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 added.

Meanwhile, J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is scheduled to visit the south Kashmir district on Sunday, condemned the militant attack

"I strongly condemn the cowardly attack on the security force in Gulgam in which our brave police jawan, Nisar Ah Wagay attained martyrdom. Militants will never succeed in their nefarious designs, those responsible for such heinous acts shall be brought to justice," Sinha

posted from his official Twitter handle.

"My heartfelt condolences to the family of the martyr in this time of grief," he wrote in another Tweet.

Soldiers Get

this area have been in a face-off situation since May last year. One step at a time towards standoff resolution. As per the agreement reached during corpus commander talks, both sides have ceased forward deployments in PP-17 in a phased, coordinated, and verified manner," an Army spokesperson said.

The disengagement process was carried out over two days on August 4 and 5 and troops of both sides are now in their respective permanent bases.

The spokesperson said that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified. The landform in the area has been restored by both sides to the pre-stand-off period.

This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides and that there is no unilateral change in the status quo.

"With this, one more sensitive area of face-off has been resolved. Both sides have expressed commitment to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the Indian Army along with ITBP is totally committed to ensure the sovereignty of the country and maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western Sector.

In the 12th round of military talks, India and China had agreed to disengage troops from patrolling point 17A, one of the friction points between the two countries in the eastern Ladakh region.

Sources had earlier said that during the 12th round of talks, there was an agreement between both sides to disengage from PP-17A also known as Gogra.

The last disengagement agreed and acted upon by both sides was in February this year when they disengaged from the banks of Pangong Lake.

Militant Killed

a police spokesperson said Saturday. The hiding militants, he said, turned down the surrender offer and fired indiscriminately upon the search party which retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, the police spokesperson said that Shakir Bashir Dar of Goripora, Awantipora, an Al-Badr militant was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. As per the police records, he said, the killed militant was part of groups involved in various "terror" crime cases and several cases were registered against him.

"It is pertinent to mention that Shakir Bashir was earlier working as a terrorist associate with proscribed terror outfit LeT and joined terror folds of proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr recently," the police spokesperson said.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 1 AK-rifle with 2 Magazines, 32 rounds, 1 Chinese pistol with 2 Magazines, 16 rounds, 1 Backpack and 1 Pouch were recovered from the site of encounter," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that while the operation was in progress, it was learnt that while laying cordon another militant had managed to escape from the encounter site and the information was shared with Awantipora Police.

He said that Awantipora Police developed the lead further and launched a cordon and search operation in Mantaqi Colony, Khrew

area along with 50RR and 185BN CRPF and arrested the escaped militant from a truck JK13-2397 in which he was hiding.

The police spokesperson identified him as Shabir Ahmad Najar of Wuyan linked with LeT.

"The driver of the truck identified as Mohd Shafi Dar resident of Gratwani Mohalla Khrew has also been arrested. Besides the said truck has also been seized," the police spokesperson said.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 Chinese Pistol, 01 Pistol Magazine, 07 Pistol rounds, 02 AK-Magazines, 50 AK-rounds, 01 Chinese grenade, 5Kgs IED (destroyed on spot) were also recovered from the site," he added.

According to the police spokesperson, IGP Kashmir has congratulated joint teams of Police and security forces for showing exemplary coordination in conducting successful operation in professional manner without any collateral damage and tracking down the escaped "terrorist".

"Besides, IGP Kashmir appeals to parents of newly recruited terrorists to bring their children back to mainstream," he said, adding "In this connection, Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law and further investigation is in progress,"

Search Operation

a forested area of Thanamandi, was launched early Friday following information about the presence of three to four militants, including two foreign nationals, there.

"The operation is going on but no fresh contact was established with the suspected terrorists believed to be holed up in the dense forest," an Army official said.

Two LeT militants were killed in a fierce firefight in the forest area on Friday and a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from them, they said.

