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P3 CITY

ZERO TOLERANCE TOWARDS CORRUPTION, GOVT'S FIRM RESOLVE: CS

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Friday reaffirmed government's resolve of zero tolerance towards corruption adding that technology is enabler for better and transparent...

P6 ELUSIVE ORDER

Two years after the withdrawal of J&K's special status, Kashmir is far from coming to terms with the unprecedented move. On the day of its second anniversary, 5 August, this was evident. While the BJP held rallies across J&K, including across the country...



P5 STATE

NO TRACE OF MISSING PERSONS AS NDRF WITHDRAWS

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been withdrawn from the rescue operation even as there is still no trace of 19 persons who went missing following...



Quote!
It always seems impossible until it's done
—Nelson Mandela

NEWS DIGEST

Man Held With IED-Fitted Sticky Bombs

JAMMU: A major tragedy was averted when government forces seized an improvised explosive device-fitted four sticky bombs from a man in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, police officials said. On information provided by the Border Security Force, a joint checking party of police, BSF and Army was deployed. **More On P10**

LG Performs Chhari Mubarak Pujan

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday performed Amarnathji Chhari Mubarak puja on Shri Shivalik Panchami in presence of Shri Deependra Giri ji, Mahant Chhari Mubarak Amarnathji at Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhada here. While performing the Chhari Mubarak puja the Lt Governor prayed for sustained peace, prosperity in J&K, and well-being of its people, an official spokesperson said. He said that the holy Mace will leave for its next destination. **More On P10**

Govt Transfers Five Officers

SRINAGAR: Government on Friday transferred five officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. Smita Sethi (JKAS), Director, Social Welfare, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, SIDCO. "She shall also hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, SICOP, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," reads a government order. Atul Sharma, Managing. **More On P10**

Soura Placed Under Drone Surveillance

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday placed Anchar and adjacent areas of Soura under drone watch to ensure smooth conduct of August 15 celebrations. Police carried out a successful drone surveillance exercise over Anchar and adjacent areas, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said several high-end drones are being utilised for the said purpose. "The drone surveillance is being used. **More On P10**

Ladakh Reports 9 Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh recorded no fresh death from coronavirus while nine more people tested positive, according to the latest health update. Of the new cases reported Thursday, seven were recorded in Leh and two in Kargil, officials said, adding four people recovered from the disease. With the fresh updates, the total number of cases in the union territory goes to 20,430, with 87 active cases — 67 in Leh and 20 in. **More On P10**

Overnight Highway Encounter Ends

IGP Says A "Dreaded Pakistani Terrorist", Killed With Rocket Launcher



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Security forces achieved a major success as a Pakistani militant planning an attack along the

national highway in Jammu and Kashmir was killed in an encounter in Kulgam district, officials said Friday.

They said the overnight encounter began. **More On P10**

CRPF Man, 2 Civilians Injured In Sopore Blast

Three people, including a CRPF head constable were injured on Friday in a grenade attack in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Unknown militants on Friday afternoon lobbed a grenade towards a CRPF team near State Bank of India (SBI) in Main Chowk, Sopore that exploded with a bang, officials said. In the grenade attack, a CRPF head constable and two civilians received splinter injuries. The trio, officials said, **More On**

IT IS AFTER A LONG TIME THAT RPG-7 has been recovered (in Kashmir) and the police and security forces have averted a major incident. I am proud of the police and security forces."

LG To Honour 50 Covid Warriors On Aug 15

"Doctors, Healthcare Workers Set A New Benchmark For The Entire Country"

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the doctors and healthcare workers in Jammu and Kashmir have set a new benchmark for the entire country, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday announced to honour 50 'Covid Warriors' during the August 15 celebrations.

Recognising the selfless services rendered by the COVID Warriors, including doctors, paramedics, nurses, orderlies, drivers and others in managing the pandemic, the LG said that the way men and women health care workers have vaccinated people in difficult and snow-bound areas by walking 18-20 kms, has set a new benchmark for the. **More On P10**

...PATHANKOT AIRBASE ATTACK

British Journalist Couple Makes Sensational Claims In New Book

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Corrupt local police officers" were suspected to have scouted the Pathankot airbase before the terror attack at the IAF facility in 2016 and one of them identified a no-surveillance spot which was used by the raiders to heave ammunition, grenades, mortars, and AK-47s, a new book has claimed.

This claim has been made by journalists Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark in their book "Spy Stories: Inside the Secret



World of the R.A.W. and the I.S.I." On January 2, 2016, a team

of gunmen wearing Indian army fatigues waded through a branch of the Ravi river on the India-Pakistan Punjab border. Arriving on the Indian side, the men hijacked vehicles and drove towards the sprawling Pathankot Air Force base. Scaling a perimeter wall, they recovered in the long grass and then ran towards a residential compound where the first gun fight crackled.

Four attackers were killed as also three members of the Indian security forces. Four more Indian. **More On P10**

AT LEAST FOUR REPORTS HAD SUGGESTED that rivers (and dry creeks) were vulnerable spots, but no nets were pegged across them. There were no extra patrols, despite six written requests. Surveillance technology and movement trackers had not been deployed."

Friday Prayers Not Allowed In Jamia Masjid, Hazratbal Shrine

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Friday prayers were again suspended at the historic Jamia Masjid in the downtown and Hazratbal shrine following fresh advisory by the administration limiting gatherings to 25 people in the Union Territory.

No Friday prayers were held in the historic Masjid today, said Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid (AAJM), headed by moderate Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, who is under house arrest since August 5, 2019.

The UT administration has recently issued an order that only 25 person are allowed to attend any function in Jammu and Kashmir.

Friday prayers were resumed at Jamia Masjid only last week after remaining suspended for more than three months to prevent spread of COVID 19.

No congregational prayers were also allowed at Hazratbal shrine which houses the Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad. However, people who had assembled there offered prayers on the road as shrine was closed due to COVID. Friday prayers were held in other major worship places, including at the shrine of Hazrat Gousul Azam Dastgeer Khanyar and Hazrat Syed Sahib Sonwar.

People participated in congregational Friday prayers in other mosques and worship places.

Meanwhile, Anjuman Auqaf, the management. **More On P10**

Security Tightened Across Kashmir Ahead Of I-Day Celebrations

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Security has been beefed up in Kashmir ahead of the Independence Day celebrations as the forces are resorting to "technical surveillance" including the use of drones to monitor the situation, officials said on Friday.

Police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength at many places in the city and elsewhere in the Valley to thwart any attempts by militants to disrupt the celebrations, they said.

The officials said a random search of vehicles and checking and frisking of people is being carried out at several



places across the valley, especially around the venues of the August 15 functions.

They said the main function will be held at Sher-e-Kashmir

Cricket Stadium here and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over it.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay. **More On P10**

MPs Panel Arriving In Kashmir On Four-Day Visit

Pollution Of Lakes, Waste Management Rules On Their Agenda

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: A parliamentary panel will visit Kashmir Valley on a four day tour from August 16 to look into the provisioning, procurement of machines and status of implementation of waste management rules with special reference to Swachh Bharat Mission.

The standing Rajya Sabha committee will arrive in Kashmir on a four-day study tour starting from August 16 and will look into the

provisioning, procurement of machines and status of implementation of waste management rules with special reference to Swachh Bharat Mission, reads an official communiqué, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The visiting delegation will focus on the administrative development and people's welfare under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

According to the order, the delegation is expected to visit Srinagar's Dal Lake on August 17 to bring forth the issues related with controlling pollution in the Lakes of J&K and on August 18, the delegation will arrive. **More On P10**

J&K Logs 129 New Coronavirus Cases

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as 129 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday while no virus related fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 63 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley while 66 were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the. **More On P10**



Govt To Act Against Violators Of Migrant Property Act

Dept Ordered To Develop Portal To Help KPs File Applications

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: Two days after parliament was informed that nine properties of Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir have been restored to the original owners, the Union Territory administration on Friday ordered creation of an online portal to facilitate queries and complaints by migrants about their properties.

"The department of disaster management relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction will develop an online portal for filing of applications by the migrants for correction of records/demarcation and removal of encroachments/ trespassing and alienation by way of fraud or distress, etc," reads an order issued on Friday by

Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, Shaleen Kabra.

The order also ordered that the application filed on the portal to be disposed of in a fixed time-frame under the Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011 by the Revenue authorities under intimation to the applicant.

"The competent authority (District Magistrate) shall undertake survey/ field verification of migrant properties and update all registers, within a period of 15 days and submit compliance report to the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir," reads the order.

The order also warns that any violation of the J&K Migrant Immoveable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on. **More On P10**

98,000 Kashmiri Migrants Given Domicile Certificates Till June

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: As many as 98,600 Kashmiri migrants have been issued domicile certificates till the end of June, officials said here on Friday.

Giving the breakup, officials said 90,430 domicile certificates were issued to displaced Kashmiri Pandits, while 2,340 families of displaced Kashmiri Pandits were registered as fresh migrants. Of these, 8,170 individuals received the domicile certificate.

Similarly, 2,988 families of displaced Persons of Pakistan controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcK) livings outside Jammu and Kashmir have also been registered and domicile certificate issued to them, they said.

Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner T K Bhat, who



supervised and monitored the operation of issuance of domicile certificates and fresh registration of displaced Kashmiri Pandits and those from PcK, said the process had begun in July last year.

Any Kashmiri Pandit and displaced person, who may have left Kashmir in 1944 before Independence and has proof of owning. **More On P10**



Students cross a wooden bridge to reach a community school in a remote village in Budgam district on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat



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**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

Saturday| 14-08-2021

Likes, shares encourage people to express more outrage online: Study

Agencies

A new Yale University study has shown that social media platforms can encourage users to amplify expressions of moral outrage since such language gets rewarded with an increased number of "likes" and "shares".

"Social media's incentives are changing the tone of our political conversations online," said Yale's William Brady, a postdoctoral researcher in the Yale Department of Psychology and first author of the study. He led the research with Molly Crockett, an associate professor of psychology at Yale.

The Yale team measured the expression of moral outrage on Twitter during real-life controversial events and studied the behaviours of subjects in controlled experiments designed to test whether social media's algorithms, which reward users for posting popular content, encourage outrage expressions.

"This is the first evidence that some people learn to express more outrage over time because they are rewarded by the basic design of social me-

dia," Brady said.

Moral outrage can be a strong force for societal good, motivating punishment for moral transgressions, promoting social cooperation, and spurring social change.

It also has a dark side, contributing to the harassment of minority groups, the spread of disinformation, and political polarisation, researchers said.

Social media platforms argue that they merely provide a neutral platform for conversations that would otherwise happen elsewhere.

But many have speculated that social media amplifies outrage. Hard evidence for this claim was missing, however, because measuring complex social expressions like moral outrage with precision poses a technical challenge, the researchers said.

To compile that evidence, Brady and Crockett assembled a team that built machine learning software capable of tracking moral outrage in Twitter posts.

