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P5 STATE

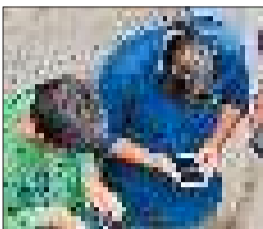
UNION GOVT TO RELEASE RS 570 CR TO J&K FOR ROAD PROJECTS

Minister of Transport and National Highways NJ Gadkari Tuesday made an assurance to the National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi for immediate release of Rs 570 crore on ac-

THINK

YOUNG AND RECKLESS? KASHMIRI YOUTH AND LIMITS OF GOVERNMENT OUTREACH

Since the past decade, we have seen frequent references to 'youth' being made in the political discourses regarding Kashmir. Because youth as a demographic category



P3 CITY

MASSIVE BLAZE DAMAGES SABER BABA SHRINE IN SAFA KADAL

A shrine was damaged in a massive fire that broke out in the Waniyar area of Safa Kadal here on Tuesday morning. The fire broke out from Saber



Quote!

Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will

—Suzy Kassem

NEWS DIGEST

Two Men Held For Militant Funding

JAMMU: Two persons were arrested on the charge of militant financing in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district after Rs 25.81 lakh was recovered from them, officials said on Tuesday. On specific information, a police team along with Army personnel raided several locations in Kanga Bhrooti village near the Line of Control on **More On P10**

Searches Carried Out In Sopore

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Tuesday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Sopore town of Baramulla district. According to reports, a contingent of security personnel from army, police and CRPF appeared in Sopore town on Tuesday morning and launched a search operation in Iqbal Market. The search team, reports said, sealed all the entry and exit routes before carrying out the search operation. Reports said that the joint team searched shops, **More On P10**

Tipper Mows Down Teenager

SRINAGAR: A speeding tipper on Tuesday crushed to death a teenager in Nunner area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 14-year-old Sahil Hassan Rather of Serch area was mowed down by a speeding tipper in Nunner area of the district on Tuesday morning, reports said. The teenager, reports said, died on the spot before he could be evacuated to the hospital for medical treatment. **More On P10**

Six Gamblers Held In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested six burglars in a raid in Delina area of Baramulla district. On the basis of specific information about gambling activities, police carried a raid at DPS Colony, Delina and apprehended six gamblers, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. He identified the accused Mohd Shafi Matta of Ishango Bandipora, Ab Qayoom Bhat, Mehraj-ud-Din Shiekh, **More On P10**

Minor Boy Drowns In Jhelum

SRINAGAR: A minor boy drowned to death in river Jhelum in Qamarwari area of this capital city on Tuesday. 10-year-old Sheezan Fayaz drowned while taking a bath in river Jhelum near Cement Bridge Qamarwari on Tuesday, officials said. They said that the river police Srinagar retrieved the body of the boy after hours of hectic searches. The body has been handed over to the family for last **More On P10**

10 Civilians Hurt In Srinagar Grenade Attack



Security personnel inspecting the site of a grenade attack in Srinagar's Hari Singh High Street on Tuesday. KO Photo/ Abid Bhat

Izhar Nazir Ali

SRINAGAR: At least ten civilians, including two women were injured on Tuesday in a grenade blast in the busy Hari Singh High Street (HSHS) in the heart of this capital city.

According to eyewitnesses, unknown militants on Tuesday afternoon hurled a grenade towards the armoured vehicle of paramilitary Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) deployed near the Hanuman Mandir in the busy marketplace of Hari Singh High Street. The grenade, they said,

NINE INJURED PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT to the hospital for treatment. While eight were locals, another was a non-local woman from Kolkata. They had received minor injuries and are stable."

exploded with a bang leaving at least ten civilians, including two civilians injured with splinters. All of them were removed to the SMHS hospital for treatment. "Nine injured people were brought to the hospital for treatment. While eight were locals, another was a non-local woman from Kolkata. They had received

minor injuries and are stable," The injured have been identified as Owais Ahmad of Chanpora, Gulzar Ahmad Ganai of Ajas Bandipora, at present Magarmal Bagh here, Raigan Singh of Ramban, Abdul Gani Shah of Beerwah, Mushtaq Ahmad of Khomoini Chowk Bemina **More On P10**

News Agency Employee 'Held With Grenades'

Government forces on Tuesday arrested an employee of a local news agency from Lal Chowk area here and recovered two grenades from him, police said. Police said a journalist Aadil Farooq, who works with a local news agency, was detained at Makkah market, Jehangir Chowk. According to police Aadil is a **More On P10**

CRPF Man Injured In Shopian Attack

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man was injured on Tuesday in a militant attack in Zainapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district. Constable Ajay Kumar of CRPF 178 battalion was injured when militants fired upon a road opening party (ROP) in the Kralcheck area of Zainapora in the **More On P10**

5800 Security Men Killed In J&K Since 1989: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over 5,800 security forces personnel have been killed in Kashmir since the inception of militancy in the region in 1989, the government said on Tuesday.

In reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said: "Since inception of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir (from 1989 till August 5, 2019), 5,886 security personnel were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in terrorist incidents".

He said Jammu and Kashmir has been affected by militancy **More On P10**

Rahul Pitches For J&K's Statehood Before Polls Says Visiting Kashmir Feels Like Coming Home

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said he feels like "coming home" when he visits the Kashmir Valley as he pitched for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood before holding assembly elections.

Addressing his party workers after inaugurating a new party headquarters **More On P10**



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

We Don't Want Delhi Like State: Azad

Senior Congress leader and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Tuesday urged Rahul Gandhi to raise the issue of J&K in Parliament so that a bill that restores the statehood and protects land and job rights of locals is passed within the remaining three days of the ongoing session. "I request Rahul ji to raise this issue, bring a bill in Parliament in the ongoing session that **More On P10**

With Shades Of Persia, Kashmiri Handmade Fabric Persists Modernity

Shubhanjana Das

AMJID Gulzar sits in the shop his great-great-grandfather established in 1842 as a tailoring store for the British elite living in houseboats by the Bund in Srinagar. His ancestors have catered to dignitaries around the world in custom-made bespoke suits, pherans, and shawls made in fine embroidery, among others, establishing the trusted craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans.

The store, K. Salama has evolved over the years as a one-stop destination for tourists as well as locals for Kashmiri clothing.

What is commonly perceived as 'Kashmiri clothing', most popularly the pheran, pashmina and shahtoosh shawls (which

are now banned), is the coalescence of multi-cultural influences mapping its history.

Art and craft practices in Kashmir are not only markers but also the result of political, cultural, and artistic exchanges with erstwhile Persia and beyond. Over the past few centuries, these crafts have absorbed local tradition, resulting in a visual vocabulary that is Kashmir's own.

The third generation of the handicrafts dynasty of Suffering Moses, Muzaffar Sadiq's familial history is a case in point. He recounts that his ancestors were brought from modern-day Iran to the Kashmir Valley at the mandate of the 13th century Muslim saint-reformer Shah-i-Hamdan and then the 15th century emperor known as Badshah



(Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin) to teach the locals the finer handicrafts of papier-mâché and wood carving. Along with similarities in the

linguistics, architecture, literature, art, cuisine, and the cultural traditions, the sartorial resemblance with Iran is also prominent.

"It is for these and other cultural influences that Kashmir is often termed as the Iran-e-Saghir in the academic parlance," states Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw, Former Director, Centre of Central Asian Studies and Dean College Development Council, University of Kashmir.

"The Kashmiri dress has the Afghan, Bukharan and Iranian influence. However, it is distinguishable by needle, stitch or embroidery works of various sorts, motif and floral designs."

Traditionally, the kurta-salwar, made of wool, cotton and silk, resembling an Afghan Khan dress, layered with a woollen-cotton made pheran, going from the neck down to the knees, besides a Kashmiri pashmina or tus shawl spread over

the shoulders and a skull-cap constituted the men's dress.

For women, it was salwar-kameez made of wool, cotton and silk, designed with intricate embroideries, donned with a woollen-cotton made pheran, besides a dupatta or head-scarf called kasaba in Kashmiri, and a pashmina or tus shawl worn over the shoulders, notes Prof. Kaw.

Besides giving warmth, the pheran is roomy enough for the kangri, a winter essential, which generates additional heat to the body against chilly winters. Sadiq points that the 8-9 months long extreme winter isn't the only natural influence on Kashmir's clothing traditions; the motifs used by kargars in papier-mâché and woodcarving as well as on textiles

borrow heavily from the valley's biotic elements.

Along with the omnipresent paisley, gulaab (rose), pamposh (lotus), the kingfishers of the Dal Lake, and the Chinar leaves are some of the most recognisable motifs embroidered on Kashmiri clothing.

The founder of design house Raffughar, Wajahat Rather, notes how some artisans would refer to a certain colour scheme as 'harud', meaning 'autumn' in Kashmiri, indicating "how they follow and harmonise colours by looking at nature. They never get it wrong".

The climatic conditions in Kashmir also dictated the fabrics that were predominantly produced locally. While cotton cultivation was not productive due to its poor yield, extensive green regions **More On P10**

...SPECIAL STATUS REVOCATION

Only 2 Non-Locals Bought Property After Aug 2019 Move: Govt



File Photo

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Only two persons have purchased as many properties in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated ending the special status given to the erstwhile state, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai's written reply came in response to a question on whether many people from other

states of the country have purchased and are also interested to buy properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after the removal of Article 370.

"As per the information provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have purchased two properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since August, 2019," he said. Asked whether **More On P10**

AS PER THE INFORMATION PROVIDED by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have purchased two properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since August, 2019,"

57 Youth Went To Pak On Valid Papers, Became Militants: DGP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that there is a need to strengthen measures to give security clearance for Pakistani visas, the Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said on Tuesday that 57 youth went to the neighbouring country on student and tourist visas



in 2017 and later joined militant ranks. Talking to the reporters **More On P10**

Slain Militant Went To Pak On Indian Passport

Police on Tuesday said one of the two militants killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district last week had travelled to Pakistan on a valid Indian passport in February 2018. Two militants belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed **More On P10**

I THINK GUNS ARE GIVEN PREFERENCE over pens in Pakistan and therefore, there is a need to strengthen our measures to give security clearance for Pakistani visas."



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OBSERVER**

Wednesday| 11-08-2021

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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کرمی
مضمون کاغذات درخواست اینڈیکس زوجہ محمد حامد میر ساکنہ ریشی پورہ
برادر عطا یگی بیکل میر رفیقیت

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری توکل سرٹیفیکٹ برادر احمد میر ولد غلام محمد میر ساکنہ ریشی پورہ جو کہ مورخہ 2021-06-30 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام سربراہ کنیدہ تفصیل افراد کنیدہ	پیشہ	عمر
ایمنز وجہ موتی	کھیل کام	42 سال
مڈرا احمد میر موتی	درتیم	18 سال
عاصہ دختر موتی	درتیم	12

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے اور سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار AJJ_r

از نیابت قلم آباد
مضمون کاغذات درخواست مخائب الشافعیض و فاضل فیض فیاض اولاد ان فیاض
احمولن ساکنہ میمن تاتر کینڈ برادر عطا یگی RBA تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع موضع تاتر کینڈ میں رہائش پذیر ہے سرٹیفیکٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار sult

از نیابت قلم آباد
مضمون کاغذات درخواست مخائب دانش محمد بخش ولد غلام محمد بخش ساکنہ
یہامہ برادر عطا یگی بیکوادر ڈایرا سرٹیفیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع موضع یہامہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے سرٹیفیکٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار sult

از نیابت رنیر پورہ بااعلاں جناب ایجاز احمد ڈار صاحب نائب تحصیلدار رنیر پورہ
مضمون درخواست مخائب شہباز فاروق ولد حسن محمد خان ساکنہ رنیر پورہ تحصیل ملن ضلع اہت ناگ
بہر حصول ڈیڈنٹ سرٹیفیکٹ

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر نے ایک درخواست دی ہوئی ہے۔ جسکی نیت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے۔ جس کی رو سے سائل کی پوری نقل ازین سے بائ پٹواری میں جملہ سے اور اپنے شوہر کے امدانی پر ہی انصار کرتی ہے سائل کے کینڈ کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر
01	فاروق احمد خان ولد حسن محمد خان	عمر رسیدہ	70 سال
02	دلشادہ بیگم زوجہ حسن محمد خان	عمر رسیدہ	68 سال
03	شہباز از فاروق ولد فاروق احمد خان	LPC	33 سال
04	مڈرا اختر زوجہ شہباز از فاروق	heart patient	30 سال
05	ماہدہ جان دختر شہباز از فاروق	بچہ	5 سال
06	جہانگرا خان ولد فاروق احمد خان	7000	30 سال

اسطور سائل کا کنیدہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سائل کے کنیدہ میں ایک سرکاری ملازم موجود ہے۔ سائل کے صرف پانچ افراد کنیدہ سائل پر ڈیڈنٹ ہے جہاں گراخان سائل کا بھائی سائل پر ڈیڈنٹ نہیں ہے سائل ڈیڈنٹ شوقیت حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ بعد معیاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

ابیر الحان غلام رسول چیلک (موجوم) اور بی

مضمون کاغذات درخواست اینڈیکس زوجہ محمد حامد میر ساکنہ ریشی پورہ
برادر عطا یگی بیکل میر رفیقیت

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ایمنز وجہ موتی	کھیل کام	42 سال
مڈرا احمد میر موتی	درتیم	18 سال
عاصہ دختر موتی	درتیم	12

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نائب تحصیلدار AJJ_r

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Ghulam Nabi Pandow S/O Mohammad Abdullah Pandow R/o Maisuma Sriangar (Transferor) of -- bearing registration No. JK01S-8011 chasis No: 4649 Engine No: 1103 Model 2012 in favour of Mehvish Shams D/O Shams-uddin Parry R/O Umar Colony B Lal Bazar Srinagar (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 5318
Dated: 06/08/2021
HB_R

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG
(Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar)

V/s

Manzoor Ahmad Kharadi S/o Abdul Rehman Kharadi R/o Iqbal Colony Anchidora. (Applicant)

1. Nigeena Akhter W/o Bashir Ahmad Ahangar R/o Iqbal Colony Anchidora.
2. Firdousa Akhter W/o Bashir Ahmad Sofi R/o Ashajipora Ang.
3. Shahada Akhter W/o Farooq Ahmad Khan R/o Mehman Mohalla Ang. (Non -Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner (s) in respect of an amount of Rs. 39,88,4/- in the name of deceased NABIZA BANOO D/O ABDUL REHMAN KHARADI R/O IQBAL COLONY ANCHIDORA.

Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim, by or before next date of hearing i.e 19-08-2021 falling which matter shall be determined on merits.

Issued under my hand seal of the court on 07-08-2021

Principal District Judge Annatnag

COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG
(Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar)

V/s

Naseema Banoo W/o Gh Hassan Khan R/o Loklipora Reshi Koulbal Tehsil Phalagam.

Mirad Leena Jan S/o Ghulam Hassan Khan R/o Loktipora Phalagam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner (s) in respect of an amount of Rs. 975150 in the name of deceased GH HASSAN KHAN S/O MAHDA KHAN R/O LOKLIPORA PHALAGAM.

Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim, by or before next date of hearing i.e 18-08-2021 falling which matter shall be determined on merits.

Issued under my hand seal of the court on 10-08-2021

Principal District Judge Annatnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I NISAR AHMAD WANI S/O AB SALAM WANI R/O PANZMULLA P/O SALIA ANANTNAG Applying For Dee Class Contractor Card In R&B Department .So If Anybody Have Any Complaint Regarding My Card Kindly Contact R&B Department Anantnag Or Contact No:- 7780859400

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

That is for the information of the general public that I have lost my passport bearing No. L3238304. Somewhere, Now I want to apply for its duplicate it. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice .No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name:- DAR NOOR MOHAMMAD
S/O :- GH RASOOL DAR
R/O :- HAKURA

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I am applying for an unemployment certificate .If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Tehsildar Shangus within seven days from the date of publication of this notice . No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

NAME :- SAJAD AHMAD BHAT
S/O :- GH NABI BHAT
R/O :- NOWGAM

rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I am applying for an unemployment certificate .If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Tehsildar Shangus within seven days from the date of publication of this notice . No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

NAME :- BILAL AHMAD WAGAY
S/O :- GH QADIR WAGAY
R/O :- NOWGAM

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Waseem Mushtaq Wani S/O Mushtaq Ahmad Wani R/O Panzmulla P/O Salia Anantnag applying for DEE CLASS contractor card in R&B Department . So if anybody have any complaint regarding my card kindly contact R&B Department Anantnag or contact no:- 9622460417.

RNA

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor Card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Office Nadihal Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Ayoob Shah
S/o Mohammad Ayoob Shah
R/o Binner Baramulla
Block Nadihal

HB

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Mobile No: 788-965-7769

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr Bilal Ahmad Ahangar S/o Mohd Akbar Ahangar R/o Al-Farooq Colony Anchidora (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle Secooty bearing registration No JK03H-6182 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/P No . and Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Shergojri S/o Ghulam Hassan Shergojri R/o Ranbirpora Mattan(party no 2nd) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with -- Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after sitipulated period.

Assistant regional transport Office Ang.

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mrs :- Dilafroza Akhter W/o:- Manzoor Ahmad Wagay R/o:- Qazi Molalla Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle SUMO bearing registration No JK03C-9648 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/P No . and Mrs:- Mehmooda W/o :- Mohd Ayoub Khan R/o :-Jumu Aishmuqam (party no 2nd) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with -- Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after sitipulated period.

Assistant regional transport Office Ang.