The bodies of both the terrorists were removed to a local hospital where their post-mortem was conducted on Saturday, the officials said, adding the identity of the deceased is still awaited but they are most likely from Pakistan. PTI

2 Injured In Ramban

and Mohammad Aquib (16) of Mangit-Khari, were injured in the incident. They were shifted to hospital where their condition is stated to be stable, police said.

The police said the blast took place under mysterious circumstances and an investigation is on to ascertain its cause.

Officials said police and security forces immediately cordoned off the entire area near the scene of the explosion.

The blast occurred between M G Company office and workers' accommodation, they said, without ruling out the possibility of hurling of grenade by suspected terrorists to create panic among the people.

M G Company is constructing Banihal bypass, a portion of the four-lane Jammu-Srinagar highway project.

The officials said police have registered a case in connection with the blast and the probe is going on.

Ex-PDP MPs

in the coming weeks," he said.

He said the People's Conference will play a constructive role in the region to create an enabling environment for engagement.

"To bring reprieve for the people of J-K, we will work tirelessly to halt further erosion. This cannot be done through theatrical outbursts and rabble-raising. In this digital age, our statements and utterances are read across the country. We should act in a manner that we do

not enable further erosion and disrupt delivery. By making delivery difficult for Delhi, the people of J-K are the only losers," Lone added.

Laway, former PDP MP from south Kashmir, said, "There is a leadership deficit in J-K. Politics of J-K needs new ideas and new energy. I am convinced that Lone is the only leader who can take us out of this impasse and restore the rights of people."

Mahoor Zahid's

of the abiding preoccupations in their future. A form that first achieved cultural centrality by reflecting the ambitions of a deteriorating mental health, it has always kept one eye on the shadow side of worldly striving."

A year ago, Mahoor had expressed these thoughts as a Kashmiri scholar in a roundtable discussion in Amity University. Sporting an un-planned meteoric ascent to fame, the impregnable speech, and an unpronounced plunge out of obscurity, she was highlighting every possible bully, harassment and traumatic abuse that "some adults" have inflicted upon youngsters over decades.

Her speech was steady if not an uninspired hand at the helm. Slowly, painstakingly, Mahoor had struck the poignant chord among the audience when she spoke of a reliable prose and constructed an appealing reality of "the elderly harassment that follows children forever".

It was as if she was determined to alert her audience to the difference between the elderly affection and a well-worn sexual and physical harassment by adults—questioning everyone who drew the two together. Thus marking the route for her rise as a novelist on an imaginary map where every passing pavement looked forbidding.

"In an age of voice-driven fiction especially in Kashmir, novel of ideas has an unavoidably dusty ring," Mahoor says. "It summons the drowsy cadence of the writer, the tedious rehearsal of concepts on loan from antiquated topics."

And among these ideas, she says, mental health, harassment, bullying remain an obscure reality.

On May 9, 2021, Mahoor was shortlisted for the Tagore Commemorative prize in the field of literature. Some top names in Indian literature were judging the works of almost 150 participants from India, Sweden, Malaysia and US for a cash prize as an aid for the writer's contribution towards literature.

Among the few hundred nominees, the work of a Kashmiri woman writer stood out. It was Mahoor's debut novel Traumatic Zombies—the only first nominee novel from Kashmir.

One of the judges, Chandrani, made some quick but eloquent remarks about this debut novel: "This book is no one person's story, it's everyone's story one way or the other. The commitment of writing this book without any publisher or an agent and with all the flak and troll lying by her side, the writer has still experimented with the creativity of the idea and maintained the sense of responsibility."

The nomination had brought Mahoor smiles amid tears—expressing the narrator in her body that supplies the setting for the drama of Heaven.

"I could hear my heart throbbing in my ears," Mahoor recalls. But more than the narration, it was her avowal to bring forth the tabooed topic that the society had always mis-talked about, inviting flak to her side.

A few days later, Traumatic Zombies was being reviewed by a few Indian critics. In every review the book would raise a serious question—until when will the adults enjoy an open impunity over children.

The human existence of children is being

viciously troubled by the adult bully, she argues in the novel. But above all, the book raises some serious hopes of existence among readers who themselves suffered from a troubled childhood obscurely getting harassed and bullied for no mistake of theirs. They contended that Traumatic Zombies spoke for them.

