



P3 CITY

REFUND ADMISSION FEE CHARGED TO PARENTS: FEE COMMITTEE TO PVT SCHOOLS

In order to promote book reading culture amongst Kashmiri students, the Divisional Covid Control Room, Kashmir (DC-CRK), is organising a book review competition for all students

P6

CLIMATE CHANGE: BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY

Southern Europe is burning. Italy, Greece, Albania, North Macedonia, and Turkey are fighting wildfires caused due to heatwaves. According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, the last



P5 STATE

KISHTWAR CLOUDBURST: 16 DAYS ON, NO TRACE OF 19 MISSING PERSONS YET

There was still no trace of 19 persons who went missing following a cloudburst at Honzar Dachan in Kishtwar district as rescuers continued the operation...



Widom Quote!

You can never plan the future by the past.

—Edmund Burke

NEWS DIGEST

Arms, Drugs Recovered Near LoC

SRINAGAR: Government forces have recovered a cache of arms and drugs in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday. A cordon-and-search operation was carried out at Hajitara Taad in the Kamah area near the Line of Control on Wednesday, a police official said. He said during the search, a cache of arms and [● More On P10](#)

Police Nabs Fraudster From Haryana

JAMMU: The Cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday arrested an alleged fraudster who duped a local resident of over Rs 19 lakh online on the pretext of allotment of Indian Oil petrol pump, an official said. Parmod Devgan, a resident of Gurgaon, was arrested from Hissar in Haryana by a special team of Cyber Police, a police official said. He said the arrest of Devgan followed an investigation into a complaint lodged by Nissar Ahmad of Mahore area [● More On P10](#)

Auto Rickshaw Mows Down Woman

SRINAGAR: An elderly woman died after she was hit by an Auto rickshaw driver in Qaimoh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday evening. 60-year-old Sarwa Begum died on the spot after an auto rickshaw mowed her down near Dhoobi Mohalla in Qaimoh on Thursday evening, officials said. They said that a case has been registered and [● More On P10](#)

Union Home Secretary Gets One-Year Extension

NEW DELHI: Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given a one year extension on Thursday, beyond his present tenure that was to end next week, according to an official order from the Personnel Ministry. Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as the Home Secretary in August 2019. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has [● More On P10](#)

10 More Test Covid Positive In Ladakh

LEH: Ladakh recorded 10 more COVID-19 cases on Thursday and the active cases have risen to 82 in the union territory, officials said. All the 10 persons testing positive for the virus were from Leh district, they said. The total number of cases in the UT has gone up now 20,421, the officials said. Two more patients were discharged from hospitals in the past 24 hours, raising the number of cured [● More On P10](#)

J&K Sees 176 New Covid Cases, 2 Deaths

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: As many as 176 people tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, while two more persons succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 80 new cases of novel coronavirus while 96 were detected from various parts of the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 323061

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 21, Baramulla 7, Budgam 10, Pulwama 4, [● More On P10](#)

Militants Ambush BSF Convoy, Jammu Highway Closed

Militans Trapped Near Qazigund; 2 Civilians, 2 Security Personnel Injured

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: An ambush on a Border Security Force (BSF) convoy on Thursday set off a fierce encounter between militants and government forces in South Kashmir's Qazigund area leaving two civilians and two security personnel injured.

An official told PTI that the convoy was headed for Srinagar from Jammu.

Police officials said the militants, believed to be two in number, took shelter inside a multi-storey building "forcing the security forces to slow down the operation".

According to officials, militants on Thursday afternoon attacked a Srinagar bound BSF convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar highway near Malpora in the Qazigund area. Though no injuries were reported in the attack, swift cordon and search operation (CASO) by army, police and



File Photo

CRPF led to the militants being trapped in the village.

"#Terrorists fired upon BSF convey at NHW #Kulgam. No injury reported. However, terrorists trapped. EOF on. #Reinforcement reached. Senior officers of Police, CRPF & Army on the spot: IGP Kashmir," Kashmir Police zone posted on

its official Twitter handle.

The officials further said that the militants took shelter in a huge building in Mir Bazar area and engaged the joint team in a fierce firefight.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and General Officer Commanding of Victor Force, [● More On P10](#)

#TERRORISTS FIRED UPON BSF CONVEY AT NHW #Kulgam. No injury reported. However, terrorists trapped. EOF on. #Reinforcement reached. Senior officers of Police, CRPF & Army on the spot: IGP Kashmir,"

Panel Asks School To Refund Admission Fee

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The fee regulatory authority for private schools in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday directed a prominent school to refund Rs 50,000 charged as admission fee from students within the next 15 days.

Fee Fixation Regulation Committee (FFRC) chairperson justice (retired) Muzaffar Hussain Attar issued the direction to the Foundation World School, Humhama.

Justice Attar, in a 15-page order, cited a Supreme Court ruling which bans charging of admission fee by schools.

"In view of the aforesaid circumstances, the Principal/ Chairperson/ Vice-Chairperson/Trustees of the Foundation World School, Humhama, are directed to return and refund amount of Rs 50,000 to complainant, Mr Suhail Dar and all other parents from whom admission fee has been charged and collected within fifteen (15) days and submit [● More On P10](#)

Searches, Frisking Intensified In Kashmir Ahead Of Aug 15

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police and paramilitary personnel have heightened security arrangements across Kashmir Valley, in particular the Srinagar, ahead of the August 15, marking the 75th anniversary of the India's Independence.

Since morning police and paramilitary men were seen stopping and searching vehicles at several places while people were queued up and subjected to frisking.

Police and paramilitary forces were seen stopping vehicles at Parimpora and then queuing up the passengers after bring them down from buses, mini-buses and cabs. Not only public transport, scooter riders and private vehicles were also



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

randomly stopped and checked for any subversive element to ensure that the ensuing official functions on Sunday pass off peacefully and incident-free.

Apart from frisking people

thoroughly, the men in uniform were also seen checking I-cards of some people.

Reports of frisking of the people by police and paramilitary forces were [● More On P10](#)

Srinagar Placed Under Drone Surveillance



Three days ahead of August 15 celebrations in the Valley, the government forces on Thursday conducted a joint drone surveillance drill in Srinagar. The surveillance exercise is being conducted to keep a watch at the areas near Lal Chowk and the Independence Day parade stadium in Srinagar. "With the help of the drones, we are able to keep a watch at a larger area. We are trying to keep any negative [● More On P10](#)

High-Security Prison To Come Up In J&K

Revenue Department Transfers 204 Kanal Land To Prisons Dept

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory is planning to construct a high-security prison which will be equipped with modern gadgets for security and surveillance.

To begin with, the Department of Revenue has transferred 204 Kanals of state land to the Prison department for establishment of J&K's first-ever high security prison.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the transfer of state land measuring 204 Kanal 16 Marla bearing Khassra numbers 917/896(43 Kanal 7 Marla), 596/2(13 Kanal 1 Marla), 600(93 Kanal 12 Marla), 601(06 kanal 18 Marla),



File Photo

607(09 Kanal 12 Marla),606(8 Kanal 1 Marla), 608 (25 kanal, 01 Marla and 597/ 05 kanal, 4 Marla), situated at village Dhar Dharochan, Tehsil Bhalwal, district Jammu in favour of the Prison department for

establishment of a high-security prison," reads an order issued by the Revenue department.

According to the order, the land shall be used only for the purpose for which the sanction of transfer has [● More On P10](#)

US Prefers India, Finds Pak Useful Only To Clear 'Afghan Mess': Imran



File Photo

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Taking a dig at the US, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Washington sees Pakistan as "useful" only for clearing the "mess" it has left behind in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting and prefers India when it comes to forming a strategic partnership.

Afghanistan has seen an uptick in violence by the Taliban after US President Joe Biden's announcement of the withdrawal of American and NATO troops by August 31.

Pakistan is just considered only to be useful in the context of somehow settling this mess which has been left behind after 20 years of trying to find a military solution when there was not one, Khan told foreign journalists at his home here on Wednesday.

Khan said that since the US decided to have a

strategic partnership with India, Washington was treating Pakistan differently, according to a journalist present at the meeting.

Islamabad is unhappy that Biden has not spoken to Prime Minister Khan since he assumed the presidency in January.

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moed Yusuf recently expressed disappointment over President Biden's reluctance to contact Prime Minister Khan despite considering Islamabad as an important country in some critical issues like Afghanistan.

Yusuf also said that Islamabad has other "options" if the American leader continues to ignore the country's leadership.

The US State Department, however, had assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan [● More On P10](#)

PDD Official, 157 Others Charged In Rs 7.25 Cr Scam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against a Senior Assistant in Power Development Department (PDD) and 112 others in a staggering Rs 7.25 crore scam.

A chargesheet was filed against Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, the then Senior Assistant in Power Development Department, Division Sumbal, Bandipora

and 112 other accused officials of PDD, Finance, J&K Bank and 45 fake employees in a case FIR No 25/2018 U/S 420, 409, 467, 468, 471,120-B, 201-RPC r/w 5(2) PC Act, registered in 2018 after a preliminary verification, a Crime Branch spokesperson said.

During the course of investigation, the CB spokesperson said, it has been established that the prime accused Mushtaq Ahmad Malik along with other accused [● More On P10](#)

HOWEVER, DURING THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION, an amount of Rs. 5.17 crores was recovered from the possession of the prime accused Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, and remitted in the Government treasury on the basis of order issued by the Hon'ble Court of Anti Corruption Judge, Srinagar."

Mehbooba Misses Parra On Int'l Youth Day

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on the International Youth Day on Thursday said she missed the youth Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra.

PDP president Mehbooba alleged that Parra was being punished for his commitment towards Kashmir cause.

Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter the vice-chairperson of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) Mebooba said " On this International Youth Day, I terribly miss our Youth President @parawahid who played a stellar part in engaging with [● More On P10](#)



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2

Friday | 13-08-2021

پہلی برسی پر گلہائے عقیدت

تو واقعی خورشید تھا اس اُجڑے دیار کا
تو رہنما تھا شانِ گلشن تھا موسم بہار کا

آہ:- سید خورشید احمد قادری

عَلَيْكَ سَلَامٌ رَبُّكَ فِي جَنَانِ مُخَالِطُهَا نَعِيمٌ لَا يَزُولُ

(آپ پر آپ کے رب کی طرف سے اُس جنت میں سلامتی پہنچے جس میں لازوال عیش و آرام ملتا رہے گا)

13 اگست 2020ء کو ہمارا ”خورشید“ موت کی ٹھنڈی
ٹھنڈی چھاؤں میں چھپ کر ہمارے قلوب و اذہان کو
مضطرب و منتشر کر کے چھوڑ گیا۔ اور ہمارے چہار سو
ایک گھنٹا ٹوپ اندھیرا چھا گیا۔ لیکن اس چھپے ہوئے
”خورشید“ نے اپنی منور ضیا پاشیوں سے ہمیں پھر سے راہ
ہدایت کی طرف گامزن کرایا۔ گویا کہ یہ چراغِ اندھروں
کو چیرتے ہوئے ہم سب بھائی بہنوں بیقرار والدہ ماجدہ، مغموم اہلیہ اور اولادوں کے
ساتھ تمام عزیز واقارب اور دوست و احباب کی راہِ حیات کو روشن کر دیا۔ اور محسوس ہی
نہیں ہونے دیا کہ وہ ہم سب سے راہِ فرار اختیار کر چکا ہے۔

ہمارے محسن:- ہم آج بھی بلکہ ہر لمحہ آپ کو وہ حسین و پرکشش مسکراتا چہرہ،
آپ کا خلقِ عظیم، آپ کی شفقت، آپ کی مودت، آپ کی شرافت، آپ کی سخاوت،
آپ کی رفاقت، آپ کے آدابِ زندگی، آپ کی زہد و عبادت کی پابندی اور لامتناہی
صفات کی دل کے دھڑکنوں کے ساتھ یاد کر کے اپنے ساتھ محسوس کرتے ہیں اور
یقیناً آپ ہم سے جدا نہیں ہوئے ہیں۔ بلکہ اپنی اعلیٰ اقدار کے ساتھ ہمارے درمیان
موجود ہیں۔ ہم سب دستِ بدعا ہیں کہ رب کریم آپ کو اپنی لازوال رحمت کی آغوش
میں لیکر ہمارے قلب و اذہان کو تسکین کا مل بخشے۔ آمین

دعا گو: خاندانِ قادریہ پٹو مسجد (محلہ پاندان)

بذریعہ: سید غلام جیلانی

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR
BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**
BRANCH OFFICE DORU
ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his /her qualification certificate/s having the following description:-
Roll No:- 139239
Class 10th
Year AND Session :- 2011& December 2011.
Reg No:- N10401480059
Name :- INSHA FAYAZ.
FATHERS NAME:- FAYAZ AHMAD DARZI
MOTHERS NAME :-RUBY
DATE OF BIRTH:- 25-09-1995
RESIDENCE :- BIJBHARA ANANTNAG
Now the candidate has applied for issuance of Duplicate Quali-
fication Certificate/s. Before the case will be processed under
rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/
she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days
from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no
objection shall be entertained.
(Besides, the above losted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE
"bearing S.No/s 11ARKAM-7002059is /are be treated as (" CANCELLED").

No :- F (CERTS-I-DQC) B/KD/20
Dated :- 12-08-2021
RNA

sd/-
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Branch Office Doru

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have lost my Driving License bearing DL No:JK-1820150010425. Now I want to apply its for duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Name :-AADIL HUSSAIN MALIK
S/O : GH NABI MALIK
R/O :ORIEL KUND KULGAM
RNA

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Name :-SHAKIR AHMAD CHOPAN
S/O : MOHD ANWAR CHOPAN
R/O :BANDAL CHANGO DORU ANG.
RNA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar
Tender Notice Inviting Tenders
Single Cover System

e-NIT No. 02 SKICC of 2021-22
For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State, e-tender (In single cover system) is invited from Registered/Reputed Dealer/Supplier on item rate basis registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway and other State Central Governments for the below mentioned job.

Dated 14/07/2021

S. No.	Name of work	Contract ceiling	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (Rs. In lacs)	Time of completion	Class of contractor
01.	Pointing of existing Devri & Kota Stone flooring of Pergola path at SKICC.	7.00 lacs	700/-	21000/-	20 days	Registered Civil Contract Class C & D
02.	Renovation of pergola by way of painting & weather shield paint at SKICC.	5.06 lacs	500/-	15189/-	15 days	Registered Civil Contract Class C & D

Technical Sanction :- Obtained
Position of AA :- Recorded vide No. 36 SKICC of 2020
Position of funds :- Available

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

	Date of issue of tender notice	14.07.2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14.07.2021
3.	Bid submission start date (on line)	14.07.2021 from 3.30 P.M
4.	Bid submission End date (on line)	24.07.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	26.07.2021 at 11.30 A.M

Note: The successful contractor/bidder i.e., L1 is bound to deposit the original CDR or FDR.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of the Executive engineer SKICC, Srinagar (Tender inviting/Receiving Authority). The date of the DD should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date.
- Bidders are directed to deposit their hard copy of Demand Draft (DD) before opening date of financial bid in case hard copy of DD is not received from participated bidder his tender will be rejected outrightly.
- All the bidders have to submit bid Security Declaration form instead of earnest money as per circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of the (Advertise Cost) as performance security in the shape of FDR/CDR within three days before fixation of the contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

No: SKICC/EE/21/59-63
Dated 14/07/2021

DIPK-NB-2530/21
Executive Engineer SKICC

SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
BEMINA BY-PASS, SRINAGAR
PHONES: 0194-2493191, 0194-2493199 FAX: 0194-2493180
Tender Notice NO.03/DLM of 2021-22

For and on behalf of Vice Chairman. SDA. invites tenders by e-tendering process for Auction of shops shops situated at EWS Housing colony and Boatman colony at Bernina. Srinagar Kashmir from eligible individuals/ Firms/ Organization desirous for participating in e-bid by e-tendering system for the below mentioned shop on licenses basis for a period of 20 years:-

S. No	Particulars	Shop No	Carpet area of shop	Min. Reserved bid of shops	Earnest money.	Cost of Tender document
01.	Shops situated at EWS Housing Colony Bernina, Srinagar.	5, 6, 7, 8, 22, 40, 58, 76, 69	108 Sft each	Rs. 3.30 lacs per shop	Rs.50,000/- each shop /Hall (pledged to SDA)	Rs.560/- each shop/ hall including 12% GST (pledged to SDA)
02.	Boatman colony at Bernina Srinagar.	69				

- Date of Publishing: 11/08/2021.
- The Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 12/08/2021 (10.AM) to 02/09/2021 (4.00 PM).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 20/08/2021 (10.00AM) to 02/09/2021 (4.00PM).
- a. The bids received will be opened on 04/09/2021 (12.00 Noon). b. The complete bidding process will be on line.

No: SDA/DLM/732/35
Dated : 11/08/2021
DIPK-NB-2510/21

Director Land Management,
Srinagar Dev. Authroity

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)
Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in
NOTIFICATION

Subject: Document Verification of Provisionally Shortlisted Candidates for Class-IV posts of various Department, (UT, Divisional Cadre Jammu/ Kashmir and District Cadres) advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated 26.06.2020 --- Re-scheduling of dates reg.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board has scheduled Computer Based Test (CBT) for different posts of the Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021, from 17th August to 24th August 2021. It is imperative to deploy requisite manpower for ensuring transparency, fairness and efficiency in the written examinations scheduled by the Services Selection Board. In view of the above, it has been felt expedient to postpone the ongoing Counselling-cum-Documents Verification of Class-IV posts during the aforesaid period to spare the required manpower for conduct of scheduled CBT. Accordingly, it is hereby notified for the information of all the concerned that the Counseling-cum-Documents Verification of Class-IV posts scheduled to be held w.e.f 16th August to 24th August 2021, is hereby POSTPONED till further orders. Next date shall be announced separately. By Order.