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

That is for the information of the general public that I have lost my passport bearing No. L3238304. Somewhere, Now I want to apply for its duplicate it. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice .No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name:- HAFEEZA BANOO
W/O :- NOOR MOHAMMAD DAR
D/O :- GHULAM HUSSAN KHAN
R/O:- HAKURA

RNA

Rehmat-E-Aalam Sports Academy, Seelu Sopore congratulates Shabir Ahmad Bhat for bagging first position in the local cycling competition. His feat is bound to inspire others.

(AJJ)

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education,

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original Mig-ration under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Imran Majeed Parentage: Abdul Majeed Dar R/O Ogmuna Karahuma Roll no (12th) 2406219 Year and Session Annual 2016
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration Certificate. Before the same is proceeded, anybody (if) having any objection may file in the office of the J&K State Board of School Education Branch Office Magam with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmj

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Umer Nabi S/O Gh Nabi Bhat R/o Chichiora Kwarhama
Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 11th)
Roll No 2150372 Session /Year Annual 2016

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Any-body (if) having any objection may file the some before under-signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmj

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Shah Nawaz Amin Bhat S/O Mohd Amin Bhat R/O Batipora Hazratul Srinagar (Transferor) of EON bearing registration No. JK01X-1146 chasis No: 343267 Engine No: 024844 Model 2014 in favour of Ghulam-u-din Kana S/O Abdul Gafar Kana R/O Chankhan Sopore (BLA) (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 5506
Dated: 10/08/2021
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Ishfaq Ahamd Lone
Father's name: Gh Mohi ud Din Lone
Mother Name : Jawahira
Roll No: 322468 Year 2008 Session Annual Private
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Any-body (if) having any objection may file the some before under-signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore

LC

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bermana Srinagar
Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 322468
Class : 10th Year & Session 2008 Annual Private
Registration No: 06NKM- 302288
Name: Ishfaq Ahamd Lone
Father Name: Gh Mohi ud din Lone
Mother's Name: Jawahira Begum
DOB: 01/11/1989 R/o Bomai Zainager
According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/s" bearing S.No: 08APKAM 4605199 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-+DQC)B/KD/21
Dated 10-08-2021

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD

LC

DDC Sgr Reviews Sports Infrastructure In Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday stressing on officers to ensure better sports facilities for the youth in the district, emphasized for providing adequate sports platforms to them so that they can exhibit their hidden talent and potential in a better way, besides excel at national and international competitions.

The DDC directed the District Sports Officer to provide Table Tennis facilities in all Girls Higher Secondary Schools on priority. He also asked him to undertake the works for earth filling of sports fields in schools wherever required.

He also instructed to conduct a survey regarding sports infrastructure of all Higher Secondary Schools in the district and submit DPRs at the earliest so that necessary funding and other support is provided for timely completion of works.

The chair was informed that the Sports department has set a target of engaging one lakh youth in different sports activities across the district. It was

also given out that recently various zonal level sports competitions were held and inter zone sports events shall start from August 10 and the participants would be felicitated on August 15.

The Officers of Sports Council were directed to share all sports related projects with the office of Deputy Commissioner to avoid any repetition and overlapping of works.

The Executive Engineer Sports Council informed the chair that 17 different projects under development of Sports infrastructure including Indoor Badminton facility, multipurpose Sports hall, Khel Bhawan were taken up during current fiscal, out of which 17 projects have been completed while 3 projects are nearing completion.

The DDC directed the officers to speed up the pace of all works and complete them within set timelines.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, District Youth Service and Sports Officer, Balbir Singh and Executive Engineer Sports Council besides Principals of all Higher Secondary Schools of Srinagar district.

Inter-Zonal District Level Competitions Inaugurated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Assad Tuesday inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level competitions in Chess, Carom & Badminton at Boys Higher Secondary School Rawalpore here.

The competitions were organised by District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC who graced the function as Chief Guest encouraged the participants to pursue their passion with hard work and zeal. He further deliberated upon the philosophy and benefits behind conducting programmes under 'Azadi Ka Am-

rut Mahotsav' - a 75 week long programme commemorating 75 years of independence.

Earlier, during the start of the function, Balbir Singh District Youth Services & Sports Officer in his speech informed that District Srinagar has so far successfully conducted 08 activities under 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' and the campaign shall continue.

The participating players also took oath along with the Chief Guest before the competitions were declared open.

The DC along with DYSSO Srinagar also joined the players and executed some Strokes and moves in Carom & Chess respectively before leaving the function.

Massive Blaze Damages Saber Baba Shrine In Safa Kadal

Srinagar: A shrine was damaged in a massive fire that broke out in the Waniyar area of Safa Kadal here on Tuesday morning.

The fire broke out from Saber Baba shrine in Waniyar Safa Kadal today morning. Officials said that the shrine got fully damaged in the massive blaze that broke out due to short circuit.

The fire tenders also rushed to the spot and doused the flames, they said.

LAWDA Launches Drive For Collection Of Solid Waste

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Lakes & Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Tuesday launched a drive regarding collection of solid waste in Merakshah channel.



The drive was taken up in collaboration with NGO and was conducted under the supervision of Superintending Engineer Lakes and Waterways Development Authority.

During the drive all solid waste in the channel was removed by the labourers deployed there.

The officials at the occasion urged the residents residing along the peripheral areas not to throw the solid

waste into water bodies especially Merakshah channel which carries a lot of solid waste load to Dal Lake.

Meanwhile, continuing its demolition drives in areas falling under LDA, the Enforcement Wing of LAWDA demolished four structures in Qureshi

Mohalla, Hakeem Mohalla Lal Bazar, and Fisherman Colony Kohna Khan WFR besides Burzahama areas.

During demolition drives, the officials emphasized upon people to desist from raising illegal structures in LDA jurisdiction. They were also requested to cooperate with the department and obtain proper permission from authorities for constructing structures.

APHC Concerned Over Raids On Jama'at Affiliates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Tuesday expressed concern over the repeated raids across the valley on those affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami by the National Investigation Agency and also expressed concern that Kashmiri political leadership, activists and others continue to be jailed across various jails of India.

APHC in a statement, said that leaders, activists and others including Advocate Shahid-ul-Islam, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Nayeem

Ahmed Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yusuf, Syed Shakeel Ahmed, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Nahida Nasreen, Er Rasheed, Zahoor Ahmed Watali and others have completed four years of imprisonment in the "infamous" Tihar Jail in Delhi.

The statement said the health condition of Advocate Shahid-ul-Islam, who is in Tihar Jail, is extremely bad and his wife and young daughters are facing multiple difficulties and hardships

including psychological issues.

APHC termed it tragic that for such a long period of time, these prisoners are being detained and are languishing in jails mostly for their political outlook, while there is a deliberate delay in hearing of cases against them in courts.

"Similarly, Muhammad Yasin Malik is in jail for more than two years now and Shabir Ahmad Shah for more than four."

Meanwhile, APHC also paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his 13th anniversary.

“SIMILARLY, MUHAMMAD YASIN MALIK is in jail for more than two years now and Shabir Ahmad Shah for more than four.”

National Deworming Programme Inaugurated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Mission Director (MD) National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Choudhary M Yasin Tuesday inaugurated the National Deworming programme organised by Chief Medical Officer Srinagar at Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Govt. Medical College Srinagar. The programme was organised with an aim to de-worm preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

Speaking on the occasion, the MD said that every year two rounds of National Deworming Day are being conducted on designated days- August 10 & February 10, in all the States and UTs of the country having Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) prevalence of more than 50 Percent.

However, he said, amid COVID-19 pandemic, implementa-



tion of NDD August 2021 round exclusively through the platforms of schools and anganwadis is not possible, therefore in continuation to the strategy adopted during the last round of NDD conducted during February- April 2021, implementation of NDD August 2021 round shall be conducted through a community based strategy by providing de-worming tablets to target population in their households by front line healthcare workers from August 10th to September 15th, 2021.

The Dy Director, DHSK, Dr Ab Rashid, while speaking on the occasion directed the officers

of Health Department to ensure 100 percent coverage for deworming of children.

Dr Salim Khan, HoD SPM, GMC, Srinagar on the occasion said that deworming is a safe, cost-effective intervention for breaking the worm cycle which has shown to reduce absenteeism in schools, improve learning outcomes for children later in life.

Chief Medical Officer Srinagar stressed for behaviour change practices in terms of cleanliness, hygiene, use of toilets, wearing shoes/chappals, washing hands etc. which is also important to reduce incidence of infection.

Meeting On Importance Of Laboratories Accreditation Held

SRINAGAR: A meeting on the importance of laboratory accreditation as per ISO / IEC 17025:2017 under the National/ International recognition of ILA / MRA and NABL was held at Directorate of Agriculture Lal Mandi.

The meeting was presided over by Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal.

On the occasion the Director held a detailed deliberation on various concerned issues including calibration and testing in laboratories, accreditation of laboratories, structural and resource requirements, etc.

While having interaction with the participants Iqbal highlighted the importance of

accreditation of laboratories in the present scenario and said that the network of accredited laboratories could play an important role in establishment and maintenance of set/ prescribed National/ International quality standards.

He said that we have a distinction of producing some special agricultural crops and agricultural commodities. Once we have a strong network of accredited labs in the UT our produce will get an acceptance at national and international level which could ultimately increase the commercial importance of our produce and will ensure the maximum outreach to our products, he

added.

Earlier Director NIIRT Centre for Calibration, Analysis & Testing S.K. Sinha gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on various procedures that are being adopted during the accreditation process of different laboratories.

Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Apiculture & Mushroom, Agriculture Chemist Kashmir, Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar attended the meeting in person while as Chief Agriculture Officers & heads of different departmental laboratories of Kashmir division participated virtually.

DIAL-EMMA



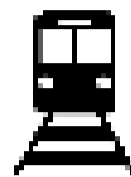
- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 1998 - Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian National Authority president, Yasser Arafat, arrives in Cape Town on his first state visit to South Africa at the invitation of President Nelson Mandela
- 2003 - Jemaah Islamiyah leader Riduan Isamuddin, better known as Hambali, is arrested in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2003 - A heat wave in Paris results in temperatures rising to 112°F (44° C), leaving about 144 people dead.
- 2003 - NATO takes over command of the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, marking its first major operation outside Europe in its 54-year-history.
- 2012 - 153 people are killed and 1300 injured in Tabriz and Ahar, Iran after two earthquakes of up to 6.4 magnitude
- 2012 - 13 people are killed and 15 injured by a lightning strike at a Mosque in Bangladesh
- 2013 - 22 people are killed by flash floods in Kabul, Pakistan
- 2015 - Largest ever outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in New York - 12 dead, with over 100 cases in the South Bronx
- 2015 - Japan's Sendai Nuclear Power Plant restarts the first nuclear reactor since the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster
- 2016 - A Greenland shark declared oldest vertebrate animal in the world at 392 years by international team of scientists

From KO Archives

Car bomb on residency road kills 14

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A massive car bomb explosion near Kothi Bagh police station on high security residency road here left 14 people mostly security men including two officers and a press photographer Dead and more than 40 injured many of them critically. Betraying a huge security lapse it was third car bomb blast in the area over the past three years.

Eye-witnesses said suspected militants lobbed a decoy grenade towards a security forces vehicle on Residency Road near the heavily guarded Kothibagh police station shortly after noon which hit a vehicle parked there. No one was injured while the busy mall was deserted immediately with the people running for safety, a police party led by the superintendent of police, East, Pankaj Saxena, and hordes of media persons rushed to the spot.

A large number of army and security forces vehicles were parked in the area where the army and security personnel come for transactions with the State Bank of India's main branch located there. Army and paramilitary force jawans, who had come to the bank, also trooped out to see what had happened

On reaching the spot, police and security men straightaway started scanning the parked vehicles. While they were having a good look at a white ambassador car, bearing registration No JK 01B 9009, it exploded with a big bang resulting in death of nine people on the spot and injuries to scores of others. The blast occurred at about 12.30 p.m. Gun fire was also heard immediately after. Eyewitnesses said panicky security forces had fired in the air Army experts in Delhi believed the explosion was triggered by PETN chemical explosive, which emanates black smoke after detonation and has been used earlier in blasting of Panam flight over Lockerbie, in Scotland in 1988.

Bodies of some victims were blown to pieces due to the heavy impact of the blast which also damaged scores of adjoining shops and buildings. A number of vehicles, including those belonging to the security forces, parked near the spot, were also damaged.

The site presented a gory scene with mutilated and charred bodies, mangled metal and broken tree brandies strewn all around. Several bodies were without limbs.

Ghulam Hasan Banka, a retired engineer, who narrowly escaped with some injuries, told Observer News Service "Just in front of me, two press photographers were shooting pictures, and probably they took the brunt of the flying splinters that could have hit me."

Officials put the toll at twelve, including eight police personnel. But, unconfirmed reports said 15 people, including eight policemen and five security personnel, were killed. A deputy superintendent of police succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The deceased included Pradeen Bhatia, a photographer of New Delhi daily, The Hindustan Times. Soon after the incident, security forces cordoned off the entire area to conduct searches.

It was the first major-dare-devil strike here after the withdrawal of ceasefire by Hizbul Mujahideen. A caller identifying himself as the group's spokesman, told AFP in Islamabad, the twin blasts were carried out by Hizb militants.

(Kashmir Observer, August 11, 2000)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCL KASHMIR 190018

Web Site: www.pmmpddjk.org, Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881, email: epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No's: SE/Proc/08/2021-22

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDC Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers/authorized distributor having valid dealership certificates and letter of authorization from OEM for supply of D.G Sets of ratings 63 KVA, 100 KVA and 250 KVA as depicted below for the requirement of KPDC:

S.No	Material Description	FOR ECSD Srinagar (No's)	Reference to e-NIT
	D.G Set		
1	63 KVA	4	SE/Proc/08/2021-22
2	100 KVA	6	
3	250 KVA	2	

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	09.08.2021; 18:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	31.08.2021; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	10.08.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 12.08.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	13.08.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 31.08.2021; 14:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	01.09.2021 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar 190018.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	02.09.2021; 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local firms of J&K and Rs3000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Only) for firms outside J&K (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	The bid security shall be as per D.O. No: 9/4/2020-PPD dated 12.11.2020 of Govt. Of India endorsed by Govt. of UT of J&K vide no: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated 22.12.2020.

DIPK-NB-2446/21

Sd/
Superintending Engineer
Procurement (KPDC)

'It's Their Struggle': US On Afghan Exit As Taliban Sweep Provinces

The Taliban's advances may appear startling in their speed but were not unexpected in Washington as the US military completes the pullout ordered by Biden by August 31.

Agencies

Washington: The Taliban are making swift gains in Afghanistan but President Joe Biden is standing firm on a US exit with limited options appearing to be on the table to reverse the insurgents' momentum.

The Taliban's advances, including seizing six provincial capitals within days, may appear startling in their speed but were not unexpected in Washington as the US military completes the pullout ordered by Biden by August 31.

"The decision to withdraw was made in full knowledge that what we are seeing happen now was likely to happen," said Laurel Miller, until 2017 the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

For Biden, who long championed ending America's longest-ever war, there is a cold calculation -- nothing more could be achieved and the United States long ago accomplished its stated goal of defeating Al-Qaeda in the region following the September 11, 2001 attacks, though the Taliban have yet to cut their ties with the group.

"Nearly 20 years of experience has shown us," Biden said last month, "that 'just one more year' of fighting in Afghanistan is not a solution but a recipe for being there indefinitely."

Keep up air strikes?
The United States plans to keep arming and training the Afghan

military but one key question is whether it will carry out air strikes against the Taliban after August 31.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby confirmed Monday that US bombing sorties backed Afghan allies last week but indicated there was no decision to do so after the withdrawal, with the administration previously saying air power would be limited to counterterrorism operations.

"It's their country to defend. This is their struggle," Kirby said, while acknowledging the situation is "clearly not going in the right direction."

The administration is also warning the Taliban that they risk being a pariah if they take over by force -- even though the militant Islamist group was internationally isolated when ruling much of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

The pariah argument is "the leverage that the administration is leaning heavily on because that's the leverage they've got," said Miller, now Asia program director at the International Crisis Group.

"The Taliban, I think, would prefer to have legitimacy and financial assistance from the international community. But their number one preference is gaining power."

For the government, she said, the best-case scenario is to force a stalemate with the Taliban and then seek a political settlement.

Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia program at the Wood-



row Wilson International Center for Scholars, doubted that the United States had the means to turn the tide now that it is withdrawing.

"I fear that the Taliban is just so strong and the Afghan military is so beleaguered right now, it's going to be hard to find some type of momentum changer from the US," he said.

Aaron David Miller, a veteran US policymaker now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that air strikes cannot win the war.

"All they can do is maybe stop from outright losing one -- an unacceptable outcome that has basically

been the story of US policy there for two decades," he wrote on Twitter.

Public sours on war
The Taliban when in power notoriously imposed a violent, ultra-austere brand of Islam on Afghanistan, banning music and severely restricting women and girls.

But Biden, like his predecessor Donald Trump, has repeatedly said that the United States was not out to build a nation and has accused the Kabul government, with its internal feuds and allegations of corruption, of failing to meet the moment.

"US public opinion today is either opposed to the war or unaware of the war," Kugelman said.

The terrorism threat to the United States out of Afghanistan remains limited, he said, even if more fighting could have devastating effects in the region including through a new exodus of refugees.

"So I think that if you would see a worst-case scenario developing where the Taliban was threatening to take over Afghanistan on the whole, I don't think that would shift the calculus for the administration," Kugelman said.

"I think that for the administration, the political cost would be higher if troops were to be sent back to Afghanistan after they'd been removed."