But when Mahoor first discussed the impunity of adults—her literal idea—with her immediate family, she was scoffed at: "Better focus on Kashmir history, culture and art, rather than defaming people!"

Even though Mahoor's idea of fiction was only to trace how terms of moral value evolve, the flak and hate had already embraced her side. She wanted to explore how good and evil, or pain and pleasure, get affixed to ordinary interactions—becoming a well-wisher or a harasser and loving someone as an adult or preying upon them as an adult.

Mahoor has been quite agile in demobilising such assertions. "One reason failure is such an irresistible subject is that it scares us," Mahoor says. "In a society that worships success, few things are more disquieting than the prospect of a blighted career and all the attendant personal, social, and financial woes."

If narratives of personal unravelling afford a person a frisson of danger—"hate, troll and flak are a part of everyone's life"—they also reaffirm a person's sense of relative achievement and security. "Assurances that the story was real can heighten the effect," the novelist opines.

The stem in the flak maybe from the fact that as a Kashmiri woman she speaks about the taboo topics in the valley, such as bully, sexual harassment by teachers, relatives and other adults towards children, mental health and much more. "If out of 100, only one person could relate his life story with my book, I'm ready to accept the hostility from the majority," she says with a firm face.

Explosives Recovered

sealed and planted.

Police seized these explosives and registered a formal case in this regard. (KNT)

2 Rape Accused

Both the absconders were presented before a local court at Ramban and have been sent to judicial custody at district jail, Udhampur, the spokesperson said.

Unregistered Medical

earlier also this medical shop had been seized but was later on allowed to operate.

ADC Drug Control Department Bashir Ahmed confirmed the seizure of the medical shop and said the investigation in this regard has been launched and it is being ascertained on whose directions this medical shop was allowed to operated in the town. (KNT)

Man Found

son of Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of Lasjan Srinagar. He was reportedly mentally unsound.

According to an official, proceedings under 174 CrPc have been initiated and further investigations has also been taken up to ascertain the actual cause of death—(KNO)

Ladakh Reports

The officials said nearly 5,000 people were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday, and seven of them tested positive for the infection in Kargil and two in Leh.

After the detection of the new cases, Leh accounted for a total of 16,814 infections, while the tally in Kargil has gone up to 3,564.

Five more patients were discharged in Leh and one in Kargil, the officials said, adding that there are now 54 active cases in Leh and 11 in Kargil.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia Wins Bronze Medal In Men's Freestyle 65 Kg



Press Trust of India

CHIBA: He did not live up to the sky-high expectations but India's Bajrang Punia will return from Tokyo with a bronze medal on Olympic debut after outwitting Daulet Niyazbekov in the play-off here on Saturday.

If his defence let him down in the semifinal against Hazi Aliev, Bajrang's smart attacking moves made him an 8-0 winner against Kazakhstan's Niyazbekov, to whom he had lost in the semifinals of the 2019 World Championship.

With Bajrang's medal, Indian wrestlers have matched their best performance at the Olympic Games. At the 2012 London Games, Sushil Kumar won a silver and Yogeshwar Dutt returned with a bronze.

With his podium, India also equalled their best ever Olympic medal haul of six achieved in in the 2012 London edition.

Bajrang had defeated Kyrgyzstan's Emazar Akmataliev and Iran's Morteza Cheka Ghiasi before losing to Hazai Aliev from Azerbaijan in the semifinals on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind were among the millions of Indians who congratulated Bajrang for winning a bronze in dominating style.

"A special moment for Indian wrestling! Congratulations to Bajrang Punia for winning the Bronze at #Tokyo2020. You have distinguished yourself as an outstanding wrestler with untiring efforts, consistency and tenacity over the years. Every Indian shares the joy of your success!" wrote the President on Twitter.

"Delightful news from #Tokyo2020! Spectacularly fought @BajrangPunia. Congratulations to you for your accomplishment, which makes every Indian proud and happy," Prime Minister Modi added.