(Ashok Kumar)KAS
Controller Of Examinations,
J&K Services Selection Board,
Jammu.

No. SSB/COE/Class IV/2021/ 5484-92
Dated: 12.08.2021.
DIPK-6511/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM
Phone: +1951-256456, 255059, Fax: +1951-255237
Email: cmobudgam17@gmail.com / planningcmobudgam@gmail.com

Subject: - Final Seniority of Junior Assistants of District Cadre Budgam.

C I R C U L A R

Whereas tentative seniority list of Jr. Assistants in District Cadre Budgam was issued vide this Office Order No. CMOB/Est-II/5374-80, dated 27/04/2021 and was served to the concerned through their drawing and disbursing officers for inviting objections regarding the seniority. Whereas this office has not received any objection from any person/quarter regarding the said seniority till date. Now therefore final seniority list of Jr. Assistants of District Cadre Budgam is hereby framed and circulated among all through their Drawing and Disbursing Officers.

S. No.	Name of the Employee	Designation	Date of Birth	Date of 1st Appointment	Place of Posting
1	Mrs.Nousheena Hamid	Junior Assistant	20-03-1986	03-05-2011	Block Budgam
2	Mr.Gowhar Ahmad Dar	Junior Assistant	30-11-1985	08-01-2014	Block Nagam
3	Sheraz Ahmad Sheikh	Junior Assistant	01-02-1985	08-01-2014	CMO Budgam

Note: -

- The seniority in respect of Mrs. Nousheen Hamid has been fixed at serial No.1 as per her first appointment order.
- The seniority in respect of Serial No.02 and No.03 and has been fixed as per the merit list of SSRB.

No. CMOB/Estt-II/N-Gaz/10088-93
Dated: 10/08/2021

(Dr. Tajamul Hussain Khan),
Chief Medical Officer,
Budgam.

DIPK-6369/21



Security Forces on Thursday conducted a successful trial of drones in Srinagar to keep the city under aerial surveillance while massive frisking operations were started ahead of the Independence Day in the summer capital and elsewhere.Pic Abid Bhat

DCCRK to hold Book Review competition for Kashmiri students

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: In order to promote book reading culture amongst Kashmiri students, the Divisional Covid Control Room, Kashmir (DCCRK), is organising a book review competition for all students without any age bar.

The competition is being organised in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, as the virus has not only made human life stagnant but also has changed the education system severely across the world in the past 20 months.

Incharge DCCRK, Tahir Ahmad Magray said that the distinctive rise of e-learning and digital platforms throughout the globe has led to increase in screen time while attending classes adversely affecting student's health.

"In order to refresh the minds of our students we have come up with an innovative initiative at Divisional level", he said adding "the aim of such competition is to foster the pursuit of knowledge, creativity, ideas, stimulating culture of reading, learning, writing and values amongst the student community". Besides, another aim is to keep

students engaged positively in the times of self-quarantine and social distancing.

He said that this will not only help the students develop and expand their language but will also improve their cognition and push them to think out of the box. The competition is sponsored by Directorate of Libraries and Research J&K, Freshcode Books, Career Launcher and aspiration.ai.

All the students of Kashmir division from elementary to PhD scholars are eligible for the competition.

Interested participants are advised to register themselves in the competition by or before 25th August 2021 on our web page <https://forms.gle/2dmroBLWqHQH29616>.

The books for the review competition are already on the web page. Students are advised to select one book from the list for participation in competition.

For further guidance and assistance students can also contact Innovation cell/Media cell of DCCRK on following numbers; Dr.Suhail +7006410234, Dr. Umar +91 9419077089.

NC demands release of pending salaries of contractual, daily wage workers

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Thursday expressed concern over withholding of salaries of casual, daily wagers working in various departments, saying the inordinate delay in the release of pending salaries has pushed thousands of families into penury.

While expressing concern over the suffering of daily wagers working in various departments, the party spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the salaries drawn by the dailywagers, contractals working with various government departments are already very meager and that the practice of irregular release of the monthly dues has further aggravated the entire lot.

"It is not just an individual

daily wager, who is at the receiving end, it is the thousands of such families who these daily wagers sustain through their meager wages, which are also pending for months altogether. It is highly unfortunate to see these contractual and daily wagers hanker for their salaries. It has become a norm for them to come on roads and agitate for the release of their due remuneration. Most of the families associated with such daily wagers have exhausted their humble savings and can no longer make both ends meet in these difficult times. Most of such families are on the verge of starvation," he said.

The measure of withholding the salaries of daily rated, casual, and daily wagers also runs afoul with the canons of natural

justice, Imran said. He added that despite working at par with other employees, the entire lot is being denied equal wages at par with other employees. This, Imran said, is a wanton violation of the law of equal work and equal wages and minimum wages act. Emphasizing the long pending demand of regularizing the daily rated, casual, contractual, and daily wagers, Imran said the incumbent administration must take the decision without any further delay.

He also demanded that pay anomalies with regards to the entire contingent paid workers, NYC, Anganwari, Asha workers, HDF contractual and consolidated employees should be redressed and further ensure that the practice of irregular release in wages is abandoned.

Water shortage sparks protest on Srinagar-Gulmarg road

Agencies

Magam:-- Hundreds of vehicles

were stranded on Srinagar-Gulmarg Road after Check Kowosa Magam residents blocked the road to protest against the scarcity of potable water.

The protesters, including women, alleged that the PHE department doesn't take their grievance seriously.

The protesters blocked the road, forcing commuters to halt their vehicles for hours.

One of the protesters told news agency Kashmir News Trust that Kolekar Chinar Colony in the area is facing acute water shortage from past 10 years. He said crores have been allocated for laying a water supply scheme for the area, but only God knows where the money has gone.

"We have been deprived of drinking water from last 10 years and our children are crying for want of water. We consulted authorities but of no use. We were forced to come on the road to protest," the protesters said.

Police and PHE officials rushed to spot and assured the protesters that their grievance will be addressed. (KNT)

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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 3114 BC -According to the Lounsbury correlation, the start of the Mayan calendar
- 523- St John I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1099 -Raniero elected as Pope Paschal II
- 1326- Neopagan religious figure Aradia de Toscano initiated into a Dianic witchcraft cult, goes on to found tradition of Stregheria (according to Wicca writer Raven Grimassi)
- 1415- King Henry V of England lands his army at the mouth of Seine River in France1516 - The Treaty of Noyon between France and Spain is signed, Francis recognises Charles's claim to Naples, and Charles recognises Francis's claim to Milan.
- 1521 - Spanish conquistadors under Hernán Cortés capture Aztec Emperor Cuauhtémoc in Tenochtitlan marking the end of the Aztec Empire
- 1642 - Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens discovers Martian south polar cap
- 1913- Invention of stainless steel by Harry Brearley of Sheffield, England
- 1914 -German army occupies forts at Liege
- 1917 A revolt in Catalonia, the province in northeast Spain that has long seen itself as independent
- 1923- Gustav Stresemann becomes premier of German coalition government
- 1923 - Turkish National Congress selects Mustafa Kemal Atatürk Pasja as President
- 1937 - Second Sino-Japanese War: Japanese forces begin the Battle of Shanghai, a conflict that will last 3 months and involve 1 million troops
- 1940 - Battle of Britain: Hermann Goering's "Adlertag" (Eagle Day) offensive happens, intending to destroy the Royal Air Force; 47-48 German aircraft shot down, the RAF loses 25 planes
- 1943 - Red army recaptures Spas-Demensk
- 1944 - British 8th Army occupies Florence
- 1944 - Allied generals Bernard Montgomery, Miles Dempsey and Omar Bradley discuss a future breakthrough in the European theatre during World War II
- 1951 - Great Britain & Iraq sign new oil contract
- 1953 - 4-5 million French go on strike against economizations
- 1960 - USSR withdraws advisors from China
- 1977 - 1st test glide of space shuttle
- 1989 - US space shuttle STS-28 lands
- 1996 - Microsoft releases Internet Explorer 3.0
- 2014 - Israeli and Palestinian cease fire agreed to on August 8 is extended for another 120 hours to provide time for further negotiations
- 2014 - Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani is the first woman to win the Fields Medal in mathematics
- 2015- 76 people are killed & 212 are wounded by an ISIL truck bomb in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2019 - Measles cases have tripled worldwide in 2019 according to WHO with 364,808 reported against vs 129,239 in 2018



HIJRI
CALENDAR

4

MUHARRAM

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR

4:20

ZUHR

12: 37

ASR

5:24

MAGRIB

7:24

ISHA

8:53

From KO Archives

Major ground offensive on in Pir Panjal

Agence France Presse

JAMMU: Army launched a major offensive Thursday against Mujahideen hideouts in southern Kashmir, military commanders said. The Indian air force also deployed planes to help the sweeping military campaign on the higher reaches of southern Kashmir, officials said. Air force, sources said Russian-designed helicopter gun-ships were being used for 'casualty vacations, re-induction and re-location of ground forces' in the rugged mountain areas of Doda and Banihal.

"So far, we have not engaged in direct combat but if necessary there will be a combined ground-air operation," a highly-placed air force source said in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Major General P.P.S. Bindra, commander of the elite counter-insurgency Delta Force, confirmed to AFP the offensive had been launched in Doda and Banihal.

"We have launched helicopter mounted operations in Doda and other areas of Pir Panjal ranges to sanitise the entire belt against militant attacks", the general said here.

The helicopter operations in Pir Panjal were being carried out -with ground support from heavily-armed paramilitary forces and commandos from Kashmiri police who are familiar with the terrain, other officials said.

The operations in southern Kashmir came as Indian soldiers shot dead five Muslim fighters in the northern district of Kupwara, a defence ministry spokesman also said Thursday.

He claimed two were from the Lashkar-e-Taiba , the other three belonged to other groups, adding that all five were gunned down late Wednesday night. '

In Jammu, Indian officials said the army's counter-offensive was also aimed at providing a 'security blanket' to people living in remote areas in southern Kashmir.

Thousands of federal border guards, paramilitary forces and police deployed in the region have been placed on maximum alert in the districts of Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Kathua, the officials said.

Night patrols have been intensified in and around Hindu-dominated districts and military installations and government offices to stem militant counter-attacks, the officials said. Security barricades were also being installed at 31 localities without local self-defence committees.

(Kashmir Observer, August 13, 2000)

Man from Srinagar dies in Banihal Highway road accident

Banihal: Driver of a vehicle died on spot after he lost control over the vehicle that rolled down 200 feet deep gorge on Srinagar-Jammu Highway on Thursday. Police sources said that an Alto car (Chassis Number) on way from Jammu to Srinagar met with an accident near Tulbagh Shabanbas area of Banihal in Ramban district.

The vehicle skidded off the road after the driver lost control over it. The driver of the vehicle identified as Aamir Zargar, a resident of Gulab Bagh Srinagar died on spot while another person on board Faisal Mehraj who hails from Rainawari Srinagar sustained injuries.

The injured was shifted to Sub District Hospital Banihal where he is undergoing treatment.

Doctors said the condition of the injured man is stable. A case in this regard has been registered at police station Banihal. (KNT)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In school records the father's name of my son Issa Sami (class 9th Yellow) has wrongly been entered as Sami Ullah Punjabi instead of Sami Ullah Rather. Now, the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if anybody has any objection, they may convey it to the principal Tyndale Biscoe School Sheikh Bagh Srinagar within a period of 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

SAMI ULLAH RATHER
Botakadal
Lal Bazar Srinagar (x)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas an joint application has been received by this office from Mr Mohammad Waseem S/o Mohd Shraf Dar R/o Batengoo Anantnag owner of the vehicle bearing registration No JK03D-2845 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Sudershan Hire purchase LTD and HPA agreement with Transport Nagar Jammu.



Now it is therefore noticed for general information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation/endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of his notice.

No: 101/B491/Mvd/Ang
Dated: 12-08-2021
RNA

Assistant regional transport officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas an joint application has been received by this office from Mr Imtiyaz Ahmad Kachloo S/o Mohd Yousuf Kachloo R/o Pushwara Anantnag owner of the vehicle bearing registration No JK03B-3057 for cancellation of hire purchase cancelled with M/S Swaran Motor Trading Corporation and HPA agreement with Transport Nehru Market Jammu.



Now it is therefore noticed for general information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation/endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of his notice.

No: 101/B492/Mvd/Ang
Dated: 12-08-2021
RNA

Assistant regional transport officer Anantnag

از غیابت کلم آباد

مضمون کا تقاضا درخوات منجانب شہید محمد نیک ولد عبدالقیوم نیک سائنہین

تا تاریخ 29/08/2021 RBA تحت SRO 294

اشتیہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

محکمہ صحت و امور خیرات کے لئے درخواست کی کہ خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو صحت کے لئے طبیعت کے مطابق دوا دی جائے جس سے صحت بہتر ہو سکے۔ یہ سب کام خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو دیا جائے گا۔

خیرات کے لئے درخواست کی کہ خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو صحت کے لئے طبیعت کے مطابق دوا دی جائے جس سے صحت بہتر ہو سکے۔ یہ سب کام خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو دیا جائے گا۔

ذمہ دار: سید محمد

از غیابت داگور و نائب تحصیلدار ایکٹو کیلئے محضر عدت و دہی اول

مضمون کا تقاضا درخوات منجانب محمد اظہار خان تھا کہ ولد محمد عبداللہ خان تھا کہ ساکنہ سنگام، برادر عطا علی RBA تحت SRO 294

اشتیہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

محکمہ صحت و امور خیرات کے لئے درخواست کی کہ خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو صحت کے لئے طبیعت کے مطابق دوا دی جائے جس سے صحت بہتر ہو سکے۔ یہ سب کام خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو دیا جائے گا۔

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ذمہ دار: سید محمد

75 سال مرگ
29 سال مرگ
28 سال مرگ
05 سال مرگ

ان کے لئے صحت کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے طبیعت کے مطابق دوا دی جائے جس سے صحت بہتر ہو سکے۔ یہ سب کام خیرات میں شامل ہونے والے تمام ممبران کو دیا جائے گا۔

ذمہ دار: سید محمد

TALIBAN CAPTURE GHAZNI CITY ON ROAD TO AFGHAN CAPITAL

Fighting in and around several other cities; US intelligence says Kabul could be isolated in weeks; President turns to old war lords for help

Agencies

Kabul, August 12: Taliban fighters captured the city of Ghazni on Thursday, the ninth provincial capital they have seized in a week, as US intelligence said Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, a few hours drive away, could fall to the insurgents within 90 days. The speed of the Taliban advance has sparked widespread recriminations over US President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US troops and leave the Afghan government to fight alone.

With the last of the US-led international forces set to leave by the end of August, the Taliban has taken control of about two-thirds of Afghanistan having mounted an offensive on multiple fronts. Finding rural districts too hard to defend, government forces have withdrawn to protect Kabul and other cities, prompting thousands of families to flee the provinces in hope of finding safety there. A senior security official said the Taliban had captured Ghazni, 150 km (93 miles) southwest of Kabul on the highway between the capital and the second city of Kandahar. The militants had occupied Ghazni's government agency headquarters after heavy clashes, he said.

"All local government officials, including the provincial governor, have been evacuated towards Kabul," said the official who declined to be identified.

Fighting has also been intense in the southern city of Kandahar. The city hospital had received scores of bodies of members of the armed forces and some wounded Taliban, a doctor said late on Wednesday.

The Taliban said they had captured Kandahar's provincial prison.

"Fighting did not stop until 4 a.m. and then after the first prayers it



started up again," said an aid worker in Kandahar.

The Taliban said they had seized airports outside the cities of Kunduz and Sheberghan in the north and Farah in the west, making it even

ince of Badghis, its governor said.

Bordering Pakistan, Kandahar and other southern and eastern provinces have long been Taliban heartlands but it has been in the north where they have made their biggest gains

tried to sideline, now needing their support to defend the biggest city in the north as the enemy closed in.

"ISOLATION"

Under a deal struck between the United States and the Taliban last year, the insurgents agreed not to attack US-led foreign forces as they withdraw by the end of this month, in exchange for a vow not to let Afghanistan be used for international terrorism. The Taliban also made a commitment to discuss peace but intermittent talks with representatives of the US-backed government have made no progress, with the insurgents apparently intent on a military victory despite warnings it could be costly.

"Attempts to monopolize power through violence, fear, and war will only lead to international isolation,"

the charge d'affaires at the US embassy, Ross Wilson, said on Twitter.

Germany would not provide financial support to Afghanistan if the Taliban take over and introduce sharia religious law, its foreign minister said. The violence has also raised fears in Europe of more refugees arriving there. German, the Netherlands and Switzerland have said they would not, for now, deport Afghans seeking asylum.

In Washington, a US defence official on Wednesday cited US intelligence as saying the Taliban could isolate Kabul in 30 days and possibly take it over within 90, following their recent rapid gains.

"But this is not a foregone conclusion," the official said, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, adding that the Afghan security forces could reverse the momentum by putting up more resistance.

Biden said on Tuesday he did not regret his decision to withdraw and urged Afghan leaders to fight for their homeland.

The Taliban, who controlled most of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted for harbouring al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden after Sept. 11, wants to defeat the U.S.-backed government and reimpose strict Islamic law.

A new generation of Afghans, who have come of age since 2001, is worried that the progress made in areas such as women's rights and media freedom will be lost.

The United Nations said more than 1,000 civilians had been killed in the past month, and the International Committee of the Red Cross said that since Aug. 1 some 4,042 wounded people had been treated at 15 health facilities.

The Taliban denied targeting or killing civilians and called for an investigation. Reuters

Kabul Offers Taliban Power-Sharing To End Violence: Report

Afghan government negotiators have offered the Taliban a power-sharing deal in return for an end to fighting in the country, a report said.

Afghan government negotiators in Qatar have offered the Taliban a power-sharing deal in return for an end to fighting in the country, a government negotiating source told AFP on Thursday.