India shuts last consulate in Afghanistan, evacuates citizens

NEW DELHI: India sent a military plane to northern Afghanistan today to pull out its citizens, officials said, as fighting raged between Afghan security forces and the advancing Taliban.

The Indian government shut its consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif, the biggest city in the north, and urged its diplomats and Indian citizens to take the special flight home.

Islamist Taliban fighters have overrun six provincial capitals in recent days in the north, west and south of Afghanistan.

India, which has invested millions of dollars in development projects across Afghanistan, has now closed all its consulates, leaving only the embassy in Kabul operational, a government official said.

India's main opposition Congress party urged the government also to help evacuate Afghanistan's tiny Sikh and Hindu communities, to protect them from any attack by the Taliban.

Congress official Jaiveer Shergill estimated that there were around 750 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus in the country.



■ Nearly 20 years of experience has shown us," Biden said last month, "that 'just one more year' of fighting in Afghanistan is not a solution but a recipe for being there indefinitely."

US To Review Classified 9/11 Attacks Documents For Possible Publication

Agencies

Washington: US officials vowed Monday to review classified documents related to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to see which could be made public -- a recurring demand of some victims' relatives.

The FBI said in a letter to the US attorney for the southern district of New York that it "has decided to review" its prior privilege to not disclose certain sensitive documents and will "identify additional information appropriate for disclosure."

Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation "will disclose such information on a rolling basis as expeditiously as possible," the letter read.

The FBI's commitment is part of a legal battle waged by relatives of September 11 victims against Saudi Arabia and other nations they believe were accomplices.

During the legal wrangling, successive US administrations have invoked state secrecy in order not to publish some documents.

Biden however said in a statement that he welcomed the court filing.

"My administration is committed

to ensuring the maximum degree of transparency under the law, and to adhering to the rigorous guidance ... on the invocation of the state secrets privilege," he said.

The United States is preparing to commemorate the 20th anniversary



of the attacks against the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on an airplane that crashed in Pennsylvania, with a solemn ceremony planned in New York with Biden in attendance. Some relatives of victims, survivors of the attacks and members of rescue teams published a letter last week saying Biden would not be welcome

at the commemoration "until he fulfills his commitment."

The letter called for the release of all documents and information "that our government has accrued in its investigation" that they say links Saudi Arabia to the attacks. Some

1,700 people have signed the letter, according to the US media.

Monday's announcement of the court filing was met with skepticism by victims relatives.

"Unfortunately ... we have heard many empty promises before," said Brett Eagleson, the son of a 9/11 victim.

'Why Is PM Silent?' Former Home Minister On Pegasus Row

Agencies

New Delhi: A day after the Defence Ministry stated that it did not have any transaction with the NSO Group, which is at the centre of the Pegasus row, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram today said only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can answer on behalf of all ministries and departments over the issue and asked "why is he silent?"

NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance software company, has been under increasing attack following allegations that its Pegasus software was used for surveillance of phones of people in several countries, including India.

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, while replying to a question in Rajya Sabha on Monday, said, "Ministry of Defence has not had any transaction with NSO Group Technologies."

Reacting to the development, Mr Chidambaram tweeted, "MoD has 'absolved' itself of any deal with the NSO Group, Israel. Assuming, MoD is correct, that takes out one Ministry/Department. What about



the remaining half-a-dozen usual suspects?"

"Only the PM can answer on behalf of ALL ministries/departments. Why is he silent?" the former Home Minister said.

An international media consortium has reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers, including that of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, union ministers Prahlad Singh Patel and Ashwini Vaishnaw, businessman Anil Ambani, and at least 40 journalists, were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using Israeli firm NSO Group's Pegasus surveillance software.

The government has been denying all Opposition allegations in the matter.

Rohingya Muslims Indulging In Illegal Activities, Centre Tells Lok Sabha

Agencies

New Delhi: The government has reports that Rohingya Muslim migrants are indulging in illegal activities, Lok Sabha was informed today. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said that all foreign nationals who enter into the country without valid travel documents are treated as illegal migrants.

"There are reports about some Rohingya migrants indulging in illegal activities," he said in a written reply.

Mr Rai said the central government has issued instructions to state governments and Union Ter-

ritory administrations, advising them to sensitise law enforcement and intelligence agencies for taking appropriate steps for prompt identification of illegal migrants, their restriction to specified locations as per provisions of law.

Instructions have also been issued to capture their biographic and biometric particulars, cancellation of fake Indian documents and for taking legal proceedings including initiation of deportation proceedings under provisions of law.

Mr Rai also said that consolidated instructions to tackle the issue of overstay and illegal migration of foreign nationals have been issued on March 30, he said.



NEWS MAKER

Resource-Starved Singapore Turns Sewage Into Ultra-Clean Water

Giant pumps whir deep underground at a plant in Singapore that helps transform sewage into water so clean it is fit for human consumption while reducing ocean pollution. The tiny island nation has little in the way of natural water sources and has long had to rely principally on supplies from neighbouring Malaysia.

To boost self-sufficiency, the government has developed an advanced system for treating sewage involving a network of tunnels and high-tech plants.



Recycled wastewater can now meet 40 percent of Singapore's water demand -- a figure that is expected to rise to 55 percent by 2060, according to the country's water agency. While most is used for industrial purposes, some of it is added to drinking water supplies in reservoirs in the city-state of 5.7 million people. And the system helps reduce maritime pollution, as only a small amount of the treated water is discharged into the sea.

This is a contrast to most other countries -- 80 percent of the world's wastewater flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused, according to UN estimates.

"Singapore lacks natural resources and it is limited in space, which is why we are always looking for ways to explore water sources and stretch our water supply," Low Pei Chin, chief engineer of the Public Utilities Board's water reclamation department, told AFP.

One key strategy is to "collect every drop" and "reuse endlessly", she added.

This is in addition to the city-state's other main approaches to securing water supplies -- importing it, using reservoirs and desalinating seawater.

At the heart of the recycling system is the high-tech Changi Water Reclamation Plant on the city's eastern coast. Parts of the facility in land-scarce Singapore are underground -- some as deep as 25 stories -- and it is fed by wastewater that flows through a massive, 48-kilometre (30-mile) tunnel, linked to sewers.

The site houses a maze of steel pipes, tubes, tanks, filtration systems and other machinery, and can treat up to 900 million litres (237 million US gallons) of wastewater a day -- enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool every 24 hours for a year.

In one building, a network of ventilators have been installed to keep the air smelling fresh, although a putrid whiff still hangs in the air.

'Limited amount of water'
Sewage that arrives at the plant undergoes an initial filtering process before powerful pumps send it flowing to facilities above ground for further treatment. There, the treated water is further cleansed, with impurities like bacteria and viruses removed through advanced filtration processes, and disinfected with ultraviolet rays. The end product, dubbed "NEWater", is mainly used in microchip manufacturing plants -- which are ubiquitous in the city-state and require high-quality water -- and for cooling systems in buildings. But it also helps boost drinking water supplies. During the dry season, it is sent to top up several man-made reservoirs and, following further treatment, flows to people's taps.

Throwing 'Love' Chit At Married Woman Is Outraging Modesty: High Court

The Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court has ruled that throwing a chit at a married woman for professing love amounts to outraging her modesty. The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has given a strict order while hearing a case related to a married woman. The court said that throwing love chit on a married woman is an insult to her dignity. The trial court also slapped 90,000 fine on accused Shrikrushna Tawari, of which 85,000 is to be paid to the survivor as compensation.

While upholding the conviction, the High Court added that the modesty of a woman is her "most precious jewel" and there cannot be a "straitjacket formula to ascertain whether it's outraged".

"The complainant is a married woman, aged 45 years and the very act of throwing a chit on her person which professes love for her and which contains poetic verses, albeit extremely, purely written is sufficient to outrage the modesty of a woman," the court said.

The judge said that he had no reason to disbelieve the evidence of the complainant that the applicant threw a chit on her person containing objectionable material.

"No-fault can be found with the concurrent finding that the applicant did outrage her modesty. The evidence of Mrs "S" that the applicant used to flirt, make gestures like pouting of lips, on occasions used to hit her with small pebbles is confidence-inspiring and in the exercise of revisional jurisdiction, I would be loathe to disagree with the concurrent findings of Courts below based on the appreciation of evidence on record," the court added.

Agencies

New Delhi, August 10: India is ranked 122nd in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world, the Commonwealth Secretariat said on Tuesday. Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.

Chad, the central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively.

The index revealed that the condition of young people improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018, but progress remained slow.

The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of youth development in 181 countries, with 156 of them recording at least slight improvements in their scores.

While the data used in the index pre-dates Covid-19, the report highlights the positive trajectory of youth development, which the virus could reverse for the first time unless urgent action is taken to secure the pre-pandemic gains.

The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest), according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.

It looks at 27 indicators, including literacy and voting, to showcase the state of the world's 1.8 billion people between the age of 15 and 29.

Afghanistan, India, Russia, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso were the top five improvers, advancing their score on an average by 15.74 per cent.

On the other hand, Syria, Ukraine, Libya, Jordan and Lebanon showed the greatest decline in youth development between 2010 and 2018.

Overall, the index showed advances in youth's participation in peace



■ YOUNG PEOPLE are indispensable to delivering a future that is more just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. By measuring their contributions and needs with hard data, our advocacy for their development becomes more powerful, and we are then able incrementally to increase the positive impact and benefits youth are able to add towards building a better future for us all". — IANS

processes and their education, employment, inclusion and healthcare since 2010. Health made the largest gains of 4.39 per cent driven by a 1.6 per cent decline in global youth mortality rates and a 2 per cent drop in each HIV, self-harm, alcohol abuse and tobacco use.

Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest strides in improving the health of young people.

Levels of underemployed youth and those not in school, training or

work remained constant. Advances in equality and inclusion are led by improved gender parity in literacy as well as fewer child marriage cases and pregnancies in girls under 20. Yet, no progress occurred in women's safety.

The global education score increased by 3 per cent, with South Asia making the largest improvement at 16 per cent, followed by sub-Saharan Africa at 10 per cent.

Peace and security improved by 3.41 per cent, resulting from fewer young people dying from direct violence. Somalia recorded the largest gains in peace and security of young people, followed by Colombia, Sri Lanka, Eritrea and Russia.

Youth participation in politics is the only domain that recorded a decline in most parts of the world, reporting deterioration in 102 countries. However, sub-Saharan Africa recorded a 5 per cent improvement in the average regional score.

Globally, Sweden led on education, Luxembourg on equality and inclusion, Indonesia on political and civic participation, while Singapore topped the employment, health and peace and security domains.

Speaking before the release, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: "Young people are indispensable to delivering a future that is more just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. By measuring their contributions and needs with hard data, our advocacy for their development becomes more powerful, and we are then able incrementally to increase the positive impact and benefits youth are able to add towards building a better future for us all". — IANS

Over 22L Beneficiaries Provided Medicines During Covid In J&K: Ayush Ministry

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Ministry of Ayush Tuesday informed the parliament that a total of 2,224,972 beneficiaries were provided medicines during COVID-19 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir besides a total of 872 Ayush doctors are in position.

The Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal replied to the queries raised in the parliament including the number of doctors working under the National Health Mission (NHM) and the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) and the number of posts of doctors lying vacant and whether medicines have been provided to those doctors since the establishment of these two missions, if so, the details thereof for three years. Besides, the details of medicines purchased by the Ministry of AYUSH in different States during the entire COVID-19 period and the number of people to whom these Ayurvedic, Homeopathy and Unani medicines were made available, State-wise?

He informed that under NAM, grant-in-aid has been provided for essential AYUSH medicines for co-located AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) & District Hospitals (DHS) and AYUSH hospitals & dispensaries as per the proposals received from State/UT Governments.

He said that as public health is State subject, the primary responsibility to make available medicines for COVID-19 in the

States/UTs come under the purview of respective State/UT Governments.

The Ministry of AYUSH is not purchasing the medicines directly for States/UTs during the COVID-19 period.

The minister said that however, the Ministry of AYUSH has approved Rs. 2271.551 lakhs for procurement of AYUSH 64 medicine by the States/UTs during the COVID-19 period.

About the figures of Jammu and Kashmir, the reply said that a total of 872 doctors of Ayush are in position while only 19 in Ladakh Union Territory. Regarding the approved deployment of doctors under Ayush Health and wellness centers during 2019-20 and 2020-21 include 0 in J&K.

In response to the 50 bedded integrated Ayush hospitals, it said that no doctor has been made available while 3 have been ensured at Up-gradation of Ayush Hospitals. About the funds for procurement of essential Ayush medicines, the Minister said that 244.100 Lakh rupees were approved in the annual year 2018-19 and 342.70 in 2019-20 and 442.00 rupees between 2020-21. It informed that 395.224 lakh rupees amount was approved by National Ayush Mission for procurement of Ayush 64 medicine.

It also informed that 2224972 beneficiaries were provided Ayurvedic, homeopathic and Unani Medicine during COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir.

KO News Desk

The plan for Ramban – Banihal segment of NH to be revised at the cost of Rs. 3000 crore.

Srinagar: Minister of Transport and National Highways NJ Gadkari Tuesday made an assurance to the National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi for immediate release of Rs 570 crore on account of CRF to Jammu and Kashmir so that all road projects are completed in time.

A National Conference statement said that Masoodi called on the Union Minister NJ Gadkari to discuss various proposals for strengthening road connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. He invited attention of Minister to frequent traffic disruptions on Jammu- Srinagar NH adversely affecting movement of people and goods and thereby impacting every aspect of life.

He demanded an elevated road between Ramban and Banihal so that frequent disruptions due to day in and day out landslides are avoided. Gadkari agreeing with the Member made an assurance that the earlier plan was being given a relook and revised plan at the cost of Rs 3000 crore proposed to be shortly commenced.

Masoodi apprised the Minister of the impediments faced by the concerned department in improv-

ing road connectivity because of delay in release of Central Road Fund. Gadkari taking due cognisance of the problem, assured immediate release of Rs 570 crore on account of CRF to Jammu and

important industrial hub, it was important to have a Bye - Pass road from Sangam to Lassipora so the movement of raw material and industrial products in heavy trucks was smooth and least inconvenience



Kashmir so that all road projects are completed in time.

In the meeting Desa-Kapran tunnel, Wularhama - Tral, Pastun - Khrew roads, Sangam - Lassipora and Letapora- Pantachowk bye pass were also discussed. Masoodi emphasising the importance of the proposals made by him, informed the Minister that Desa-Kapran Tunnel would bring big relief and provide better opportunity and connectivity to thousands of inhabitants of Kastigarh and other far flung areas of Doda.

He informed the Minister that as Lassipora was coming up as an

to passenger transport in the area. Masoodi highlighting the importance of Wularhama- Tral and Pastun - Khrew informed the Minister that the proposed roads were not only to shorten distance between Pahalgam and Srinagar by more 25 kilometres but were also to play a big role in development of unattended upper areas of Salar and Tral.

He demanded up gradation and widening of Letapora-Khrew- Panthchok road as it serves important industrial areas of Khrew and Khunmoh. The minister assured positive action on all the proposals made and asked for all necessary details.

Anantnag's Mattan Residents Face Drinking Water Shortage

Observer News Service

Bijbehara: The residents of Nambal area in Mattan hamlet of South Kashmir's Anantnag district are facing shortage of drinking water from last several years.

Residents of the area said that they are just getting few drops of water on daily basis which isn't enough for them and yet no attention is given by the administration to resolve their issue.

The inhabitants of Nambal said that the initial pipeline was laid before four decades which is rusty and has leakage as well due to which water isn't reaching them.

"When pipeline was laid, since then population has increased by almost three times but pipes are same which isn't able to cater our needs," a local said.

Another local resident Prabhoo Singha said that as the supply is hardly for one hour, "we are forced to fetch water from the same contaminated spring which is around half a kilometre from the locality due to which they are facing lot of problems."

He added that they are forced to drink contaminated water as authorities continue to remain in slumber. The locals said that in 2019, they apprised the then deputy

commissioner regarding the issue who later sanctioned Rs 2.5 lakh for laying new water pipeline, however, the same amount got lapsed as the concerned department failed to take up the work.

"Deputy Commissioner was again contacted who directed SE PHE after which SE



sought explanation from concerned officials whose reply was based on a hoax," a group of locals said. An official of the Jal Shakti department acknowledged that due to rusty pipes there is water shortage in the area and very soon the area will get 24x7 potable water supply as a project for the same is expected to get approval very shortly.

Asked why Rs 2.5 lakh got lapsed, he said that amount got approved in last week of March and it wasn't possible to cover whole area within few days.

LG's Adv Reviews Covid Mitigation Measures, Winter Preparedness

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, on Monday assessed disaster mitigation efforts, winter preparedness of PDD and arrangements being put in place for upcoming 75th I-Day besides listening to issues and concerns of several delegations who called on him during his visit to Lethpora and Awantipora areas.

Advisor asked the concerned officers to engage PRI members in inspection of all ongoing works in their respective areas for effective monitoring. He asked them to expedite the pace of work on all projects so that the same are completed within the set timelines.

Advisor Khan directed the officers to make all requisite arrangements for ensuing winter season to ensure people do not suffer on this account. He said there should be no frequent power cuts or scarcity of transformers and other related utilities in rural areas. He asked the PDD officers to replace damaged



poles, conductors and wires. He directed the concerned officers to strictly follow District Disaster Management Plan especially for higher vulnerable reaches.

Advisor Khan emphasized maximum participation of people in the I-Day functions amid strict adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior. He asked

for involving NGO's, local youth and civil society members in the sanitation drives. He directed for running IEC campaigns regarding government sponsored schemes during the celebration.