In observational studies of 12.7 million tweets from 7,331 Twitter users, they used the software to test whether users expressed more outrage over time, and if so, why.

The team found that the incentives of social media platforms really do change how people post. Users who received more "likes" and "retweets" when they expressed outrage in a tweet were more likely to express outrage in later posts.

To back up these findings, the researchers conducted controlled behavioural experiments to demonstrate that being rewarded for expressing outrage caused users to increase their expression of outrage over time.

The results also suggested a troubling link to current debates on social media's role in political polarisation.

Brady and his colleagues found that members of politically extreme networks expressed more outrage than members of politically moderate networks. However, members of politically moderate networks were actually more influenced by social rewards.

"Our studies find that people with politically moderate friends and followers are more sensitive to social feedback that reinforces their outrage expressions," Crockett said.

"This suggests a mechanism

for how moderate groups can become politically radicalised over time -- the rewards of social media create positive feedback loops that exacerbate outrage," Crockett added.

The study did not aim to say whether amplifying moral outrage is good or bad for society, Crockett stressed.

But the findings do have implications for leaders who use the platforms and policymakers who are considering whether to regulate them.

"Amplification of moral outrage is a clear consequence of social media's business model, which optimises for user engagement," Crockett said.

"Given that moral outrage plays a crucial role in social and political change, we should be aware that tech companies, through the design of their platforms, have the ability to influence the success or failure of collective movements," Crockett explained.

"Our data show that social media platforms do not merely reflect what is happening in society. Platforms create incentives that change how users react to political events over time," Crockett concluded.

انتقال پرملا

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ محمودہ اہلیہ مرحوم غلام حسن



وادی ساکن ریڈیو کالونی نزدیک

گورنمنٹ گرلز سکول حال کھانڈے

کالونی ساؤتھ سٹی نوگام سرینگر مورخہ

13 اگست 2021ء مطابق ۳ محرم

الحرام ۱۴۴۳ھ چھ بروز جمعہ المبارک

محترم حالات کے بعد انتقال کر گئیں۔ مرحوم نیک سیرت، بلند

بخش اخلاق اور صوم و صلوات کی پابند تھیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو

جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی اُن کے

آپائی مقبرہ واقع اخراج پورہ ریڈیو کالونی سرینگر میں مورخہ

16 اگست 2021ء بروز سوموار صبح 10 بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواراں

بشارت احمد وادی (فرزند)

7889404070

اٹھیں زیندگی بااعلاش محمد شیخ لون تحصیلدار صاحب زیندگی

عنوان مضمون درخواست نازیگل ڈسٹرکٹ سب ڈیویژن تحصیلدار

ببر اعدا سب ڈیویژن EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بن خود

اشہار برادر اگلی بر خاص دعام

معاملاً مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری

حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ فتوالات ریکارڈ طلب کی گئے جس سے عہدہ ہوتا ہے کہ سائل

سائلہ وضع صیدی پورہ تحصیل زیندگی سرٹیفکیٹ دار ہے کیونکہ ہواور آمدنی

مبلغ 9000 روپے تک ہے۔ سائل کا مکان پٹواری 675 مربع فٹ ہے اور تین مکان پٹواری

902 مربع فٹ ہے کل برقیہ برآمد 1577 مربع فٹ ہے سائل کے کہنے کے پاس

کنال برقراری میں موجود ہے سائل کے کہنے میں کوئی بھی فرد کسی بھی سرکاری عہدہ میں

ملازمت نہیں کرتا ہے اور نہ ہی سائل کے کہنے کے پاس ایک لاکھ سے زیادہ آمدنی ہے اور نہ ہی

سائل کے کہنے کے پاس چالیس کنال سے زیادہ زرعی زمین موجود ہے اور نہ ہی سائل SC,

st, obc کے زمروں میں آتی ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو

کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کر کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے

کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحصیلدار زیندگی

LC

Public Notice

My name has Wrongly mentioned in HDFC insurance policy bearing policy no :- 18522993 As Mr Mohd Mochi instead of Mohd Rajab Mochi Son of Ab Kareem Mochi which needs immediate correction . If any body have any objection in this regard may contact to HDFC standard life insurance company limited Srinagar with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Name:- Mohd Rajab Mochi
S/O:- Ab Kareem mochi
R/O:- 65 Harel P/O Langate Near Masjid Sharif
P/S kralgund , District kupwara , Pin code :- 193302

sult

Public Notice

My husband's DOB has been Wrongly mentioned in his Death certificate As 01-04-1950 (71 yrs old) instead of 1/4 /1960 (61 yrs old) , as per Adhaar card, which needs immediate correction . If any body have any objection may contact to police station Qalamabad within seven days after that no objection will be accepted.

Applicant's Name:- Mugli Bagum
W/O:- Late Ali Mohd Shah
R/O:- Sharhama Lach

SULT

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UT

SHER- I- KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CIVIL

WORKS DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

N.I.T no :- SKIMS/WDB/01 Of 2021 Dated:- 09.08.2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, E-Tenders are invited from experienced Civil Contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES for the following work at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bemina, Srinagar in three covers as mentioned below:-

S. No	Name of the work	Adv. Cost	Class of Cont.	Earnest Money	Cost of T.D	Time of Completion
1	Annual maintenance contract for Civil works (Stage contract) for the year 2021-2022 upto ending March 2022	Rs 30.00 lacs.	"AAY" & "BEE"	Rs 60,000/-	Rs 1100/-	Upto ending March 2022.

The detailed tender documents consisting of Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of Terms and Conditions of contract etc and other details can be seen/ down loaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from 12.08.2021 to 20.08.2021 (4.00 PM) against tender document fee deposited upto 20.08.2021 (4.00 PM) in the shape of demand draft, pledged to Chief Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar.

Interested contractors/firms may send online E-tenders for the above work upto 20.08.2021 (4.00 P.M) along with scanned copies of following documents:-

1. Tender document fee receipt deposited upto 20.08.2021 in the shape of demand draft should be pledged to Chief Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar.
2. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR as indicated above from any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged to Chief Accounts Officer SKIMS MCH Bemina.
3. N.I.T No. & the Name of work should be reflected on the back side of Demand Draft & CDR/FDR.
4. Latest Documents viz-a viz Tin No., Pan Card No./GST No. (valid upto last date of uploading bids).
5. Valid Contractor Registration Certificate issued by the competent authority should be duly renewed for the year 2021-2022.
6. Hard copy of tender document duly signed by the bidder & on each page as an acceptance of the N.I.T conditions.
7. The mandatory documents as mentioned from S.no:- 1 to 4 are required to the necessarily uploaded within specified time or otherwise the bids shall be straightway rejected.

Hard copies of above documents original tender document fee receipt, CDR/FDR/TDR and attested copies of other documents should reach the office of the I/C Executive Engineer Civil SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina Srinagar, by 21.08.2021 upto 3.00 P.M for its securitization and reference or otherwise the bids shall not be entertained.

The Technical bid shall be opened in the Camp office of Chief Engineer SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina, on 23.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M or on any subsequent date convenient to the Chief Engineer/Tender Opening Committee.

No:- SKIMS/MCH/308/21/398-407
Dated:- 09.08.2021.

Sd/-

I/C Executive Engineer Civil
Works Division SKIMS Medical College
Hospital Bemina, Sgr.

DIPK-NB-2553/21

Office of the Chief Town Planner Town Planning Organisation Kashmir

Habitat Centre Tel: 0194-2490840

NH Bypass, Bemina Srinagar E-mail: ctp.kashmir@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

for

Selection of Consultant for

Conducting Detailed Topographical Surveys and Preparing Base Maps

for Local Area Plan (LAP) and Town Planning Scheme (TPS) in Srinagar

1. For and on the behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization, Kashmir invites Technical and Financial proposals from eligible consultants to Conduct Detailed Topographical Surveys and Preparing Base Maps for Local Area Plan (LAP) & Town Planning Scheme (TPS) areas in Srinagar Planning Area. The details on the Services are provided in the RFP document which can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f 11.08.2021.

2. The digitally signed Proposals shall be submitted through online mode no later than 10.09.2021 as per the format given in RFP.

3. A firm will be selected under Least Cost Selection (LCS) subject to meeting the minimum technical score (70) and in a proposal format as described in the RFP.

4. Bidders shall submit following documents along with their proposal:

- a. Bid Document Fee
- b. Bid Security Declaration
- c. Power of attorney for authorised representative
- d. Technical bid and forms as desired in RFP
- e. Financial bid and forms as desired in the RFP
- f. The Bid will be rejected in case the Bidder has submitted the conditional bid and/or the specifications of the terms to be supplied, are not complied with the RFP.

6. The original copies of Bid Security Declaration, Bid Document Fee, PoA of Authorised Representative etc shall be submitted as per below address by or before Due date (10-09-2021, 3:00 PM).

Address: DIPK-6554/21

Office of the Chief Town Planner,
Town Planning Organization, Kashmir
Habitat Centre, N/H Bypass, Bemina, Srinagar-190008
Tel/Fax No: 0194-2490840
Email: ctp.kashmir@gmail.com

NIT: 02/CTPK of 2021

Chief Town Planner
Town Planning Organisation Kashmir

Dated: 11.08.2021

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM (M&W) KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. DT/M and W/K/ 23 of 2021-22, Dated 12.07.2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited by Deputy Director Tourism (M&W), Kashmir on (Aggregate Percentage Basis) from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Development of Ziyarat Sharief Zain-ud-Din wail (RA) at Ladora, Baramulla. (By way of Development of Rozah & construction of 2-units bath block)	9.05	600	45-days	CEE/ DEE	PLAN
2	Development of Shiva Bhagwati Temple at Akingam, Kokernag. (By way of p/f of chain link fencing)	8.62	600	40-days	CEE/ DEE	PLAN
3	Restoration of Tourist Cafeteria at Rinji, Sopore. (By way of grill fencing and sanitary fittings)	2.95	200	20-days	DEE	PLAN
4	Providing and fixing of steel grill fencing and other allied works at Tourist Information Centre Doodkoot, Kupwara.	1.46	200	15-days	DEE	M&R

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded

Position of Funds: Committed

Special conditions:-

- I. The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.
- II. All Bidders have to upload 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)
- III. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card / PAN / GST registration and Treasury Receipt (1452-TSM Revenue Head). However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- IV. The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of Adv. cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after successful completion of work
- V. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12/08/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12/08/2021 3.00 P.M to 23/08/2021 04.00 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	12/08/2021 From 3.00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23/08/2021 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	24/08/2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Dy. Director Tourism, M&W

General Conditions:

1. The bidders will provide valid ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
2. 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 Website in o/o Dy. Director Tourism, (M&W) Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of Bids
4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
5. Bidders are advised to visit and examine the site / location of work, its surroundings and familiarize himself with existing facilities / difficulties and environment and collect all other information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid entering into the contract. Claims and objections due to ignorance of existing conditions are in-adequacy of information will not be considered after submission of the bid and during execution of work.
6. Bidders are advise to examine the departmental store before quoting the rates and ensure the condition of material available to be fixed and erected at work site any defect or damages in the material shall be rectified by the successful contractor at his own risk & cost.
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
- 7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- 7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid .
45. Schedule of payments:
- The payment schedule shall be fixed as per standard norms in accordance with specification, terms and conditions of award of contract accordingly the claim shall be prepared and processed further for technical check. Payment shall only be released as & when funds are available with DDO.
46. The tenderer should study all the terms and conditions of e-NIT in carefully and fill up the tender accordingly.