"Yes, the government has submitted a proposal to Qatar as mediator. The proposal allows the Taliban to share power in return for a halt in violence in the country," the source said.

The Taliban seized the strategic Afghan city of Ghazni Thursday, just 150 kilometres (95 miles) from Kabul, their most important gain in a lightning offensive that has seen them overrun 10 provincial capitals in a week.

The interior ministry confirmed the fall of the city, which lies along the major Kabul-Kandahar highway and serves as a gateway between the capital and strongholds in the south.

"The enemy took control," spokesman Mirwais Stanikzai said in a message to media, adding fighting and resistance was still going on.

The government has now effectively lost most of northern and western Afghanistan and is left holding a scattered archipelago of contested cities also dangerously at risk of falling to the Taliban.

The conflict has escalated dramatically since May, when US-led forces began the final stage of a troop withdrawal due to end later this month following a 20-year occupation. The loss of Ghazni will likely pile more pressure on the country's already overstretched airforce, needed to bolster Afghanistan's dispersed security forces who have increasingly been cut off from reinforcements by road.

Pro-Taliban social media accounts also boasted of the vast spoils of war their fighters had recovered in recent days, posting photos of armoured vehicles, heavy weapons, and even a drone seized by the insurgents at abandoned Afghan military bases.

COVID-19 May Become A Mostly Childhood Disease In Few Years: Study

COVID-19 Study: The research published in the journal Science Advances, noted that such shifts have been observed in other coronaviruses and influenza viruses as they have emerged and then become endemic.

Agencies

Washington: COVID-19 may behave like other common-cold coronaviruses in the next few years, affecting mostly young children who have not yet been vaccinated or exposed to the virus, according to a modelling study published today.

The US-Norwegian team noted that because COVID-19 severity is generally lower among children, the overall burden from this disease is expected to decline as the SARS-CoV-2 virus becomes endemic in the global population.

"Following infection by SARS-

by the emergence of HCoV-OC43 virus, which is now an endemic, mild, repeat-infecting cold virus affecting mostly children ages 7-12 months old" he said.

Mr Bjornstad, however, cautioned that if immunity to reinfection by SARS-CoV-2 wanes among adults, disease burden could remain high in that group, although previous exposure to the virus would lessen the severity of disease.

"Empirical evidence from seasonal coronaviruses indicates that prior exposure may only confer short-term immunity to reinfection, allowing recurrent outbreaks, this

tions for each of these countries to parameterise the model. The team's model assumes that the reproduction number (R) - or the level of transmissibility - on any given day is linked to the amount of mobility on that day. The model also incorporates a variety of scenarios for immunity, including both independence and dependence of disease severity on prior exposure, as well as short- and long-term immunity.

"For many infectious respiratory diseases, prevalence in the population surges during a virgin epidemic but then recedes in a diminishing wave pattern as the spread of

Covid booster shots not currently needed, British vaccine chief says

Booster shots for Covid-19 vaccines are not currently needed and the doses should be given to other countries, Oxford vaccine chief Andrew Pollard said on Tuesday in contrast to the position taken by Britain's health minister. Pollard, who heads the Oxford Vaccine Group, said that a decision to boost should be based on scientific studies, and there had not been any evidence yet of an increase in severe disease or deaths among the fully vaccinated.

"There isn't any reason at this moment to panic. We're not seeing a problem with breakthrough severe disease," he said at an on-line briefing with lawmakers.

"If there was any falloff in protection, it is something which will happen gradually, and it will be happening at a point where we can pick it up and be able to respond."

Britain is planning for a Covid-19 vaccine booster programme, and health minister Sajid Javid said he expected the booster programme to begin in early September, pending final

advice from officials. read more AstraZeneca (AZN.), which manufactures the vaccine invented at Oxford University, has said it needs more time to assess whether boosters are needed to maintain protection. That differs from Pfizer (PFE.N), which has said it expects a third shot will be needed to keep protection high. read more

Britain has given two doses of vaccine to three-quarters of adults, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged countries that are planning booster programmes to delay them until more people are vaccinated around the world. read more Pollard said that vaccine supplies would be better used to protect vulnerable people in other countries.

"Doses that are available that could be used for boosting or for childhood programmes are much better deployed for people who will die over the next six months rather than that very unlikely scenario of a sudden collapse in the programmes in countries that are highly vaccinated," he said.

One year of Abraham Accords: Almost quarter million Israelis visit UAE

Agencies

Since the normalisation of relations, over 230,000 Israelis have visited the UAE, said Eitan Na'eh, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Israel in the UAE.

"Israelis are very excited about the prospects of developing relationships with the UAE," and one indication of this is the fact that "almost a quarter of a million Israelis have already visited here and this is during Covid. Of course, we still have challenges, Covid is an immense challenge."

He explained that the more people from both sides interact with each other, the more they will find that they have more in common than they thought. "By seeing each other, meeting each other, sitting in coffee houses in Abu Dhabi or Dubai, Ras al Khaimah, or Tel Aviv," is something that will certainly continue to affect the way that people from both countries view each other, he added.

"It will normalise the image of what Israel is and what the UAE is," explained Na'eh. "And through talking and relating to each other - not as Jews and Muslims, or as

Israelis and Arabs or Emiratis, but as people to people with the same dreams and issues. We are learning how to communicate and to trust each other, to understand what we mean when we say or do something, to understand the different systems." He went on: "We have different histories, but we are also a relatively new country, 73 years old versus almost 50. Still new in historical terms. We are still building a country, still moulding and shaping our political culture."

Na'eh accepted that given the history of relations, or more the lack of it, between Israel and the Arab world, many people from both sides will require some more time to build trust and transparency. "What we are witnessing now after the official accords were declared is that we are planting seeds of relations between states, between state institutions, the private sectors, business people and the people of both nations," he explained. "This is what we are trying to do. We are still at the early stages. We are still learning everything that we can about how to do business together, learning about the potential of cooperation."

NEWS MAKER

Russian Assurances Fail To Quell Storm Over 'Great Power' Photo in Tehran

Tehran: There is an outrage over the Russian and British ambassadors' recreation of an iconic World War II photo taken during the Soviet-British occupation of Iran in 1943.

Russia's Embassy in Tehran posted a photo Wednesday at the site of the Tehran conference where three allied leaders Soviet President Josef Stalin, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met to discuss military strategies against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

"Ambassador Levon Dzhagaryan's meeting with the new head of the British diplomatic mission in Iran Simon Shercliff on the historical stair where the 1943 Tehran conference was held," the photo caption said. A tweet by the Russian embassy posting the picture received thousands of angry comments and quote tweets.

Users responding to the photo on Twitter called it an "insult," an echo of "colonialism" and a sign of plans for "regime change" in Iran.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is soon expected to be replaced by conservative diplomat Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, called the picture "extremely inappropriate" in a tweet on Wednesday.

Zarif, tweeted: "I saw an extremely inappropriate photo to-

day. Need I remind all that August 2021 is neither August 1941 nor December 1943. The Iranian people have shown - including during the talks on the nuclear deal that their destiny can never be subject to decisions in foreign embassies or by foreign powers."

Abdollahian and parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf also said the envoys must be held accountable. Russian embassy in Tehran insisted Thursday that the photograph was not "anti-Iranian," but its reassurance was not enough to stop Iran's foreign ministry announcing it had summoned the Russian ambassador. State television quoted "an informed source" claiming that the British envoy had also been asked to present "further explanations regarding the photo."

The ambassadors were summoned to the foreign ministry on Thursday and said they meant no offence. The Russian Embassy said the photo did not carry "any anti-Iranian context."

"Taking into account the ambiguous reaction to our photo, we would like to note that it does not have any anti-Iranian context. We were not going to offend the feelings of the friendly Iranian people. Iran is our friend and neighbor, and we will continue to strengthen relations



based on mutual respect" British Ambassador Shercliff retweeted the message.

The Soviet Union and Britain invaded neutral Iran in 1941 to secure key supply routes amid the Nazi advance in the Caucasus. Soviet, British and U.S. troops withdrew from Iran in 1946.

However, the image of the so-called "Big Three" is infamous to the Iranian people since it is reminiscent of the violation of their country's national sovereignty by the three countries, two of which had

exploited the then Pahlavi regime's inefficacy and submissiveness to deploy troops to Iranian soil despite the fact that Tehran had declared neutrality in the war.

Islamic Republic, founded after an Islamic Revolution that overthrew the US backed Pahlavi regime, harbours a deep distrust of the West, especially the US and the UK. The US seat at the meeting on Wednesday was empty because shortly after the revolution, the country's embassy in Iran was shut down.



In future, COVID-19 may affect mostly children, a study claimed. (Representational Image)

CoV-2, there has been a clear signature of increasingly severe outcomes and fatality with age," said Ottar Bjornstad from the University of Oslo in Norway.

"Yet, our modelling results suggest that the risk of infection will likely shift to younger children as the adult community becomes immune either through vaccination or exposure to the virus," he said.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, noted that such shifts have been observed in other coronaviruses and influenza viruses as they have emerged and then become endemic.

"Historical records of respiratory diseases indicate that age-incidence patterns during virgin epidemics can be very different from endemic circulation," Mr Bjornstad said.

"For example, ongoing genomic work suggests that the 1889-1890 pandemic, sometimes known as the Asiatic or Russian flu -- which killed one million people, primarily adults over age 70 -- may have been caused

prior exposure may prime the immune system to provide some protection against severe disease," said Mr Bjornstad. "However, research on COVID-19 shows that vaccination provides stronger protection than exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, so we encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible," he explained. The team developed a "realistic age-structured (RAS) mathematical model" that integrates demography, degree of social mixing, and duration of infection-blocking and disease-reducing immunity to examine potential future scenarios for age-incidence and burden of mortality for COVID-19. The researchers analysed disease burden over immediate, medium and long terms - 1, 10 and 20 years, respectively. They also examined disease burden for 11 different countries -- China, Japan, South Korea, Spain, UK, France, Germany, Italy, the US, Brazil and South Africa -- that differed widely in their demographics. The team used data from the United Na-

the infection unfolds over time toward an endemic equilibrium," said Ruiyun Li, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oslo. "Depending on immunity and demography, our RAS model supports this observed trajectory. It predicts a strikingly different age-structure at the start of the COVID-19 epidemic compared to the eventual endemic situation," he added. The researchers noted that in a scenario of long-lasting immunity, either permanent or at least 10 years, the young are predicted to have the highest rates of infection as older individuals are protected from new infections by prior infection.

Jessica Metcalf, an associate professor at Princeton University, US, noted that this prediction is likely to hold only if reinfections produce only mild disease. PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

However, the burden of mortality over time may remain unchanged if primary infections do not prevent reinfections or mitigate severe disease among the elderly, she added.

Govt to launch 100 tribal area schools as a pilot project

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: The Tribal Affairs Department conducted a preliminary coordination interaction with Japan based SHIN Education for activity based learning to be introduced in 100 tribal area schools as a pilot project.

The idea behind this innovative attempt is to empower the students with logical thinking and creativity through SHIN PROGRAM, a Japanese style experiential holistic group learning program from JAPAN, based on various hands-on activities. The main focus is the complete development of children, soft skills (non-cognitive abilities) and essential skills (cognitive abilities) through the Japanese style learning program.

The initiative will be further expanded to more areas and schools with government supported external funding focusing on areas with tribal population.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, held detailed meeting with SHIN representative, Takehiro Nakamura, who made a presentation on the partnership programme.

Chief Executive Officer, Takanoibu Tanaka, joined the discussion through video conference from Japan while Officer on Special Duty, Mission Youth, Tabish Saleem and other officers were also present in the consultative meeting.

Pertinently, Tribal Affairs Department endeavours to strengthen primary education of students in remote tribal areas and the focus is on strengthening schools in catchment area of Eklavya Model Residential Schools besides covering migratory season schools. Apart from infrastructure support the programme will focus on key learning outcomes.

The objective of SHIN PROGRAM is not only to improve

child's ability for a specific subject such as Mathematics and English, the initiative rather focuses on creating strong fundamental for all subjects in children and improving 21st century skills (Cognitive & Life skills) that are universally essential.

The programme included hands-on activities like understanding skills, logical thinking, divergent thinking, creativity, imagination, memory, problem solving and self-discipline besides focusing on traits like compassion, responsibility, friendship, diligence, courage, perseverance, honesty and loyalty. It will leverage both technology and innovative methods of learning. Under this programme, capacity building of teachers has also been included.

Learning with the programme is activity-based, interactive, motivative, integrated, flexible and above all enjoyable. Furthermore, Japanese style group learning methods are aimed at improving life skills of children. These methods will also be an eye-opening learning experience for teachers that they can utilize in many different situations. Under the pandemic situation, a Hybrid Style (Both Campus & Online Teaching) has been proposed to be adopted.

The collaborative programme is being planned in tune with National Education Policy and in coordination with School Education Department at district level. Tribal Research Institute, J&K, will take up the pilot project along with action research and resource planning. Hostels of Tribal Department will act as nodal points at district level. The programme is being initiated for students for first, second and third classes in 100 schools being selected in tribal areas. This will be in addition to regular school course and curriculum.

Kishtwar Cloudburst

16 Days On, No Trace Of 19 Missing Persons Yet



Agencies

Jammu: There was still no trace of 19 persons who went missing following a cloudburst at Honzar Dachan in Kishtwar district as rescuers continued the operation for the 16th day on Thursday.

Eight women among 19 persons went missing following the cloudburst and subsequent flash floods in the remote village on intervening night of July 27 and 28.

Last week, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh had an aerial survey of the village. He also chaired a high-level meeting during which, among others, he stressed the need for intensifying the rescue operation to trace the missing persons.

Authorities have pressed teams of NDRF and SDRF for carrying out the rescue operation. Several teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with "sophisticated equipment" were earlier involved in the operation along with other rescuers from police, Army and local volunteers, the officials said.

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

The missing persons include Saja Begum (60) wife of Ghulam Mohiddin, Khurshed Ahmed (31) son of Mohammad Iqbal, Fida Hussain (26) son of Mohammad Ramzan,

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

Woman Critically Injured In Bear Attack In Poonch



Jammu- An elderly woman was critically injured when she was attacked by bears in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

Sikeena Bi was attacked by

two bears near her house in a forested area in Baila-Mandi village in the morning, they said.

She was rescued by locals and hospitalised in a critical condition, the officials said.

Ajas-Bandipora highway dotted with potholes, locals seek intervention

Agencies

Bandipora: The travel on 10 kilometer long Bandipora-Ajas highway has become arduous and cumbersome for passengers as the road is dotted with potholes.

"The frequent travelers on the route have started facing serious backache and other health problems as the drivers many times hit these potholes on high speed," the Bandipora residents said, adding that many persons had been advised by doctors not to undertake the journey as it would aggravate their problem.

Not only this stretch, the inhabitants of Nadihal, Papachan and Nasouu areas of district on Thursday have complained that the road in their areas is in shambles.

Locals, while complaining about the issue, told news agency that the people of the areas are facing immense hardships due to the dilapidated road condition which is passing through their area and connecting with the main market Bandipora.

They said the road from Nadihal connecting with main market was in pathetic condition especially at Nasouu and Papachan from many years and is dotted

with potholes causing difficulties for the commuters.

The locals also accused the administration of failing to macadamise the vital road.

"The roads have craters and



during rains, the driving becomes difficult and risky," Masroor Ahmad, a local said, adding that patients and students are the worst hit and often reach their destinations late.

"Although the road was developed over the years but is waiting for macadamisation for the

last one year," Basit, a local from Papachan said.

The locals demanded that the concerned officials must take note of the grievance and issue necessary directions in

this regard.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora Ab Qayoom said that due to paucity of funds, the work on the stretch was delayed. He, however, assured that they are going to start the blacktopping on the stretch as soon as possible.

Regularize services of CIC operators working in RDD: Tarigami to Govt

KO NEWS DESK

Srinagar: More than 172 CIC operators working in Rural Development Department, on contractual basis since 2004, have been waiting for regularization of their services despite being appointed on merit basis through proper recruitment procedure, CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami said on Thursday.

"It is unfortunate that these highly qualified youth having MCA, M. Tech, MSc IT, B.E, B. Tech are facing a lot of hardships to feed their families as they are being paid meagre wages of Rs 10, 000 per month even after putting 17 years of their life to serve the department," Tarigami said in a statement issued to the news agency.

He said these operators had been appointed on merit basis through proper recruitment procedure by District Level Committees constituted by the government of J&K headed by Deputy Commissioners of concerned Districts in 2004. "After a decade in 2014, the government passed a cabinet order to formulate a proposal for their regularizations following which in 2016 through a cabinet decision 172 data entry operators posts were created for

their regularization," he added.

"It is unfortunate that the file for the regularization of these CIC operators lying with the General Administration Department (GAD) has been recently returned to the Rural Development Department (RDD) asking it to put the cases of regularization of 172 CIC operators before the Government's Establishment cum Selection Committee (ESC) for the fourth time since 2017," CPI (M) leader said.

"Most of these operators have already crossed the upper age limit for any government jobs and the process of their regularisation is taking years. The Operators are currently handling the online work of departmental portals like e-gramswaraj, SBM, PMAY, Peoples Plan Campaign (Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikaas), GPDP, Mission Antyodaya, PFMS and other e-Governance related activities. Besides other office assignments such as elections, Establishment, Accounts, works etc. at Block/ District /Directorate / Secretariat level," he added.

"I hope Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha will intervene in their matter and regularize the services of these CIC operators working in RDD at the earliest," he said.