Advisor further directed for organizing sports events in the district besides launching plantation drives.

Next 100 Days Crucial Regarding 3rd Covid Wave: WHO expert

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Surveillance and Medical Officer (S&MO), WHO, Dr Ashiq Rashid Mir said that the vaccination has played an important role in the delay of emergence of the 3rd wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

He maintained that the vaccinated people have contributed to the delay of the 3rd wave of Covid-19, however warning that the next hundred days are very crucial regarding its emergence. Dr Mir stressed that the strategy to delay or stop the impact of the 3rd wave is to get vaccinated.

"All those individuals who have not taken the first dose of vaccine must get inoculated while those who have taken the first dose and

completed their interval period should get the second dose to get the benefit of vaccination," the WHO officer said.

Also, he said that Standard Operating Procedures need to be followed properly and the other guidelines issued by the Government should be followed in letter and spirit including avoidance of outside gatherings and crowding.

He emphasized on the government issued guideline that more than 25 people should not assemble at a single place as it poses threat of spread of the infectious disease.

He urged people to wear masks, use hand sanitizers and get vaccinated to remain safe from the covid infection.

H&H Dept Employees Condole Demise Of Colleague

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir and employees of the department on Tuesday expressed shock over the death of Mohammad Rafiq Mir, S.O Handloom Department Kashmir, who died in harness on Monday.

A condolence meeting of Handicrafts and Handloom department was held under the chairmanship of Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, a spokesman of the department said.

In the meeting the employees with heavy heart and with a sense of overwhelming grief expressed sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the family as well as the fraternity of young, dynamic,



and noble staff member, Mohammad Rafiq Mir, whose death left the whole department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir shell shocked, the statement said.

"We pray to almighty Allah for forgiveness to the departed soul and for granting fortitude to the family of the deceased to bear this irreparable loss. The heart of all the officers and officials of the department goes out with the bereaved family".

Lupine Theme Garden Inaugurated At Gulmarg

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Gardens and Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad Tuesday laid the foundation stone of Lupine Theme Garden which is the first of its kind at the destination in order to facilitate tourists with best possible avenues and facilities.

He also inspected various parks and took stock of infrastructure and other developmental activities being carried out there. Fayaz also laid the foundation stone of Hydrangea Theme Garden at Tangmarg spreading over an area of 60 kanals of land.

He also planted a sapling of Hydrangea ornamental plant and formally kick-started the plantation of about 500 ornamental plants that

are being planted at the venue.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the concerned authorities to maintain the assets in the best state of maintenance. He also stressed that there is a need to engage more people in commercial floriculture which could enhance the employment opportunities.

He added that various initiatives are being taken to upgrade and develop basic infrastructure and avenues so as to make these points as centres of amusement.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather urged people to follow the requisite SOPs and adopt COVID Appropriate Behavior (CAB) during their visit to the parks and gardens.

Army Seeks International Assistance To Trace Missing Pilots

Agencies

Jammu: The Army is seeking international assistance to locate the two missing pilots of its helicopter that crashed into the Ranjit Sagar Dam lake in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir last week as the search operations entered the eighth day on Tuesday, an official said.

Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said a small area of 60x60 metres has been localised and special sonar equipment flown in from Kochi is being used to enable the search operations to enter their final phase. The Army statement came after the younger brother of one of the missing pilots expressed anguish at the search and rescue operations progressing at a "snail's pace".

"Military authorities are leaving no stone unturned to search for the helicopter which crashed and sank into the Ranjit Sagar Dam along with two pilots. The expanse of the dam is 25 km-long, 8 km-wide and more than 500 feet deep," Lt Col Anand said. He said the Army is coordinating the efforts of Indian Navy deep divers' team consisting of two officers, four junior commissioned officers and 24 other ranks, Indian Army special forces divers' team consisting of two officers, one JCO and 24 other ranks, multi beam sonars, side scanners, remotely operated vehicles and underwater manipulators, which have been flown in from Chandigarh, Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi and pressed into action at the crash site.

"Search operations continue unabated inspite of bad weather and rain. Expertise and equipment of the Army, Navy, IAF, NDRF, SDRF, NGOs, state police, dam authority and private firms from all over the country have also been into action," the army PRO said.

He said this deep underwater operation is especially challenging due to the near-zero visibility below 50 metres owing to the colloidal nature of water in this season which adversely impacts accuracy of sonars and other sensors.

"Experts, specialised equipment and divers are being continuously



flown in and international assistance is also being sought. No efforts are being spared for early conclusion of the search operation," Lt Col Anand said.

The Army Aviation Corps' advanced light helicopter (ALH) took off from Mamun military station near Pathankot with its pilot and co-pilot and crashed into the lake during a routine sortie on August 3.

Neel Joshi, brother of Captain Jayant Joshi, the co-pilot of the helicopter, took to Twitter to express anguish over the slow pace of search and rescue operations and said "we have lost all hope at this point." In a series of tweets, Neel Joshi said almost one week has passed since the crash but there is no news of his brother.

"...I wish I could explain the agony of my parents. Operations to extract the wreckage are ongoing at a snail's pace with no end in sight," he wrote on twitter.

He said the family has lost all hope at this point and the friends and family are desperate for any news of his brother.

"If the pilots are in the wreckage, then the condition of the remains after one week in the water will leave my parents in a shock no one should experience. For a second generation officer (my mother has served 40 years in the Army), the apathy of the @adgpi is astounding," Neel Joshi said.

He said the anticipation, the wait and day after day of "futile search" by the Navy and Army is a "torture for our mother who has to wait everyday to hear any news."

NITI Aayog Ranks Three J&K District Hospitals As Top Performers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Aayog, New Delhi has ranked 3 District Hospitals of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as top performers for the year 2018-19 on the basis of already identified indicators. The best practices of top performing District Hospitals on said indicators were evaluated for healthcare institutions of the States/UTs.

District Hospital Baramulla has been ranked first in availability of Support Services & availability of diagnostic testing services. Against the availability of support services and diagnostic testing services proposed for District Hospitals, District Hospital Baramulla had all the requisite services.

Similarly, District Hospital Bandipora has been ranked first in Bed occupancy rate. District Hospital Bandipora had 100 per cent bed occupancy for the year.

Further, JNLM Srinagar has been ranked first in C-Section rate, against the total number of deliveries performed in a year including Normal and assisted deliveries & C Sections.

National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Aayog, New Delhi has requested for documenting these best practices of each of these top performing hospitals so that same can be replicated in the other healthcare institutions of the country.



JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject: Select List for the posts of Lecturer Periodontics (GDC-Srinagar) in Health & Medical Education Department.

Notification No.50- PSC (DR-S) of 2021

Dated: 06.08.2021

Whereas, Health and Medical Education Department vide ME-GAZ/207/2004-Part-II dated 25.03.2019 referred 01 post of Lecturer under SC category in the discipline of Periodontics (GDC-Srinagar) for selection of suitable candidate; and

Whereas, J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No. 04-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 25.03.2019 advertised the said post for selection of suitable candidate; and

Whereas, Commission received 01 application, which was scrutinized and accordingly applicant was called for interview; and

Whereas, the interview of the said shortlisted candidate was conducted on 05.07.2021 with the assistance of experts; and

Now, therefore, on the basis of the performance in the interview in pursuance of Rule 51 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980 as amended from time to time and other related parameters, the merit of the candidate who had appeared in the interview is enclosed as Annexure-"A" to this Notification.

Consequent upon the above, Dr. Abhima Kumar D/O Sh. Jagjit Kumar R/O H.No.07 Sector 2 Ext., Channil Himmat, Jammusecuring 57.29 points is selected against the post of Lecturer Periodontics under SC Category in GDC Srinagar.

Note:-

- The Commission reserves the right to have certificates/documents of the candidate verified, if at any later stage found expedient to do so. The Selection of the candidate is purely provisional and is subject to the outcome of writ petition(s) pending before any competent Court of law.
- The select list is provisional and objection, if any, may be submitted to the Commission within five days for examination and disposal. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after five days from the date of issuance of Notification.

(R. K. Katoch) KAS

No. PSC/DR/Lect/Periodontics/H&ME/2019

Dated: 06.08.2021

DIPK-6308/21

Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

UN climate report

UN appointed panel has warned of the far-reaching effects of climate change if no immediate measures are taken to remedy the damage already done. The world, says the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released Monday, will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. The report said that human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years. Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities alone are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming since 1850-1900 and the temperatures could continue to rise until 1950. The report says that the past decade was most likely hotter than any period in the last 1,25,000 years when sea levels were as much as 10 meters higher.

The report should be a cause of alarm for the world. There is an urgent need for the world to come together, and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe. In Kashmir too, the climate change has led to considerable changes in weather patterns. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking Kolahai glacier, the biggest in Valley, which is the source of Lidder and Sindh, two major streams of river Jehlum.

The area of Kolahai has retreated 13.87 square kilometers to 11.24 sq kms from 1976. The situation is no different with other glaciers. An Action Aid Report in 2009 said there has been an overall 21 per cent reduction in the glacier surface area in the Chenab basin. Many of the areas have seen a complete disappearance of small glaciers in parts of eastern Srinagar and Pirpanjal mountain range in district Pulwama. In other areas, like Budgam, the height of the small glaciers has reduced to over one-fourth of the original height.

If the recession of the Himalayan glaciers goes on at this rate, the discharge in the former state's rivers would substantially go down, leading to a catastrophic situation, not least because it will severely impact Pakistan too.

Though we can do nothing about the larger, global scale changes in the climate, we certainly need to address the local man made causes that reinforce their impact on us. To start with, we need to undertake an honest study through a professional consultancy on how the climate change is going to affect us in the long term. And what actions we should take to cushion its impact. This will go a long way to goad the government to institute necessary policy changes and a plan of action that takes a better care of our environment.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Resolving differences in Depsang is key to diffusing tension on Ladakh LAC

On the face of it, the disengagement by the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army at Patrolling Point 17A at Gogra Post in Eastern Ladakh is a positive development, but amid the continuing tensions in the larger theatre of the western sector of the LAC, it is hard to see it as a breakthrough of any kind. The disengagement took place after the 12th round of military commander-level talks and, according to the Indian side, was carried out on August 4 and 5. Disengagement means that troops of the two armies deployed at the point will no longer be eyeballing each other, a situation that could quickly go out of control as it did in the Galwan Valley last year. However, the situation in the Gogra Post area, that involved perhaps less than 50 soldiers on each side, was not as dire as it was on the northern bank of Pangong Lake, where a similar disengagement took place in February this year from an almost war-like posturing by both sides with tanks and troops facing each other over a distance of a few hundred metres.

Both armies are said to have removed all their temporary structures from near PP17A. As at Galwan and Pangong, a mutually agreed no-patrolling zone has been created, and the troops have fallen back to their respective bases. From the Indian point of view, this means that the extent of patrolling of the troops has shifted further inward from PP17A. It is hoped that the suspension of patrolling is only a temporary measure — the Indian officials have said it is — until a larger resolution of the differences on the border question takes place between India and China.

Further rounds of talks may yield similar disengagement at PP15 in the Hot Springs area, which has been another friction point. That will still leave the Depsang area, where Indian troops were patrolling upto the extent of PP 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13 until February 2020, but are now being prevented from proceeding beyond a point that is about 18 kms inside Indian territory. There have also been reports of a massive build up of military infrastructure by China in the area, on its side of the LAC. Considering that the relatively flat terrain of Depsang makes it vulnerable to an offensive, and the Chinese posturing in this area poses a threat to the strategically important Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road, resolving differences in this area is what actually matters now. Unless that happens, de-escalation — the reduction of the total number of troops deployed, around 50,000 on the Indian side — in eastern Ladakh, and a breakthrough towards the overall reduction in India-China tensions, will remain elusive goals.

The Indian Express

Muhammad Tahir

It was partly due to these youth-centric schemes and programs that a large number of Kashmiri youth landed in different cities and towns of India for jobs and education. Ostensibly, these schemes and programs aimed to channelise the energies of youth into productive labour, but jobs and scholarships served to create economic stakes and disincentivise overt display of “deviant” behaviour and practices

Young and Reckless?

Kashmiri Youth and Limits of Government Outreach

Will the ambitious (and expensive) program of youth engagement and outreach translate into so-called ‘mainstreaming’ of the new generation is something that only time will tell

Since the past decade, we have seen frequent references to ‘youth’ being made in the political discourses regarding Kashmir. Because youth as a demographic category is perceived with certain assumptions. Most cliched description is that ‘youth is the future’. Social and political forces operating within Kashmir or having a view on Kashmir, and belonging to different ideologies, therefore, seek to mould ‘Kashmiri youth’ into their preferred ideal.

On the political landscape of Kashmir, there are contesting views on what is an ‘ideal youth.’ The status quoists project certain success stories as emblematic of their ideal youth. Since they are the status quoist, a success story that operates within the permissible boundaries of what is seen as legitimate by the status-quoism is ideal. Anything that questions, critiques or potentially disrupts the status quo is, according to the status quoists, deviant, abnormal behaviour that usually gets categorised as ‘radicalisation.’ Responses to such deviancy range from verbal denunciation to criminalisation, formally and informally, through the coercive apparatuses of the state.

Anti-status quoists, on the other hand, vary in their worldviews. For some anti-status quoists, an ideal youth is the one who is anchored in the core doctrinal values of religion, and exhibits standard moral behaviour in all spheres of life. Here anti-status quoism is directed at the vagaries of westernisation, including secularisation of life.

Another branch of anti-status quoists is more political in orientation. Their fundamental aim is to determine their own future, and live according to their own beliefs and freely. Structures that control, restrain, regulate and interfere in their lives without their consent are what agitates their minds and triggers their visceral fears, anxieties and political responses.

According to the 2011 Census, Kashmir's youth population (15-30 years old) was over 30 percent, i.e., Kashmir had a ‘youth bulge’. But what is youth bulge? Youth bulge is defined as a, “phenomenon of rapid growth of the young population of a country relative to its general population, causing considerable impact on its economy and politics.” Youth bulge can become a cause of social upheaval but it can also be a source of economic development through an expanded young working-age population.

Many political commenta-



tors and policymakers have viewed youth bulge in Kashmir as a source of political unrest that marked the past decade. Their main argument is that the chronic youth unemployment and lack of good governance in Kashmir is the reason why so many young people join street protests and armed groups. Youths formed the bulk of protesters who hit the streets in 2010, 2016 and 2017. In fact, the post-2008 political mobilisations in Kashmir were mostly youth-driven. As per different media reports, citing official data and confidential surveys, more than 500 local youth joined different insurgent groups since 2016. Local recruitment into militant outfits peaked in 2018 when over 200 local youth joined militancy. In the light of these developments, youth bulge in Kashmir came to be seen as a security challenge, which must be immediately addressed.

Approaches were twofold: militaristic and non-militaristic. Hard-policing under militaristic approach had its limitations, so it was overlaid with a non-militaristic approach under the ‘policy of engagement.’ This entailed counselling (under smart-policing doctrine), special job recruitment drives, skill development courses, recreational activities, and educational scholarships. Under the Himayat program – a skill developments program launched in 2011 – youth were given skill training for 3-12 months to make them ready for the market and increase their employability. The Prime Minister Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS), launched in 2011, covered course and maintenance fees up to Rs. 1,30,000 per year for students who enrolled in educational institutions in different Indian cities. The Udaan scheme (worth Rs. 175 crore) envisaged enhancing the employability of 40,000 Kashmiri youth

over a period of five years (The Mission Youth now coordinates youth-related schemes and programs with all the departments of J&K government).

It was partly due to these youth-centric schemes and programs that a large number of Kashmiri youth landed in different cities and towns of India for jobs and education. Ostensibly, these schemes and programs aimed to channelise the energies of youth into productive labour, but jobs and scholarships served to create economic stakes and disincentivise overt display of “deviant” behaviour and practices.

Some analysts had questioned the efficacy of ‘the policy of engagement’ directed at youth without a wider political outreach. Ghazala Wahab, editor of the Force magazine termed the schemes under this policy as “an investment of limited returns”. Some analysts from the security establishment, however, viewed the policy favourably, arguing that it had potential to create “counter-narrative.”

But, will the ambitious (and expensive) program of youth engagement and outreach translate into so-called ‘mainstreaming’ of the new generation is something that only time will tell. It is hard to tell if economics can triumph over politics. Research so far has shown that “integrative institutions and increased national status brought about by economic growth is insufficient to induce national identification in a context where psychological distance from the nation is large.”

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

The author is an independent researcher



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I and many Self Group of Engineers' Livelihood Stands Snatched

I have been unemployed since August 10th last year. The reason for this unemployment wasn't Covid pandemic, nor was I a terrorist or “anti-national” element. I wasn't working for the government as an employee too and I wasn't on the rolls of J&K Government. I along with 19999 others were beneficiaries of a scheme run by the J & K government.

The Self Help Group of Engineers Scheme was launched in the year 2003 for the Self Employment of the unemployed engineers, as a substitute to Government jobs for organising them into groups and allotting them construction works by various departments/agencies of the State Government. The first meeting in this regard was held on 06-08-2003 under the chairmanship of the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Mufti Mohammad Sayeed where the Administrative heads of various departments participated.

Under the Guidelines, the Scheme was applicable to unemployed engineers of J&K State pos-

sessing a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering / Technology / Architecture in any branch of Engineering or three years Diploma in any branch of Engineering. The unemployed engineers were required to organise themselves into Self Help Groups of 4 to 10 members. The Self Help Group were asked to approach the concerned District Employment and Counseling Centre for issuance of the registration card or its revalidation. 30 percent of the total work of the Government Departments/ Corporations/Autonomous Bodies were earmarked for the Self Help Groups. A SHG was entitled to execute construction work contracts/ supply contracts of civil/ mechanical and electric/electronic nature.