NEERAJ CHOPRA Makes History With Javelin Throw Gold

Press Trust of India

TOKYO: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday became only the second Indian to win an individual gold in the Olympics, out-performing the field by quite a distance to notch up the first track-and-field Games medal for the country.

The 23-year-old farmer's son from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana produced a second round throw of 87.58m in the finals to stun the athletics world and end India's 100-year wait for a track and field medal in the Olympics.

Chopra won the country's seventh medal and first gold in this Olympics and joined shooter Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing Games) as India's individual gold winners in the showpiece. With this, the country surpassed the previous best haul of six medal achieved in the 2012 London Games.

Czech Republic throwers Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m) and Vitezslav Vesely (85.44m) took the silver and bronze respectively.

Chopra came into the final as a medal contender after topping the qualification round on Wednesday with a stunning first round throw of 86.59m. But few would have thought he would bludgeon his way to gold in such a dominant fashion at the grandest of the stage.

Season leader and pre-tournament gold favourite Johannes Vetter of Germany, who had thrown the javelin to 90m plus distances seven times between April and June, was eliminated after the first three throws as he was placed ninth with a best effort of 82.52m. Top eight after the first three throws got three more attempts while the remaining four in the 12-man final are eliminated.

With his fifth career best throw, Chopra has done something which the

likes of late Milkha Singh and P T Usha could not do in 1960 and 1984 editions. No Indian has won a medal in athletics since the country started taking part in the Games in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium. Three track and field athletes were part of the five-member team—the other two being wrestlers—in that Games.

The International Olympic Committee still credits Norman Pritchard's 200m and 200m hurdles silver medals in the 1900 Paris Olympics to India, though various researches, including the records of then IAAF (now World Athletics), showed that he had competed for Great Britain. In any case, Pritchard was not an Indian and the country's first Olympic participation under a national Olympic body was in 1920.

Since then, track and field athletes have been an integral part of Indian contingents in almost all the editions of the Games.

Inter-Zonal Kabaddi Competition Begins At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: On the instructions of Director Youth Services & Sports J&K, M A Bhat, Inter Zonal (District Level) Kabaddi Match for Boys U/19 years, competition commenced from Saturday at Mini Secretariat Arhama here.

The tournament is being conducted by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Shopian under the supervision of DYSSO Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta.

The event is scheduled to be held from 7th to 9th of August 2021. On the first day of the competition more than 48 student players from all the 04 zones of the district participated in the said event. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Shopian, Shahbaz Ahmad Boda as Chief Guest and Assistant Commandant CRPF, Surinder Kumar and Showkat Ahmad Khan, District Information Officer Shopian were Guest of Honour.

India Make Early Inroads But Root 50 Steers England To 119/2

Press Trust of India

NOTTINGHAM: India's fast bowlers made early inroads but England captain Joe Root hit a lovely counter-attacking half-century to take England's second innings score to 119 for 2 against India at lunch on the fourth day of the opening Test.

England currently have erased the 95-run first innings deficit to enjoy a slender 24-run lead with bright sunshine baking the pitch and making stroke-play easier than the first three days.

Root, who hit nine boundaries, including some rasping drives through the cover, is batting on 56 off 74 balls while opener Dom Sibley (27 batting off 116 balls) survived anxious moments as he got a DRS decision overturned off Shardul Thakur's bowling.

Virat Kohli wanted quick breakthroughs to put pressure on the opposition and Mohammed Siraj (11-2-36-1) and Jasprit Bumrah (8-2-20-1) did just that in the first half-hour, removing Rory Burns (18 off 49 balls) and Zak Crawley (6 off 7 balls) respectively in quick succession. The



extra pace possessed by both did help them as Siraj got one to angle across Burns and the edge was a regulation catch for Rishabh Pant.

Pant however had to dive to his right to pouch the thick outside edge that came from Crawley's bat when Bumrah's delivery straightened after pitching. Both Burns and Crawley after their prolonged poor run for England will be doubtful starters in the second Test.