First ever coordination meeting of Civil, Police, Judiciary held at B'pora

KO NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: The Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Bandipora, Mohammad Ibrahim Wani on Thursday chaired the first ever coordination meeting of various stakeholders of justice delivery system in the district with an aim to discuss the ways and means for rendering of timely justice to the litigants, infrastructure and other issues faced by the Judicial institution at Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad; Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohammad Zahid; Chief Judicial Magistrate, Abdul Qayoom; Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Fariqa Nazir; Executive Engineer Police Housing Corporation, Abdul Rashid; Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora, Ab Qayoom; Executive Engineer Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Shah and other senior officers of the district. The meeting was held in the backdrop of the directions of the Chief Justice High Court of J&K and Ladakh to all the districts of J&K and Ladakh to have periodical Coordination Meetings at the end of each quarter to discuss issues concerning ways and means for effective, efficient and timely rendering of justice to the litigants, the infrastructural and other difficulties or issues faced by the judicial institutions at all levels in the district. The meeting discussed threadbare issues that hinder the timely justice to the people besides various infrastructural issues to the judicial institutions.

It was revealed that the new Court complex is being constructed by J&K Police Housing Corporation at a cost of Rs 41.91 crore and work is in progress at full swing.

The DC informed that the new court complex is coming up with modern facilities including a three-storey court building, lawyer's chambers, library, residential quarters and other modern facilities.

It was stated that so far as the work identified for execution in the district court complex is concerned, the authorisation stands already issued and Executive Engineer R&B was asked to put the works to tender and execute the same on priority basis.

PD&SJ Judge impressed upon the executing agency to speed up work on the project and ensure that it is completed within stipulated time frame. The meeting also held a detailed discussion regarding the status of Munsif Court Complex Sumbal and Gurez. Regarding Munsif Court Complex Sumbal, it was given out that the existing ground floor and part of work in the first floor has been completed by Irrigation and flood control Sumbal and detailed estimate for first floor stands prepared. Exen I&FC Sumbal was asked to submit a detailed report of the first floor including expenditure incurred so far. Meeting was further informed that land has been identified for the construction of District Jail at Asham and DPR has been prepared and is being submitted to the Home Department for further action. SSP Bandipora was asked to take up the matter with DG Prisons for getting the DPR approved at earliest. The deficiency of staff in the juvenile justice board was also discussed and DC agreed to provide two NYC workers for the Board. Regarding waste management, the PD&SJ Judge directed CEO Municipal Council Bandipora to furnish a detailed report in light of steps already taken and the CEO was to be taken here to after. The CEO was asked to ensure that the waste doesn't flow into Wular Lake or any other water body.

He emphasised upon the participants for streamlining the coordination between the Courts and other stakeholders for developing and improving the judicial system and urged them to render their valuable assistance pertaining to justice delivery system besides judicial infrastructure matters.

South Kashmir: Two siblings arrested after bags of poppy straw recovered from hideout in Anantnag

Anantnag: Police recovered 27 bags of Poppy Straw weighing about 580 Kilograms hoarded in a hideout by a man in his courtyard in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Police in this regard arrested two drug peddlers and registered cases against them under relevant sections of law.

A police official said that police Station Bijbehara received a specific information through reliable sources that one Yousuf Reshi of Waghama Bijbehara has indulged in peddling of narcotic substances and accordingly has hoarded a large quantity of narcotic substance in his residential house.

After getting the information, a team comprising of SDO Bijbehara, SHO Bijbehara DO Sangam and Executive Magistrate concerned was constituted, who carried out the search of the said house.

During search 27 bags of Poppy Straw weighing about 580 Kilograms was recovered from the hideout in the courtyard of the said house. The owner of the said house Yousuf Reshi fled away from the spot, while other two persons namely Zahid Reshi and Aamir Reshi sons of Yousuf Reshi were arrested on spot and contraband seized. Further investigation in the instant case continues. (KNT)

6-yr-old boy drowns to death in Nallah Sindh

Ganderbal: A six-year-old boy died after he drowned in Nallah Sindh in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday.

Official sources told the news agency that a rescue operation was launched after a minor boy drowned while taking bath in Nallah Sindh in Harran area in Ganderbal district. The minor boy has been identified as Anas Ahmad, son of Fayaz Ahmad Sheik of Harran Ganderbal.

They said that boys accompanying him raised alarm when he started drowning following which a rescue operation has been launched by SDRF team assisted by Police and locals. The boy was rescued and shifted to the hospital, they said, adding that the boy, however, was declared brought dead at the hospital—(KNO)

Two Officers Get Additional Charge Of Posts

Srinagar: Government on assigned additional charge of two posts to two officers in the interest of administration. As per a government order issued here, Ranjan Prakash Thakur (IRTS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Department, has been asked to hold the charge of the posts Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department and Civil Aviation Commissioner, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving M. Raju (IAS), Commissioner Secretary to the Govern-

ment, Jal Shakti Department of the additional charge of the post.

Alok Kumar (IRS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, holding additional charge of the post of Principal Secretary to the Government, Science and Technology Department, has been asked to hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary Estates Department addition to his own duties, till further orders. (GNS)

Youth dies of cardiac arrest while playing cricket in Baramulla

Agencies

Baramulla: A 30-year old cricketer died of heart attack while playing cricket in



Janbazzpora area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. An official told the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the youth fell on the ground while the play was on the playing field.

He said that the youth was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment where he was declared dead in arrival.

The deceased has been identified as Muhammd Rafeeq son of Hassan Parray of Janbazzpora locality of Baramulla—(KNO)

Advisor Khan reviews developmental works, other activities at G'bl

KO NEWS DESK

Ganderbal: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Ganderbal district to take stock of various ongoing developmental activities with special focus on arrangements for the upcoming 75th Independence Day, winter preparedness of PDD and Disaster management.

During his tour, the Advisor also met members of DDC, BDC and several deputations at Government Degree College Kangan who apprised him of their demands and issues. The Advisor was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna, Director Rural Development Department, Director Floriculture and other concerned.

During his visit, Advisor Baseer Khan inspected several developmental works and directed the concerned to gear up efforts in completing the works within the given timelines.

During his visit, Advisor inspected Covid care centre Wussan -B, play field Bomi Mohallah Chinner Wussan, receiving station Kangan and other developmental works.

He impressed upon the line departments to work in close coordination and asked the concerned to engage all the PRI members to inspect the ongoing works in their respective areas.

He urged the officers to expedite the pace of works as the productive working season is limited.

While inspecting the ongoing development of playground at Bomi Wussan, ACD Ganderbal informed the Advisor that the playground is being developed on 16 kanals of land and is taken under MGN-REGA at the cost of Rs 2.99 lakh in 1st phase while in phase 2nd, the playfield would be further developed into one of the beautiful playgrounds after consultation with Youth Service and Sports Department. Highlighting the importance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour

(CAB), the Advisor impressed upon the officials to launch Information, Education and Communication activities vigorously educating the public about the need to follow the guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

He called upon the people to follow CAB in letter and spirit and said that Covid-19 is not over yet and stressed upon the district administration to intensify vaccination drive. The Advisor further said that the administration and the civil society have to work hand-in-hand to fight the pandemic and the fight against COVID-19 is a collective one and everyone needs to play his part.

During his visit to Covid Care Centers, Advisor was informed that CCCs are fully established at all 126 Panchayats.

Deputy Commissioner, Kritika Jyotsna informed the Advisor that 69 Covid positive patients are active in the district, besides recovery rate is over 98.5 percent.

She further informed that vaccination for 18-44 years is in full swing and 40% of the population is given 1st dose besides, 45 % of the population over 45 years of age is also given 2nd dose.

Advisor Baseer Khan also reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and said that all arrangements should be done in line with the directions during numerous meetings held for the purpose by him. He reviewed various arrangements including Flag hoisting, Cultural programs, Traffic plan, Sanitation, Sports activities, Medicare, Illumination, and directed them to undertake each activity effectively and efficiently.

He also urged District Administration to encourage and recognize the work done of persons, PRI members, Healthcare workers, Nurses, Police and others who have worked during COVID-19 period with dedication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Syeda Mehnoor D/o Syed Iqbal Hussain R/o Hassanabad Rainawari have to change my mothers name in school records from Faheema to Syed Faheema. If anyone has objection, if any, he/ she can contact Mallinson Girls School within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syeda Mehnoor
Student Mallinson Girls School
R/o Hassanabad, Rainawari Srinagar

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K O V I E W

Halted dialogue

With the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan hogging the regional and world attention, India, Pakistan relations and Kashmir have been relegated to the background. And understandably so. Afghanistan has plunged into a full-blown war between the Taliban and the government in Kabul, with the former now controlling more than half the country. The US intelligence reports say that the Taliban could take over Afghanistan within 90 days.

This has put all other regional concerns on a pause, among these India, Pakistan ties. After the agreement on a ceasefire along the Line of Control early this year, the two countries have failed to build on the goodwill. There have been no further measures, nor does it look likely there will be any in the near future. New Delhi seems in no hurry to do this. If anything, this only goes on to show that India feels little pressure to relent. Nor does it want to push the current engagement with Islamabad beyond a point. The unmistakable signal to Pakistan is to temper its expectation about the extent to which India can accommodate it on Kashmir. As always, India wants terrorism to be the central issue and wants Islamabad to stop supporting militancy in Kashmir. Pakistan doesn't accept it backs terrorism.

Anyways, if the last year's figures for infiltration and the killings of foreign militants in Kashmir are anything to go by, Pakistan has held back from supporting the local militancy. New Delhi, it seems, is unlikely to reverse the revocation of J&K autonomy. It remains to be seen whether it restores statehood anytime soon. As a result, the nascent re-engagement between the two countries also has been pushed to the backburner. Though there has been some occasional noise about the secret contact between the two neighbours, New Delhi has been tight-lipped about it, so is Pakistan now.

Now, both the countries are putting onus on each other to take the first step towards resuming engagement. Islamabad has made any re-engagement with India conditional to New Delhi reversing the August 5 move or at least providing a roadmap for doing so. New Delhi continues to insist on end to cross-border terrorism before talks begin. And as things, neither country is, in a position, to meet the condition. It would be interesting to see how the two countries negotiate their respective conditionalities before reaching out to each other.

But as of now it is the evolving situation in Afghanistan that remains the focus. The war's outcome could profoundly alter the geopolitics of the region and, in turn, the form of India, Pakistan relations.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Century's Most Pressing Crisis

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its sixth assessment report (AR6) on Monday. The predictions are calamitous. In the next 20 years, the world will exceed the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold set in the Paris Climate Agreement (2015). If the current rate of emissions continues, global warming will be above 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. With every 1 degree rise in temperature, there will be a 7% increase in the intensification of extreme rain events. Some changes — increase in sea level rise, melting of glaciers and thawing of permafrost — have already caused a rupture. India is also witnessing drastic changes: Glacial retreat in the Himalayas, compounding effects of sea-level rise and intense tropical cyclones leading to flooding, an erratic monsoon, and intense heat stress.

The new report comes less than three months before a key climate summit in Glasgow, and is a wake-up call. While India is the third-highest annual polluter of CO₂, the scale of its contribution is insignificant. New Delhi must stick to the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, but at the same time raise its climate ambitions. It has made progress in its efforts towards decoupling economic growth from emissions and has played a leadership role in launching initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and raising the domestic renewable energy target to 450 GW by 2030.

But there is scope to do more in several other sectors: Mobility, housing, and affordable energy. To give shape to these ambitions, it is also imperative, as climate expert Navroz Dubash wrote in these pages, to build and strengthen domestic institutions for climate governance. The climate crisis requires both looking across boundaries (international and national) and building a strategic focus on future development pathways. This is the 21st century's most pressing crisis.

Hindustan Times



Climate Change: Between Fiction and Reality

Given the global dimensions of climate change, the valley of Kashmir is not immune to climate change, and its effects are already visible

Suhail Ahmad Khan

Interestingly, construction projects often lead to deforestation. As and when the administration will undertake these projects in the valley, deforestation will follow. However, forests act as carbon sinks, and if they continue to disappear, the living conditions in the valley will become harsh and climate change, to use the terminology of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, will become "irreversible."

Southern Europe is burning. Italy, Greece, Albania, North Macedonia, and Turkey are fighting wildfires caused due to heatwaves. According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, the last month of July was the second hottest July ever recorded in European history and the third hottest globally. A simple factor to which all this, heatwaves or wildfires, can be attributed is climate change. Climate change is everything but fictitious; it is a modern-day crisis that humanity is facing and requires concerted efforts of populations across the globe. Given the global dimensions of climate change, the valley of Kashmir is not immune to climate change, and its effects are already visible. Harsh winters, erratic rainfall and rising temperatures are a few of its signs. Thus, it is essential for people of the valley, especially the youth, to fight against climate change before it becomes too late.

In 2019, the meteorological department of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir highlighted that in the past 100 years, the average temperature in the state has gone up by 1.2-degree Celsius, which is higher than the global average rise of 1 degree Celsius since the industrial age. Rising temperatures in the valley can affect all major economic sectors, such as horticulture, agriculture and tourism. The valley's horticultural and agricultural sectors are dependent on rainfall and natural reservoirs for irrigation. If temperatures continue to rise, as a study in the journal Climatic change suggests, the valley can face a water crisis, and in that case, productivity levels in the horticultural and agricultural sectors would eventually decrease. For example, a study predicts that "Irrigated rice, wheat and mustard productions may be reduced by 6%, 4% and 4%, respectively." Undoubtedly, the worst hit will be the poorer sections of the valley which depend on these sectors for their livelihood. As far as the tourism sector is concerned, potential climate variability due to climate change will attract fewer tourists in the future, and eventually, will render thousands of people without a livelihood. Moreover, if the glacial cover—an essential source of water for rivers on whose banks many tourist places in the valley are situated, continues to shrink

at a present rate, it will be a cause of worry for the tourism sector. Thus, circumstances demand to identify the causes of climate change in Kashmir and accordingly seek remedy for these causes.

Among other causes, there are three prominent causes of climate change in the valley: (I) Emission of greenhouse gases, particularly by motor vehicles, (II) Illegal construction, and (III) Tourism. In the past decade or so, the volume of vehicles has increased in the valley. For example, between financial years 2015 and 2017, the number of commercial vehicles increased from 176.51 thousand to 221.5 thousand in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a commonly known fact that motor vehicles emit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and such gases are responsible for global warming. As such, several measures are necessary to limit the release of these gases into the atmosphere. First, the use of eco-friendly energy in cars becomes vital. Towards that end, the government needs to make available this energy and issue guidelines about how to use this energy in high altitude areas like Kashmir. Second, the UT administration has to improve the quality of public transport in the valley and encourage people to use it. And finally, carpooling should be adopted by people wherever possible. The last two measures would reduce the daily flow of traffic on roads and accordingly a lesser amount of greenhouse gases will get released.

Illegal construction has become a nuisance in the valley. For decades, river encroachments and construction in eco-sensitive zones have been taking place. One of the effects of unauthorized construction was the devastating floods that hit the valley in 2014. Nevertheless, illegal construction around water bodies continues, and people are yet to understand its impact on the environment. Importantly, there is a link between illegal construction and tourism. A deep analysis reveals that tourist places have become a common site of illegal construction. Despite prohibitions on any new construction in Pahalgam since 2010, hotels and shops continue to rake up in the area. What can partly describe these constructions in the area is crony capitalism—a state of affairs where the elite use their

power and money to influence the government for several favourable results. It is difficult to rule out that big businesses may have used their influence to get a nod for their projects in the area. Once construction occurs in places like Pahalgam, river and forest ecosystems get adversely impacted. In addition to illegal construction, government-sponsored construction projects also affect fragile ecosystems in the valley. In 2020, journalist Athar Parvaiz reported that after the abrogation of Article 370, 15,000 acres of land around fragile ecosystems in the valley has been designated for developmental projects. When the cost of development is environmental destruction, the administration needs to take a more cautious approach before undertaking any developmental project.

Interestingly, construction projects often lead to deforestation. As and when the administration will undertake these projects in the valley, deforestation will follow. However, forests act as carbon sinks, and if they continue to disappear, the living conditions in the valley will become harsh and climate change, to use the terminology of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, will become "irreversible." Thus, to avoid the fatalities of climate change, environmental activism is the need of the hour.

In his paper, Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate, International Relations scholar Ken Conca argues that "ecosystems and environmental problems do not respect sovereign borders." As such, climate change will also not respect borders. That is why there is a global fight against climate change undertaken by civil society and youth. Along with the Kashmiri civil society, the Kashmiri youth also need to take centre stage to make people aware of the realities and impacts of climate change and urge the government to take necessary steps. As they are agents of the future, it is incumbent on them to take charge of the fight against climate change at its earliest.

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

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Worrying IPCC Report

IPCC, (InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change) UN's climate body has released a new report on climate change which has rung alarm bells across the world. This report reveals that the dreaded 1.5 rise in Earth's temperature is expected to become a reality sooner than the predictions made in the Paris climate agreement of 2015. It's being said that there already has been an increase of 1.3 Celsius which has wreaked havoc across the world. Climate change is not a thing of the future now, it is an unfolding crisis, its impact is already being

seen in various countries across the globe from USA to India.

The rise in temperature and the corresponding rise in sea level has made draughts, floods, heat waves and wildfires a frequent phenomena. The human and economic cost of the catastrophe is unimaginable and turning a blind eye to this can only worsen our chances of survival. It is pertinent that all the Governments start responding to this challenge with the seriousness and the expediency it requires. The governments should get on board all the stakeholders, impose carbon taxes

and invest in green energy and incentivise non-renewable energy resources. Governments should also spend hefty amounts on research and development of non-renewable energy resources and decarbonisation, this along with the use of technology like solar geo engineering, a technological fix which mimics the volcanic eruptions and sends back the solar radiations thereby cooling the earth's surface, can help us in mitigating emissions and cooling the earth's atmosphere. While governments all over hold a significant responsibility to formulate an effective

response to climate change but the primary responsibility to slash emissions and fund the global south for a switch to green energy lies with the global north which is and has been major contributor of greenhouse gases. It must start taking accountability and playing its role with all sincerity. Effective policy making at this time is crucial to pursue sustainable development and save lives and livelihoods.