The Banks particularly J&K Bank were directed to lend loans upto 50 per cent of the cost of the work allotted to a Self Help Group against the work allotment letter. The implementation of the Scheme was regularly monitored at the District, Divisional and State

Levels by the respective Monitoring Committees.

This scheme was a landmark scheme in uplifting the unemployed youth of J&K and providing them gainful employment. The scheme was a success as the government was getting the works executed through technocrats in a professional manner. Government had nothing to lose as a huge section of youth was getting employed without any burden on its finances.

An order 752 -JK GAD Dated 10-08-2020 through which sanction was accorded to merging/ Subsuming of engineering departments was envisaged, a single line no less than an atomic bomb for almost 20000 families was included in the order which read as:

"The practice of reserving a proportion of projects for self help group of engineers is abolished forthwith".

For me and thousands like I, this was no less than a tragedy. My colleagues would set up WhatsApp video conference calls to console

each other. We protested, we raised slogans to no avail.

I was the sole bread earner for my family since my father had expired. After completing my Engineering studies from Punjab, I had joined this scheme immediately to support my family as the real estate sector in India was struggling at that time. Now, I stand desolate with nowhere to go and no aid in sight.

I went from pillar to post, knocking all doors. I was infantilised, almost lied to at every door I knocked for my rights. By the end of my quest, brow beaten and defeated, I realised that in "Naya Kashmir" only a select few in power had access to justice and not commoners like I.

PM Modi had famously said that he would bridge the gap between “Dilli ki Doori as well as Dil Ki Doori” but this step has only alienated us.

Shahid Ul Islam Wani
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CPEC and Containment of China

U.K. Dar

Some economists are predicting that China has already become the global powerhouse economically, and is expected to surpass the USA as the world's biggest economy by 2025. Militarily, China is still lagging but with increased spending on weapons technology, especially in its Naval power, it's a matter of time that China can project its military might as well

The USA is withdrawing from Afghanistan without achieving its major strategic aims; one of which was the containment of China. The operation in Afghanistan has cost the USA trillions of dollars and the loss of thousands of soldiers, yet it is withdrawing and leaving behind a trail of destruction in its wake. The stakes of the USA in Afghanistan were very high; nothing short of ruling the world in the next century. The main contender for the top slot, China, was observing very closely every step the USA was taking in Afghanistan. While the USA was busy spending trillions of dollars in the pothole of 'graveyards of empires', China was steadily making headway in every field from economy to technology and emerging as a new superpower.

Some economists are predicting that China has already become the global powerhouse economically, and is expected to surpass the USA as the world's biggest economy by 2025. Militarily, China is still lagging but with increased spending on weapons technology, especially in its Naval power, it's a matter of time that China can project its military might as well. The development of military bases in the South China Sea and the standoff between India and China in the Himalayan region proved that China is ready to flex its muscles at any time to safeguard its strategic interests.

The USA is in no mood to take this lying down and leave the superpower status without giving a fight. Though she has to leave Afghanistan in sheer humiliation, yet is trying to achieve its strategic aim of containment of China through other means. The Philippines has provided the urgently needed space to the USA and has shocked the world by restoring the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the USA. Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in the presence of USA Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had formally announced the decision of restoration of VFA in a joint press conference held last Friday, 30th July 2021. The VFA is an agreement that allows the USA military aircraft and vessels free entry into the Philippines and operates from the Philippines. Restoration of the VFA is being considered a big move in the region and a signal to China of a renewed commitment of the USA for denying the dominance of the South China Sea to China, through which as much as \$3.3 trillion in global trade passes annually.

China's claim to the South China Sea within its famous Nine Dash Lines saw a blowback when China lost a landmark arbitration case at the International Tribunal at the Hague where the court ruled it as invalid. Besides, the USA has time and again made it clear that it does not accept China's hegemony over the South China Sea and has offered all kinds of help to countries that have maritime territorial disputes with China. This is a clear and dangerous threat to China as the majority of its oil and gas supplies pass through the



South China Sea that is crucial for China to run its industrial base. As a result, the Chinese see the South China Sea as essential to their survival; the thing is it is important to other neighboring countries including the USA as well. That's why this whole dispute is not going away in the foreseeable future. Rather its militarization and escalating war games between two of the world's largest militaries is making experts believe that chances of confrontation are more likely than ever.

In addition to the maritime frontiers dispute, China also has land border disputes with powerful and competing neighboring countries like Russia and India thus making China vulnerable from that side as well. Another problem China is facing is that the major areas that are generating wealth for China are the handful of Eastern and Southern Provinces, whereas the Central and Western Provinces have lagged far behind in progress. Average annual incomes in the Western region remain much below the national average. Therefore, China has ramped up incentives to develop Central and Western China. However, feeding these areas through the South China Sea becomes a logistical nightmare.

Faced with these challenges, China started planning to expand its strategic space by heading West. Here comes the importance of the Pak-China relationship. Pakistan can serve as a crucial bridge as well as an alternate supply route between China and Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, from where China buys the bulk of its energy needs. This is why China is willing to pour vast amounts of resources into the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Likewise, Pakistan has realized that the USA has always

been a fair-weather friend and has always dumped her at crucial junctures; whereas China has always given high strategic importance to Pakistan in its economic and military development. Military relations between China and Pakistan date back to the early 1960s and remain strong, as both countries view India as a regional rival. In recent years, China has emerged as the main supplier of military hardware to Pakistan and the two countries have cooperated in the development of several weapon systems, such as the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet. A recent Pew Research Centre survey of public opinion shows that 84 percent of the Pakistani people held a positive view about China, compared to 16 percent for the USA.

Lastly, the development of Gawadar port, as a part of the CPEC project, along with the development of Special Economic Zones and Gwadar Oil Terminal City is a step in the same direction where China can ensure that she can counter China's containment policy of the USA. In addition to the alternative energy supply route, Gawadar can also provide China with a crucial naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf if and when China decides to project military power in this region so that uninterrupted energy supply for its industrial base is ensured. CPEC thus can safeguard China's regional, as well as global interest by providing a land route that can guarantee China's energy and trading needs are met, even if the access to the South China Sea is blocked by rival powers.

U.K. Dar is a freelance columnist based in Manchester, UK

Idea of Karbala

Imam Hussain's resistance was the ultimate act of courage, the noblest self sacrifice, made in the state of higher consciousness and with full knowledge of its import

Makhdoom Mohi-ud-din



KARBALA is a combination of two words meaning a place of trial and tribulations. It conveys profound depths of emotional and spiritual associations. It has a seminal place in Muslim history and consciousness. In many ways it is also cathartic. The Prince of Martyrs, the grandson of Holy Prophet (PBUH), standing against falsehood and tyranny was martyred here in the year 1680 AD Ashoorā – tenth of Muharram, the most solemn and somber date of Muslim calendar.

"Imam Hussain's sufferings are recalled by Shia and non-Shia alike in Muslim fight for self worth. His actions and attitudes, his serenity under siege are inspirational for Muslims," writes Ed Hussain in House of Islam. Karbala is remembered and recollected in detail as a pall of melancholy descends, pathos and sobriety permeates the ambience. Martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) gave rise to a new history. It elevated the great Imam to a living presence. Karbala continues to ignite imagination. Martyrdom forms the central part of Karbala. Karbala spotlights the injustices of the past and inherent injustices of this world. Imam Hussain (AS) and his gallant and gentlemanly companions made Karbala a high point in the defiance and resistance to the injustice and tyranny. The companions choose a certain and imminent martyrdom.

"We will fight with you until we reach our destiny," Imam Hussain(AS) recited a verse of the Holy Quran known to all Muslims. "To God we belong and to God is our return". Karbala is a passionate yearning of Islamic Ideal. It is spiritual and strenuous longing of seemingly elusive values of purity, piety, equity and liberality. Martyrdom of Imam Hussain has sowed the seeds of a "complete revolution in the consciousness of Muslim community," says Reza Aslan.

"The march of Muslims to Karbala is endless; it is remembered in epic dirges. And for Shias and Sunnis alike Karbala was not some 1340 years ago "it feels as if massacre happened in our life times that we failed to come to Imam Hussain's (AS) aide. This guilt tugs at Muslim conscience" writes Ed Hussain in House of Islam. So lamentations are atonement for sin. 'Aza' or mourning achieved its full expression and form at Karbala. The refusal to give up piety and purity for politics and power led to Hussain's martyrdom. An effort at conciliation and amity by him was rewarded with poisoning. The goodness, as a result, was in a

rapid retreat. The debilitation of Islamic Ideal was near complete. Forward thrust of material historical forces was daunting and overwhelming, but moral world acutely needed an arrival of a paragon of ethical defiance. It was not crude attempt at power as Tarique Ali claims. The Marxist historian tries to demean moral resistance. He fails to perceive spiritual impulse of individuals and expeditions. The erudite Scholar, Karen Armstrong is more apt in 'The Battle for God'. "... believing the poignant spectacle of Prophet's family marching in the opposite direction to tyranny would bring Ummah back to more authentic

Imam Hussain's journey was the ultimate act of courage, the noblest self sacrifice, made in the state of higher consciousness and with full knowledge of its import. Karbala is a classic struggle of good and evil. Martyrdom is primal and Abel is ante-diluvian precedent. Martyrs are altruistic and represent virtues

practice of Islam'.

Imam Hussain's journey was the ultimate act of courage, the noblest self sacrifice, made in the state of higher consciousness and with full knowledge of its import. Karbala is a classic struggle of good and evil. Martyrdom is primal and Abel is ante-diluvian precedent. Martyrs are altruistic and represent virtues. Expedience subordinates ethics, martyrdom revives it after every Karbala. Karbala is 'tajdid'- renewal. It prevented stultifying of Islamic Ideal. Martyrdom is spiritual. Mendacious and a materialist cannot experience it. Martyrdom is about austerity and arduousness, an

epicurean cannot perceive it. Martyrdom is the realization of the piety of the protest. A martyr embodies idealism, he is unmindful of consequences. The lines of T.S. Elliot scribbled for the different context are relevant here:

And do not think of fruit of action
Fare forward
Not farewell,
But fare forward voyagers.

The martyrdom at Karbala sent shock waves throughout the world. Elegies are still written. Martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) is eternal, it transcends sects, schisms and spans. "In the distant age and climate," says historian Edward Gibbon "tragic scenes of the death of Hussain (AS) will awaken the sympathy of the coldest readers". The martyrdom of Karbala left behind a complex legacy, both pacific and subversive. Lesley Hazleton, a respected scholar of Islam has a lesson from 'Karbala Paradigm'. It is particularly pertinent for the west. She counsels 'the Karbala story has endured and strengthened not least because it reaches deep into the questions of morality of idealism versus pragmatism, purity versus compromise. Its DNA is the very stuff that tests both politics and faith and animates the vast and often terrifying arena in which the two intersect. But whether sacredness inheres in the Prophet's blood family as the Shia believe or in the community as a whole, as Sunnis believe nobody in the west should forget that what unites the two main branches of Islam is far greater than what divides them, and the vast majority of all Muslims still cherish the ideal of unity preached by Muhammad (PBUH) himself – an ideal the more deeply held for being so deeply broken'.

Karbala, the rendezvous of martyrs is sacred geography. Its configuration within the aesthetic Marsiyya (elegies) is central. The journey to Karbala like the Hijrah – Migration of Holy Prophet (PBUH) has become a pivotal trope. The journey to Karbala opens up vistas of space to counteract imperial circumscription of Muslims into the artifices of the nation states even within similar ethnic particularities. Karbala internalizes migrant mode of journey and is a soul-mate of moral one. It has spiritual antecedents, journeys of earlier apostles and the hijrah of final messenger (PBUH).

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Scientist develops advanced dressing material for treating diabetic wounds

Press Trust Of India

An Indian scientist has developed an advanced dressing based on agarose, a natural polymer derived from seaweed agar, for treatment of infected diabetic wounds and patients suffering from chronic wounds, the Department of Science and Technology said on Friday.

This indigenous dressing will allow cost-effective dressings for chronic wound patients and will also pave the way for business incubation.

The biodegradable and non-immunogenic wound dressing has been developed from sustainable source intervention by Vivek Verma from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur by adding several additive molecules like iodine and citric acid, it said.

It was supported by the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies



programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), and is aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative. It has bagged a National patent and has been validated and tested in-vitro and in-vivo on rat model, it said.

The role of addition of several active molecules like sericin, iodine, and citric acid to this novel wound dressing has been evaluated along with agar in terms of their healing and containment property with regards to chronic wounds, it said.

The invention in particular provides agar

dressing films for the treatment of infected diabetic wounds. The dressing may be used as a single layer, bilayer, or multi-layered hydrogel films depending on the severity and type of wound, the DST said.

Agar is a gelatinous substance that is extracted from seaweed and processed into flakes, powders and sheets.

The developed intervention is in third stage of the Technology Readiness Level. At present, the dressing has been tested on rat model with a small-sized circular

wound of diameter 5 mm with single layer dressing incorporated with only one active ingredient.

The next step would be to test its efficacy in the treatment of large wounds in big animals like rabbits or pigs.

Verma is working towards incorporation of all the active agents in single or multilayer arrangement and optimising various parameters related to it. The final stage will include clinical trials, the statement said.

Following these steps, the technology can be commercialised in the market as single or all ingredient loaded uni/multilayer dressing material, it said.

According to Verma, the advanced wound dressing has potential to be converted into a commercial product for advanced wound care, and it can provide an active bandage for treatment and management of chronic wounds at competitive cost.

73% of Indian firms expect customer data breach in next 1 year

Agencies

Bengaluru: Nearly 73 per cent of organisations in India expect to experience a data breach that impacts customer data in the next 12 months, a new report showed on Tuesday.

The Indian organisations ranked the top three negative consequences of an attack as lost IP, critical infrastructure damage/disruption, and cost of outside consultants and experts, according to global cybersecurity leader Trend Micro.

"Once again we've found plenty to keep CISOs awake at night, from operational and infrastructure risks to data protection, threat activity and human-shaped challenges," said Vijendra Katiyar, Country Manager, India & SAARC, Trend Micro.



Nearly 57 per cent of Indian organisation among those surveyed said it was somewhat to very likely that they'd suffer serious cyber-attacks in the next 12 months.

While 34 per cent suffered more than 7 cyberattacks that infiltrated networks/systems, 20 per cent had more than 7 breaches of information assets.

Thirty per cent of respondents

said they'd suffered more than 7 breaches of customer data over the past year.

In India, the top cyber threats highlighted in the report were ransomware, watering hole attacks, botnets, malicious insiders and advanced persistent threats (APT).

The top security risks to infrastructure include malicious insiders, cloud computing infrastructure and providers, organisational misalignment and complexity, as well as negligent insiders, the report noted.

"To lower cyber risk, organisations must be better prepared by going back to basics, identifying the critical data most at risk, focusing on the threats that matter most to their business, and delivering multi-layered protection from comprehensive, connected platforms," Katiyar said.

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

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

Provisional Select List of candidates for admission to 10th based Paramedical (FMPHW/MMPHW) courses-2021 after second round of physical Counseling.
Reference: NotificationNo.073-BOPEE of 2021 dated 02-08-2021.

Notification No: 074-BOPEE of 2021 DATED: 09-08-2021.

Pursuant to Notification No. 073-BOPEE of 2021 dated 02-08-2021, the Board conducted 2nd round of up-gradation/ allotment (physical) counselling of eligible candidates for 10th based Paramedical (FMPHW/MMPHW) courses-2021 w.e.f 07-08-2021 to 09-08-2021 respectively at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted the seats as per their merit-cum preference are hereby provisionally selected for admission to 10th based Paramedical (FMPHW/MMPHW) courses-2021 at UT of J&K / Ladakh. The provisional selection list is annexed as Annexures "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board (www.jkbopee.gov.in) only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 10-08-2021 to 18-08-2021 upto 03.00 PM along with following documents/ certificates:-

1. Marks Card of 10th class.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate,
6. Any other certificates/ documents required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions upto 18 August-2021 positively. It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (18-08-21) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays/ Off days (excluding 15th August, 2021) and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / jakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com on 18th of August-2021 (upto 05.00 PM).

Note:

1. The Heads of Colleges are advised to release the documents and fee to the candidates who have been upgraded during this round of counseling without wasting their time to enable them to report to the upgraded college by or before 18-08-2021.
2. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
3. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in e-Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time on the subject.

E & OE

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-II/2021
Dated: 09-08-2021

DIPK-NB-2445/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division, Sgr.

GIST OF E-TENDER.

e-NIT No -PHE/GWDS 31 of 08/2021 Dated -08-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for the below mentioned work from registered Electrical/ Mechanical Works contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S.No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contract
	Providing/Fitting/Testing of 50 MM Dia MS Pipe with Sockets for the Yield Test Unit.	Rs. 0.336 lacs	Rs.500/-	10 Days	Registered for Electrical/ Mechanical works

Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	10-08-2021 (02:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	10-08-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 17-08-2021 (02.00 P.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids	10-08-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 17-08-2021 (02.00 P.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender.	18-08-2021 at (2:00 P.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar(Kashmir-190011)	
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	
9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who possess valid registration certificate of Electro-Mechanical Works. However due to Pandemic the renewal Registration for 2021-22 is waived off for a period of 6 months from 01-04-2021 to 30-09-2021.	
10. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document	

No. -PHE/GWDS/1993
Dated: 09-08-2021.

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division,
Srinagar.