Two quick wickets could have put England under pressure but Root decided to take the aggressive route as he started with a streaky boundary

with an open bat face past gully. The bowler was Bumrah. In the very next over from Siraj, he crunched one through covers and the third boundary was a whip past mid-wicket followed by another cover drive. Mohammed Shami failed to find his rhythm during the morning session as he was taken apart by Root.

Courtesy Root, the duo quickly added 50 runs for the third wicket as England slowly covered the deficit.

Root did survive a leg-before appeal after a delivery from Jadeja skid through and found him on the backfoot.

Herschelle Gibbs Confirms Participation In Inaugural KPL

Agencies

Former South Africa cricketer Herschelle Gibbs on Saturday confirmed his participation in the controversy marred Kashmir Premier League (KPL) 2021.

The star batsman, who was one of the first international cricketers drafted for the League, had claimed that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was pressurising him to not participate in the first edition KPL. It seems now he hasn't backed down.

"All set for the @t20kpl and @overseas-warriors ... #t20 #kashmirvalley #kpl #overseaswarriors #pakistan #cricket," he wrote on Twitter.

According to Pakistani media, Gibbs arrived in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on Saturday.

Former England cricketer Monty Panesar has already withdrawn from the KPL.

The tournament however has been able to rope in a few big names including former Sri Lanka cricketer Tillakaratne Dilshan and former England cricketers Owais Shah, Matt Prior and Phil Mustard.

Aditi Ashok Finishes Fourth In Women's Golf

TOKYO: India's Aditi Ashok missed a medal narrowly as she signed off 4th in the Olympic Games' golf competition after carding a three-under 68 in the weather-hit final round here on Saturday. The 23-year-old Bengalurean ended two strokes off the pace with a total of 15-under 269.

It was a heartbreaking end to Aditi's campaign considering she started the day at 2nd. World number one Nelly Korda clinched the gold medal with a 2-under 69 that left her 17-under overall and a shot ahead of Japan's Mone Inami (65) and New Zealand's Lydia Ko (65).

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem Finishes 5th In Javelin Throw

TOKYO: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem on Saturday came within touching distance of winning a rare Olympic medal for Pakistan but eventually missed out as he finished fifth in men's javelin throw event in Tokyo.

Nadeem, at one point in the competition, was placed as high as fourth before being surpassed by rival athletes.

India's Neeraj Chopra claimed gold, whereas Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch and Vitezslav Vesely claimed silver and bronze medals. Nadeem threw for 82.91m on his opening attempt of the final round and 81.98m on the second.

Brazil Win Olympic Men's Football Gold With Win Over Spain



Agencies

YOKOHAMA: From the World Cup to Olympics, Brazil's men are champions again in Yokohama 19 years apart.

Malcom scored in the 108th minute in extra time to give Brazil a 2-1 win over Spain on Saturday to defend Olympic football gold on the scene of its last world title in 2002.

It's a third straight Olympic football medal for Brazil after also collecting bronze in 2012. But Spain's quest to emulate its 1992 run to gold goes on — despite six members of the starting lineup coming straight from the run to the European Championship. They got the exemptions from their clubs to come to Japan that Neymar could not secure from Paris Saint-Germain.

Even Malcolm was only a late addition to the squad after Brazil convinced Zenit St. Petersburg to release the 24-year-old forward as an injury replacement. Malcom, who came off the bench for extra time, held off Jesus Vallejo before racing forward and seeing his shot from a tight angle deflect off goalkeeper Unai Simon's left boot and fly into the net.

Where winning men's football gold at the Olympics ranks in a career depends on the rest of a player's medal collection.

At 38, Dani Alves came to the Olympics eager to be an Olympic champion. Now the winner's medal joins ones from the Copa America, Champions League and league title wins in Spain, Italy and France.

Certainly for Richarlison coming to Japan was deemed worth it, despite playing four weeks ago in the Copa America final — losing to Argentina.

Even FIFA, on its Twitter feed, called Richarlison's workload "insane" — highlighting his 20 games in under three months in four competitions on three continents, covering the end of the Premier League season with Everton and World Cup qualifying with Brazil before the Copa America.