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Mindful Fridays

Mental Health and the Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Wasim Rashid Kakroo

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder that affects the large intestine. Patient with IBS can present with a wide range of symptoms such as cramping, stomach discomfort, bloating, gas, and diarrhea or constipation, or both. IBS is a long-term ailment that you'll have to deal with.

What are the symptoms of IBS?
Pain and Cramping

The most frequent symptom and a significant component in diagnosis of IBS is abdominal discomfort. Normally, your gut and brain collaborate to control digestion. Hormones, and other signals generated by the beneficial bacteria in your gut interact with your gut nerves to play a role in smooth bowel movements. These cooperative signals get skewed in IBS, resulting in uncoordinated and unpleasant tension in the digestive tract muscles. This discomfort is most commonly felt in the lower abdomen or in the entire abdomen, although it is less common in the upper abdomen alone. Following a bowel movement, pain usually subsides.

Diarrhea

One of the three primary forms of IBS is diarrhea-predominant IBS. It affects around one-third of IBS sufferers. In one study of 200 individuals, those with diarrhea-predominant IBS had an average of 12 bowel movements each week, more than twice as often as those without the condition. In IBS, accelerated bowel transit can also cause a sudden, strong desire to go to the washroom. Some patients report that this is a major cause of worry, and that they avoid certain social situations in fear of a sudden onset of diarrhoea.

Constipation

IBS can induce both constipation and diarrhoea, which may seem contradictory. The most prevalent kind of IBS is constipation-predominant IBS, which affects approximately half of all IBS sufferers. Stool transit time may be sped up or slowed down due to a disruption in communication between the brain and the intestine. The gut collects more water from faeces as transit time slows, making it more difficult to pass. Having less than three bowel motions each week is considered constipation.

Alternating Constipation and Diarrhea

About 20% of IBS patients experience mixed or alternating constipation and diarrhoea. In IBS, diarrhoea and constipation are accompanied by persistent, recurrent abdominal pain. This form of IBS is more severe than the other two, causing more frequent and severe symptoms. The symptoms of mixed IBS also vary more from one person to another. As a result, rather than “one-size-fits-all” advice, this illness necessitates a personalized treatment strategy.

Gas and Bloating

In IBS, digestion is disrupted, resulting in increased gas production in the intestines. This might result in bloating, which is unpleasant. Bloating is one of the most common and bothersome symptoms of IBS, according to many people who suffer from it.

Food Intolerance

Up to 70% of people with IBS report

that certain meals cause their symptoms. Two-thirds of patients with IBS avoid specific foods outright. These people may cut out a variety of items from their diet. It's unknown why certain foods cause symptoms.

Fatigue and Difficulty Sleeping

Fatigue is reported by more than 50% of people with IBS. In one study, 160 individuals with IBS said that they had reduced stamina, which hindered their physical activity at work, in leisure, and in social situations.

IBS is also linked to insomnia, which manifests itself as trouble falling asleep, frequent awakening, and a lack of energy in the morning. In a study of 112 people with IBS, 13% said their sleep was bad.

Anxiety and Depression

IBS has also been related to anxiety and depression. It's unclear if IBS symptoms are a manifestation of mental stress or if the stress of living with IBS

ited social support, traumatic events in their past, or dysfunctional relationships. Psychotherapy should also be explored for individuals with psychiatric co-morbidities such as anxiety or depression or those who do not show substantial improvement following treatment with other treatment choices (e.g., medications). According to the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines, patients who do not respond to medicines after 12 months and develop refractory IBS should consider psychotherapy. Psychoeducation, self-help, cognitive behavioral therapy, psychodynamic psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, mindfulness-based therapy, and relaxation therapy are some of the psychotherapy methods that are used by clinical psychologists to treat IBS. Patients who are motivated and open to psychotherapy have a higher chance of success with a psychological intervention. In one study, it was found that psychological treatments reduced symp-

periences, coping techniques, and treatment choices. This encourages people to take charge of their own care.

Some of the self-help tips to be considered in the treatment of IBS include:

- Many people have more bowel movements in the morning than in the evening. Pay attention to your personal biorhythm and attempt to go to the bathroom at the same time every day.
- Allow your body to empty as much stool as possible, imagining that rectum shape while you assess the movement's "completeness."
- Increase your consumption of soluble fiber-rich foods (not insoluble fibre) over time. Bananas, blueberries, kiwi, oranges, carrots, eggplant, green beans, oats, zucchini, and potatoes with skin are all high in soluble fibre.

ment and maintenance of symptoms. IBS symptoms improve as a result of psychodynamic psychotherapy. Therefore, psychodynamic psychotherapy is also recommended by the world gastroenterology organization for treatment of IBS.

Hypnotherapy

Hypnotherapy is a technique for focusing on how you perceive your digestive problems. The therapist attempts to teach the patient bowel control and to modify the patient's reaction to somatic sensations. Hypnotherapy is recommended by the World Gastroenterology Organization for individuals with IBS who have failed to respond to medication treatment. Hypnotherapy can improve abnormal sensory perception in patients with IBS. Hypnotherapy has also an effect on the processing and perception of visceral stimuli in patients with IBS. However, while it has a higher level of safety and tolerability than medication therapy, it is time-consuming and not always available.

Mindfulness-Based Psychotherapy

Mindfulness-based treatment blends stress reduction with aspects of cognitive behavioural therapy. Through this approach, patients have a better understanding of their issues and how to deal with them. In a study that was done to look at the impact of a stress reduction programme on bowel symptoms, quality of life, and gastrointestinal symptom-specific anxiety. It was found that there was an increase in quality of life and a decrease in symptom-specific anxiety after 6 months of therapy. Another study looked at the effects of a stress reduction programme on bowel symptoms, quality of life, and gastrointestinal symptom-specific anxiety in people with IBS. After 6 months of therapy, there was an improvement in quality of life and a decrease in symptom-specific anxiety.

Relaxation therapy:

Relaxation treatments such as progressive muscle relaxation and autogenic training attempt to reduce perceived stress since stress can cause physiological arousal, which can lead to an increase in somatic complaints and a disruption in gut-brain connection.

In a more recent study, patients on the waiting list were compared to the benefits of relaxation techniques (progressive muscle relaxation, breathing techniques) and emotional awareness and expression training. Patients first had a low emotional response to stressful situations and interpersonal problems. This might result in avoidance behaviour and a high level of arousal. When compared to the control group, the emotional awareness and expressiveness training reduced the intensity of IBS symptoms after 10 weeks. The emotional training group, as well as the relaxation methods group, saw an increase in their quality of life.

In summary, patients with IBS can benefit significantly through a combination of psychotherapeutic and pharmacotherapeutic interventions and I as a clinical psychologist strongly recommend psychotherapy as an effective mode of treatment for IBS.

The author is a clinical psychologist and works as a Child and adolescent mental health counselor at IMHANS-K and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com

“Early life experiences, infections, trauma, stress, cultural background, and the degree of support an individual receives are all key psychosocial variables for IBS. Negative life events are thought to be a major risk factor for the onset of IBS. People who have had more (severe or frequent) unpleasant life events have a greater prevalence of IBS and might also have a more severe progression of the illness

makes people more vulnerable to mental health issues.

Anxiety and intestinal IBS symptoms reinforce one other in a vicious cycle, regardless of which occurs first.

In one large study of 94,000 men and women, people with IBS were over 50% more likely to have an anxiety disorder and over 70% more likely to have a mood disorder, such as depression.

How does clinical psychology explain IBS?

The biopsychosocial model, which includes biological, psychological, and (psycho)social variables that can contribute to the development and maintenance of IBS, is the best way to understand its aetiology. According to this model, genetic and environmental variables, as well as unique personality features, might influence the illness. These characteristics can help people create coping mechanisms, which, when they're no longer effective, can help the disease to develop and progress. Early life experiences, infections, trauma, stress, cultural background, and the degree of support an individual receives are all key psychosocial variables for IBS. Negative life events are thought to be a major risk factor for the onset of IBS. People who have had more (severe or frequent) unpleasant life events have a greater prevalence of IBS and might also have a more severe progression of the illness. A malfunctioning gut-brain axis can result in changes in bowel motility, intestinal immune response, or intestinal permeability, all of which can trigger inflammatory reactions that can lead to visceral hypersensitivity. In addition, the microbiome may play a role in IBS pathogenesis.

How can a clinical psychologist treat IBS?

Psychotherapy is an essential component in the treatment of IBS, in addition to lifestyle modifications, dietary guidance, and medication treatment. Psychotherapy is not required for every patient, but its benefits should be explored early on in patients with lim-

toms immediately after treatment, and that the reduction remained substantial 1–6 months (short-term) and 6–12 months (long-term) after the treatment began, compared to the group who did not receive psychotherapy.

Now we will discuss each of the psychotherapeutic tools to explain how each of them might help a person with IBS.

Psychoeducation:

It is important that the clinical psychologist spends time explaining the medical issue. This includes the disease's name, development, pathogenesis, prognosis (chances of recovery), and treatment options. This material would be referred to as psychoeducation if it was given according to the bio-psycho-social paradigm. Furthermore, psychoeducation is essential for a trusting psychologist-patient connection, which has a significant influence on the course of the disease and symptom alleviation, respectively. Psychoeducation can also assist in the reduction or avoidance of medical examinations that are unnecessarily repeated (and occasionally intrusive) and/or unsuitable therapeutic approaches, as this could increase the likelihood of an incorrect understanding of the disease which may further harm the patient. A study used psychoeducation about pathophysiology in combination with aspects of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and progressive muscle relaxation for 5 weeks. When compared to the control group, patients in the experimental group reported a substantial reduction in somatic complaints and depressive symptoms, as well as an improvement in quality of life. These effects were found even after three-month of follow-up.

Self-Help

A clinical psychologist can also guide a patient towards self-help by comprehensive advice and knowledge on IBS, for which they can provide patients with manuals or guidebooks on IBS. Patients can gain knowledge about their own ex-

- If you have a persistent need to go to the bathroom, try to delay yourself. Sit quietly near the bathroom and see if you can use breathing relaxation exercises to calm your body until the sensation of urgency fades and you don't need to use the restroom again. Calming your body will also assist to alleviate any anxiety that is driving your central nervous system to send out more (unnecessary) emptying impulses.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy:

The majority of psychological treatments for IBS are based on CBT, with the goal of reducing irrational concerns and changing behavioural patterns. While CBT has positive outcomes, it requires a lot of time. As a result, the effectiveness is dependent on the patient's goal, the professional's skill, and the resources available. A study found a 50% reduction in gastrointestinal symptoms, anxiety, and depression in the CBT group when compared to baseline symptom ratings.

Another study compared a standardised medical therapy with medications and frequent visits with a gastroenterologist to a combination of progressive muscle relaxation, cognitive behavioural strategies, and problem-solving approaches. After 3 and 6 months, the group receiving extended psychological treatment exhibited a decrease in bowel symptoms as well as an increase in well-being, quality of life, and disease control compared to the control group, whose symptoms remained constant. Thus according to this study, the combination of pharmacological treatment and psychosocial treatments is preferable than medical treatment alone.

Psychodynamic Psychotherapy:

Psychodynamic Psychotherapy is a type of psychotherapy that focuses on intra- and interpersonal tensions, as well as how they contribute to the develop-

Weekend Mistakes Make Weekdays Worse

By the time the weekend rolls around, most of us are exhausted. Burnout is at an all-time high, understandably, want to use their weekends (or whatever days they get off during the week) to relax, socialize and sleep in.

But creating and maintaining a weekend morning routine can really help set the tone for the rest of the week. With that in mind, here are five common mistakes people tend to make on their days off — and how to create a healthy morning routine that won't mess with how you're feeling on other days.

Mistake #1: Sleeping too late

No one wants to be scolded for sleeping in on the weekends. But many experts agree that blowing past your usual wake time can hamper overall well-being. Research shows that significant variability in sleep and wake times leads to less healthy behaviors overall. Studies have also linked “social jet lag” — the shift in sleep habits from weekdays to weekends — to greater overall fatigue and sleepiness.

“Getting up at around the same time daily helps to set your body clock with light exposure, awakening the body and allowing one to start to build up an appetite for sleep for the following night,” said psychologist Shelby Harris, author of “The Women's Guide to Overcoming Insomnia Without Relying On Medication.”

“Sleeping in on the weekends makes it harder to fall and stay asleep the following night simply because you're not awake for enough hours to be

hungry enough for sleep that next night,” she added, noting that she makes an effort to practice what she preaches and gets up consistently at 6 a.m.

However, not all research knocks catching up on ZZZs on the weekend. One study found that people who were sleep-deprived during the week but caught up on the weekend lived just as long as people who got sufficient sleep overall. (As opposed to people who were sleep-deprived, who were more likely to die early.)

Ultimately, balance is key.

“Sleeping in a little bit is one thing; sleeping in for hours and hours so that you then can't get to bed on Sunday night is another,” said Debra Swan, a Chicago-based health coach who works with clients around the U.S. She stressed that you should try to keep your sleeping in to an extra hour or two.

Mistake #2: Not hydrating first thing

Hydrating is really important first thing in the morning, Swan said, particularly after a night of drinking. And she really thinks it's best if coffee isn't the first liquid you have in a day.

Sipping H2O even if you're not thirsty helps you

stay adequately hydrated throughout the day. There are plenty of ways to sip it if the idea of starting off your Saturday or Sunday with a tepid glass of tap water sounds meh. Have a seltzer on hand if that's your preference, or try herb- or fruit-infused water. Your goal should be to try to find something you actually like, so you're more likely to make a.m. hydration a long-term routine.

Mistake #3: Not making yourself accountable to someone or something

It's easy to stick to routines on weekdays because we all have someone or something we're accountable to, whether it's waking up to take kids to school or to get to work on time.

Try to build that same sense of accountability into your weekend mornings, Harris suggested.

“Kids are frequently a helpful routine alarm, but if that's not in the mix, consider signing up for a workout class in the morning or meeting a friend for coffee, or even doing your laundry in the building on Saturday morning because it is quiet,” she said. “Accountability is very helpful in beginning a routine.”

Or maybe you want to find an accountability

partner, like a friend or family member who can help you if you're, say, really struggling not to sleep until noon.

Mistake #4: Not prepping for the week ahead

“You should absolutely relax on the weekend,” said Swan, who took pains to point out that morning routines should be really manageable and not feel like a chore.

She knows people need a chance to unwind. Still, she thinks it can be a missed opportunity when people don't use their time off prepare for the days ahead, and said the mornings can be a really nice time to do a bit of that work.

Mistake #5: Not getting outside

“Get some fresh air and sunshine,” Swan said, adding that it's good to get outside shortly after you get out of bed. “Bright light lets your brain know it's time to wake up.”

Spending time outdoors has all kinds of health benefits, including how people say they feel overall, and research shows that morning light exposure can lead to better rest at night.

Going outside in the morning isn't the kind of change that's particularly difficult or burdensome, but it's powerful.

“How you behave one day influences how you behave the next,” Swan said. “Yes, the weekend is less structured. Yes, it's a time to relax. But you still want to have a good start to the day.”

Huffpost

Covid Pandemic How Parents Can Help Kids Deal With Back-To-School Anxiety

Agencies

As a child, I had a great deal of anxiety. If you've ever seen me speak in public, that might surprise you. But anxiety among children is extremely common and affects almost all children, to varying degrees.

During pre-pandemic times, researchers noted that as many as 7% of children had a diagnosable anxiety disorder that disrupted their everyday functioning. In addition, 20% had a tendency to feel anxious that didn't rise to the level of a clinical disorder. And all children feel anxious at some time or another.

As a researcher who's studied children's mental health for decades, I know that predictability helps prevent anxiety in children. Predictability means things going along as they've always gone: sleep at night, up in the morning, cornflakes for breakfast, off to school, activities in the afternoon, dinner with the family.

In Louise Fitzhugh's children's novel "Harriet the Spy," Harriet's mother can't believe that her daughter always takes a tomato sandwich to school. Always. Harriet has no interest in variety. She's perfectly happy with the same sandwich, year after year.

Given children's fondness for sameness and predictability, it should be no surprise that a global pandemic that halted school as kids know it, slammed the brakes on seeing friends, stopped extra-curricular activities and banished all but immediate family members would have a profound impact on children's anxiety.

A to-be-published study I conducted on 238 teens between January and May 2021 at the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center found that an astonishing 64% reported increased anxiety over the course of the pandemic. Even back in the spring of 2020, researchers were finding increased levels of anxiety

among children in China. Similarly, a large-scale survey by the nonprofit Save the Children found significant increases in negative emotions including anxiety, in 48 countries, around the globe.

To whatever extent the delta variant affects in-person instruction in the fall of 2021, back-to-school this year will be different from pre-pandemic years. Anxiety may be a challenge for many more children than usual, and it can be intertwined with other feelings, such as excitement and shyness.

Here are steps parents can take to help reduce their kids' back-to-school anxiety and encourage a better start to the fall term.

1. Look for general symptoms of anxiety

Ask your kids how they're feeling about going back to school, and keep an eye out for headaches, stomachaches, sleeping troubles, persistent "what if" questions, crankiness, excessive concern about very distant events, problems focusing on schoolwork and persistent concerns that aren't alleviated by logical explanations. An example of this might be worrying that there has been no progress in fighting the pandemic, despite widespread information about the development of effective vaccines and better treatments.

What's tricky, of course, is that any of these can potentially be an indication of many different problems, so take a second step. Talking to your kids about their thoughts may help you unravel whether they're feeling anxious.

2. Encourage activities that reduce anxiety

Playing outside, playing with friends or even just "hanging out" can be powerful ways to reduce negative feelings. Outdoors, people often feel more relaxed – the antithesis of anxiety. Playing in an unstructured way – that is, without someone else telling them what or how to play – allows kids to work through their feelings success-

fully and reduce anxiety.