DIPK-6288/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti PHE Division Chadoora.

e-mail: xenphedc786@gmail.com
Gist Notice Inviting e-Tenders
e-NIT No:-19/2021 (e-222)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., e- tenders are invited (in One Cover System) on "Item rate basis" from Registered/Approved and valid Civil class of contractors/agencies registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works:

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of tender doc. (in)	Amount of earnest money (in)	Time for completion (in Days)	Class of contractor	Major head of account
1	Construction of PCC Platforms in M-15 for installation of borewell near Kite College and High Land Enclave Gogoo Humhama (Capex Regular DDC)	3.57 Lacs	200/-	7140/-	10 Days	DEE	Capex Reguar/ DDC

Position of AAA:- Under Process;
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://jktendersgov.in From 09.08.2021(4:00 a.m) To 16.08.2021(04:00 p.m)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in
As per schedule of dates given below

TABLE (II)	
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents
03	Bid Submission Start Date
04	Bid Submission End Date
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)

Position of funds:- Available;
Position of TS:-Under Process;
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://jktendersgov.in From 09.08.2021(4:00 a.m) To 16.08.2021(04:00 p.m)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in
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04	Bid Submission End Date
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)

1. Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, CDR/FDR and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) under M.H.0215 to be pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 90 days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora on 17.08.2021at 11:00 a.m. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

3. The earnest money and additional performance security deposit shall be forfeited if,

a) Any bidder / tenderer with draws his bid / tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidders to execute the agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.

4. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

5. The bidders have to submit their bids online in Electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6. The bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents as per the description given hereunder:-

1.	Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) / Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR): Treasury Receipt (T.R) as cost of tender document.	Scanned Copy
2.	Registration certificate of enlistment card valid/renewed for the current financial year	Scanned Copy
3.	GST Registration and Latest GST Return / e-Statement (Not prior than March 2021)	Scanned Copy

Besides original copies of documents including original CDRs and Treasury Challan be submitted by the successful bidder to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora in person or by Registered Post / Courier within 04 days after opening of the bid online, failing which the CDR/FDR shall be forfeited without any correspondence in this regard, besides the bidder shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for one year which may be noted.

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

9. The tenderers should quote their own rates which are not covered under S.S.R. and for which the department has sought "Rates to be Quoted" has not found in his tender, a highest rate offered among other tenderers shall be loaded for comparison purpose at the time of framing comparative statement. In case, the tender stands 1st lowest by doing so, the lowest rate among other tenderers shall be allotted for execution of work in the best interest of Government.

10. Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora and earnest money /bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora must be uploaded with the document of the bid. The original Treasury Receipt (Cost of tender document) CDR/FDR (earnest money/bid security/Additional Security deposit) and relevant bid documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by Registered post/courier/by hand within four days after opening of the bids online.

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

12. The Date of the start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.

13. The time for completion is the essence of contract and in case any delay caused in the execution of work by the contractor Penalty up to 10% shall be imposed upon him or the department shall be at liberty to terminate the contract in part or in full (as the case may be) and the same shall be got executed through other available means at the risk and cost of the defaulting agency after serving not more than 02 notices to him at divisional level. Besides, taking other action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him and such contractors shall not be allowed to participate in tendering purpose in future in this division.

14. In case the registration card of the contractor who works out to be the lowest is found invalid in any capacity, the work shall be allotted to the next agency at his cost.

15. As soon as the letter of intent or allotment letter is issued in favour of the successful tenderer, the contract shall be completely and binding upon the contractor.

16. In the event or loss of damage of the work/departmental material which occurs due to natural calamity / theft or by any other reason, the department shall not pay compensation or financial assistance for such losses / damages or pilferage. The cost involved shall be recovered from the contractor at any cost.

17. The contractor shall have to make perfect responsibility for timely payment to the labourers engaged by him for the works allotted to him. Any complaint received by this division on this account, the department will make the payment to such labourers after receiving written labour claimant the amount will be deducted / recovered from the concerned agency at any source.

18. It shall be mandatory for the successful tenderer / executing agency / contractor to ensure the safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the workmen skilled / unskilled deployed at site of work.

19. Suitable arrangements for supply of potable water at site of work for all the workmen skilled /unskilled be made by the agency / contractor just before the virtual start of execution at site.

20. Arrangements for sufficient sanitation facility at site be ensured by the executing agency/contractor for all the workmen to be mobilized at site, besides, separate toilet facilities be provided for Female workers at the site of work.

21. Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled /unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.

22. Payment for the work(s) executed shall not be made on Lump – Sum basis, but shall be made for complete portion(s) of the work. No payment shall be made for supplying of any material or part thereof if fitted / finished items of the work only.

23. In all payments 10% of the total amount of the bill shall be retained as "Normal Deposit" besides any other amount as may have to be retained as "Additional Deposit" or recoverable amount / cost from the concerned agency at the time of making payment.

24. Suitable amount as may be deemed fit shall be held back from each bill for successful water Test / commissioning of the work till defect liability period.

25. The successful tenderer is bound to complete the work within the amount of allotment order.

26. The order of the Chief Engineer Mmr, PHE - Department Srinagar on any dispute of any nature between the Contractor and the Department shall be final and binding upon the contractor.

27. Tender if received in incomplete manner in respect of the terms and conditions of this tender Notice shall be rejected straightaway by the tender opening authority.

28. Any other information needed by the intending tenderer regarding this NIT, the same can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours, before its due Date for issue of tender documents.

29. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of the e – tendering process. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in.

30. All the Bidders who had participated in e – tendering process by way of uploading their price bids whether qualified or not shall have to deposit the tender document cost in the divisional Office, failing which the defaulting tenderer shall be barred from participating the tendering process in future and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against them.

31. The contractor is also bound to attend the divisional office along with his registration card for drawl of an agreement and non – drawl of agreement with the department does not exclude him from contractual obligations.

32. Stipulated time extension shall be granted in case of increase of scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contract to be determined by the department.

33. No Mobilization advance / equipment advance shall be paid.

34. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

35. The contractor is bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure arrangements of smooth regulation of traffic during execution of work.

36. Defect liability period. The D.L.P. shall be calculated from date of certified completion of work and shall be 6 to 9 months depending upon the nature of the work.

37. The contractor shall be responsible for safety of all activities at site of work. Anything of historical or other interest or of significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site shall be the property of the government.

38. The contractor shall be responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required for the quality control at his own cost.

39. The material required for the work should be provided by the contractor himself. However, in case the material is provided by the department, the deduction on account of same shall be made as per the prevailing stock rates in the department.

40. Pipe Specification: Pipe Specification: - The pipe material ISI marked Galvanised Mild Steel tubes should conform to IS:1239 (pt.1)/2004 6th revision read with upto date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs. screwed on both ends as per IS:554/1990, socketed at one end and other end protected with plastic protector in various sizes of nominal bore and classes. The socket conforming to IS:1239 (pt. II/1992) (4th revision) with amendment No. 1 to 3 and latest on date and ISI marked centrifugally cast (spun) DI pipes with socket and spigot end as per IS: 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4.5, 5.8 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joints. (Rubber Gasket- O joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes without side Zinc coating with Bituminous finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment No. 1, hydrostatic tests as per clause – 11 of IS: 8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 8382 of 1985. The class of pie is specified as light "A": all GI/DI pipes mesh & tin foil of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account. The pipe materials / other relevant materials provided by the contractor for the particular work will be checked at site by Divisional monitoring committee. Further the Quality and inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor in respect of material provided and used by him. The pipe will be laid only after the quality certificate will be issued by the Divisional committee. The quality certification of the divisional committee is mandatory ensure that standard quality of the material is being maintained.

Last but not least, the above specifications are being circulated keeping in view the broad concept of the requirement of the Department. However, any changes in technical specifications if required this by the concerned territorial Division may be incorporated and keeping the Division Intimated well in time. Further more vide Govt. order No: 460-PW (Hyd) of 2019 Dated: 06-12-2019, the manuals already stipulated in the order may be referred to while framing the tender document that the department name "Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE" be got engraved/painted on the barrel of the pipes, it shall be engraved in case of GI pipe and painted in case of DI pipe.

41. If the Bid of the successful Bidder is seriously unbalanced (i.e., more than 15% below than the Advertised cost) in relation to the Engineer's estimate of the cost of work to be performed under the contract, the Department may require the successful Bidder to produce detailed price analysis for any or all items of the Bill of Quantities, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices. However, the requirement of additional Performance Security shall be governed by the recent circular issued by the Finance Department vide No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/ Dated 22.12.2020. If it is in the interest of government work, the Department may ask the successful bidder to produce additional security deposit at any stage of the contract of any amount deemed suitable by the tender issuing authority and such production shall be binding upon the successful bidder. In such case if the successful bidder fails to comply, the contract shall be closed at his risk and cost.

42. Earnest Money, Additional Security Deposit (If any) and Security deposit deducted from bills shall be released only after lapse of Defect Liability Period.

43. Tax / Cess etc. will be deducted at source on running / final bills as per standing Government instructions from the bill at the time of payment which are in force at that time.

44. Payment shall be made only after funds are received by this office.

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as are laid down in P.W.D Form No: 25 / 33 - Double with due modifications (if any) made by the U.T Government from time to time.

No. -PHE/C/2172-3206
Dated:-09.08.2021

DIPK-6279/21

sd/-
(Er. Najeeb A Tramboo)
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora.

Upgrade trades as per market requirements: Samoon to ITIs

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Skill Development Department, Kuldip Kumar Sepolia, Joint Director SDD Jammu/Kashmir, heads of private run ITIs and other concerned.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary enquired about the trades, training and skill courses offered in all the private ITIs besides the meeting discussed admission process and results of these institutes.

On the occasion, Dr Samoon asked concerned Superintendents and officers of Govt ITIs to inspect all the private ITIs in order to ensure that all facilities are being provided to students.

He asked the heads of the private-run ITIs to hold awareness campaigns and publicize their institutes so that more aspirants

institutes so that employability would be enhanced as per market requirement for the students. On employability and job op-

The meeting was informed that trades like electrician, COPA, fitter, mechanic motor vehicle, welder, stenographer, sewing



would apply for the trades in their institutes.

While reviewing the trades being offered at the institutes, he asked the heads of the ITIs to upgrade further trades in their

opportunities, Dr Samoon directed the concerned officers to include private-run ITIs during placement drives so that the students trained from private ITIs can also be provided employment.

technology, dress making, front office Assistant, computer hardware and network maintenance, besides draftsman civil, plumber, fashion design technology are being offered at these institutes.

Economic Impact Of Second COVID Wave Likely To Be Muted: Finance Ministry

Agencies

The finance ministry on Tuesday said the economic impact of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be muted and there are visible signs of economic rejuvenation. The latest Monthly Economic Review, released by the finance ministry, said the "robust recovery in tax collections cushions the fisc towards meeting the budgeted support to the economy".

It also said the recent sero-prevalence results signify that India can reduce the likelihood of severe illness due to COVID-19 if the country sustains the momentum of the vaccination programme. "Having antibodies reduces the probability of acquiring serious illnesses, as is borne by studies. So, any subsequent waves are expected to be mild in terms of severity of disease," the ministry said in the report.

However, it is imperative that COVID-appropriate behaviour and due protocol is followed. At this juncture, it said, the economy and society are at a crucial inflection point where sustenance of economic recovery, vaccination prog-



ress and COVID-19 appropriate behavioural strategies are needed in close synergy with each other.

With the second wave abating in most parts of the country and state governments lifting the restrictions in phases, there are visible signs of economic rejuvenation since the second half of May, it said. "This resonates with the economic impact of the second wave expected to be muted," the report added.

Noting that inflation has remained above the band of six per cent in May and June, the report said these pres-

sures are likely to smoothen out in the coming months, with easing of restrictions, progress of southwest monsoon, and recent supply-side policy interventions in pulses and oilseeds market.

It said that while systemic liquidity continued to remain in surplus in July, a decline in growth of cash in circulation reflected a shift away from the pandemic-induced precautionary savings. Financial markets demonstrated buoyancy in the month, with post-second wave revival seen in mu-

tual funds, corporate bonds and insurance markets, and volatility in equity markets continuing its downward trajectory.

However, G-sec yield curve steepened mildly owing to inflation pressures, it said. The ministry added that bank credit growth showed encouraging trends with non-food credit growth crossing the 6.5 per cent mark in the fortnight ended July 16 after remaining muted for nine fortnights.

On the sectoral front, credit offtake by agriculture and allied activities, micro, small and medium industries registered accelerated growth in June, demonstrating positive effects of the implementation of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.

The central government's finances showed an improved performance during the June 2021 quarter as compared to the year-ago period. It was on the back of buoyant direct and indirect tax collections, continued emphasis on capital expenditure with 26.30 per cent growth during the quarter, and re-prioritisation of revenue expenditure, it said.

ADDC B'pora inaugurates National Handloom Day celebration at Sumbal

KO NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 10: National Handloom Day was celebrated with the theme of "Hathkargha se Aatmanirbharta", in keeping with the Prime Minister of India call for "Vocal for Local" and "Local for Global".

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner, Ali Afsar Khan who was Chief Guest on the Occasion.

The programme was organized by the DDM NABARD, for the artisans of the district at the Dak Bungalow Sumbal Bandipora.

Chief Guest ADDC congratulated the NABARD on the celebration of the national Handloom day with the artisans and suggested that more such programs should be held in future as it will provide the way forward to the Artisans and they will also work for the betterment of the Handloom Sector.

He Congratulated the NABARD for implementing the Off-farm producer organization (OFPO) in district Bandipora and Baramulla for the revival of the Carpet industry which is the main sector of the Handloom sector of the J&K.

On the occasion award was given to the Shehar Carpet Producer Company Limited, which is the lone Carpet Com-

pany promoted by NABARD and IGSSS in district Baramulla and Bandipora and is working for the revival of the Carpet

loom Census and said that women are a major player in the Handloom sector as they consist of a major workforce



industry by providing the platform for the 350 artisans of the district Baramulla and Bandipora. ADDC Bandipora awarded the Board of Directors for their contribution to the work of the Shehar Carpet Producer Company Limited.

DDM NABARD in his keynote address highlighted the emphasis of NABARD on the revival of the Handloom sector and underscored the importance of the handloom sector in taking forward the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The DDM NABARD gave an overview of the 09th Han-

of 72 percent of the Artisan workforce of the Handloom sector. He said need is to focus on their marketing facility and increase their income then only handloom sector will flourish.

He said that Handloom Sector is one of the key ingredients of J&K GSDP and contributes 13 percent to the GSDP. The departments need to work for the betterment of the artisans and provide them with multiple market channels so that more income will be added to the pocket of the artisan, he added.

Petrol, Diesel Prices Unchanged For 24th Straight Day

Petrol, Diesel Price Today: Petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged across the four metro cities for the 24th consecutive day on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. In the national capital, petrol prices were steady at Rs 101.84 per litre and diesel rates were unchanged at Rs 89.87 per litre, according to the Indian Oil Corporation. In Mumbai, petrol prices stood at Rs 107.83 per litre and diesel is retail at Rs 97.45 per litre. (Also Read: How To Check Latest Petrol And Diesel Rates In Your City).

Among the four metro cities, petrol and diesel prices are the highest in Mumbai, according

to the state-run oil refiner. Fuel rates vary across the states due to value-added tax (VAT).

sis, considering the crude oil prices in international markets and the rupee-dollar ex-

Here are the petrol and diesel price across the metro cities:

City	Petrol	Diesel
Delhi	101.84	89.87
Mumbai	107.83	97.45
Chennai	102.49	94.39
Kolkata	102.08	93.02

State-run oil refiners such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum revise fuel rates on a daily ba-

change rates. Any changes in petrol, diesel prices are implemented with effect from 6 am each day.

Air Fares On Search Engines Can't Be Higher Than Websites, Airlines Told

Agencies

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has asked airlines to ensure that the airfares on metasearch engine websites are not higher than the ones displayed on the carriers' websites, a senior official said on Monday.

Various metasearch engine websites such as Google and Skyscanner operate in India.

On Saturday, Sanjeev Gupta, Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, Union Home Ministry, had complained on Twitter that an economy-class ticket on British Airways's Delhi-London flight for August 26 was priced Rs 3.95 lakh.

However, the Ministry of Civil Aviation clarified on Sunday that an economy-class ticket on Delhi-London flight has been available for between Rs 1.03 lakh and Rs 1.47 lakh during August.

The senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Monday that the ticket prices shown on metasearch engines are at times higher than what are being shown on

the airlines' websites and this is creating confusion.

Therefore, the regulator has asked the carriers to ensure



that metasearch engines do not show airfares higher than what is being shown on the carriers' websites. While there have been lower and upper limits on all domestic airfares in India since May 25 last year, no such limits have been imposed on international airfares.

Vistara, which currently operates flights on Delhi-London as well as Mumbai-London route, said on Sunday, "Pricing is always a function of supply

and demand."

"There are only 15 flights a week allowed currently on the India-UK route for Indian carriers

and when there is relaxation and more capacity allowed, it will automatically bring down prices."

Scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23 last year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

However, limited special international passenger flights have been operating since July 2020 under the air bubble arrangements formed with 28 countries, including the UK.

73% of Indian firms expect customer data breach in next 1 year

Agencies

Bengaluru, August 10: Nearly 73 per cent of organisations in India expect to experience a data breach that impacts customer data in the next 12 months, a new report showed on Tuesday.

The Indian organisations ranked the top three negative consequences of an attack as lost IP, critical infrastructure damage/disruption, and cost of outside consultants and experts, according to global cybersecurity leader Trend Micro.

"Once again we've found plenty to keep CISOs awake at night, from operational and infrastructure risks to data protection, threat activity and

human-shaped challenges," said Vijendra Katiyar, Country Manager, India & SAARC, Trend Micro.