The chance to take the lead in this final was squandered by Richarlison sending a penalty high over the crossbar in the 36th minute.

Brazil went into halftime in front thanks to Matheus Cunha scoring in stoppage time.

Claudio's cross from the left flank was kept alive by Alves and the 38-year-old defender hooked back into the area. As it dropped down, Cunha made the connection and struck low into the net.

Richarlison was starting to celebrate extending Brazil's lead seven minutes into the second half.

But after being released by Cunha, Richarlison only had Simon to beat, but the deflection off the goalkeeper sent the shot off the underside of the crossbar — and away from danger for Spain.

And the Spanish tied it in the 61st minute after a well-worked move down the right flank which ended in across from substitute Carlos Soler being volleyed in by Mikel Oyarzabal.

Spain hit the crossbar twice late in regulation time — from Oscar Gil and Bryan Gil. The failure to find the target meant they ended up with silver — just like at the 2000 Olympics.

And it was Brazil celebrating boisterously wrapped in flags, creating its own atmosphere. The only fans allowed were members of the Olympic delegation with a crowd excluded because of the pandemic in the stadium about 45 minutes from Tokyo.

Tokyo Olympics Cost USD 15.4 Billion. What Else Could That Buy?

Agencies

TOKYO: The official price tag for the Tokyo Olympics is USD 15.4 billion, which a University of Oxford study says is the most expensive on record.

What else could those billions buy? The ballpark figure for building a 300-bed hospital in Japan is USD 55 million. So you could put up almost 300 of these.

The average elementary school in Japan costs about USD 13 million. For that price, you get 1,200 schools.

A quick search finds a Boeing 747 is priced at roughly USD 400 million. Voila: 38 jumbo jets for the cost of the Tokyo Olympics.

The point is, Olympic Games are costly and may bump aside other priorities. In fact, several Japanese government audits say the real outlay for the Tokyo Games is even more than the official figure, perhaps twice as much.

All but USD 6.7 billion comes from public money from Japanese taxpayers. According to the latest budget, the IOC's contribution is USD 1.3 billion. It also chipped in several hundred million more after the pandemic.

Olympic costs have been dissected in a study by the University of Oxford, which found that all Games since 1960

have had cost overruns averaging 172%. Tokyo's cost overrun is 111% or 244% depending on which cost figure you select.

"The IOC and host cities have no interest in tracking costs, because tracking tends to reveal cost overruns, which have increasingly become an embarrassment to the IOC and host cities," Oxford author Bent Flyvberg said in an email.

Flyvberg also pointed out that costs would be reduced if the IOC picked up more of the bills rather than opening organizers' wallets.

Following costs is a tedious exercise, dotted with arguments about what are — and what are not — Olympic expenses. Flyvberg explained that numbers from different games can be "opaque and non-comparable" and require sorting and tracking.

"The problem is disentangling what is Olympics cost and what is just general infrastructure spending that would have happened anyways but was sped up for the Olympics."

Victor Matheson, who studies sports economics at College of the Holy Cross, wrote in an email.

For example: The 1964 Tokyo Games, he says, "were either one of the cheapest or one of the most

expensive Games depending on how much of the preparation costs count as the Olympics."

The 2008 Beijing Olympics, usually listed as costing more than USD 40 billion, and the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics — priced at USD 51 billion — are often singled out incorrectly as the most expensive.

"The numbers for Beijing and Sochi likely include wider infrastructure costs: roads, rail, airports, hotels, etc. Our numbers do not," Flyvberg wrote in an email.

The blur around costs — and who pays — allows the IOC to pitch the Olympics as global party that brings the world together and promotes world peace.

Everybody is seen to benefit, and the financial interests of the not-for-profit IOC are hidden behind national flags, pomp and ceremony, and heart-tugging stories about athletes winning gold and beating the pandemic.

Tokyo, of course, saw costs soar with the postponement. Officials say the delay added USD 2.8 billion to the final total. The postponement and a subsequent ban on fans also wiped out virtually all ticket sales income, which was budgeted at USD 800 million.