NIT No:- DT/M&W/K/ 23 /111-115/20,

Dated: 12/08/2021

DIPK-6544/21

Deputy Director Tourism
(M&W), Srinagar

(Kashmir Observer, August 14, 2000)

TALIBAN AT THE GATES: ENTER CITY 50 KM OFF KABUL

With this capture, Taliban is moving rapidly to the seat of the nation, Afghanistan's capital, Kabul.



Kabul: The Taliban captured the provincial capital of Logar province Friday, just 50 km (30 miles) from Kabul, effectively opening a path to the seat of the nation.

"Now the Taliban are 100 percent in control. There is no fighting at the moment. Most of the officials fled to Kabul," lawmaker Saeed Qaribullah Sadat told AFP.

Kabul evacuations: Echoes of 1975 US exit from Vietnam's Saigon?

Thousands of US soldiers being sent to Afghanistan to evacuate embassy staff from Kabul as the Taliban pushes towards the city has revived memories of the fall of Saigon.

A photo that immortalised America's defeat in Vietnam, showing evacuees boarding a helicopter on the roof of a building, spread fast on social networks after the US announced the emergency deployment on Thursday.

"The latest news of a further drawdown at our embassy and a hasty deployment of military forces seem like preparations for the fall of Kabul," leading Republican legis-

lator Mitch McConnell said.

"President (Joe) Biden's decisions have us hurtling toward an even worse sequel to the humiliating fall of Saigon in 1975."

Back in June, as the Taliban advance built momentum, Biden himself addressed the Saigon parallels and dismissed them out of hand.

"There's going to be no circumstance where you'll see people being lifted off the roof of an embassy of the United States from Afghanistan," he said.

The same month, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley also rejected comparisons to the desperate exit from

Saigon.

"I do not see that unfolding," Milley said.

"I may be wrong, who knows, you can't predict the future, but I don't see Saigon 1975 in Afghanistan. The Taliban just aren't the North Vietnamese Army. It's not that kind of situation."

Since then, the Taliban's lightning-fast offensive has surprised many US military officials.

"Not walking away"

To carry out the evacuation of American staff from its embassy in Kabul, 3,000 US troops will secure the airport, 1,000 will be sent to Qatar for technical and logistical

support, while 3,500 to 4,000 will be positioned in Kuwait on standby to deploy if needed.

On Thursday, US officials scrambled to answer questions about the mission, with Pentagon spokesman John Kirby declining to describe it as a "NOE" (Noncombatant Evacuation Operation).

He indicated it had no name, and avoided talking about evacuations.

The most famous NOE mission was Operation Frequent Wind, during which more than 7,000 Vietnamese civilians were evacuated from Saigon on April 29 and 30, 1975 by helicopter.

Asked about the image of Ameri-

can diplomats departing under military protection and the inevitable comparisons with the fall of Saigon, Kirby tried to underline the differences.

"We are not completely eliminating our diplomatic presence on the ground," he said.

"Nobody is abandoning Afghanistan, it's not walking away from it. It's doing the right thing at the right time to protect our people."

The Taliban on Friday captured Afghanistan's second city Kandahar, capping an eight-day blitz that has left only the capital and pockets of other territories in government hands.

❗❗❗ MAY BE WRONG, WHO KNOWS, YOU can't predict the future, but I don't see Saigon 1975 in Afghanistan. The Taliban just aren't the North Vietnamese Army. It's not that kind of situation."

Pakistani forces clash with Afghan protesters at border crossing



PAKISTANI SOLDIERS STAND GUARD IN FRONT of people waiting to cross at the Friendship Gate crossing point in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border town of Chaman, Pakistan [Abdul Khaliq Achakzai/Reuters]

Agencies

Pakistani forces have clashed with hundreds of Afghans stranded on Pakistan's side of a commercially vital border crossing with Afghanistan after its closure by the Taliban, Pakistani security officials say. The disturbances broke out on Thursday after a 56-year-old Afghan traveller died of a heart attack as he waited in the dusty heat to enter Afghanistan via the Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing, Arif Kakar, a Pakistani official on the scene, told Reuters news agency.

Protesters carried his body to a local Pakistani government office demanding the border be reopened. Some began throwing stones at security forces, who responded by firing tear gas and charging the protesters with batons to disperse them. No inju-

ries were reported.

The Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing is landlocked Afghanistan's second busiest entry point and main commercial artery to the Pakistani seacoast.

The Taliban, which captured the crossing last month as part of a major advance across Afghanistan as US-led foreign forces withdraw, announced its closure on August 6 in protest at a Pakistani decision to end visa-free travel for Afghans.

The Taliban is demanding Pakistan allow Afghans to cross the frontier with either an Afghan ID card or a Pakistani-issued refugee registration card.

Taliban fighters have rapidly taken territory from the Kabul government in recent weeks, including important border crossings with Iran and Central Asian countries that now provide significant customs revenue for the group.

Some 900 trucks went through the Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing daily before the Taliban seized it.

Opening the border with Pakistan for visa-free travel would not only help the Taliban curry favour from Afghans but also shore up a route to areas of Pakistan that have housed Taliban fighters and some commanders.

Pakistan and the Taliban long maintained good relations though Islamabad says this ended after the 2001 United States-led invasion of Afghanistan that removed the group from power for having sheltered al-Qaeda fighters who carried out the September 11 attacks on the US.

Western capitals and the Kabul government say Pakistani support to the Taliban continues and many of its leaders enjoy safe havens in the country, an allegation Islamabad denies.

Taliban captures Afghan commander Ismail Khan after fall of Herat

Agencies

The Taliban has captured Ismail Khan – the prominent local commander who fought on behalf of the Afghan government in the city of Herat. Khan, who was one of the highest profile commanders fighting for the Afghan government, was handed over with the provincial governor and security officials as part of an agreement with the Taliban, said provincial council member Ghulam Habib Hashimi on Friday, according to Reuters news agency. He gave no further details of the agreement. Khan's capture, which was later confirmed by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, comes amid an offensive that has seen 18 provincial capitals fall from government control in just over a week.

Taliban fighters entered the city of Herat, a major urban centre in Afghanistan's west near the border of Iran and the country's third most populous city, on Thursday.

Photos and videos showing Khan, believed to be in his 70s, apparently in the hands of Taliban fighters, were widely shared on social media, although they could not immediately be verified.

A spokesman for Khan later told AFP news agency the commander had been allowed to return to his residence following negotiations with the Taliban.

Khan is widely known as the "Lion of Herat", with his involvement in the country's wars

Afghan government forces had agreed to withdraw from Herat airport, 15km (nine miles) from the city, and the Army Corps commander's headquarters, the last centres under their control.

However, other sources said Afghan forces were still at the



stretching back to the anti-government uprising that helped trigger the 1979 Soviet intervention, which he fought against throughout the 1980s.

His return to the front lines in July was a clear sign of the growing threat to the city, and his fighters had been credited with blunting the advance of the Taliban. One official told Reuters that

airport as of 1pm local time (08:30 GMT) on Friday.

"The Taliban agreed that they will not pose any threat or harm to the government officials who surrendered," said Hashimi.

He added the city had become a "ghost town" amid the fighting. "Families have either left or are hiding in their houses," said Hashimi.

Bangladesh migrants flee rising seas only to die in factory fires

Agencies

When 15-year-old Tarek Zia left his home on Bangladesh's coast in June and travelled 150km (93 miles) to work at a food-processing factory in Dhaka, he was filled with hope. The extra money felt like a godsend after the loss of his father's precious farmland over the years to river erosion and an ever-encroaching shoreline.

But a month later, a massive fire raged through the six-storey building where Zia worked, killing him along with more than 50 others.

Officials said the factory had been built without permission and lacked adequate safety measures, such as emergency fire exits.

Zia's charred body was handed over to his family last week after a DNA test confirmed his identity.

"My son went to work because school was closed due to the pandemic and he wanted to support us

... but fate had other plans," said Zia's father Abul Bashar, who lives on an island in Hatia in southeast Bangladesh.

"Four years ago we had land where we could grow vegetables and daal (lentils). But we lost that to river erosion and now we are back to zero ... we moved our house away from the river a few years ago but today the river is right next to us once again."

Zia was not the only victim of the July 8 tragedy to have been driven out of his rural home by the worsening effects of the climate crisis to search for work in the capital.

Family members of four of the 10 victims of the factory fire who spoke to the Thomson Reuters Foundation said their livelihoods had also been hit by river erosion and floods. As a low-lying country crisscrossed with rivers, Bangladesh has always been susceptible to rising seas. The country of 160 million people is one of the nations

most at risk from rising global temperatures, with melting glaciers in the Himalayas to the north posing a particular risk to the crops, fields and homes downstream.

Migration to escape rising sea waters in Bangladesh's coastal regions is set to accelerate in coming years, and according to international scientific group, the American Geophysical Union, could affect 1.3 million Bangladeshis by 2050.

"Migration takes place because of many reasons and climate change-induced extreme events is one of them," said Atiq Rahman, a climate researcher who heads the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

"Thousands of people move from rural areas to cities after floods, increase in salinity or when their land goes underwater because that's their main source of earning. But when they go to a new place, they lack the skills to get decent jobs," he added.

Dhaka, the capital with the highest number of jobs, is the most popular destination. Yet it is also the fourth least liveable city in the world, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's 2021 Global Liveability Index.

To manage future migration flows will require creating job opportunities away from overcrowded cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, with their poor sanitation and inadequate housing, and equipping other towns to receive climate refugees.

"We are working on promoting this ... and have identified about 20 towns that can absorb climate migrants of the future, so that they don't end up in the slums of Dhaka," said Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development.

Rahman stressed the need for a system to identify climate migrants, track their movements and problems, and form strategies to assist them.

SPOTLIGHT

SAUDI ARABIA'S SOCIAL REVOLUTION ARRIVES AT RIYADH DINING TABLES

Saudi Arabia's transformation under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is well documented, as is his increasingly authoritarian leadership that's at times drawn international condemnation.

David Burke's staff are busy putting up blue and green balloons. The places are set, glasses polished, and candles lit. Music from The Godfather plays in the background.

If this were Dubai, London or Singapore, it might barely raise an eyebrow. But this is Riyadh, tradi-

allows gender mixing is now playing out at the dining table in Riyadh, albeit without alcohol.