Nearly 57 per cent of Indian organisation among those surveyed said it was somewhat to very likely that they'd suffer serious cyberattacks in the next 12 months.

While 34 per cent suffered more than 7 cyberattacks that infiltrated networks/systems, 20 per cent had more than 7 breaches of information assets.

Thirty per cent of respondents said they'd suffered more than 7 breaches of customer data over the past year.

In India, the top cyber threats highlighted in the report were ran-

somware, watering hole attacks, botnets, malicious insiders and advanced persistent threats (APT).

The top security risks to infrastructure include malicious insiders, cloud computing infrastructure and providers, organisational misalignment and complexity, as well as negligent insiders, the report noted.

"To lower cyber risk, organisations must be better prepared by going back to basics, identifying the critical data most at risk, focusing on the threats that matter most to their business, and delivering multi-layered protection from comprehensive, connected platforms," Katiyar said. — IANS

SHORT TAKES

Delhi Airport adjudged 'Best Airport' in India, Central Asia

Agencies

New Delhi: The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been adjudged as the 'Best Airport in India and Central Asia' for the third consecutive year in 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

The 'Skytrax World Airport' awards are considered to be the most significant accolade for the airport industry, voted by customers in the largest, annual global airport customer satisfaction survey. It is regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry, assessing customer service and facilities across over 550 airports.

The survey and awards are independent of any airport control or inputs.

Besides, IGI Airport, which is operated by Delhi International Airport (DIAL), a GMR led consortium, was also bestowed with the 'COVID-19 Airport Excellence Award'.

Furthermore, the airport improved its overall ranking, moving from number 50 in 2020 to number 45 in the '2021 World's Top 50 Airport' league.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said: "Our agile and effective response to the pandemic and crisis preparedness has led us to be recognised by Skytrax." "Adopting the 'new-normal',



DIAL remains committed to boosting its efforts in providing

the best airport experience to all its passengers."

Supreme Court refuses to entertain pleas of Amazon, Flipkart against CCI probe

The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain pleas of e-commerce firms, Amazon and Flipkart, challenging an order permitting the Competition Commission of India to carry out a preliminary investigation into the alleged violation of the competition law.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said that challenging the enquiry is like wanting a notice before the registration of an FIR under the criminal law and asked the e-commerce giants to submit themselves to the probe by the CCI.

"We expect big organisations like Amazon and Flipkart to offer themselves for the inquiry and you do not want that. You have to submit and enquiry has to be permitted," said the bench which also comprised justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant.

On being told by senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Flipkart, that the time to respond to the CCI was expiring on August 9 itself, the bench extended the time by four more weeks which was objected to by

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CCI.

Mehta said that a week should

had on July 23 junked the plea of Amazon-Flipkart against the CCI probe for alleged violations

quity if they were not involved in violations.

"The inquiry cannot be crushed at this stage. If the appellants aren't involved in violations of any provisions of the competition law, they should not feel shy in facing an inquiry by the Competition Commission of India," the bench had observed. It had added that the appeals were devoid of merits and substance and deserved to be dismissed.

The CCI's January 2020 probe order had followed a complaint by Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, whose members comprise many traders dealing in smart phones and related accessories.

Challenging the order, the two e-commerce giants had approached the Karnataka High Court but a single judge bench of Justice P S Dinesh Kumar had dismissed it saying that it would be unwise to pre-judge the issues raised by the petitioners in these writ petitions at this stage and scuttle the investigation.



be given to these firms as in COVID times people mostly shop online through these companies. The Karnataka High Court

of the competition law.

The high court had said that the e-commerce firms had no need to shy away from an in-

IAF Focused On Boosting Capabilities After Balakot Strikes, Galwan Valley Clashes: IAF Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's air power capabilities in terms of hitting targets with precision, defending assets and use of new technologies have gone up significantly after the Balakot air strikes and rapid developments in eastern Ladakh following the Galwan Valley clashes, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said on Tuesday.

In an address at a leading think-tank, the IAF Chief said India now has an "edge" in its ability on both the Western and Northern fronts to "react fast, respond fast and hit fast", noting that induction of Rafale jets has helped in bringing the "next level" of operational transformation.

About the drone strike on the Jammu airbase, he said the IAF is taking a series of initiatives including procuring next-generation jammers to deal with such challenges and added that the attack would not have been possible if it was attempted two-three months later.

Referring to the 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in May, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said that Israel's use of air power in carrying out operations with surgical precision to achieve its objectives in Gaza against the militant

group while ensuring minimum collateral damage was a reflection of the ability of the air assets.

Explaining the role of air power, the IAF Chief also talked about the general perception to look at only its offensive role and the general tendency to say "no-no" for its use in certain situations, saying the paradigms and scenarios have shifted and there is a need to keep this in mind.

"The ability of air power which was largely seen as an offensive, as a no-no in some situations particularly in the sub-continent...the paradigms have shifted, the scenarios have shifted and we need to keep this in mind as we go ahead," he said at the United Service Institution of India (USI).

At a seminar last month, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, while referring to the proposed integrated theatre commands, described the Air Force as a "support arm" but Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria disagreed with him, saying airpower has a huge role to play.

About the IAF's operational readiness, he said the focus was to bring in the next level of operational transformation including in the cyber-security domain after the Galwan Valley clashes and his force has been largely successful in its endeavour.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said the

"edge" that the IAF has today came from a combination of its weapons, training status, platforms network environment and its ability to "react fast, respond fast and hit fast." "That is the edge we have today in both scenarios, be it on the western front or be it on the northern front," he said.

He said the "transformation" was triggered by the developments like Balakot strikes and situation in eastern Ladakh and it now has now taken the IAF to the "next level."

The IAF Chief said the induction of the Rafale aircraft has helped in lifting the overall offensive capability of the Air Force. "It is a level or a level-and-a-half above where we were."

He said the focus after the Galwan Valley clashes was to bolster the cyber security system as it was identified as an area of concern mainly because of some of the "actions", he said in an apparent reference to the ability of the adversary to the IAF's networks.

He said the IAF's operational offensive capability has gone up in terms of having long-distance air-to-ground weapons, in carrying out precision strikes and possessing network-centric environment.

Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in clashes with Chinese troops on June 15 last year that marked

the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

In February, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in the clashes though it is widely believed that the death toll was higher.

The Chief of Air Staff also mentioned Balakot air strikes as an important event while talking about the transformation of the IAF in the last few years, and said it sent out a clear message about India's approach in dealing with security challenges.

Indian fighter jets bombed Jaish-e-Mohammed's biggest training camp near Balakot deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019, 12 days after the outfit claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Kashmir, killing 40 soldiers.

Pakistan retaliated by attempting to target Indian military installations the next day. However, the IAF thwarted their plans. Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria also spoke about the low cost activities of commercial drones and its use for supply of arms, drugs, money as well as use of the armed version of the unmanned aerial vehicles to launch an attack on the Jammu airbase.

He referred to China's emergence at the world stage, its diplomacy, economic clout and military belligerence in Indo-Pacific.

One-fifth of students aged 13-15 used some form of tobacco product in their lives: Survey

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 years used some form of a tobacco product in their lives but the use has declined by 42 per cent during 2009-2019, according to a survey report released on Tuesday.

The National Fact Sheet Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) stated that 38 per cent of cigarette, 47 per cent of bidi smokers and 52 per cent of smokeless tobacco users initiated the use before their 10th birthday. The median age at initiation of cigarette and bidi smoking, and smokeless tobacco use were 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively.

According to the fact sheet, 69 per cent of current cigarette smokers and 78 per cent of current bidi smokers bought cigarettes or bidis from a store, paan shop, street vendor or vending machine. Among the current smokers who bought cigarette or bidi, 45 per cent of cigarette smokers and 47 per cent of bidi

smokers were not refused because of their age.

The use of tobacco among students across the states and union territories ranged from the highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram (58 pc each) to the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (1.1pc) and Karnataka (1.2 pc).

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presided over the release of GYTS-4, India, 2019, on Tuesday.

He emphasised the role of teachers as most crucial in creating awareness among children and their parents about harm due to tobacco use and for shaping the attitude of children in this regard, a health ministry statement said.

"The more and the sooner, we create awareness among children about harms due to tobacco use, the better will be the outcomes in terms of reduction in prevalence of tobacco use among children and consequently among adults," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

10 Civilians Hurt

(TSO Food and Supplies), Tariq Ahmad of Burzhama, Suhail Ahmad Dar of Chadoora, Zulaikha of Kargil, Firdous Ahmad Kotta of Bemina and Aparna Dera of Kolkata, presently putting up at HSHS.

The surprise militant attack, eyewitnesses said triggered panic in the busy market and forced the people to run helter skelter. The shopkeepers, he said, downed their shutters while the vendors abandoned their carts and ran towards the safer places.

According to the eyewitnesses, the grenade attack also caused brief disruption in the movement of traffic.

Later, senior police and paramilitary officers reached the spot to assess the situation. The forces also carried out random frisking around the area in an attempt to nab the attackers.

"Around 2:40pm, a miscreant lobbed a grenade towards the SSB bullet proof bunker. The grenade hit the vehicle and exploded along the roadside causing minor injuries to two civilians," DIG CRPF, Central Kashmir, Kishor Prasad told journalists at the spot.

"No injury was caused to any security force personnel in the attack," he added.

Pertinently, the grenade attack on paramilitary personnel comes a day after militants shot dead a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sarpanch and his Panch wife in an audacious attack in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday.

Last Tuesday, a policeman and a civilian were injured at Khanyar area here when unidentified militants had opened indiscriminate fire upon two vehicles of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police.

2 Deaths, 113 New

Srinagar reported 38, Baramulla 4, Budgam 9, Pulwama 4, Kupwara 2, Anantnag 1, Bandipora 3, Ganderbal 2, Kulgam 9, Shopian 1, Jammu 10, Udhampur 8, Rajouri 6, Doda 8, Kathua 1, Kishtwar 2, Poonch 3 and Ramban 2 new cases of coronavirus. No fresh case of Covid-19 was reported from twin districts of Reasi and Samba in Jammu division.

Also, officials said, 124 more patients were recovered, 49 from Jammu Division and 75 from Kashmir Valley.

Regarding the fatalities, they said both persons succumbed to virus in Jammu division, taking the overall fatality count to 4392 in J&K—2153 in Jammu division and 2239 in Kashmir.

Only 2 Non-Locals

any hardship or impediments are being faced by the government and people of other states while buying properties in Jammu and Kashmir, Rai said, "No such instance has been reported to the government."

The central government had abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Since the abrogation of special status, the administration has formulated a new definition of domicile for Jammu and Kashmir.

According to that definition, a person residing there for at least 15 years will be eligible to be a permanent resident of the UT.

The government notification also extended domicile rights to central government employees who have served in the state for 10 years and also to their children.

Before August 5, 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly was constitutionally empowered to define a resident of the erstwhile state.

These defined residents were alone eligible to apply for jobs or own immovable property.

However, the home ministry amended a 2010 legislation—the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment Act)—last year by substituting the term "permanent residents" with "domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir".

Army Deserter

pretext of arranging jobs for his relatives and acquaintances in different trades in the unit against monetary considerations.

"The suspect told him that he was posted in MES Udhampur and there were vacancies in MES and if the complainant wanted any person to be recruited he would help. Accordingly, the complainant deposited the amount in the bank accounts of Kumar on several occasions on his demand," the spokesman said.

He said as the suspect kept delaying on one

or the other pretext, Singh got suspicious and later came to know that Kumar, who had been declared as a deserter in the Army for his criminal activities, duped him by impersonating as Neeraj Kumar.

"On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations have been prima facie substantiated against the suspect," the spokesman said, adding further investigation is on.

News Agency

resident of Khrew Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

During a search of his bag, two hand grenades were recovered, police said.

"#journo-#terrorist Adil from Pampore Pulwama #arrested along with 02 #grenades in the heart of #Srinagar City. More arrests are expected. #Investigation going on. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

CRPF Man Injured

early hours of Tuesday, officials said. The injured CRPF man was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. His condition is said to be stable.

Soon after the attack, the official said, additional reinforcements of police and CRPF reached the area and launched a search operation to nab the attackers

5800 Security

that is "sponsored and supported" from across the border.

Rahul Pitches

here, a visibly emotional Gandhi said, "My family lives in Delhi. Before that my family lived in Allahabad. And before Allahabad, my family lived here."

"I can tell you that I understand you, my family must have drank water from the river Jhelum. Kashmiriyat, the culture and thought process must be in me too. When I come here, I feel like I am coming home," he said, while referring to his family ties to Kashmir and added that he had come with a message of love and respect.

Gandhi, a former Congress president, said that there was an urgent need for restoration of statehood before holding the assembly elections. "Statehood should be restored and then the democratic process should be started, that is election (to state assembly)," he said.

Before the event, Gandhi offered prayers at the Mata Kheer Bhawani shrine, the revered shrine of Kashmiri Pandits, in Ganderbal in central Kashmir.

Reacting to the suggestion of senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad that a bill for restoration of statehood to J&K be brought during the current session of Parliament, Gandhi said there were several issues that he wanted to raise in Parliament, but the opposition was not allowed to speak there.

He said he was told by his colleagues that J&K was not a big state with many Lok Sabha seats, but stressed upon the importance of the place.

"It is not a state with many Lok Sabh seats... It is not even a state now. But the strength of J&K is the way you live. India and its foundation has Kashmiriyat. This feeling is in me too. What you can get me to do with love and affection, you will never achieve it through force and hatred. That is Kashmiriyat. If you own J&K with love and respect, you will get done whatever you want to," he said.

The former Congress president said when his party was in power, it tried to unite and join the country, but the BJP believes in divisive ideology.

"When we were in power, we started lots of programmes like Panchayat elections, Udaan, etc. We also brought in industrialists to invest in J&K. We were trying to unite and join. They (BJP) have attacked it," he added.

He said the new office building of the party's J&K unit is a new beginning and added that the workers were the party's army.

"I tried to come here earlier also, before Covid outbreak, but I was not allowed beyond the airport," he said, referring to his visit immediately after the Centre's August 2019 decisions to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcate it into union territories.

"I will visit Jammu and Ladakh as well," he added.

We Don't Want

will restore the statehood and protect the land and job rights. There is not much to debate, it will take just five minutes," Azad said, while addressing party workers after the inauguration of new party headquarters here on Tuesday.

Recalling the sequence of events after August 5, 2019, Azad said it was the biggest joke played on the people of J&K and democratic India.

"It was the biggest joke in democratic India that was played on J&K. The statehood was snatched and two Union territories were created. It has never happened in India, perhaps nowhere in the world. Even in Parliament's history, it has never happened," he said.

The former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha said he and his colleagues tried to visit J&K in the aftermath of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decisions, but were stopped.

I had to approach the Supreme Court which gave limited access. I could only visit Baramulla, Anantnag and Jammu," he added.

Azad expressed hope that the assurances given by the prime minister at an all-party meeting in June this year will be fulfilled.

"At the all-party meeting, the PM gave assurances. We hope that he will fulfil those assurances including the five points raised by the Congress. They should restore statehood and then hold elections," he said.

Azad said that J&K cannot be a state like Delhi where every order has to be approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

"J&K is a border state and the L-G cannot govern it. We don't want a Delhi like state where L-G has to approve every order," he said.

On the protection of land rights, Azad said it was not Article 370 that gave this provision to J&K.

"It was not a new law. It was passed by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927. North East has special provisions on land rights while the Himachal Pradesh assembly has also passed a law. Why snatch it from JK?" he asked.

The former J&K chief minister said industrial activity in the Jammu region had suffered as 65 per cent of the 13,000 industrial units had shut down in the past two-and-a-half years.

"Most of these units were manufacturing products which had a market in Kashmir," he said, referring to the economic downturn in the UT. (PTI)

57 Youth Went

in the border district of Rajouri on Tuesday, Singh expressed concern over the local youth going to Pakistan on student or tourist visits and ending up becoming militants.

"I think guns are given preference over pens in Pakistan and therefore, there is a need to strengthen our measures to give security clearance for Pakistani visas," he said

"Many youths went to Pakistan on valid documents pertaining to student or tourist visas in 2017-18. We have come across 57 cases of such youth who got involved in terror activities and 17 of them were killed in encounters after infiltrating through the border," he added.

Singh said they have gone there on valid passports but came back illegally after crossing the border along with arms after undergoing training there.

There are still 13 more such youths who have been identified and are active terrorists. The police chief said 17 more are still in Pakistan and we are watching their activities".

"There was a talk about why strictness was imposed on travel to Pakistan. This is the main reason for it. What type of atmosphere they come across in Pakistan and they become terrorists. It is evident we need to take strict measures and strengthen the security clearance system before giving student visas," he said.

The police Chief also said that after initial 'zero infiltration' in the wake of renewed ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in February, fresh attempts are on to push militants from across the border where 250 to 300 terrorists are trained and waiting on the launch pads.

"The training camps and launch pads being run by Pakistan's ISI and other agencies are full to their capacity. We generally assume the number of terrorists at such camps remains between 250 and 300 who are trained and ready for launching into Jammu and Kashmir."

He said in the wake of February 20 ceasefire agreement reached between India and Pakistan, a period came when the infiltration from across the border dropped to zero and the cross-border shelling and firing also stopped

completely which was welcomed at all levels, including by the border residents.

"Unfortunately, the infiltration (of terrorists) from different launch pads has started once again over the past some time. We had three encounters in Rajouri-Poonch, including Dadal in Nowshera, Sunderbani and the recent Pangai (Thanamandi) and one in Bandipora. All these were fresh groups of infiltrators and we have information that the activity across the border is still on and there is a possibility of more such attempts (in future), the police chief said.