Asteroid Heading Towards Earth Could Make Everyone A Billionaire



NASA is launching a mission to study a nearby asteroid worth more than \$10,000 quadrillion – which is said to contain so much precious metal that everyone on Earth would be a billionaire if returned.

After discovering Psyche 16 in March 1852, the 124 mile-wide space rock will be the primary focus of NASA's project, which is targeted to launch in August 2022. The spacecraft would arrive four years later in early 2026.

It will be the first exploration into a world of metal rather than rock and ice. NASA said, "Unlike most other asteroids that are rocky or icy bodies, scientists think the M-type (metallic) asteroid 16 Psyche is comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel similar to Earth." The asteroid is nestled between Mars and Jupiter. According to the Daily Mail, it is believed to be the "remnants of a protoplanet destroyed by 'hit-and-run collisions' when the solar system formed."

A team in California has since created a new temperature map to help NASA understand the asteroid's surface properties. Usually, infrared images of a space rock only provide a fragment of data equivalent to a single pixel, but researchers could get 50-pixel resolution, according to the Daily Mail.

"The findings are a step toward resolving the mystery of the origin of this unusual object, which has been thought by some to be a chunk of the core of an ill-fated protoplanet", researchers from the recent study said.

They discovered that its surface was made up of at least 30 per cent, with further rocks on the surface containing metal grains.

Caltech's Katherine de Kleer, assistant professor of planetary science and astronomy, added: "We think that fragments of the cores, mantles, and crusts of these objects remain today in the form of asteroids. If that's true, it gives us our only real opportunity to directly study the cores of planet-like objects."

Jaipur Man Dies After His Bluetooth Headphones Explode In Ear While He Was Studying

Agenceis

JAIPUR: A 28-year-old man died when his Bluetooth headphone device exploded here, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred in Udaipuria village of Chomu town in Jaipur district on Friday when Rakesh Kumar Nagar was preparing for a competitive examination at his residence, they said.

He was using the Bluetooth headphone device while it was plugged into an electrical outlet, police said.

The device exploded all of a sudden leaving Nagar unconscious. He was rushed to a private hospital where he succumbed during



treatment, they said, adding both his ears had suffered injuries. Dr L N Rundla of Siddhivinayak Hospital said the man was brought to the facility in an unconscious condition. He died during treatment at the hospital, Rundla said. The man probably died of cardiac arrest, he added.

India Now Has A Fifth Vaccine. Johnson & Johnson's Single-Dose Covid-19 Shot Gets Government Nod

Agenceis

Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine has been given Emergency Use approval in India, Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday. He said this will further boost the country's collective fight against the novel coronavirus infection.

"India expands its vaccine basket! Johnson and Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is given approval for Emergency Use in India. Now India has five EUA vaccines. This will further boost our nation's collective fight against #COVID19," the minister tweeted.

The US-based pharmaceutical company had applied for Emergency Use Authorisation for its job on Friday and was granted the



approval the same day by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

The five vaccines granted Emergency Use Authorisation

in India are Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik V, Moderna and now Johnson & Johnson.

Delta Variant Levels Same Regardless Of COVID-19 Vaccine

Agenceis

The levels of coronavirus in someone infected by the Delta variant have been observed as being the same regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, a new study said London on Friday.

Public Health England (PHE), the government body which reports on COVID-19 variants on a weekly basis, said the findings are still in their early stages but could have implications on levels of infectiousness of the variant.

PHE also confirmed that the Delta variant, first identified in India, remains "overwhelmingly dominant" across the UK, accounting for approximately 99 per cent of cases.

The Technical Briefing also includes some initial findings which indicate that levels of virus in those who become infected with Delta but have already been vaccinated may be similar to levels found in unvaccinated people, the PHE report said.

This may have implications for people's infectiousness, whether they have been vaccinated or not. However, this is early exploratory analysis and further targeted studies are needed to confirm whether this is the case, it said.