The city was used to Lebanese and the occasional Italian fare complemented by "Saudi champagne"-fizzy water and apple juice. It's now an array of colorful mocktails and imported meats, pomegranate

is under 40. It was almost non-existent when Prince Mohammed, 35, launched his plan to diversify the economy away from oil in 2016. The de-facto ruler's "Vision 2030" aims to increase household spending on cultural and entertainment activities to 6% by that year from 2.9% when the project was unveiled.

Local coffee brands as well as fast, casual outlets are helping drive the change, said Alexis Marcoux-Varvatsoulis, who leads JLL's food service consulting division for the region. More than 90% of Riyadh's 7.8 million population eats out at least once a week, according to research by the firm, which specializes in real estate and investment management. At the moment, the average monthly spend on eating out in a restaurant or ordering for delivery is 1,330 Saudi riyals (\$355), it found. And it's not just new food, but who is serving it. Women now work as hostesses, waitresses and



tionally the most conservative of Saudi Arabia's big cities and gastronomically what arguably used to be its duller. A few years ago, it would have been inconceivable that the American celebrity chef would open a restaurant here, let alone his second one in less than a year.

"Being part of something unique and new is more interesting than being in a chic city like Dubai," Burke, 59, said on Aug. 4 as he opened his doors with a launch party-replete with DJ and percussionist-followed by two days of five-course gala dinners. It gives him the ability to grow without much international competition, he said. "We're on the ground floor. Saudi Arabia's transformation under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is well documented, as is his increasingly authoritarian leadership that's at times drawn international condemnation. But a social revolution that promotes going out to concerts and movies and

studded cakes and specialty coffees. There's even briskets and babkas. As one cafe manager put it: Most people don't know they're part of traditional Jewish cuisine, and even if they did, many won't care in the new Saudi Arabia. At a cafe farther north, Afra, a 28-year-old who works in customer care, was eager to try her first babka, a chocolate one laced with a mix of dried thyme and sesame that a friend had recommended with her flat white coffee. "There's so much choice these days we're at a loss where to go," she said.

Burke's second restaurant is the latest addition to a wide variety of eateries at The Zone, a large walkway off a busy Riyadh highway with a dancing fountain. The menu includes baby octopus, Mediterranean branzino and lamb chops.

This expansion of tastes is crucial to building the kingdom's entertainment industry in a nation where about 70% of the population



baristas, a huge change from the days restaurants were required to post a sign saying female diners were not allowed in without a male guardian. "I love working in this industry," said Noura, a 29-year-old Saudi waitress who's finishing up a degree in psychology. Dressed in a white shirt and a blue apron over black leggings, with her black hair pulled into a bun, she admits she's heard a couple of negative remarks from diners who disapprove of her attire and job. "May Allah guide you," one said.

rots hangs over royal blue and emerald green chairs. Black plates are stacked over white plates at the buffet. Male and female staffers mix freely. As waiters fluffed up cushions on the terrace, 33-year-old fashion designer Anfal stopped by to check it out. Although she prefers Japanese food, she is happy Riyadh is becoming a destination for global cuisine. "I used to drive a long way to find a Japanese restaurant," she said. "Now you can find a couple in many neighborhoods."

Govt Approves Issuance Of Nominee Policy For AePDS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has accorded sanction to issuance of Nominee Policy for Aadhaar Enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS). The Nominee Policy for AePDS has been approved by the government for the benefit of old, sick, disabled and minor rationees as part of its people friendly interventions and reforms.

According to an order issued here by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in this regard, the department has provided ration card nominee facility to the consumers who were facing difficulties in lifting their ration due to certain unavoidable reasons. The policy shall allow such beneficiaries to draw rations, who are not able to lift their entitled commodities physically, by nominat-

ing one person who may lift the commodity on behalf of such consumers (nominating beneficiaries) as per the given guidelines.

The order added that in order to designate a person as nominee, the beneficiary shall have to fill a nomination form wherein he/she will have to specify some important details.

In addition, any change of nomination under a specific request of the beneficiary and on the justification of the concerned Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs shall be considered by the respective Director. Both the Directors shall put an arrangement in place, to carry out physical verification of 5% of the persons falling within the ambit of Nominee Policy and reports shall be submitted to the Administrative Department after every quarter.

Protests In Rajouri After Grenade Hurled On BJP Leader's House

Agencies

JAMMU: A shutdown was observed in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri town on Friday to protest the attack on a BJP leader's house last night that left a three-year-old boy dead and six other people injured.

Scores of people, some of them BJP workers, also took out a protest rally denouncing the attack. They raised anti-Pakistan slogans.

Seven members of BJP leader Jasbir Singh's family were injured after suspected terrorists lobbed a grenade at his house in Rajouri district's Khandli area on Thursday night. The grenade exploded

on the rooftop, police said.

The three-year-old boy, Veer, who was among the injured, died during treatment at the government medical college hospital in Rajouri around midnight, sources said.

All shops were shut and there was no traffic on roads on Friday in Rajouri town.

Agitators blocked a highway on a call by the Sanatan Dharam Sabha, but police managed to prevent them from going too far ahead.

Protesters blamed chinks in the security apparatus for the attack. They said militants are roaming freely and attacking BJP leaders with grenades.



Paramilitary CRPF Personnel take position as gunfight raged between militants and government forces in Mir Bazar area of Kulgam district.KO Photo Abid Bhat

Unemployment, Unemployability Plaguing J&K: NC

Observer News Service

MATHWAR: Describing unemployment and unemployability as two major issues plaguing Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana Friday sought a clear cut roadmap for tackling these concerns as youth were finding themselves in a situation of despair and hopelessness.

"Not only educated but skilled and unskilled youth are grappling with unemployment due to multiple reasons like economic slowdown, pandemic lockdown but essentially the avenues are very limited in Jammu and Kashmir, which is lacking corporate and industrial sectors and hence dependence on the government sector is more," Rana said in a

statement.

The Provincial President said unemployability has restricted the scope for skilled and unskilled workforce as also technocrats, who have nowhere to go. Continued unemployment has brought despondency among them and they are genuinely feeling pushed to the wall, he said while urging the administration to focus towards this end since the future of lakhs of youth is in jeopardy.

He recalled how the innovative measures like Udaan, Himayat and SKEWPY initiated had brought about a discernible change in the employment sector years ago but skipping these proved detrimental for the careers of enterprising youth. He said the experiment had worked well, as motivated youth had sig-

nificantly succeeded in generating employment and establishing entrepreneurship in a place where white collar jobs alone had been a culture.

Rana also made a passionate appeal to the government for expediting recruitment process to a whopping number of vacancies available in various government departments, saying this will address the major concern of the educated unemployed particularly those nearing overage. He also stressed the need for launching special drives in police and other forces to create opportunities for the desirous youth of the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the unemployment problem cannot be put under the carpet for a long time keeping in view the frustration gripping the youth.

Congress Expresses Concerns Over Deteriorating Security Situation In J&K

Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Friday expressed concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the union territory, saying incidents of selective killings and infiltration are rising, and demanded that the Home Ministry wake up to the situation.

"There are serious concerns over the rising incidents of selective targeting by terrorists and the series of militant activities. The Home Ministry has failed to bring the security situation under control and eliminate militancy, as was being claimed," J&K

Pradesh Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma told reporters here.

Flanked by former minister Raman Bhalla, Sharma also expressed grave concerns over the rising graph of militancy and infiltration in various parts, especially the Sunderbani-Nowshera areas of Rajouri district.

"There is a big conspiracy to revive militancy in the Rajouri-Poonch border belt. We demand that the Union Home Ministry wake up to the situation," the former legislator said.

Sharma alleged that BJP leaders simply blame past governments after any barbaric incident

but that is not enough as decisive actions are needed.

"The responsibility lies fully on the central government now to ensure the safety of the people and to eliminate terrorism, for which Congress party is fully behind the government and our forces and the police," he added.

Bhalla strongly condemned the killing of a three-year-old boy in Rajouri district on Thursday night. He said the recent killings have proved that the situation is not under control, and senior BJP leaders and Union ministers cannot divert attention by simply blaming the erstwhile governments and opposition parties.

Singh Visits Registration Camp For Kashmiri Migrants

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Friday visited Resident Commission, Jammu and Kashmir House in New Delhi to inspect and review the status of ongoing 4-day camp organized by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Jammu, for registration and issuance of Domicile certificates to Kashmiri Migrants residing at Delhi and adjoining areas outside Jammu and Kashmir.

During the camp, about 115

new registrations and 721 Domicile certificates have been issued besides completion of KYC in respect of 400 souls of the community.

MoS expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made during the camp by the Resident Commissioner, New Delhi and Relief Commissioner (M), Jammu. MoS, while interacting with the Kashmiri Migrants, assured them that such camps shall be organized on regular basis in future so as to cover all the eligible inhabitants of the community under different government schemes.

Government Constitutes Quality Control Council

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant development and addressing a long pending demand, the Government of the UT of J&K has constituted a Quality Control Council under the Quality Control Act 1978.

The Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir has been nominated as the Chairman while Director Handicrafts & Handloom Jammu, Managing Director J&K Handloom & Handicrafts Corporation, Director Craft Development Institute, Director Indian Institute of Carpet Technology has been nomi-

non official members.

The council is expected to take all measures to strengthen the GI.

Under the supervision of the council frequent market checking will be conducted and all those elements will be heavily penalized who will be found selling fake craft items or passing on the machine made items in place of the hand made ones.

As many as 27 Crafts that are practiced in the UT including Silver ware, willow wicker, copperware, Bamboo craft, Phoolkari, have been placed in the notified Handicrafts Category.

The constitution of the qual-



nated as official members.

The notification assumes significance as for the first time President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, President Confederation of Chamber of Industry Jammu, President Tahfuz Society and President Meeras Society have been nominated as

ity control council was a long pending demand of the stakeholders as implementation of the same will safeguard their interests and will help in curbing the menace of passing on the fake craft items in place of the genuine ones. The council is expected to meet shortly.

I-Day: Full Dress Rehearsals Held Across Kashmir

Div Com Takes Salute At March Past In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The full dress rehearsal for the 75th Independence Day parade, on Friday, concluded successfully across all the districts of Kashmir, on Sunday.

In Srinagar, the full dress rehearsal was held at S.K Stadium where Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole hoisted the tricolour and took salute at the March-past. In an open jeep, the Div Com also inspected the parade on the occasion. The contingents that participated in the March past parade included Police, CRPF, SSB, JKAP, BSF, IRP, lady contingent, SDRF, F&ES and FPF.

On the occasion, a variety of cultural programmes were presented

by both male and female artists, enthralling guests and audience with their colourful performances in different languages.

A group of students who have won the National Anthem singing competition at district level also performed and sang the national anthem on the occasion, before a band performance.