However, he said the security forces are fully alert to the threat and as impure actions (of Pakistan) is continuing, our border grid is working satisfactorily which led to the foiling of four infiltration attempts since July.

The DGP said four militants who had infiltrated from Machil-Gurez sector of north Kashmir were eliminated in Bandipora on July 23-24.

"They were launched from the Kail sector of Pakistan and as per our information, there were 14 more people when they were launched into this side, Singh said.

He said three to four groups crossed from Pakistan into Rajouri-Poonch sector and a joint search operation is on to track down the militants who managed to flee the three encounters in July and August.

"As per our assessment, three to four groups crossed into this side and some of them were neutralised in the first two contacts (in Nowshera and Sunderbani in July). Two more terrorists were eliminated in the latest encounter (in Thanamandi) on Friday last, while the search is on for two others who are believed part of the group," he said.

He said there is a possibility of one more group which has managed to sneak into this side (Rajouri) and is believed to have either crossed into Shopian district of south Kashmir or still holed up in the region. The operation to track them down is on.

The DGP said a family from Shopian claimed that one of the two militants killed in Thanamandi was their son Rameez Ahmad who had gone to Pakistan some time back.

"We have taken the DNA sample and the things will get cleared once the report is received," he said.

Singh said the infiltrating group comprised both local and Pakistani militants.

"In the Bandipora encounter, two local and Pakistani militants were killed," the police chief said.

Slain Militant Went

in a gunbattle with security forces in Rajouri district on Friday.

"One of the terrorists (who was killed in the encounter) has been identified as Ramees Ahmad Tantray son of Mohd Yusuf Tantray, of Ramnagri (Shopian district). He had travelled to Pakistan on a valid Indian passport in February 2018," Rajouri SP Sheema Nabi Qasba, who led the operation, said.

She said Ramees was not known to have returned thereafter.

"Further verification of this is in process," the SP said, adding that the identity of the second militant is yet to be ascertained.

On August 6, information was received by the Jammu and Kashmir Police about the presence of a group of militants in Pangai village.

A joint search operation was launched by the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

During the search, the joint party came in close contact with militants who started firing upon the search party, which retaliated effectively, in which two militants were killed.

Two AK-47 rifles with nine magazines and 232 rounds, four grenades, ammunition pouches, batteries, bandages, pills and other materials were recovered.

In this regard, an FIR was registered at Thanamandi police station.

With Shades Of Persia

provided an adequate grazing ground to sheep. As a result, wool was produced in a much larger ratio.

Beside this, there were abundant mulberry trees in the areas of Kishtwar whereupon silk worms were raised upon the mulberry tree's leaves. Presently, the majority of the fabrics used in Kashmir are made in mills, imported from different parts of India, as well as outside the country.

The luxurious and super-fine pashmina,

raffel, and silk, however, continue to act as canvases for the painstaking embroidery practiced by Kashmiri karigars such as kashida, sozni, kani, and aari, among others.

One of these embroidery forms now coveted world over is the exquisite and exclusive tilla embroidery done on pherans using gold and silver metallic threads, a wedding trousseau essential for every Kashmiri Muslim bride.

However, Gulzar notes that tilla is now getting a contemporary spin for everyday wear. "5 out of 10 clients are asking for tilla embroidery nowadays, be it in their stoles, scarves, or kurtis in silk, georgette, crepe, or velvet," he says.

Gulzar also notes that an increasing share of his local clientele now opts for made-to-measure clothing in traditional textiles but contemporary silhouettes over readymade ensembles.

Designer and stylist Shahid Rashid Bhat, whose designs are heavily informed by Kashmir's nature and its rich artistic history, agrees that contemporisation is key in order to sustain certain embroidery and clothing traditions of Kashmir.

He, too, observes that "the youth of Kashmir wants to amalgamate the old and the new. They want to flaunt Kashmiri traditions, but with a contemporary twist."

From using traditional embroidery outside shawls and the salwar kameez to rethinking the silhouette of the pheran for the modern clientele, there are multiple innovative design opportunities that contemporary Kashmiri designers are now exploring, albeit on the foundation of its perdurable artisanry.

For Wajahat Rather, the traditional pheran itself championed modern sartorial trends like sustainability, zero-waste, androgynous designs, and relaxed fits.

"Even though this vocabulary was not there, pheran was all this, even when the fashion world wasn't talking about it," he says.

He also goes back to the pheran as well as the enduring embroidery forms of Kashmir for his collections with an effort to innovate them.

Both Rather and Bhat echo that even in the face of rampant mechanisation and replication in the handicrafts industry, the intricacy, quality, and durability of embroideries and art forms done by hand will continue to remain inimitable and coveted around the world.

"Kashmiri handmade fabric has been sustaining despite the Industrial Revolution in the past and free market economy in the present," observes Prof. Kaw.

"It shall sustain in future too, depending upon the availability of local raw material, climatic changes, economic affordability and competitive capacity of the Kashmiri fabric in use and demand outside."

Two Men Held

Tuesday and seized Rs 25,81,500, they said.

They arrested two people, identified as Mohammad Shakeel and Mohammad Alyas, they said.

The money was meant for "terror financing", they said.

An FIR has been registered at Mendhar police station and further investigation is going on, they said. (PTI)

Searches Carried

street vendors and pedestrians during the operation that lasted for nearly two hours. However, no reports of any arrests were received.

Tipper Mows

Meanwhile, SHO Ganderbal said that the driver has been arrested and his vehicle has also been seized.

He said that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigation was going on—(KNO)

Six Gamblers

Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Ab Rashid Bhat and Javid Ahmad Wani, all residents of Delina.

Besides playing cards, the police spokesperson said, an amount of Rs 14,880 were also seized from the spot

"They have been arrested and shifted to a police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation has been initiated," he added.

Minor Boy

rites after completion of formalities.

England Recall Moeen Ali Ahead Of Second Test Against India

Press Trust of India

LONDON: England on Tuesday recalled all-rounder Moeen Ali to the squad ahead of the second Test against India at Lord's, beginning on August 12.

The spinning all-rounder will train with the squad on Tuesday, according to a statement from England and Wales Cricket Board.

The England top order barring skipper Joe Root has been struggling for a while with head coach Chris Silverwood hinting at making changes in the team in case of continued non-performance.

England were bowled out of 183 in the first innings of the series opener and before managing to make 303 in the second essay which was largely based on skipper Root's 109.

On Monday, Silverwood had told the English media that Ali was under consideration for a call back in the absence of all-rounders Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes.

"Moeen is certainly under

consideration. He's always been part of our consideration. We know he is a fine cricketer and we know he is showing fine form in the Hundred at the moment, though I appreciate it's a different format.

"All-rounders such as Ben Stokes or Chris Woakes usually give you options all-round. Unfortunately, we've found ourselves squeezed through circumstance recently and we haven't been able to do that," Silverwood had said.

The 34-year-old off-spinner has been in fine form in the white-ball format. He hit a 23-ball half-century for Birmingham Phoenix on Monday night and has captained the side to the top of the table.

His last Test came in February against India in the second Test but didn't feature any further the red-ball series as he returned back to England owing to the side's workload management policy.

His last Test on home soil was the series opener in 2019 Ashes.



MESSI Flies In To Complete Move To Paris Saint-Germain

Agencies

PARIS: Lionel Messi finalized agreement on his Paris Saint-Germain contract and arrived in the French capital on Tuesday to complete the move that confirms the end of a career-long association with Barcelona.

Dozens of PSG fans gathered at Le Bourget Airport in Paris to welcome Messi, who was wearing a T-shirt featuring "Ici c'est Paris" — "Here is Paris."

The 34-year-old Argentina star has agreed a two-year deal with the option for a further season, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the contract ahead of it being signed and the official announcement. Messi is set to earn around 35 million euros (\$41 million) net

annually, the person said.

Messi's father and agent, Jorge, also confirmed his son was moving to PSG in a brief exchange with reporters at Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport on Tuesday.

At the same airport, Messi was later seen arriving with his wife and three children before boarding a private jet.

"With it all, toward a new adventure. The five together," Antonela Rocuzzo said on Instagram alongside a photo with her husband on the plane.

PSG supporters have seen their club transformed over the last decade since the influx of Qatari sovereign wealth investment linked to the emir. Once Messi's Barcelona contract expired — and the Catalan club was unable to afford to keep him — PSG was one of the few clubs that could

finance a deal to sign the six-time world player of the year.

Messi's arrival gives PSG formidable attacking options as he links up with France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe and Brazil forward Neymar.

"Back together," Neymar posted on Instagram over a video of them hugging, playing for Barcelona.

While PSG had to pay 222 million euros (then \$261 million) to sign Neymar from Barcelona in 2017, there was no transfer fee for Messi.

Messi became the most desired free agent in soccer history after his attempts to stay at Barcelona were rejected last week by the Spanish league because the salary would not comply with financial regulations, with the Catalan club burdened by debts of more than 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion).

Jasprit Bumrah Has Amazing Skills For All Three Formats: Jonny Bairstow

Press Trust of India

LONDON: England batsman Jonny Bairstow on Tuesday lavished praise on Jasprit Bumrah, saying the India pacer possesses "amazing skills" for all three formats.

Bumrah roared back to form with a nine-wicket haul in the drawn first Test against England.

"Well, I can't tell you all the discussions (about Bumrah), look we know that Bumrah has got amazing skills, doesn't he?" Bairstow said in a con-call arranged by broadcaster Sony ahead of the second Test.

Bumrah remained wicket-less in the World Test championship final against New Zealand which India lost, but made a strong comeback in the first Test.

"With his action, he (Bumrah) varies on the crease as to where his delivery points are, and we all know as well and he (is) slightly different in his action with his run up and then just his action in general," said Bairstow.

"We also got to give him (Bumrah) credit, he is a world class bowler, isn't it, we have seen that in the IPL, we have seen that in white-ball cricket for India and also in red-ball cricket."

According to the 31-year-old wicketkeeper batsman, who has played 75 Tests after making his debut in 2012, his approach of the against the

Indian pacers would depend on the pitches.

"It depends on the pitch, if it is sunny or cloudy, I think we saw in that first Test conditions changed with overheads and when the floodlights came on, when it was sunny, they changed again.

"It is difficult to say this is my approach, I can't see a change in too much from the last game. I have not played a lot of red ball cricket recently due to the scheduling and everything like that, if I continue the process and everything I did in this first Test, then that is the kind of approach I want to go with," he added.

Bairstow maintained that adaptability was the key in Test cricket.

"It is quite an open-ended question. The strengths of the Indian bowling attack, whether or not you play in England, or in India, you look at a different type of ball.

"When playing in India compared to England, you have different types of pitches, that we saw in Ahmedabad and Chennai, for instance, so they are naturally different and need different skill-sets.

"So, look adaptability is the key when it comes to test cricket in general in conditions and being adaptable is more important."

Bairstow also said that he expects a "fascinating battle" throughout the series between seasoned pacer James Anderson and India skipper Virat Kohli.

JKSC Holds Rugby Championship In Srinagar, Bandipora & Anantnag



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its 'Independence Day Sports Special Week 2021' program, Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Tuesday organised two-day long rugby competitions in Srinagar, Bandipora and Anantnag districts of Kashmir Valley.

In Srinagar, the J&K Rugby Association (JKRA) under the aegis of JKSC started its District Srinagar Rugby Championship 2021-22 at Polo ground West on Tuesday. The two-day long championship will be held between 10-11 August and more than 16 teams in both boys and girls, men and women category are slated to participate.

Meanwhile, Bandipora Rugby Association under the aegis of J&K Sports Council started its District Bandipora Rugby Championship 2021-22 at S.K Stadium, Bandipora on Tuesday. The two days long championship will be from 10-11 August and more than 22 teams in both boys and girls, men and women will compete in the event.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipore, Dr. Owais Ahmad (IAS) was the chief guest and District Manager Bandipore,

Abdul Majid was the guest of honour, according to an official statement.

In Anantnag, the JKRA successfully organised a Rugby competition through Anantnag Rugby Association. The tournament was sponsored by JKSC.

The District Anantnag Rugby Championship 2021 was played between 9 to 10 August at playground Arwani. The championship saw the participation of 11 boys' teams.

"The main aim of this championship was to engage the youths of Anantnag in Rugby Game and instil the spirit of sportsmanship. In-charge Sports Stadium Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad was the chief Guest and distributed medals trophies & cash prize among the winners & runner-ups. He appreciated the Rugby players for active participation in the game. Hafiz Mohammad Asif was guest of honour.

In Sub-Junior boys category, Alaaba were the winners and Illahi Club Reds the runner-ups. In Junior category, Middle School, Loktipora team were the winners while Arwani Tigers ended up as runner ups. In senior boys category, Higher Secondary Arwani Club were the winners and Blue Team were the runner-ups.

District Budgam Soft Tennis Championship 2021 Concludes

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The District Soft Tennis Championship organized by Budgam District Soft Tennis Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the banner of J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, concluded on Tuesday with awards distribution ceremony held for the winners and runners-ups of the Championship.

Soft Tennis players of various age categories (Sub Junior, Junior and Senior) from Budgam district participated. The competitions were held from 9 to 10 August at Sports Stadium, Chara-i-Shareef Budgam.

Jahan Ara, Zonal Physical Officer was the chief guest on the concluded function and Angil Zahid, Vice Chairman, Municipal Committee Chara-i-Shareef was the guest of honour. The dignitaries gave away the prizes and medals to the winners and runner-ups who performed well in the Championship. "The Chief Guest appreciated



the works of Sports Council officials who provided sufficient sports infrastructure for physical and sports activities for both the genders of varying age groups (Boys and Girls, Men and Women) who show interest towards sports for maintaining their health – physically, mentally and morally," an official JKSC statement said.

"Basit Nabi, Secretary Budgam District Soft Tennis Association, organizing Secretary and other office bearers of the District Association thanked all the participants, office bearers and officials of Sports Council Chara-i-Shareef who provided every kind of assistance for the smooth and grand success of the championship," the statement concluded.

EXPLAINED: Premier League Looks To Be A4-Team Title Fight

Agencies

LONDON: Manchester City has broken its transfer record, Chelsea looks to be on the brink of doing the same, while Manchester United has spent around \$150 million in fixing two of its weakest positions.

Liverpool? Well they're just happy to have their best player back from a serious injury.

For very different reasons, each of the Premier League's top four teams from last season appear to be in a healthy position heading into a 2021-22 campaign that will be played in front of capacity crowds for the first time in 17 months. England's lucrative top division for some time has had a so-called 'Big Six' of City, United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Tottenham and Arsenal. Leicester, an unlikely champion in 2016 and a fifth-place finisher the last two seasons, can

rightly argue it should be a "Big Seven."

The coming season, though, looks to be a four-team race for the title, even if things could change dramatically by some late movement in a transfer window that closes on Aug. 31.

MANCHESTER CITY

Signing Jack Grealish for \$139 million was a big statement of intent by City, but that only served to strengthen a midfield department where Pep Guardiola already had enviable riches. It is a striker the champions really need following the departure of Sergio Aguero after 10 years, and there's one they are targeting in particular.

Harry Kane would cost more than Grealish — potentially much, much more — and City appears willing to spend another British-record figure if only

Tottenham would negotiate. But, according to Guardiola, that isn't currently the case, even if Kane seems keen on the move.

If it happens — and it's a big "if" given how tough a negotiator Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy is — City would have a squad mighty enough to blow away its rivals. There would barely be a weakness. Even City's second team could mount a top-four challenge.

As it is, the lack of a genuine top-class striker — Gabriel Jesus doesn't convince as a finisher, despite his work rate — leaves England's other top teams with a glimmer of hope.

CHELSEA

Chelsea has already proved a genuine rival for City, having won their last three meetings — capped by a 1-0 victory in the Champions League final in May.

Having built the sturdiest defense in

Europe, with Jorginho and the indefatigable N'Golo Kante protecting a back five, Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel has focused on adding an attacking spearhead to the team and that looks like being Romelu Lukaku. The Belgian striker reportedly underwent a medical examination on Monday ahead of a club-record \$135 million transfer from Inter Milan.

Lukaku's return to Stamford Bridge — he was at Chelsea from 2011-14 — will turn the London club into a huge title challenger, potentially giving Tuchel as strong a squad as Guardiola has. After all, it comes after Chelsea's spending spree of nearly \$300 million in the last offseason. A prolific striker was the only thing missed for Tuchel last season and Lukaku would solve that.

MANCHESTER UNITED

While the signing of Jadon Sancho, for \$100 million, came as no real surprise, United's acquisition of Raphael Varane for a likely fee of around \$50 million hadn't been trailed. As improbable was the swift and trouble-free way the club concluded the deals, a far cry from recent transfer windows that have been hectic at Old Trafford.

It points to a club that is increasingly sure of what it wants and building a strong team under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who still hasn't won a trophy since joining late in 2018. United may just be a defensive center midfielder away from having a title-winning team, but even that mightn't stop them this season.

Key will be striker Edinson Cavani staying fit and if Mason Greenwood, the young forward carrying so much hope and expectation, kicks on again. Paul Pogba appears to be staying for another season, and Solskjaer will hope the midfielder can

transfer his international form with France to his club. United finished in second place, 12 points behind City, last season and will believe the gap can be closed.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's defense of its 2019-20 title can best be described as underwhelming — the team went from champions by 19 points to trailing home 17 points behind City in third place — but there was one big reason for that.

Virgil van Dijk's knee injury kept him out for all but one month of the campaign and capped a season when Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was struck by one defensive injury after another. In the end, creeping into the Champions League qualification positions after a strong finish was regarded as a success.

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