Meanwhile, in its hospitalisation update for the Technical Briefing, it said that 1,467 people were hospitalised with cases of the Delta variant, confirmed by sequencing or genotyping in



recent days. Of these, 808 (55.1 per cent) were unvaccinated, while 512 (34.9 per cent) had received both doses of the vaccine.

The latest hospitalisation figures show once again how important it is that we all come forward to receive both doses of the vaccine as soon as we are able to do so. Vaccination is the best tool we have in keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe from the serious disease risk COVID-19 can pose, said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency.

However, we must also remember that the vaccines do not eliminate all risk: it is still possible to become unwell with COVID-19 and infect others. It is still vital that we exercise caution, particularly while cases are high, she said.

PHE pointed out that as more of the UK's population gets vaccinated, the relative percentage of vaccinated people in hospital

would reflect that average.

In its update of the B.1.621 variant, which it had designated a variant under investigation (VUI) in its last update, PHE confirmed 37 cases in England and said preliminary laboratory evidence suggests that vaccination and previous infection may be less effective at preventing infection from this variant named VUI-21JUL-01.

However, this data is very limited and more research is required. There is no evidence to suggest that VUI-21JUL-01 is more transmissible than the dominant Delta variant, the public health organisation said.

The latest update comes as the UK registered its first official fall in coronavirus infection rates since the end of lockdown last month, as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey found that an estimated one in 75 had the deadly virus, down from one in 65 the week before.

Mumbai: Bomb Scare At 3 Railway Stations, Bachchan's Bungalow Turns Out To Be Hoax

Agenceis

Security agencies got into a tizzy after an anonymous caller informed the police that bombs have been placed at three railway stations in Mumbai and actor Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow, although the call later turned out to be a hoax and two persons were detained from neighbouring Thane in this connection, an official said on Saturday.

The caller, who is one of the detainees, is a truck driver, he said. Police said they had received the call on Friday night, following which searches were carried out at these four locations, but nothing suspicious was found during the operation.

Mumbai police's main control room had received the call around 9.45 pm on Friday, in which the caller said that bombs have been placed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Byculla, Dadar railway stations and at megastar Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow in Juhu, the police official said.

"After getting the call, the Government Railway Police

(GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) along with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), dog squads and local police personnel rushed to these locations and carried out searches," he said. At the CSMT station, all the platforms, the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office, parking lots and other nearby areas were searched with the help of the BDDS and dog squads. A team of Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS), Quick Response Teams (QRT), teams of a few local police stations, including Marine Drive and Azad Maidan, were also involved in the operation, he added.

But despite several hours of search, nothing suspicious was spotted at the CSMT and other three locations, the official said.

The police tracked the mobile number of the caller and traced him at Shil Phata area near Mumbai in Thane district, he said.

The caller is a truck driver from Marathwada region of Maharashtra. We have learnt that he has a habit of drinking. He has been detained along with one more person and the process to register an offence is currently on, the police official said.

SIT To Probe Extortion Case Against Ex-Mumbai Top Cop Param Bir Singh



Agenceis

THANE: Thane city police has formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe a case of alleged extortion against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh and 27 others, an official said on Saturday.

The case was registered against Singh and others on a complaint filed by builder Ketan Tanna at the Thane Nagar police station last week.

No arrest has been made in this connection yet.

The other accused named in the First Information Report include deputy commissioner of police Deepak Deoraj, assistant commissioner of police N T Kadam, former police officer Pradeep Sharma, inspector Rajkumar Kothmire, jailed

gangster Ravi Pujari and a city-based journalist.

Tanna alleged that when Singh was Thane police commissioner between January 2018 to February 2019, the accused extorted Rs 1.25 crore from him by summoning him to the office of the Anti-Extortion Cell and threatening to frame him up in serious criminal cases.

The Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is already probing another complaint of alleged extortion filed by bookie Sonu Jalan against Singh.

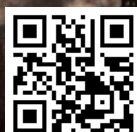
Singh was shunted out from the post of Mumbai police chief in March this year in the aftermath of the recovery of an SUV with explosives near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in south Mumbai.

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Why Pollution Control Committee Has No Kashmiri Member?

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