Among others, DC Srinagar and various senior civil administration and police officers were present on the occasion. Full dress rehearsals were also held at Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara, Karnah, Langate and Bandipora.

DIC Kupwara Holds IEC Campaign

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The District Information Centre (DIC) Kupwara Friday conducted loudspeaker announcements through vehicle and held pamphlet distribution campaign at various Jamia Masjid of Kupwara town.

On the occasion, pamphlets were distributed among general public, shopkeepers, commuters and pedestrians. The campaign was aimed at to disseminate awareness regarding implementation of COVID appropriate behaviour (CAB).

The pamphlet invites the attention of the public that the COVID pandemic has not culminated yet; the COVID positive cases are still being registered by health department. As such, people were requested to avoid participation in congested places and markets. Ensure usage of masks and maintain hand hygiene and social distancing.

Through the pamphlet,

people were also requested to implement CAB and other SOPs religiously and ensure vaccina-



tion for themselves voluntarily at nearby Health Care centres which is a free facility from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT.

'Fit India Freedom Run' Flagged-Off In Shopian

SHOPIAN: The District Magistrate (DM), Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Friday flagged-off 'Fit India Freedom Run' under the aegis of Fit India Movement to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.

The event was organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian in which District Information Centre Shopian, Education Department and other departmental officials participated.

Speaking on the occasion, The District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Gurmukh Singh Dutta said that the main aim

of organizing such events is to engage youth in sports activities to keep them physically and mentally fit. Dutta also highlighted the initiatives taken by District Administration to give flip to sports activities by involving youth in large numbers so that they can get rid of negative thoughts and channelize their energy in a proper way.

He further added that such programs will be conducted in future also to encourage the youth of the district and also highlighted the importance of physical and mental fitness in the development of a healthy society.

DIPR Jammu Holds Sanitation Drive

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Joint Directorate of Information and Public Relations Friday held a sanitation and cleanliness drive in office premises. The officers and officials of the Information department participated in the cleanliness drive and the entire office was cleaned.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director Information (PR) Jammu, Gul Hussain Kraipak said that the cleanliness drive was launched to keep the office complex and its surroundings neat and clean amid the Corona pandemic. He underlined the need to give cleanliness first priority and consider it the responsibility of every individual. "We should ensure to maintain cleanliness

not only in our houses but also in areas around us" he urged. He added that cleanliness helps us in fighting several diseases as well. Cultural Officer Parul Khajuria, Shushank Padha (Editor) besides officials of the department were present.



Dulloo Reviews Implementation Of ECRP-II, Oxygen Generation Plants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, Friday impressed upon the officers to gear up their efforts and utilise all the available resources under ECRP to mitigate the impact of possible third wave of COVID-19.

He directed the officers to utilise the resources available under Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP) effectively so that the health infrastructure is revamped across Jammu and Kashmir to its maximum potential.

He chaired a high level meeting to review the status of implementation of 'Emergency COVID-19 Response Package (ECRP)- II & Oxygen Generation Plants under PM cares Fund at Civil Secretariat here.

While highlighting that there is a need to upgrade paediatric health care, Atal Dulloo stressed upon the officers that oxygen supported Paediatric Wards, Paediatric ICUs, Maternity ICUs and Hybrid wards should be made functional in all District Hospitals & Associated Hospitals

of New Medical Colleges at the earliest.

He asked the Principals of Govt Medical Colleges Jammu & Srinagar to establish the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics one each at Jammu and Srinagar at earliest for the advanced medical care facilities.

While reviewing other infrastructural facilities related to COVID-19, Atal Dulloo directed the officers that the additional 10 RTPCR testing labs and 2 Mobile Testing Vans should be established so that the testing capacity is increased across J&K.

Additional Chief Secretary also directed the concerned officers that retrofitting of additional ambulances should be done for which Director Health Services Jammu & Kashmir were asked to identify the ambulances.

Highlighting the need of capacity building and training of health workers, the Mission Director, NHM was asked to start fellowship training programmes for the doctors of the J&K in collaboration with PGI Chandigarh and AIIMS, New Delhi.

Mission Director, NHM, Yasin Choudhary gave a detailed

presentation on COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package Phase-II.

Progress and status of installation of Oxygen Generation Plants approved under PM Cares Fund was also reviewed in the meeting.

Atal Dulloo directed the Chief Engineers MED of both divisions to complete the process of installation of all approved Oxygen Generation plants at an earliest and take measure on war footing for establishment of new Liquid Medical Oxygen plants.

Director SKIMS, Soura, Principal GMC Srinagar, Principal GMC Jammu, Managing Director, JK Medical Supplies Corporation, Director Health Services Jammu, Director Health Services Kashmir, Chief Engineer, MED Kashmir, Chief Engineer MED, Jammu, Principals of newly established Medical Colleges of Anantnag, Baramulla, Doda, Rajouri, Kathua and Doda, CMOs of all districts, Medical Superintendents of all district hospitals and other concerned officials participated in the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

Minor Reshuffle In J&K Civil Admin

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government Friday ordered transfers and postings in the civil administration.

As per an order issued by the General Administration Department, Smita Sethi, JKAS officer,

Director, Social Welfare, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, SIDCO. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, SICOP, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Besides, Atul Sharma, Managing Director, SICOP, holding additional charge of Managing Director, SIDCO, has been transferred and posted as Secretary/CEO, KVIB against an available vacancy.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Under the fantasy that it could somehow trigger a larger war between the US and Iran which would shut down Iran's nuclear program once and for all, while also starving Hezbollah of the funding provided by Iran that underwrites much of that organization's activities

Elusive Order

It is difficult to predict how the situation would evolve going forward. For now, a sense of resignation has set in

Riyaz Wani

What form this alienation takes place in the months or years ahead as New Delhi goes about easing the lockdown is difficult to tell. But one thing is sure, it would be long before Kashmir even starts coming to terms with the loss

Two years after the withdrawal of J&K's special status, Kashmir is far from coming to terms with the unprecedented move. On the day of its second anniversary, 5 August, this was evident. While the BJP held rallies across J&K, including across the country, the other parties acted as mute spectators. The people in the Valley were completely indifferent, so was a significant section of the population in Ladakh and Jammu division, now sobered by the state of affairs over the last two years. It is difficult to predict how the situation would evolve going forward. For now, a sense of resignation has set in. Though a large majority in the former state seethes at the 5 August decisions, they have stayed short of expressing their anger. The reality as of now is that the Valley has, by and large, witnessed an uneasy calm since August 2019. Protests and for that matter even stone pelting has abated. But there is no peace in the true sense of the term. Nor is there a normal political and social life. Kashmir still has nothing remotely resembling a working political and social structure - other than a few new ones believed to have been forged by New Delhi - that could either articulate the sentiment of their people or formulate a response to the current crisis. And there is little hope that things would redeem on this score in the near future. It is unlikely that the region would be allowed to have normal political and civil society activity anytime soon. What is more, over the last two years, the centre has embarked on far-reaching measures that seek to build upon the August 5 move to remake Kashmir. New Delhi has already issued new domicile rules for Kashmir that have thrown Kashmir open for settlement by outsiders. According to the rules, anyone who has been a resident of Kashmir for 15 years will get the residency rights. The law applies retrospectively. For central government officials, the period is 10 years and for students it is just seven years. And now even the spouses of the J&K women married outside are entitled to a domicile certificate. People can apply for these certificates online and the official charged with granting them has to do so within a fortnight, failing which he will be fined Rs 50000. This leaves little space for investigation of the documents of the applicants. Even the original residents of J&K have to apply for domicile certificates, putting them on par with the outsiders. Under the Control of Buildings Operations Act and Development Act any area can be notified as a "strategic area". The Army can now acquire land in the former state without a 'no objection certificate'. Scores of the other laws have been issued that are geared to remake the former state and so far the project has succeeded to a large extent. Where does Kashmir go from here? Nowhere in the near term. The last two years have witnessed little change in the ground situation in Kashmir, other than the one enforced through application of a stronger government hand. There is no let-up in the centre's efforts to control and micro-manage things in the Valley and recast it in its ideological image. But despite bringing to bear all its might on the region, New Delhi seems nowhere near pacifying Kashmir, the alleged grand objective of the withdrawal of Article 370. The militancy related violence has only spiked. According to the data, last year over two hundred militants lost their lives. Though the public protests and stone pelting have temporarily disappeared, this is due more to extraordinarily harsh oversight of the former state by the security agencies than to any reconciliation among the people. The reality is that the two years on from the loss of autonomy, Kashmir is more alienated from New Delhi than perhaps ever in the past. This is why the space for pro-India politics has drastically shrunk, one indicator of it is the endemic support for China's recent incursions in Ladakh, something Kashmiris assume might help dissuade or delay New Delhi's pursuit of its alleged ideological designs in the region. What form this alienation takes place in the months or years ahead as New Delhi goes about easing the lockdown is difficult to tell. But one thing is sure, it would be long before Kashmir even starts coming to terms with the loss of the August 5 move. The day for them is no longer only about the loss of autonomy in a literal sense, it has now taken on a larger psychological dimension: it is also about political disempowerment. Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is the Politics Editor at Kashmir Observer



Israel-Lebanon Escalation

Scott Ritter

Israel has started talking tough about going to war with Iran. Then Hezbollah sent a reality check. 2006 will forever haunt Israel as it confronts the fact that, when push comes to shove, it's not as capable as it claims to be. Israel has been waging a covert war against Iranian shipping for months now, conducting more than a dozen attacks on Iranian vessels over the course of the past few years. The attacks appear to be targeted against vessels delivering oil to Syria in violation of US and international sanctions. During this time, there have been similarly mysterious attacks against Israeli-owned shipping. While Iran has officially denied any role in such attacks, it is believed that they are part of a program of retaliation against Israel for its attacks on Iranian shipping. The most recent incident of suspected Iranian retaliation took place on July 31 against the Mercer Street, an Israeli-owned, Liberian-flagged oil tanker transiting the Gulf of Oman. The drone attack, which killed two crewmembers, was immediately condemned by the US, UK, and Israel. While no physical evidence has been presented to sustain the allegation, the US Navy has claimed that the attack was conducted by Iran using a so-called 'suicide-drone' that was deliberately flown into the vessel. The Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pulled no punches in casting the blame on Iran. "I declare unequivocally: Iran is the one that carried out the attack on the ship," he said, adding that Israel had its "own way to relay the message to Iran." Tehran immediately responded by threatening to shut down the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping should it be attacked.