3. Help your kids understand the pandemic

Look for books and activities that can educate kids about the pandemic and post-pandemic life to help them feel like they understand what is happening around them. Children may not understand what a vaccine is, for example, and how it can protect against disease. People who know more about cataclysmic events or relevant facts typically feel less helpless, and children are no exception. There are several age-appropriate books that use pictures and humor to explain to kids what is happening.

4. Focus on family activities

The emotional connection that children have with their families is their psychological anchor during difficult times. At a time when so much of everyday life has changed, spending time with family can be an antidote for uncertainty. Take a walk or a hike together, eat dinner together, play board games.

5. Embrace distraction

Distraction isn't a cure for anxiety, but it can diminish its intensity and help sufferers think more clearly about the source of their worries. When children are feeling very anxious, it's fine to talk to them about how watching an engaging program, or reading a funny book, can help them feel calmer.

6. Get professional help when needed

If your child's anxiety is interfering with sleep, eating, socializing or school attendance, and it persists beyond a few days, it's a good idea to call your pediatrician or family doctor and report what's going on. Medical professionals who work with children are seeing anxiety skyrocket among kids, and they know how to get your child the necessary help.

The Conversation (Elizabeth Englander, Bridgewater State University)

CDC says cloth masks don't offer protection against smoke from wildfires

Kelsie Sandova | Independent

As wildfires burn throughout the US, people may wonder if cloth masks popularised during the pandemic protect you from inhaling smoke. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says no.

Throughout the pandemic, cloth masks were hailed as a critical tool for preventing Covid-19 spread. The fabric blocks respiratory droplets from entering and leaving the masks.

Despite cloth masks' effectiveness at stemming Covid-19 transmission, it does little to protect against smoke because the small, harmful particles in smoke can pass through the cloth.

Rather than using a cloth mask, the CDC recommends upgrading to a K95 mask, as it pro-



fects against smoke and is effective at halting Covid-19 spread. The CDC said N95 masks also offer both benefits but stressed that those masks should only be used by health-care workers.

How to protect oneself from smoke has become a common question as wildfires continue to burn in California and Oregon, especially as other states are feeling

the effects.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued an air quality health advisory in the front range region, saying that fine particulate matter concentrations are unhealthy for people with heart or lung disease, older and active adults, and children. The alert said people in those groups should avoid exerting themselves outside.

Last month, fires in the west led to unhealthy air in the Midwest and on the East Coast. New York City had an air quality index of around 130 to 160, which is considered unhealthy.

In general, wildfire smoke can irritate your lungs and affect your immune system, according to the CDC.

Because of smoke's adverse health effects, the CDC recommends going to a clean shelter if you're region is inundated with smoke. The organization also advises reducing outdoor exercise or opting for lower intensity activities.

If you want to ensure your home has clean air, the CDC says to use a portable air cleaner in one more multiple rooms. Beyond making your home a safe, clean space it's important to keep an eye on temperature forecasts.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Sgr

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 76/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 11.08.2021

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Lighting Fixtures For Govt. Degree College at Hyderpora Srinagar. (Phase 2nd)	3.52 lacs	200.00	15 days	17.08.2021	*"A" Class Electrical

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12/08/2021 1.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	12/08/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17/08/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17/08/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

03. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = Available
M.H. = 4202

No. 76/e-tendering/ERB/1581-88

DIPK-6479/21

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division
Srinagar

(Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL(R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

FRESH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/Jt.22-12-2020
Issued by Finance Department).

NIT No. 94/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/ 6955-75 DATED. 11-08-2021

For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Restoration of Bemina Drubal by way of Providing and Laying of GSB course, WBM G-II, 25mm compacted thick semidense with 6mm thick seal coat in patches/stretches	2.00 lacs	200/-	5 days	Registered Hot mix plant owner	3054-M&R
2	Upgradation of Dardpora link road taking off from KM 1st of Budgam Choon road by way of P/L 75mm thick compacted wet mix in patches/stretches 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat and cross drainage pipes	2.50 lacs	200/-	05 days	Registered Hot mix plant owner	District Sector

- Name of the Project Authority: _____
- Reference of Authorization Letter: _____
- Arbitration Liability: _____ Nil
- Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded
- Position of Funds:- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.08.2021 1.00 AM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.08.2021 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11.08.2021 from 10:30 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17.08.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18.08.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

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

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected .

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with .The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

No: 6955-75

DATED: 11.08.2021

DIPK-6489/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pulwama

Notice Inviting Tenders (For Road Work/Bridges/Buildings)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No:-Fresh-136 of R&B/2021-22/5387-97 Dated:- 11/08/2021 (E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis basis(as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security Declaration	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Transit accommodation for kashmiri migrant employees at Barsoo Pulwama. (G+5) 07 blocks (B1-B7)	2288.22	14000.00	As per format in SBD	02 Years	13-09-2021	AAy
2.	Construction of Transit accommodation for kashmiri migrant employees at Barsoo Pulwama. (G+5) 07 blocks (B8-B14)	1916.785	11000.00	As per format in SBD	02 Years	13-09-2021	AAy
3.	Construction of Transit accommodation for kashmiri migrant employees at Barsoo Pulwama. (G+5) 07 blocks (B15-B21)	1916.785	11000.00	As per format in SBD	02 Years	13-09-2021	AAy
4.	Construction of Transit accommodation for kashmiri migrant employees at Barsoo Pulwama. (G+5) 07 blocks (B22-B28)	1916.785	11000.00	As per format in SBD	02 Years	13-09-2021	AAy

Major Head of Account = PMDP-201

Position of AAA = 57/KDMRRR of 2021 dt.02.08.2021

Position of funds = Available.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/08/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12/08/2021 11.00 A.M to 10/09/2021 4.00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	Due to COVID-19 Pandemic there shall be no pre-bid meeting in the office of the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir. However the clarification can be sought through mail two (2) days before pre-bid meeting date i.e. 20-08-20021 upto 4:00 PM. Reply to queries if deemed necessary, shall be replied online by the office of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir through mail. e-mail ID of Chief Engineer is cepwdrnbkmr@yahoo.in
4.	Bid submission Start Date	12/08/2021 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	10/09/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
6.	The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) Kashmir.	As per time specified in SBD.
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13/09/2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PWD R&B Kashmir.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-challan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

(The Date of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

The bidder who chooses the option of Demand draft shall upload the copy of DD for Rs. Mentioned in SBD. In addition to this the bidder shall submit the demand draft through Registered post/courier at Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) Kashmir latest by 11/09/2021 upto 4:30 PM. The department shall not be responsible for any delay in submission of DD due to any reasons.

1.2 All bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration format is given in SBD). Non submission of bid security declaration shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) Kashmir within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

4. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Chief Engineer (R&B) , Engineering Complex .The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

74. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.

75. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid. Documents which has/have not been uploaded shall nto be entertained in form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

8. All bidders shall upload Enlistment Registration Card Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer.

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

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

9.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-challan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

(The Date of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

9.2 All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.

10. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website.

No:- T-1/EEP/5387-97

Dated:11.08.2021

DIPK-6476/21

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama.

Samoon reviews working of IMCs of ITIs



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon today stressed on inclusion of new faces in the Institution Management Committees (IMCs) of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

Dr Samoon was speaking in a meeting to review the working and performance of IMCs of ITIs in Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Skill Development Department, Nazim Zia Khan and other officers of the department. Director SDD, IMC chairpersons and Superintendents of ITIs in Jammu division participated

through Video Conferencing.

The Principal Secretary asked the officers to look for reconstitution of these IMCs to bring fresh lease of life in their working. He urged them to include members from different industrial backgrounds so that there is vibrancy and diversification in the working of these skill imparting institutes.

Dr Samoon maintained that since first time J&K has Industrial Policy promising huge industrial development therefore the corresponding manpower generation should also be our priority to match their requirements. He said that the huge industrial package recently announced is also going to help in

establishment of new industrial units here.

Dr Samoon said that the IMCs had been constituted back in 2014 in order to bring industrialists on board in administering our ITIs. He revealed that the chairpersons of these IMCs are industrialists having powers to make amendments in curriculum and introduction of new courses.

The Principal Secretary also asked the officers to provide list of local industrialists and industries so that the new committees are constituted with these as members. He further asked them to look for members from different firms having projects under execution there. He asked them to include members from

NHPC, JKSPDC or Railways in hilly areas where presence of industries is negligible.

Dr Samoon also took review of the working of present IMCs. He asked about the meetings being conducted by them. He further reviewed the action taken on various decisions taken in such meetings.

The Principal Secretary was informed that out of 52 ITIs 48 have IMCs. He was also apprised that for model ITIs of Jammu and Srinagar the constitution of new IMCs is at final stage. And all other ITIs would soon be provided with IMCs that would make the functioning of these skill imparting institutions more relevant and results-oriented.

Retail Inflation Eases To 5.59 Pc In July

Agencies

New Delhi- Retail inflation eased to 5.59 per cent in July mainly due to softening food prices, according to official data released on Thursday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 6.26 per cent in June and 6.73 per cent in July 2020.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in the food basket slowed down to 3.96 per cent in July from 5.15 per cent in the previous month.

Earlier this month, the RBI projected the CPI inflation at 5.7 per cent during 2021-22 – 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, 5.3 per cent in third, and 5.8 per cent in the fourth

quarter of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1:2022-23 is projected at

the government to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent with 2 per cent margin on either side,



5.1 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India, which has been mandated by

mainly factors in the CPI-based inflation while deciding its bi-monthly monetary policy.

Govt Ready To Do Everything Required To Revive Economy: Finance Minister

Agencies

New Delhi- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday assured India Inc that the government is ready to do everything required to revive and support economic growth.

There are indicators which suggest that the economy is buoyant and recovery is taking place post lifting of COVID-19 restrictions by states, she said while addressing the CII Annual Meeting 2021.

She further said foreign direct investment has seen a growth of 37 per cent so far this fiscal, while forex reserves increased to USD 620 billion as of July.

The Narendra Modi government has shown commitment to reforms even during the pandemic, she said, adding last year the Centre announced farm laws and labour reforms, among others.

She also exhorted the industry to come forward and invest in the economy.



Finance Ministry releases Rs 9,871 crore to 17 States as grant

Agencies

The grants are released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission in monthly instalments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post-devolution.

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said it has released the fifth monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 9,871 crore to 17 States. The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is provided to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution.

The grants are released as per

the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission in monthly instalments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post-devolution. The commission has recommended this grant to the 17 States during 2021-22.

The Department of Expenditure has released the fifth monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant of Rs 9,871 crore to the States on August 9, 2021, the ministry said in a statement.

With the release of this instalment, a total amount of Rs 49,355 crore has been released

to eligible States in the current financial year.

The states recommended for PDRD Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total PDRD Grant of Rs 1,18,452 crore to the 17 states in the financial year 2021-22. Out of this, an amount of Rs 49,355 crore (41.67 per cent) has been released so far.

Lower food prices eases India's July retail inflation

Agencies

Lower food prices eased India's July retail inflation on a sequential basis.

Data furnished by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slipped to 5.59 per cent last month from 6.26 per cent in June. Region wise, the CPI Urban was at 5.82 per cent last month from 6.37 per cent in June, and the CPI Rural at 5.49 per cent in June from 6.16 per cent in June.

As per the NSO data, the Consumer Food Price Index fell to 3.96 per cent last month from 5.15 per cent in June. The CFPI readings measure the changes in retail prices of food products.

Notably, the macro-economic data assumes significance as it brings retail inflation mark in the range of the Reserve Bank of India's set target of 2-6 per cent for CPI inflation.

The declining retail inflation rate reduces the chance of the RBI to further loosen up the monetary policy. Meanwhile, rising demand along with low base effect on a year-on-year basis accelerated India's June industrial output.

Accordingly, wavering impact of Covid 2.0 as well as easing travel restrictions triggered demand and subsequently the production rate.

On Thursday, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for June showed a rise of 13.6 per cent

from a decline of (-) 16.6 per cent reported for the like month a year ago. However, the production rate was lower than the exponential growth of over 28.60 per cent seen for May. In June, the IIP index reading stood at 122.6 (index reading) as against May's 116.

The YoY and sequential growth rate movements are being im-



acted by the different types of lockdowns imposed during 2020 and 2021. Last year, while the country observed a full-fledged lockdown, the same was partially imposed across different regions of the country.

"For the month of June 2021, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 122.6," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said. "The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of June 2021 stand at 105.5, 121 and 169.1 respectively." – IANS

'India's ranking in network speed to improve post 5G roll out'

Agencies

New Delhi, Aug 12 (IANS): As India gears up for the launch of 5G network, a report by Ookla said that the launch of 5G network in India has the potential to increase the median download speeds (5G vs 4G-LTE) up to 10 times from the current position and improve India's global ranking in terms of network speed.

The findings are based on Speedtest data from other markets in Asia that have recently launched 5G (Thailand and the Philippines both launched 5G in Q1 2020 and Q2 2020 respectively) that shows the differential between 4G-LTE and 5G speeds was on average around 9-10x in Q2 2021.

According to Ookla, as of June 2021, 64.5 per cent of 4G users in India could expect to achieve download speeds in excess of 5 Mbps, the speed required to stream HD video content, up from 52.9 per cent in March.

"It's impossible to say exactly

how fast 5G will be for the average Indian user, given uncertainty over exact spectrum allocations and rollout plans (including the radio access network and improvements to backhaul and transport networks), but it's safe to say 5G will bring a considerable bump to overall speeds in the country," said the report.

The data mapped by Ookla is showing an increase in Jio's performance since March 2021. The operator's median download speeds have increased from 5.96 Mbps in March 2021 to 13.08 Mbps in June. Its upload speeds and Consistency Score also saw considerable improvements.

Currently, India clearly lags behind the markets that have already begun the 5G deployments, such as the UK and US. However, in recent months, all operators have been working behind the scenes to help drive 5G commercialisation. They are conducting 5G trials and have shown impressive 5G speeds.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY EXACTLY HOW FAST 5G will be for the average Indian user, given uncertainty over exact spectrum allocations and rollout plans (including the radio access network and improvements to backhaul and transport networks), but it's safe to say 5G will bring a considerable bump to overall speeds in the country," said the report.

Govt offices asked to switch to Prepaid Smart Meters



Estimates obtained from the States suggest the outstanding Government department dues to be Rs 48,664 crore at the end of FY2020-21, a value that is a colossal 9 per cent of the annual power sector turnover.

Agencies

The Ministry of Power has issued an advisory to all Central Ministries of the government to direct organisations under their administrative control to ensure they switch over to Prepaid Smart Meters on priority. As part of the same process, the ministries have also been asked to issue all

enabling orders in this regard.

This follows a clarification issued by the Ministry of Finance enabling all Central Ministries and Central Departments to make advance payments for pre-paid metered electricity without insisting on any Bank Guarantees, while at the same time ensuring proper accounting arrangements.

Myntra unveils latest campaign featuring Hrithik Roshan & Kiara Advani

Implements a 360-degree marketing approach to deliver the campaign across the nation.

Agencies

Mumbai: Myntra has launched a star-studded brand campaign with the roll-out of ad films starring Bollywood superstars Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani. The duo, in their individual ad films, will drive home Myntra's fashion narrative, with millions

ness, further strengthening its leadership in the market, said the brand in a statement.

In the 35-second ad films, conceptualised by Brave New World, the actors are projected as a personification of the Myntra brand, as they take them through the brand's value proposition one by one, with varying backgrounds

fashion feed where customers can get inspired and shop the looks of India's top influencers and photo search, a feature that enables users to shop any item they see with just a click, the brand further said.

"Our new brand campaign and the ad films with Hrithik and Kiara have been conceived to reinforce Myntra's image and perception as India's fashion expert, among millions of people, who are ardent fans of the two Bollywood superstars and top fashion icons in our country," said Myntra CMO Harish Narayanan. "We aim to cut across demographics and build a deeper relationship with our customers across the country through this campaign and look forward to its grand success."

"My association with Myntra goes back many years to the time HRX was launched on Myntra in 2013. Over the years, I have come to learn and witness firsthand, the ethos and workings of Myntra," said Hrithik Roshan. "It not only understands the needs, demands and desires of a diverse audience base from across the country, but also identifies and caters to requirements at the doorstep, that is as convenient as fashion can get."

Kiara Advani added, "Being a fashion enthusiast myself, it has been an enjoyable experience and association in conveying the latest styles and trends in fashion to the discerning audience. The encouraging response and abundant love from the viewers have added to the drive to offer fashionable solutions to the audience. With our new campaign that delivers a subtle yet powerful message, I'm looking forward to relying on Myntra for all our fashion needs."



of their fans from all over the country. The brand is implementing a 360-degree approach, leveraging TV, digital and social media platforms to deliver the campaign across the nation.

With this association, Myntra is all set to strengthen its strong connect with its consumers, influence and accelerate the busi-

and stunning looks.

The campaign delivers a message of Myntra as 'India's fashion expert', leaving consumers with a direct, clear and memorable takeaway: 'If it's fashion, it's Myntra'. Additionally, the messaging surrounds Myntra's unique differentiating features like Myntra Studio, a shoppable

The insights by Ookla further stated that the delay in the 5G rollout would eventually benefit the operators as they can procure the network equipment

trend will continue, spurred in India by partnerships such as Jio Platform's with Google, the report said.

Ookla is already witnessing a



at a lower cost. The adoption of Open RAN system by the Indian operators will further aid in bringing down the overall cost of 5G rollout.

The 5G smartphone prices have already fallen and this

growing number of Speedtest results running on 5G capable devices in India, which indicates that there will be a pre-installed user base that operators can target from day one of launch, it said.

3 Indian Engineers Rescued In Afghanistan From Area Not Under Control Of Afghan Forces

NEW DELHI: Three Indian engineers, who worked at a project site in an area not under the control of Afghan government forces, were rescued by air recently, according to the Indian embassy in Kabul on Thursday.