The Israeli muscle-flexing comes at a time when CIA Director William Burns is in Israel for meetings with his Mossad counterpart, David Barnea. Iran is expected to top the agenda, but not in the way Israel would like. Rather than pushing for greater confrontation and containment, Burns is expected to try to sell the Iranians on the merits of a new approach by the Biden administration to breathe life into stalled negotiations concerning the US re-entry into the Iran nuclear deal. Burns' meeting comes on the heels of statements by Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz labeling Iran as a threat to Israel, the Middle East, and the entire world. "Iran seeks to pose a multi-front challenge to Israel, as such is building up its forces in Lebanon and Gaza, deploying militias in Syria and Iraq and maintaining its supporters in Yemen," he told the Israeli YNet. "Iran is a global and regional problem and an Israeli challenge" that Gantz said Israel was ready to go to war to deal with. As if to drive home Gantz's point, the very first meetings between Iran's newly sworn in President Ebrahim Raisi were with representatives from both Hamas and Hezbollah, a clear signal what the foreign policy priorities were for the incoming administration. But the biggest shock to Gantz and Bennett apparently came when Hezbollah responded to an Israeli air attack on targets inside southern Lebanon. Israel

had been trading artillery fire with unidentified militants in southern Lebanon who had fired three rockets into northern Israel (Gantz stated that he believed the rockets were fired by an unidentified Palestinian group.) While Hezbollah had denied it had anything to do with these attacks, the Israeli airstrikes appeared to target known Hezbollah military sites in southern Lebanon. Such strikes had long been seen as a red line by Hezbollah, and Israel's resumption of this tactic drew an unexpected response in the form of a dozen unguided artillery rockets fired into northern Israel which Hezbollah not only took responsibility for, but also used as a point of emphasis that any future Israeli airstrike would be met in kind. Indeed, in a speech marking the 15th anniversary of the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah Movement, declared that Hezbollah's "victory" in that conflict, which saw thousands of Hezbollah rockets strike Israel over the course of the 33-day conflict, had created a de facto "2006 deterrence" which compelled Israel to cease its aerial bombardment of Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Nasrallah declared that the aim of Hezbollah's retaliatory attacks was to reimpose the 15-year status quo, warning that any future airstrike by Israel in any area

in Lebanon would be met with the appropriate response. Israel appeared to get the message, limiting its response to an artillery barrage deliberately targeting an empty field (the Hezbollah rockets had likewise been deliberately targeted at empty terrain inside Israel, the goal being to send a message, not inflict casualties.) An Israeli military spokesperson told reporters that Israel has "no intention of going to war," noting that Hezbollah had intentionally fired the rockets at open areas. In an interesting play on words, the Israeli spokesperson declared that "The incident shows Hezbollah is deterred, as it fired at open areas." What the spokesperson didn't say, but which was obvious to all, was that, using this same formulation, it was Israel that was deterred, since the artillery shells it fired into Lebanon were likewise fired into empty fields. While Israel and Hezbollah were exchanging artillery and rocket fire, the commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, Major General Hossein Salami, met in Tehran with Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, Naim Qassem. Salami stated that the Hezbollah rocket attack was a clear message to PM Bennett: "Israel does not set the agenda in the region." The fact that an Iranian general, and not a Hezbollah official, spoke about a Hezbollah military action was

a clear sign to the Israelis that Iran and Hezbollah were interlinked, and that an attack against one would be considered an attack against both. Israel has been laboring for some time under the fantasy that it could somehow trigger a larger war between the US and Iran which would shut down Iran's nuclear program once and for all, while also starving Hezbollah of the funding provided by Iran that underwrites much of that organization's activities. By involving the US, Israel hoped that US military power would help blunt any Iranian retaliation targeting Israel, and whatever Iranian missiles that were able to be fired would be intercepted by Israel's air defense systems. The wild card in this calculation has been Hezbollah, which since 2006 has acquired an arsenal of precision guided rockets and missiles which would devastate Israel economically, militarily, and politically. Israel currently has no response to this Hezbollah arsenal, despite having waged an open war on Iranian support to Hezbollah in Syria and on the open seas. Hezbollah's rocket attacks on northern Israel did far more than reestablish the principles of the "2006 deterrence"; it put a marker down that this deterrence extended to any regional conflict involving Iran. For the moment, the situation appears to be calm on the Israeli-Lebanese border. Hezbollah's deterrence may serve to prevent a broader regional conflict. But nothing, it seems, can stop the ongoing war in the shadows between Israel and Iran over the future of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

RT



It is noteworthy to applaud the efforts of Choppans and Bakkerwals who were constructing a small beautiful mosque there. One is tempted to spend the rest of his life there. The ambience looked so heavenly. We were touched by the hospitality of these generous people who offered us water and tea

KOUNSARNAG: The Sublime Beauty!

Riyaz Kazmi

In kashmir,Trekking has become ubiquitous and the latest fad among youngsters.They have evinced their keen interest and readiness to visit there.Having heard or seen its breathtaking visuals, anyone can fall for it.

Among the most sought after adventure destinations,this place has also got the highest footfalls. For me, it has been long overdue in my bucket list.

Kounsarnag is a high attitude oligotrophic lake located at an elevation of 3850 Mtrs above sea level. Trekkers have to foot a debatable to and fro distance of 34 Kms to 37 kms from Aharabal via Sekijan or Kongwattan.Both these routes finally merge at Mahinag.Kounsarnag,represents nature's rich tapestry.It is swathed by snow capped mountains of Pir Panjal range in the district Kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir.The pure and pristine lake is ice cold and crystal clear in appearance.Its dimensions approximately 3 km length and half a mile width makes it conspicuous and majestic. Its mesmerizing beauty is distinct which makes it a dream destination for the intrepid trekkers and nature lovers.

As they say,be patient as the best things take time to happen.One should wait for the appropriate opportunity and time.I felt an unfamiliar thrill when I came to know that AJKMF (All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation) is planning a day trip to Kounsarnag. I was anxiously looking forward to this day.I was excited but at the same time felt uneasy when many experienced trekkers told me that it's going to be a daring and daunting task. Out of sheer excitement,I kept my fingers crossed.

AJKMF is one of the fastest growing clubs in the Kashmir Valley.It has carved out a niche and name for itself. The best thing about this club is that they plan treks very meticulously. They are very professional when it comes to the success and safety of others. Nothing is being done out of impulsiveness. Each trek is planned keeping in consideration many factors and the fitness level of the trekkers.

It behooves us to understand and respect the dynamics of nature.The weather vagaries can sometimes be cruel. The forecast was carefully analysed and luckily Sunday-18th July 2021,was the only day before Eid Ul Adha when weather was predicted to be very pleasant.On this beautiful day,we time boxed the day schedule.I was picked up at around 4.45 am from Aali Masjid,EidGah. The levels of excitement were palpable.I was surprised to find one person dressed in an operation theater uniform.The frazzled medico had just finished his shift and was with us to slog for this adventure.

We felt a breath of fresh air when we reached Aharbal at around 7a.m.I was in awe to see the beauty of gushing waterfall and enchanting wilderness around it.I felt short of words to praise our own Niagara Falls.We quickly backpacked our way towards the serpentine trail.The weather was balmy. The cool breeze swayed our body and soul.The savage and serene settings of nature are beyond our comprehension.

Only hands of God can create such wonders.We felt as if it's a veritable piece of paradise when we had a first glimpse at the milky water stream trickling down beneath the wooden bridge at 'Gaorwattan.To the right side of Gaorwattan, the river Vishew which Kounsarnag mothers and another tributary originating from 'Zajji Marg' the Queen of meadows meet at 'Sangum'.The picturesque surroundings are so captivating that one gets absorbed in it as if taken over by some magical spell.It is a divine experience. Away from the cacophony of urban life,it was therapeutic for us.We didn't want these moments to pass so quickly but before time one is helpless.The show must go on.

The group was led by the dynamic Danish Dhaar, managing director AJKMF and the tail end was monitored by another compassionate group leader Amir Lateef. For next one and a half hour, we trekked incessantly.We were dead tired and decided to have a quick break.We had tea, coffee and other refreshments.We were satiated for another couple of hours hike.Indeed, a great team was creamed off for this trip.The discipline and respect shown for one another were highly praiseworthy.We tried to be in harmony with one another and with the nature as well, so as to enjoy the enthralling beauty.It was soul soothing and surreal experience.

Our cut off time to reach Kounsarnag was 1.30 pm. We didn't aim to reach our goal post only but we ensured to enjoy the journey in between.We paused,

ation.We didn't want to turn it into a dreary day for us.We kept our spirits very high.We captured every beautiful natural thing in our frames.For one day, these spotlight moments would become lifetime memories for us.

I must admit the entire place is a photographer's paradise. This place has so much to offer. The babbling brook under the huge glacier looks very magnificent.At every mesmerizing place we felt at peace in the lap of nature.

We felt as if we were healing deep inside.We had to be barefoot and felt almost frozen the moment we had to cross the cold, fast running stream of Charasar and Bramasar which had merged at Hakwus which later also joined the flow at Sangum. It was a "cold water therapy" which refreshed us to wind



took a deep breath and felt the calmness of nature inside us. We were amazed to see the vastness of Kongwattan.The lush green meadow is an ideal place for highland pasture grazing.It is also a haven for the weary trekkers who can pitch their tents to have a comfortable night stay here. Adjacent to it is another meadow by the name Gaorwattan.The canopy of pine and coniferous trees in the backdrop of Kongwattan is breathtaking.It is noteworthy to applaud the efforts of Choppans and Bakkerwals who were constructing a small beautiful mosque there. One is tempted to spend the rest of his life there.The ambience looked so heavenly. We were touched by the hospitality of these generous people who offered us water and tea.

To accomplish this arduous trek in a day,stamina and speed are the keys to success.There has to be no indulgence in dilly dallying.One has to stick to the timelines and do the hard yards.Its the competition within oneself to push the limits.We have to keep an eagles eye on our destination and at the same time ensure,to uplift the morale of others as well. We stood by those for whom this was the first trekking experience.The trail ahead of Kongwattan was very challenging.I along with others shared the best moments together.We didn't swerve and remained steadfast to notch up victory in our efforts.

En route,we had our share of hardships.We didn't grumble and tried to have fun in every situ-

Only hands of God can create such wonders. We felt as if it's a veritable piece of paradise when we had a first glimpse at the milky water stream trickling down beneath the wooden bridge at 'Gaorwattan.To the right side of Gaorwattan, the river Vishew which Kounsarnag mothers and another tributary originating from 'Zajji Marg' the Queen of meadows meet at 'Sangum'

down.We felt alive and active.

Thousand miles seem nothing,when your best companions walk side by side with you towards the same goal.We give each other solace and strength that is much needed.While I was busy in treading the treacherous path,I was taken aback when I heard a familiar voice from behind.I was more than happy to see my friend Syed Shabir Rizvi from Lal Bazar was also heading towards the same place.It is always a blessing to have such a happy go humble person by your side. His offbeat jokes and anecdotes made our journey truly fulfilling and profound.

We followed the terrain along the river bank and reached our next stop 'Mahinag'. This place has an ideal ambience for night camping.It is located at the perfect distance when one is literally drained off energy. We were also feeling very low and languid. We had some respite and a frisson of delight.After Mahinag, on the way we could see 7 small ponds for which the local belief is that they are the 7 daughters of Kounsarnag.This place is famously known as 'Sethapokhran'. The sun was radiating over this place making it very scenic by its gleam and grace. We relaxed there for a while and took a heart from the fact that we had reached this far.Driven by the deadlines,we wrapped our short retreat quickly as we had to trek the gauntlet of toughest trail ahead.

Over the steep gradient of Kounsarnag Mountain,the scorching sun and rocky stretches made our uphill journey very enervating. We couldn't afford to flounder on rough rocky edges as it could land us in a big trouble.We treaded very carefully.At many places we had to scramble over the rocks.It seemed as if there was no end to the rocky ascend.The moment we crossed one mound,another two were in place.We became impatient.It seemed like an interminable endeavor.We comported ourselves with grace and guts. We braved all odds and inch passed every obstacle.During my summit push,I felt so happy when I saw my another friend Fayaz Bhat Sb.We bantered with each other and at the same time buckled down to reach our destination at the earliest possible.

We were dead on our feet by the time, we reached Kounsarnag at around 1.30 pm.Our joys knew no bounds.It was an awe - inspiring sight. The first glimpse of this majestic Alpine Lake with the encompassing blue sky sent us into trance.It furnishes a spectacular panoramic view.Everything looked so hypnotic and heavenly.We were surprised to see the families from Rajouri putting up and staying put in the stone structures around the lake for their livelihood and livestock.We had the best time with their children.The fellow trekkers exuded cheerful bonhomie.We shared and enjoyed our scrumptious meals together.People who eat together, stay together.

I had a lifetime experience with the coven of Comrades.We captured this stupendous beauty in pictures and videos.On our return journey,we tried to spend more time at many prominent places. Few of us took a bath in a cold stream.Some offered Nimaz. We shared our happiness, juices, sweets and chocolates with the children from Gujjar Community.It was a heart warming experience.We had a Nun Chai with delicious chappattis in a Dhoka.The fellow Trekker who had been hobbled by his twisted ankle,was also taken proper care.This trekking experience was worth a flurry of activities and tireless efforts.We did everything with perfect aplomb.We ensured everyone reached back safely. This journey has become the treasure of motivating and marvelous memories to cherish and spur us into action for achieving the bigger goals in life.

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Readiness to punish others for selfish behaviour explained by functional brain connections

Agencies

Following a neuroimaging experiment, the Higher School of Economics researchers found that the stronger the functional brain connects, the less inclined someone is to punish others for unfair behaviour.

Their paper 'Wired to punish? Electroencephalographic study of the resting-state neuronal oscillations underlying third-party punishment' was published in the journal Neuroscience.

Productive and predictive interaction with other people is possible thanks to the existence of numerous social norms. However, the fact that these norms exist does not guarantee that they will be followed: punishment for norm violators is needed.

This is how various forms of social punishment act as tools to reinforce order and cooperation in communities. Punishment may be imposed by the victim of the violation (the second party) or an observer who had not suffered (a third party).

Whole networks of various brain structures are involved in third-party punishment decision-making. The key zones are the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) and temporoparietal junction (TPJ). Researchers assume that the TPJ evaluates the level of guilt and deliberateness of the violation, while

the DLPFC receives this signal on guilt assessment and transforms it into a specific decision on punishment.

The interaction between the TPJ and DLPFC is important for making a decision on punishment. HSE University researchers assumed that the initial connectivity between these areas in a specific human brain impacts a person's readiness to impose punishment.

To confirm this hypothesis, the researchers conducted a neuroimaging experiment. At first, the participant's brain activity was recorded with electroencephalography (EEG) over a span of ten minutes.

During this time, the participants did not perform any tasks, and during the last five minutes, they sat with their eyes closed. Such recording of brain activity in resting-state helped with further analysis to assess the power of connection between different brain areas in each of the participants. A total of 17 people entered the final sample, each playing the role of a third party.

In classical neuroimaging studies, we rely on data that is recorded while the participants are completing the assignment. However, in the studies where we receive data on brain activity in resting state, we can assume, with certain limitations, how a person who has not even seen the task would behave,

commented Oksana Zinchenko,



a research fellow at the Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience.

Immediately after EEG, the participants were given the assignment to observe two other people playing the 'dictator game'. The first player, the 'dictator', received 40 coins in each attempt, part of which they kept for themselves, while the other was given to the other player - the receiver. The actions of both players were programmed, but the experiment participants believed they were real people.

The role of the observer (the third party) was as follows: when the dictator made a decision on money distribution, the observer could 'punish' them for an unfair decision. The punishment was a 'fine'. However, in order to issue a fine, the participant had to invest their coins. The dictator received a fine that was twice as high as the invested amount. The money they had left was converted into real

payment for participating in the experiment.

For example, in one round, the dictator decided to keep 35 coins and give five coins to the receiver. The experiment participant decided to invest 10 coins in punishing the dictator, and 20 coins were withheld from the dictator's win in this round.

For all rounds with unfair decisions, the level of punishment was calculated as the number of game money the participant was willing to spend in order to punish the dictator. Following this, the level of punishment was correlated with connectivity between the temporoparietal junction and the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.

The researchers found that the stronger the connectivity between these two areas, the lower the level of punishment, which meant less money spent punishing the dictator for unfair decisions. This connectivity also likely reflects the inclination to accumulate evidence against the dictator. Further research may confirm or refute this hypothesis.

It was also confirmed that the functional condition of TPJ in the resting-state impacts a person's readiness to punish others for injustice. It is assumed that a more 'sensitive' TPJ means that unfair behaviour causes a stronger guilt evaluation signal, which is followed by a stricter decision on punishment.

'Dissimilar students can become friends by being assigned to sit together'

A study conducted in Hungarian schools showed that seating students next to each other boosted their tendency to become friends—both for pairs of similar students and pairs of students who differed in their educational achievement, gender, or ethnicity.

The findings of the study were published in the open-access journal 'PLOS ONE'.

According to earlier research, proximity between people can promote friendships. However, people also tend to become friends with those who have similar characteristics, such as gender, age, and ethnicity.

It is unclear how these two phenomena interact; specifically, whether the similarity between individuals influences the effects of proximity on friendship.

To explore this question, Julia Rohrer of the University of Leipzig, Germany, and colleagues conducted an experiment in which they created randomised classroom seating charts for 2,966 students in grades 3 through 8 across 40 schools in rural Hungary.

The students remained in their assigned seats for one semester, at the end of which

they reported their friendships in a survey. Statistical analysis of the students' demographics and reported friendships showed that sitting next to each other increased the probability of their becoming mutual friends from 15 to 22 per cent (an increase of 7 per cent).

The propensity toward friendship increased for all pairs of students, including those who differed in their educational achievement, gender, or ethnicity (Roma or non-Roma ethnic identity).

However, the researchers found, the number of friendships increased more for similar versus dissimilar pairs of students.

This was because the baseline propensity toward friendship started out higher for similar students, so seating them next to each other pushed more of them past a threshold into an actual friendship than did seating dissimilar students together. Gender was the main driver of this pattern.

The researchers noted that the effect of sitting together for students of Roma and non-Roma ethnicities was less certain than for pairs of students who were dissimilar in other ways, especially given the small num-

bers of Roma students in their sample.

However, overall their findings suggested that seating assignments could be effective tools in promoting diverse friendships, which could help foster social skills and improve attitudes about those in other demographic groups. Senior author Felix Elwert said, "Friendships matter, for better or worse. Having friends improves happiness and health; but friendship networks also divide people, because humans mostly befriend others that are just like them."

Elwert added, "Importantly, we found that sitting next to each other increased friendship potential for all children, regardless of their gender, class, or ethnic background. This demonstrates that simple ('light-touch') interventions can effectively diversify friendship networks."

Co-author Tamas Keller said, "Although teachers have full control over arranging the classroom seating chart, inducing friendship by seating chart arrangement is an overlooked policy lever. Our research has highlighted two specific boundaries: gender and ethnic differences."

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

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Subject: Updated Provisional Merit List of candidates for admission to 12th based BMM Level Entry Paramedical Courses-2021 and Counseling thereof.

Reference: (i) Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021
(ii) Notice No. 054-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021
(iii) Notice No. 051-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-05-2021
(iv) Notice No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 11-06-2021
(v) Notice No. 054-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-06-2021
(vi) Notification No. 072-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-07-2021

Notification No. 075-BOPEE of 2021
Dated 13-08-2021

In pursuance of Notification No. 072-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-07-2021 where under the Provisional Merit List (PML) of the candidates for admission to 12th based BMM Level Entry Paramedical Entrance Courses-2021 in the Government/Private Paramedical Institutions of the Union Territories of J&K, India, was issued and made available on the Board's official website www.jkbopee.gov.in for inviting objections, if any, from the applicants upto 5th of August, 2021. The Board has received some objections regarding the said Provisional Merit List during the stipulated duration. After consideration of these objections, and updated merit list (Provisional Merit List for BMM Level Entry Paramedical Courses) has been prepared which is annexed as Annexure 'A' to this Notification and shall be available only on the Board's website www.jkbopee.gov.in.

It is hereby notified for information that while considering the Board shall conduct the physical round of counselling at BOPEE Office, Jammu / Srinagar for allotment of seats to BMM Level Entry Paramedical Courses to the eligible candidates upon the following schedule:

S.NO.	DATE	RANK
1	17-08-2021	1-850
2	18-08-2021	851 onwards

PROCEDURE FOR PHYSICAL COUNSELLING:

The following procedure shall be followed:

- The Board shall conduct the physical counselling for filling up of available seats in all Govt./Private Institutions of UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh as per the schedule given above simultaneously at BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar through Video Conferencing.
- Candidates shall have to report to the BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar physically for registration/attendance & fulfilment of other formalities between 08:30 A.M. to 03:00 P.M. on the date of their counselling.
- Candidates are advised to bring along their Candidate Certificate issued by the Competent Authority & other relevant Certificates/Document as applicable to be presented at the time of counselling.

- The allotment of seats (discretion/institution) shall be made in pursuance of S.O. 327 Dated 20-04-2020 and as per S.O. 249 dated 23-07-2021 to the eligible candidates in the Provisional Merit List.

- A candidate who misses his counselling on a particular (designated) day will be allowed by the Board to participate in the counselling on the next day provided that he/she does not stake a claim on a seat which has already been allotted to a candidate next to him. If a candidate is on the ground that the seat date could not participate in the physical round of counselling earlier when the seat was available.

- The candidates who do not join the college on allotment of seat after completion of counselling shall not be eligible to participate in the subsequent round of counselling i.e. the graduation round.

- The Board reserves the right to modify such changes for any other change, as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or for reasons beyond its control.

- The Board has not included the names of those candidates in the Provisional Merit List (PML) who failed to submit their certificate document i.e. 2nd Year Marks Card or PMPHW/WWPHW upto the last date fixed by Board i.e. 05-08-2021.