The embassy cited the rescue of the engineers in fresh security advisory while calling upon all Indians in Afghanistan to strictly adhere to the measures advised by it in view of a spike in violence in that country.

"A recent case that required emergency air rescue of three Indian engineers who remained at a dam project site, in an area not under the control of government forces, has brought to

light that Indian nationals receiving this embassy's advisories are not heeding its advice and continue to put themselves in mortal danger," the embassy said in a fresh advisory.

It is learnt that the engineers were working in an area that has been under the control of the Taliban.

"Embassy of India Kabul once again underscores the need for all Indian nationals to fully adhere to steps in the security advisories provided from time to time," the advisory said.

The embassy had issued separate security advisories on June 29, July 24 and August 10, recommending a series of measures to

ensure the safety and security of the Indians living in that country.

"Precautions and security measures advised in the above three advisories continue to remain valid. All Indian nationals in Afghanistan are once again requested to strictly adhere to the measures advocated," the new advisory said.

In its advisory on Tuesday, the embassy strongly advised all Indian citizens residing in Afghanistan to make immediate travel arrangements to return home before commercial air services are discontinued from the country in view of the massive spike in violence.

It also strongly advised the

Indian companies operating in Afghanistan to immediately withdraw their Indian employees out of project sites before air travel services from the country are discontinued.

In the latest advisory, the embassy also asked Indian journalists who are in Afghanistan to cover the latest developments to take additional security measures.

"As a recent tragic incident demonstrated, the public profile of Indian journalists in Afghanistan entails additional risks," it said, in an apparent reference to the killing of Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photo-journalist Danish Siddiqui in Kandahar last month.

"It is therefore advised that members of the Indian media should take additional security measures for their stay and movements inside Afghanistan including tying up of interviews and planned coverage before arrival in Afghanistan, as well as identifying well-established security logistic firms who can make necessary security arrangements for stay and movement of the journalists.

The Taliban has been making rapid advances across Afghanistan by resorting to widespread violence since the United States began withdrawing its troops from the country on May 1.

Airlines Can Operate Maximum Of 72.5 Pc Pre-Covid Domestic Flights: Govt

NEW DELHI: Airlines can now operate a maximum of 72.5 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights instead of the 65 per cent allowed till date, the Ministry of Civil Aviation stated on Thursday.

The carriers have been operating 65 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights since July 5 according to the ministry's order. Between June 1 and July 5, the cap was at 50 per cent.

The ministry issued a fresh order on Thursday, wherein it modified the July 5 order stating that "65 per cent capacity may be read as 72.5 per cent capacity".

Thursday's order also noted that the 72.5 per cent cap will "remain in place until further order".

When the government had

resumed the scheduled domestic flights on May 25 last year after a two-month break, the ministry had allowed the carriers to operate not more than 33 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic services.

The cap was gradually increased to 80 per cent by December. The 80 per cent cap remained in place till June 1.

The May 28 decision to bring down the cap from 80 to 50 per cent from June 1 onwards was taken "in view of the sudden surge in the number of active COVID-19 cases across the country, decrease in passenger traffic and the passenger load (occupancy rate) factor", the ministry had said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE



Security arrangements in Srinagar were tightened on Thursday ahead of August 15 celebrations. KO Photos, Abid Bhat

Militants Ambush

Major General Rashim Bali reached the gunfight site in Mir Bazar in the evening as the exchange of fire between militants and joint forces intensified.

Quoting IGP Kashmir, a police spokesperson posted on its official Twitter handle "#KulgamEncounterUpdate: Two trapped #terrorists of LeT still alive. Exchange of fire on. 2 SFs personnel & 2 civilians #injured from terrorists fire. Taking all #precautions for lesser #collateral damage as target building is huge one."

According to the reports, in the initial exchange of gunfire with the holed-up militants a CRPF constable identified as Umesh Kumar of 46 battalion was injured. Another security personnel was also reportedly injured in the ongoing encounter.

Besides, two youth identified as Sahil Yaqoob Bhat of Anantnag and Shahid Farooq Sheikh of Kulgam were also injured when the area was witnessing heavy exchange of fire. Bhat, according to the reports has received a bullet injury in lower abdomen and was being treated at the GMC, while Sheikh has received bullet injury in his thigh and is stable.

The encounter also led to the suspension of vehicular traffic on the strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Late night reports said that the joint team have installed lights and tightened cordon around the area to foil any attempts by militants to escape the military dragnet.

Cop Kills Colleague

of blood. The slain Havaladar's body was shifted to the mortuary room at the Government Medical College, Kathua.

The accused has been arrested while a case under relevant sections of law was registered, officials said.

SSP Kathua Ramesh Kotwal said that investigations are underway to ascertain the reasons that led to the incident. (With GNS inputs)

Govt Orders

Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens.

Naem-ul-Nisa (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Surankote, Poonch, against an available vacancy. "She shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Surankote, till further orders," reads an order.

Naresh Kumar (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Ms. Amar Jyoti Raina (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Deputy Director, Tourism, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

As per separate order, Mohammad Harun (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department.

Trishala Kumari (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Culture Department.

Sajid Yehaya Naqash (JKAS), Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Reyaz Ahmad Beigh (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, has been posted as Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Srinagar.

In another order, Vishal Sharma (JKAS), Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, under orders of transfer as Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, according to another order, Sheetal Pandita, Under Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, has transferred and her services placed at the disposal of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, for further adjustment.

US Prefers India

and wants Islamabad to play that role.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke over the phone with Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa this week and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan.

After the call, the Pentagon said the US was having conversations with the Pakistani leadership about the need to shut down the safe havens for Taliban militants along the Afghan-Pakistan border that are providing a source of more insecurity and instability inside Afghanistan.

Afghanistan and the US have criticised Pakistan in the past for allowing Taliban fighters to cross into Pakistan where they are provided safe havens and also receive medical treatment.

At the meeting with foreign journalists, Prime Minister Khan said that a political solution to the Afghan problem was difficult as the Taliban was not ready to talk with the Kabul government as long as President Ashraf Ghani is there.

He said the Taliban leaders told him during a visit that the Ghani government was a puppet.

The condition is that as long as Ashraf Ghani is there, we (Taliban) are not going to talk to the Afghan government, Khan quoted the Taliban leaders as saying.

Khan has taken a strong stand on the hasty withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan, which has plunged the country into a chaotic situation.

Khan also reiterated that Pakistan wouldn't provide bases to the US forces after the drawdown. Though it was unclear if the US formally asked for the facility.

Pakistan has said that it has used its influence over the Taliban to press the insurgents into talks with the US and the Afghan government to find a political solution to the crisis.

Khan last month said that the US really messed it up in Afghanistan as he questioned the American motive for the 2001 invasion of the country in the first place and then their subsequent attempts of seeking a political solution with the Taliban from a position of weakness.

Panel Asks

compliance report," the order read.

The FFRC has received a slew of complaints against some leading private schools, accusing them of charging exorbitant fees and disregarding the government directives issued from time to time.

The FFRC chairperson said the school

followed the provision to hike the tuition fee by six per cent, but failed to take into account the provision which had banned charging admission fee in any form.

"The brilliant minds of the school management have thus deprived parents of the children studying in their school of their hard earned money with both hands," Justice Attar said.

The current order was secured after many complaints from parents who had contended that the school had charged them an amount of Rs 50,000 as admission fee in May 2019, in violation of directives of the FFRC, Directorate of School Education Kashmir, and the Supreme Court orders.

The FFRC had in March this year ordered a 50 per cent reduction in the monthly fee of the Foundation World School and the Birla Open Minds school.

The schools have challenged that order before the high court.

Earlier this month, the chief education officer of Budgam had served a notice to the Foundation World School over 'unauthorised teaching of classes 6 to 9' at the institution.

The official had pointed out that the school was "provisionally granted registration in 2019 to run classes up to Class 5 only for a period of five years".

But during a spot visit by education department officers, the notice said, it was found that the school was "functioning up to Class 9 in gross violation of norms without any permission or registration".

Searches, Frisking

also received from various parts of the city and Valley.

There is already larger presence of police and the paramilitary men across Srinagar, particularly in and around Lal Chowk, the commercial hub of the summer capital of J&K.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to preside over the main function in at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here. Like the past, the venue has been sealed off.

A police official said that foolproof security arrangements have been made for incident-free and successful Independence Day celebrations, as per news agency GNS.

"Police and other Security forces have been put on high alert across Kashmir valley.

Even on normal days they are in state of alertness to foil any attempts by inimical elements to create disturbance. But, during function like the one ensuing on Sunday extra precautions are made."

There are already checkpoints at various places and vehicles are being checked while passengers are being frisked for the overall safety, the official said.

Srinagar Placed

elements at bay," SP Headquarters Arif Shah said. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gh Mohid-ud-din said, "The drill is being conducted as Independence day is around the corner. We will keep an eye on the areas near the Independence Day parade stadium till August 15 as it is a very sensitive area."

"The drones can help us to detect any activities or a person with wrong intention and we take immediate action against it. We will have an accurate surveillance record," he said.

The exercise will continue till August 15. This comes after two low-intensity

explosions were reported on June 27 in the technical area of Jammu Air Force Station. The attack carried out possibly using the improvised explosive device (IED), could not cause much damage and caused minor injuries to two personnel on duty.

Two drones were used to drop explosives on the Jammu airbase by the attackers who then navigated their quadcopters out of that area, the sources had said.

Earlier on Wednesday, militants hurled a grenade at Hari Singh High Street area in Srinagar wherein 10 civilians have been injured.

Following the grenade attack, all the entry/exit points in and around the Lal Chowk area were sealed and all the Nakas/checkpoints across the City Srinagar were activated.

During the intensive checking, a joint naka party near Makkah Market apprehended a suspicious person and upon searching his bag, the police recovered two live grenades. He has been identified as Adil Farooq Bhat, an employee of a news agency, resident of Khrew Pampore. (Agencies)

PDD Official, 157

officials have misappropriated an amount of over Rs7.25 crores by adopting modus operandi of drawl of illegal salary of 2 non-existent employees, illegal regular salary of 5 retired employees and drawl of illegal arrears in respect of 301 PDD employees.

"Besides, the accused person Mushtaq Ahmad Malik in criminal conspiracy with other officers/officials of PDD appointed 45 employees by preparing their fake service books on the production of fake appointment orders. The illegal salary drawn by these fake employees from the year 2003, amounts to more than 7.41 crores," he said.

Therefore, the CB spokesperson said, it has been established that the accused persons in criminal conspiracy with one another and by abuse of their official positions have embezzled a total amount of more than 14.72 crores.

"However, during the course of investigation, an amount of Rs. 5.17 crores was recovered from the possession of the prime accused Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, and remitted in the Government treasury on the basis of order issued by the Hon'ble Court of Anti Corruption Judge, Srinagar," he added.

J&K Sees 176 New

Kupwara 1, Anantnag 15, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 10, Kulgam 2, Jammu 5, Udhampur 2, Rajouri 3, Doda 5, Kathua 4, Samba 1, Kishtwar 2, Poonch 1, and Reasi 73 new cases of coronavirus. No fresh case of Covid-19 was reported from twin districts of Shopian and Ramban in J&K.

Also, officials said, 164 more patients have recovered, 75 from Jammu Division and 89 from Kashmir Valley.

Regarding the coronavirus related deaths, the officials said, both fatalities were reported from Jammu division. With these deaths, Covid-19 has claimed lives of 4395 people in J&K—2156 in Jammu division and 2239 in Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

Blast At BJP

Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh confirmed the incident to PTI.

High-Security Prison

been accorded after obtaining all other permissions as may be required for its establishment from the competent authority.

At present there are 13 functional prisons which include two central jails, nine district jails, one special jail & one sub-jail.

In March this year, Hira Nagar sub-jail in Kathua district was declared as a holding centre for lodging Rohingya refugees—(KNO)

Mehbooba Misses

youngsters in J&K. He is being punished for his commitment towards the Kashmir cause. I salute his integrity, courage & grace".

Parra was arrested on November 25, 2020 by National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a militant funding case days after he filed nomination papers for District Development Council (DDC) polls in Pulwama. He won the seat despite remaining in jail during campaigning. He was re-arrested in another case after a court granted him bail in January this year.

Arms, Drugs

ammunition, and one kilogram of heroin worth crores of rupees were found.

The recoveries include 15 hand grenades, five pistols, 150 pistol rounds and three detonators, the official said.

Although a case was registered under relevant sections of the law, no arrests have been made so far, he added.

Police Nabs Fraudster

of Reasi at Cyber Police Station Jammu. Investigation Officer Inspector Vikram Sharma succeeded in identifying the fraudster and accordingly he led a team and arrested the accused, the official said.

The accused has been brought to Jammu after completing all legal procedures, the official said, adding his questioning is going on to ascertain involvement of other accused in the case.

Auto Rickshaw

further investigation has been taken up.

Union Home Secretary

approved extension in service to Bhalla as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs for a period of one year beyond the present tenure i.e. 22.08.2021," the order stated.

His tenure was extended till August 22 in October last year.

Bhalla was scheduled to retire in November 2020 after completing 60 years of superannuation.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the extension in service of Bhalla as the Home Secretary beyond the date of his superannuation i.e. November 30, 2020 up to August 22, 2021," stated the ministry's order issued in October last year.

10 More Test Covid

persons to 20,132, they said.

No death due to COVID-19 was reported in Ladakh in the past 24 hours, the officials said.

The union territory has registered 207 coronavirus-related deaths till now, with the worst-hit Leh accounting for 149 fatalities, followed by 58 in Kargil district, they said.

There are 82 active cases in the UT -- 63 in Leh and 19 in Kargil.



NATIONAL SPORTS AWARD COMMITTEE has been formed for this year but Paralympics are yet to be held so we want to add winners from paralympic also. I hope and wish they will perform really well."

Pencak Silat Championship Organised At Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Pencak Silat Association in collaboration with District Youth Services and Sports, Kulgam on Thursday organised a District Level championship of Pencak Silat at Government Higher Secondary School. The championship is being held as part of the J&K Administration's 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' campaign.

As many as 40 girls and 25 boys participated in this championship.

Later trophies and medals were distributed among the participants.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, SHO Kulgam and other officers were present on the occasion.

An awareness session regarding COVID-19 was also organised at the venue.

J&K Sqay Association To Hold Selection Trials For AISC On August 13

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Sqay Association is going to conduct selection trials for All India Sqay Championship (AISC) on August 13, 2021 at NIMA Pampore.

The selected players will have to go through further screening on August 17 at Polo Ground, Srinagar at 11am. Afterwards the selected players will represent the state of J&K in All India Sqay Championship scheduled from 24 to 26 August at Pahalgal, in district Anantnag.

Meanwhile, all the interested players are informed to bring with them two recent passport size photographs and date of birth certificate.

District Bandipora Chess Championship Concludes

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In continuation of the 'Independence Day Sports Week Celebrations' the District Chess Association, Bandipore in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council on Thursday concluded its District Chess Championship here.

The Chess championship was held at International Public School, Bandipora.

Fayaz Ahamad, Chairman IDPS was the chief guest and Manager SK Stadium, Bandipora was the guest of honour. "The championship was held to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day," a JKSC statement said.

District Srinagar Thang-Ta Championship Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Srinagar Thang-Ta Championship 2021 concluded on Thursday at Gindun Indoor Hall, Rajbagh.

Organized by District Srinagar Thang-Ta Association, the championship saw the participation of more than 200 contestants. The two-day championship was held in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar, Manager Gindun Stadium was chief guest on the closing ceremony where prizes and other mementos were distributed among the winners.



JKFA Commends AFC Licensee Coach Masood Maqbool

R. Elahi

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Thursday commended Masood Maqbool, a young football coach from Srinagar for successfully passing the AIFF 'E' Certificate Instructor Course. Masood, an AFC 'C' Licence Coach, passed the 'E' Certificate Instructor course held at Goa in April of this year. He can now coach aspiring 'E' Licence coaches.

"Masood is working with JKFA with dedication for the development of the game in the UT. We hope that he will come up to the expectations of the Association for this new and challenging role which has been given to him by the All India Football Federation (AIFF)," the JKFA said in a statement.

"His appointment as AIFF 'E' Certificate Tutor will go a long way in the development of grassroots football in the UT. The Association wishes him very best for his future endeavour," it added.

A former footballer, Masood has also worked on the coaching staff of Lonestar Kashmir FC and other professional football clubs of Kashmir Valley.

He has also assisted Valley's top notch coaches Sajid Dar and Hilal Parry



whom he sees as his coaching inspirations.

"I have seen the coaching set-up in Brazil and in many parts of India. So I understand how far behind Kashmir is. We have so much footballing talent all around us but we are unable to nurture it because of a lack of coaching expertise," Masood told KO.

"I spent my own money to complete this course. My aim is to develop and strengthen the grassroots football in the Valley because grassroots is the foundation. This is much needed, especially in the far-flung areas," he added.

"We should also have Youth Leagues for Under 18, Under 15 and Under 12 footballers. This is an absolute must if we want to improve the football scene here," Masood concluded.

Masood Maqbool is among a handful of young men who have taken up football coaching as a career. The AIFF and AFC Licenses are a testament to Masood's passion for football and footballers he works with.

I SPENT MY OWN MONEY TO COMPLETE THIS COURSE. My aim is to develop and strengthen the grassroots football in the Valley because grassroots is the foundation. This is much needed, especially in the far-flung areas, We should also have Youth Leagues for Under 18, Under 15 and Under 12 footballers. This is an absolute must if we want to improve the football scene here."

54-Member Indian Contingent For Tokyo Paralympics Accorded Warm Send-Off



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A 54-member Indian team for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics was on Thursday accorded a warm send-off by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and the national governing body, with high hopes that the country will return with its best ever performance.

The team has some of the brightest medal prospects like Devendra Jhaharia, seeking his third Paralympics gold (after 2004 and 2016) in F-46 javelin throw, Mariyappan Thangavelu (T-63 high jump) and world champion Sandeep Choudhary (F-64 javelin throw).

India will compete in nine sports.

Mariyappan, who had won a gold in the last edition in Rio, will be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent during the

opening ceremony on August 24. The Tokyo Paralympics will end on September 5. The Tokyo-bound players were part of the event virtually as they are in strict bio-bubble.

"The ambition and self-confidence of our para athletes give inspiration to 1.3 billion Indians. In front of their courage, the biggest of challenges bow. And they deserve every bit of it," Thakur said in a video message.

"The number of our para athletes participating in the upcoming Games is three times bigger than the last edition. I have full faith in your abilities. I believe that your performance too will be better than last time."

He said it's a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the para athletes have so far won three Khel Ratna, seven Padma Shri and 33 Arjuna awards.

Gutted To Be Ruled Out Of India Series, Stuart Broad To Focus On Ashes

Press Trust of India

LONDON: After being ruled out of the ongoing home Test series against India due to a calf injury, a "gutted" Stuart Broad said he will take his time to recuperate and prepare for the Ashes, scheduled to begin in December.

The England seamer sustained a tear to his right calf during a warm up on Tuesday. He underwent an MRI scan in London on Wednesday lunchtime, which revealed a tear.

"Things can change so quickly. A moment before training all smiles then during the warm up, I jumped a hurdle, landed a bit awkwardly on my right ankle then the next step felt like I'd been whipped by a rope as hard as you can imagine on the back of my leg," Broad wrote on his Instagram account.

"I actually turned to @jimmya9 (James Anderson) & asked why he whipped me! but when I realised he was nowhere near me I knew I was in trouble.

"Scans say grade 3 calf. All so innocuous. Season over & gutted to miss this India Test Series but a huge focus on Australia now. Going to take my time, no rush, baby steps & be the fittest I can be heading out there. Big focus in my brain," he added.

The 35-year-old had picked one wicket in the rain-curtailed first Test that ended in a draw last week.

Broad was on the verge of playing his milestone 150th Test.

JKSC Launch Women's Cricket Tournament In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Thursday launched a Women's Cricket Tournament at TRC Cricket Ground in Srinagar.

Secretary, JKSC, Nuzhat Gul inaugurated the tournament which will see the participation of young trainees of Sports Council's Cricket Academy.

"(The girls) have been training under former cricketer Abid Nabi, who is now a junior Cricket coach. The tournament is aimed at match simulation of players besides checking the progress of their skill level," a JKSC statement said.

"Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, JKSC assured players of all her cooperation and assured them their demand of providing cricket gears and equipment equipments shall be addressed soon. She gave on-the-spot directions to Abid Nabi to submit list of demands and follow up," the statement added.

The JKSC Secretary was accompanied by Masood Khan, Manager Indoor Sports Complex, Mohammad Iqbal, Incharge, Indoor Sports Complex Pologround, Hilal Ahmad, Incharge TRC Football and Cricket Ground, besides other officials from the Sports Council.

National Sports Awards Delayed To Include Tokyo Paralympics Athletes

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The National Sports Awards function, which is held on August 29 every year, has been pushed back since the government wants the selection panel to consider the performances of the para athletes competing in the Tokyo Paralympics.

The Paralympics will be held between August 24 and September 5. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said the selection panel for picking the award winners has been formed but they would prefer to wait for some more time before going ahead with the selection process.

"National sports award committee has been formed for this year but Paralympics are yet to be held so we want to add winners from paralympic also. I hope and wish they will perform really well," Thakur said during the National Youth Awards function.



The awards -- the Khel Ratna Award, the Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award and the Dhyan Chand Award -- are given away each year by the country's president on August 29, the National Sports Day which is also the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

"Like last time, this year's award ceremony could also be held

virtually," a ministry source told PTL.

The process of nominations for the national honours ended on July 5 after two extensions. The applicants were allowed to self-nominate online in view of the pandemic but national federations have also sent their preferences.

The prize money for the sports awards was increased substantially last year.

The Khel Ratna Award now comes with a reward of Rs 25 lakh, much higher than the previous amount of Rs 7.5 lakh.

The cash reward for Arjuna award has been enhanced to Rs 15 lakh from Rs 5 lakh, the Dronacharya (Lifetime) awardees, who were earlier given Rs 5 lakh, are now being given Rs 15 lakh.

Dronacharya (Regular) get Rs 10 lakh instead of Rs 5 lakh per awardee, while Dhyan Chand Awardees are being given Rs 10 lakh instead of Rs 5 lakh.

Bhaichung Bhutia Fails To Make PK Banerjee's All-time India Football XI

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Bhaichung Bhutia may have played one of his best matches under the tutelage of the legendary P K Banerjee but the 'Sikkimese Sniper' does not find a place in his all-time India XI.

In his autobiography 'Guru' which was brought out by Banerjee's daughters, Paula and Purna Banerjee, 15 months after his death, Bhutia finds a place in the reserve bench alongside Surajit Sengupta, Samareesh Chowdhury and Subrata Bhattacharya.

Bhutia had played one of his best matches under the coaching of Banerjee when he scored a hat-trick to lead East Bengal's 4-1 rout of arch-rivals Mohun Bagan in the 1997 Federation Cup in front of a crowd of 1.31 lakh.

Banerjee's all-time XI has the likes of Mohammed Habib, Shyam Thapa and Shubhas Bhowmick up front, while Prasun Banerjee, Prastanta Banerjee and Gautam Sarkar man the midfield.

Through a series of anecdotes, pieces of history and coaching secrets, the book traces the life of a young boy who made it big in the Indian football, from the small town

of Katihar in Bihar.

Banerjee also talks about how he had to deal with his daughter's kidnapping ahead of a history-making Kolkata League encounter and why he cut his chest to offer blood to the deities at the Tarakeswar temple twice. A doyen of Indian football, Banerjee, who died in March last year at the age of 83 years, also revealed about a secret notebook that "he never shared with anyone".

"This had his lessons and learnings from his Guru Dettmar Cramer. The secret notebook is out in print for the first time and could prove to be the Bible for coaching aspirants," said a statement.

The book is edited by sports journalist and author Gautam Bhattacharya and sports journalist and raconteur Supriyo Mukhopadhyay.

PK Banerjee's all-time XI: Bhaskar Ganguly, Sudhir Karmakar, Manoranjan Bhattacharya, Pradip Chowdhury, Shyamal Banerjee/Alok Mukherjee, Gautam Sarkar, Prasanta Banerjee, Prasun Banerjee, Subhas Bhowmik, Shyam Thapa, Md Habib; Reserves: Surajit Sengupta, Bhaichung Bhutia, Samareesh Chowdhury, Subrata Bhattacharya.

World Boxing Council Announces Formation Of India Committee

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The World Boxing Council (WBC) has announced the formation of its India committee in collaboration with the Indian Boxing Council.

The committee aims to offer a "pathway for domestic championship success for aspiring professional boxers throughout the region and afford Indian fighters more significant global opportunities, using the WBC India as a platform for development, progression, and inclusion". In addition, the WBC will put emphasis on boxer safety and implement a ranking system for both male and female boxers.

"I am immensely proud to bear witness to new horizons for boxing in India. The WBC recognizes the rich heritage of this proud sporting nation, where we have already witnessed several Indian boxers crowned with WBC and WBC affiliated championships over the past number of years, said WCB president Mauricio in a statement.

Commenting on the announcement, Indian Boxing Council (IBC) president Brigadier PK Muralidharan Raja said, "Indian boxers have worked hard and started to make waves on the professional boxing circuit in recent years.

GSLV Fails To Place Earth Observation Satellite Into Orbit



SRIHARIKOTA (AP): ISRO's GSLV rocket on Thursday failed to inject into the orbit the country's latest earth observation satellite EOS-03 due to a failure to ignite the cryogenic stage of the launch vehicle, prompting the premier space agency to declare the mission could not be achieved as intended.

However, the first and second stages of the rocket had performed normally, the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation said.

In a notification, ISRO said, "GSLV-F10 launch took place today at 0543 hrs as scheduled. Performance of first and second stages was normal. However, Cryogenic Upper Stage ignition did not happen due to technical anomaly. The mission could not be accomplished as intended."

According to ISRO, the cryogenic upper stage ignition was scheduled to take place 4.56 minutes after the lift-off.

A formal announcement was also made at the Mission Control Centre by the range operations director, stating, "Performance anomaly observed in the cryogenic stage. The mission could not be accomplished fully."

ISRO Chairman K Sivan said, "(the mission) could not be fully accomplished mainly because there is a technical anomaly observed in the cryogenic stage. This I wanted to tell all my friends."

ISRO, after facing hurdles caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, resumed its launch operations for the rocket to place the satellite with an objective to provide near real-time imaging of large areas of the country at frequent intervals and quick monitoring of natural disasters.

As the 26-hour countdown concluded on Thursday, the 51.7-metre tall rocket with four stages lifted off majestically at 05.43hrs, leaving behind a trail of thick orange-coloured fumes.

The four-stage rocket was the first to carry a four-metre dia 'Ogive Payload Fairing' at the top of the vehicle to accommodate

larger payloads.

The rocket was supposed to place the EOS "an agile state-of-the-art satellite into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit, 19 minutes after lift-off."

Thursday's unsuccessful attempt to launch the satellite came in the wake of scientists postponing the earlier planned missions earlier.

The satellite, originally titled GISAT-1 weighing 2,268 kg was slated to be launched on March 5, 2020 but it was postponed a day before the lift-off due to 'technical reasons'.

The Covid-induced lockdown further delayed the mission and once again it was scheduled for a March 28, 2021 launch but a 'minor issue' with the satellite forced yet another postponement.

The objective of Thursday's mission was to provide near real-time imaging of large area regions at frequent intervals, for quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic events and obtain spectral signatures for agriculture, forestry, water bodies as well as for disaster warning, cyclone monitoring, cloud burst and thunderstorm monitoring.

Before Thursday's launch, ISRO had launched Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1 and 18 co-passenger satellites in February this year.

Thursday's mission is the eighth flight with indigenous cryogenic engine, 14th flight of the GSLV and also marks the 79th launch vehicle mission from Sriharikota.

Previous launches of GSLV rockets include the GSLV-MkIII-M1/Chandrayaan-2 mission in July 2019 while GSLV-F11 successfully placed GSAT-7A in December 2018. An earth observation satellite - EOS-01 - was launched in November 2020 by polar satellite launch vehicle PSLV-C49, ISRO said.

ISRO had made arrangements to watch the launch through its various social media platforms. PTI

25 Members Of Hindu Outfit Booked For Thrashing Vendor Selling 'Henna'

Agenceis

Muzaffarnagar: Police here booked 25 members of a right-wing Hindu group for allegedly thrashing a vendor selling "henna", according to an official. The Kranti Sena has also been running a "campaign" against Muslims applying "mehndi" on hands of Hindu women.

Police have registered a case of rioting and intimidation after the victim, identified as Perkash Chand, lodged a complaint against

them, SHO Anil Kapervan said.

However, it is not clear if the FIR mentions about the "campaign". Earlier, videos surfaced on social media, in which members of the group are purportedly heard talking about their "campaign" against Muslims applying "mehndi" on hands of Hindu women, accusing them of "love jihad".

"Love jihad" is a term used by right-wing activists to refer to the alleged campaign of Muslims forcing Hindu girls to convert in the guise of love. PTI

Rapidly Evolving Situation In Afghanistan Concerning, Says India



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India today said that the situation in Afghanistan is of concern. It is a rapidly evolving situation. We continue to hope that there will be a comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan," he said.

Asked about Pakistan's continued support to the Taliban, Mr Bagchi said the international community is well aware of that country's role.

The Taliban has been making rapid advances across Afghanistan by resorting to widespread violence since the US began withdrawing its troops from the country on May 1.

The US has already pulled back the majority of its forces

and is looking to complete the drawdown by August 31.

India has been engaged with a number of stakeholders and leading powers on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

It has been supporting a national peace and reconciliation process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

India has also been calling upon all sections of the political spectrum in Afghanistan to work together to meet the aspirations of all people in the country, including those from the minority communities, for a prosperous and safe future.

Govt Accommodation Meant For Serving Officials, Not Retirees As Benevolence: SC

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Government accommodation is meant for serving officials and not retirees as a "benevolence" and distribution of largesse, the Supreme Court has said while setting aside an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court allowing a retired public servant to retain such premises.

Right to shelter does not mean right to government accommodation, the apex court said, observing that direction to allow a retired public servant to retain such premises for an indefinite period is distribution of state largesse without any policy.

While allowing the appeal filed by the Centre, a bench of justices Hemant Gupta and A S Bopanna set aside the high court order and directed the retired Intelligence Bureau officer, a Kashmiri migrant, to hand over vacant physical possession of the premises on or before October 31, 2021.

The bench also directed the Centre to submit a report of action taken against retired public servants, who are in government accommodation post their retirement by virtue of orders of the high courts, by November 15, 2021.

The officer, who was transferred to Faridabad where he was allotted a government accommodation, had attained the age of superannuation from service on October 31, 2006.

"The right to shelter does not mean right to government

accommodation. The government accommodation is meant for serving officers and officials and not to the retirees as a benevolence and distribution of largesse," the bench said in its judgement passed last week.

The top court was hearing a plea against the July 2011 order of a division bench of the high court which had dismissed a petition against its single judge order.

The single judge had said it was not possible for the retired officer to return to his own state due to which the order of eviction shall be kept in abeyance. The high court had also said the authorities were at liberty to provide alternative accommodation to him on nominal licence fee in Faridabad.

The officer had earlier given representation to the concerned authority to allow him to retain the government accommodation and he was allowed to retain the house for another one year.

Later, he submitted another representation in June 2007 to allow him to retain the house allotted to him on a nominal licence fee till the circumstances prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir improve and the government makes it possible for him to return to his native place.

He was served with a notice under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupant) Act, 1971 and later, an order for eviction was passed but it was stayed by a district court in Delhi.

When an objection was raised

about territorial jurisdiction of Delhi court, he withdrew his appeal and filed it in Faridabad court which dismissed it in August 2009. Later, the matter reached the high court.

In its verdict, the apex court referred to several judgements delivered earlier and said it was held that government accommodation is only meant for in-service officers and not for the retirees or those who have demitted office.

"The compassion howsoever genuine does not give a right to a retired person from continuing to occupy a government accommodation," it said.

It noted that according to a policy framed by the government, a displaced person is to be lodged in a transit accommodation and if it is not available, then cash compensation is to be provided.

"There is no policy of the central government or the state government to provide accommodation to displaced persons on account of terrorism in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," it said. "The hardship faced by them does not lead to a corresponding duty of the state to provide them alternative government accommodation."

It noted that a section of society, more so retired public servants who have earned pension and drawn retirement benefits, cannot be said to be in such condition where the government should provide government accommodation for an unlimited period.

Mentally Ill Woman's Testimony Valid: Supreme Court To Rape Convict

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The testimony of a mentally ill woman, who had narrated the incident of rape committed upon her in question answer form before the trial court, has nailed the offender as the Supreme Court Thursday upheld his conviction while terming her statement as "credible".

The 36-year-old woman, who is suffering from 70 per cent disability and was raped in Uttarakhand in September 2015, had testified before the trial court in question answer form as oath could not be administered to her since she was unable to understand its meaning.

The trial court, which had convicted and sentenced the man to 10-years in jail in October 2016, had noted in its verdict that during her cross-examination the woman had rightly identified the photo frames of father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

A plea filed by the convict challenging the March 2019 verdict of the high court, which had dismissed his appeal and affirmed the trial court's judgement, came up for hearing before a bench of justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose.

"There are certain contradictions in the evidence. However, we are of the considered view that the testimony of the prosecutrix (woman) which is credible can be the sole basis for the conviction of the appellant under section 376 (2)(1) of the IPC," the bench said.

Section 376 (2)(1) of the Indian Penal Code deals with offence of rape committed on any person suffering from



mental or physical illness.

An advocate, who was assisting the top court as an amicus curiae and representing the convict, told the bench that there was no medical evidence to support the allegations due to the delay in lodging of FIR and medical examination of the woman.

He also argued that there were basic contradictions in the statements of prosecution witnesses.

The counsel appearing for the state referred to the statement of the woman and said it was clear that it was a case of rape.

"We have carefully scrutinised the entire material on record, including the evidence that is filed by the prosecution. After considering the submission of the counsel for the appellant, we are not in agreement that an error has been committed by the court below in convicting the appellant under section 376 (2)(1)," the bench said, while dismissing the plea.

The bench said there was delay in registration of FIR in the case and medical examination of the victim, almost 20 days after the incident, could not have disclosed injuries or evidence of rape.

Kanpur: Muslim Man Thrashed, Asked To Chant 'Jai Shri Ram'



Agenceis

KANPUR (UP): A Muslim man was assaulted in the public and allegedly asked to chant "Jai Shri Ram" even as his minor daughter tried to save him, said police here on Thursday.

A one-minute video of the incident surfaced on social media on Wednesday. The 45-year-old man is seen being assaulted by some men, who ask him to chant "Jai Shri Ram".

The victim's daughter is seen trying to save her father, crying and asking the attackers not to beat him. Later, some policemen took the man to their Jeep. The footage also shows the man being hit while in police custody.

Deputy Police Commissioner (South) Raveena Tyagi said the matter came to the fore at the

Kacchi Basti locality near the Ram Gopal crossing in the Barra area of Kanpur on Wednesday.

"On the complaint of the victim, we have lodged an FIR and legal action is under way," she said.

Police, however, did not mention the name of the organisation involved in the act.

The victim, an e-rickshaw driver, said around 3 pm, some people started abusing and assaulting him. They threatened to kill his family.

He said he was saved by police. The man is a relative of a Muslim family, which is involved in a dispute with their Hindu neighbours in the Kanpur locality.

Police statement says in July, the two families filed cases against each other at the local police station. PTI

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