Notes:

- All the candidates who will report for physical counselling at BOPEE offices Jammu/ Srinagar are requested to adhere strictly to Advisory issued by the Government of J&K from time to time for COVID-19.
- Seating chart shall be uploaded separately within due course of time before counselling.
- The candidates must remain in touch with the official website of the Board i.e. www.jkbopee.gov.in to remain informed about the Counselling Process and Daily Based Seat Matrix.
- Any candidate who may not be able to attend counselling physically owing to a valid reason can authorize a person (through a letter in letterhead format) from his/her family member to participate in the counselling on his/her behalf at BOPEE offices subject to a charge on day/date of counselling as per the Board's Rank.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued by the Board in this regard from time to time.

DIPK-NB-2552/21

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

No. BOPEE/J&K-13/2021

Dated: 12-08-2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Shopian

Email:- dshoshopian@gmail.com

Technical Section

Subject: - Selection List of beneficiaries for establishment of various sheep units.

OFFICE ORDER

This office invited applications for establishment of various sheep units for the year 2021-22 vide this office notification no. DSHOS/Tech/2020-21/2118 Dated: 08-05-2021 and in response to that 1674 application were received, selection process of which was carried out on 11-08-2021 through draw of lots by designated selection committee. The selection and waiting list of beneficiaries is given in Annexure A. The final allotment of units shall be subjected to availability of funds and techno-feasibility verification of the beneficiaries and production of valid category certificate in case of SC/ST beneficiaries.

S. NO.	NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY	S/O, D/O, W/O, SIL	RESIDENCE	SHEEP DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
Selection list of RKVY 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	Mohd Yaqoob Paul	Mohd Ramzan Paul	Manloo	Keller
2	Mohd Yousuf Wagay	Ab Karim Wagay	RakhNarapora	Keller
3	Mushtaq Ahmad Chohan	Mohd Hussain Chohan	Reshinagri	Herpora
4	Ab Rashid Chohan	SayaChohan	Chek-Sedow	Herpora
Waiting list of RKVY 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	Gh Nabi Wagay	Ab Ahad Wagay	DeegamNagbal	Keller
2	Shakeela Akhter	Gh Ahmad Bhat	KaniporaBalapora	Keegam
3	Subzar Ahmad Sheikh	Gh Mohd Sheikh	Dachnoo	Herpora
4	Rayees Raja	Nisar Ahmad Wagay	ShadabKarewa	Keller
5	DilshadaBano	Mohd Jamal	Allowpora	Keegam
6	Gh Mohd Wagay	Ab Rehman	Nasarpora	Keller
7	Nawaz Ahmad Dar	Mohd Yousuf Dar	Gundi Dervesh	Zainapora
8	Mohd Yaqoob Dar	Ab Gani Dar	Keegam	Keegam
Selection list of RKVY Backyard Sheep Farming (10+10) ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	Fareed Ahmad Tedwa	Mohd Sharif Tedwa	Zarkan	Keller
2	Muzafar Ahmad Jagal	Mir Mohd Jagal	ChekAmshipora	Kachdoora
Waiting list of RKVY Backyard Sheep Farming (10+10) ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	QasimChohan	Bashir Ahmad Chohan	Amshipora	Kachdoora
2	Mohd SadiqBajran	KaluBajran	Kathahallan	Keller
3	Manzoor Ahmad Paswal	Gh QadirPaswal	ShalidarZarkan	Keller
4	Mohd Altaf Gorsi	Mohd Iqbal Gorsi	Zampathri	Keller
Selection list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	Shabir Ahmad Ganie	Mohd Yousuf Ganie	Ramnagri	Herpora
2	Sabzar Ahmad Shah	Bashir Ahmad Shah	Mashwara	Keller
3	Mushtaq Ahmad Wani	Wali Mohd Wani	Hushangpora	Zainapora
4	Mohd Akram Sheikh	Ab Aziz Sheikh	Daramdora	Keegam
5	Farooq Ahmad Thoker	Gh QadirThoker	Meemender	Meemender
6	Gulzar Ahmad Thoker	Ab Gani Dar	HanjiPora	Kachdoora
Waiting list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode)				
1	Mohd AyoubGanie	Gh Mohd Ganie	Borihallan	Heerpore

2	Ab Hamid Sheikh	Gh Mohd Sheikh	Heerpore	Heerpore
3	Arif Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Lone	Chowhan	Keller
4	Parvaiz Ahmad Khan	Bashir Ahmad Khan	KarewaManloo	Keller
5	Samina Akhter	Mohd Amin Naik	Zainapora	Zainapora
6	Zakir Hussain Khan	Manzoor Ahmad Khan	Wachohallan	Zainapora
7	Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat	Gh Hassan Bhat	Audoo	Keegam
8	Mohd Ishaq Bhat	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Wanpora	Keegam
9	Aabid Hussain Mir	Mohd Hussain Mir	Khudpora	Meemender
10	Mohd Yasin Wagay	Ab Gani Wagay	Trenz	Meemender
11	Nisar Ahmad Dar	Gull Mohd Dar	Hanji Pora	Kachdoora
12	Mohd Rafi Bhat	Gh Hassan Bhat	D.K Pora	Kachdoora

Selection list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Mohd Shafi Chopan	Gh Hassan Chopan	Ganowpora	Meemender
2	Nisar Ahmad Wani	Nazir Ahmad Wani	Lawahind	Meemender
3	Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar	Habibullah Dar	Ratnpora	Kachdoora
4	Rayees Ahmad Khan	Feeroz Ahmad Khan	SaidporaBala	Kachdoora
5	Ab Aziz Khanday	Gh Ahmad Khanday	Keller	Keller
6	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Mohammad Dar	Deegam	Keller
7	Amir Ahmad Chopan	Ali Mohd Chopan	Pirpora	Keegam
8	Farooq Ahmad Bagat	Gh Mohd Bagat	Matipora	Keegam
9	Basit Nazir Dar	Nazir Ahmad Dar	Reshipora	Zainapora
10	Habibullah Chopan	Mohd Sultan Chopan	Dachoo	Zainapora
11	Mohd Ahsan Rather	Mumo Rather	Poterwal	Keegam

Waiting list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Ab Majeed Bhat	Mohd Abdullah Bhat	Meemender	Meemender
2	Bashir Ahmad Thoker	Gh Mohd Thoker	Kumdal	Meemender
3	Bilal Ahmad Baba	Wali Mohd	Chanpora	Meemender
4	Bashir Ahmad Lone	Gh Hassan Lone	Kumdal	Meemender
5	Fayaz Ahmad Padder	Mushtaq Ahmad Padder	Padderpora	Kachdoora
6	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Gh Hassan Mir	Rawalpore	Kachdoora
7	SuhaibMushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Rawalpore	Kachdoora
8	Mohd Iqbal Ganie	HabibullahGanie	Nagesharan	Kachdoora
9	Yasir Kaleem Khan	Mubarak Ahmad Khan	Khan Mohallah Zawoor	Keller
10	Shakir Ahmad Shah	Mohd Afzal Shah	Mashwara	Keller
11	Mohd Ishaq Sheikh	Ab Majeed Sheikh	ShadabKarewa	Keller
12	Kaiser Mohiuddin Wagay	Gh Mohiuddin Wagay	RakhNarapora	Keller
13	Mohd Ahsan Rather	Mumo Rather	Poterwal	Keegam
14	Mohd Yousuf Wagay	Ab Aziz Wagay	Pirpora	Keegam
15	Shahnawaz Ahmad Chopan	Gh Rasool Chopan	BalaNowpora	Keegam
16	Showkat Ahmad Malla	Ali Mohd Malla	Audora	Keegam
17	Mukhtar Ahmad Wani	Siraj Din Wani	Wachi	Zainapora
18	Towseef Ahmad Wani	Siraj Din Wani	Wachi	Zainapora
19	Nawaz Ahmad Dar	Mohd Yousuf Dar	Gundi-Darvesh	Zainapora
20	Bilal Ahmad Baba	Wali Mohd	Chanpora	Meemender
21	Sabzar Ahmad Shah	Bashir Ahmad Shah	Mashwara	Keller

Selection list of ISDS 50 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Tahir Muneer Shah	Muneer Ahmad Shah	Mashwara	Keller
Waiting list of ISDS 50 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Ab Rashid Wani	Mohd Ahsan Wani	Dachnoo	Heerpore
2	Gulzar Ahmad Ahanger	Ab AhadAhanger	Pahlipora	Keller

Selection list of ISDS 75 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Imran Nazir Chopan	Nazir Ahmad Chopan	Padderpora	Kachdoora

Waiting list of ISDS 75 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Javid Ahmad Bhat	Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Hergam Shopian	Meemender
2	Mohd Amin Sofi	Ab Gani Sofi	KralcheckAwneera	Zainapora

Selection list of ISDS 150 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Ab Rashid Wani	Ab Salam Wani	Sarband Keegam	Keegam

Waiting list of ISDS 150 ewes unit (50% subsidy mode)				
1	Mohd HashimGanie	Bashir Ahmad Ganie	Gagren Shopian	Meemender
2	Danish Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie	Marhing	Keegam

Selection list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode) (Reserved for Women)				
1	Nareena Musa	Musa Khan	ShadabKarewa	Keller

Waiting list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode) (Reserved for Women)				
1	Zareefa Begum	Ab Majeed Sheikh	ShadabKarewa	Keller
2	Shazia Akhter	Jamshed Iqbal Manhas	ShadabKarewa	Keller

Selection list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode) (Reserved for SC/ST)				
1	Gh QadirPaswal	Ali Mohd Paswal	Sedow	Heerpore

Waiting list of ISDS 25 ewes unit (Participatory Mode) (Reserved for SC/ST)				
1	Fayaz Ahmad	Ab Rehman	PatituliHallan	Heerpore
2	Ab Rashid Kataria	Mir Kataria	Chek-Sedow	Heerpore

Note:- In view of poor response of applications for units viz, ISDS100 ewes/does, 125 ewes/does, 175 ewes/does, 200 ewes/does and 25 ewes/does 50% subsidy mode unit for women & SC/ST and 25 ewes/does for Sheep Development Block Heerpore, these units shall be re-advertised as decided by the committee.

No:- DSHOS/Tech/2020-21/722-36 Sd/

Dated:- 12/08/2021

District Sheep Husbandry Officer,
Shopian.

DIPK-6545/21

JK to be brought on world tourism map: Advisor Khan

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: With an aim to bring Jammu and Kashmir on the world tourism map, the government is taking slew of measures to identify and introduce virgin destinations to the outside world.

This was revealed at a virtual meeting chaired by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Baseer Ahmad Khan, attended by Chairman & Managing Director, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Secretary Tourism J&K and other officers.

The meeting was held in order to list out the various parameters that need to be worked out for identifying new tourist destinations and building up of infrastructure there.

Advisor while chairing the meeting said that the government is identifying new destinations which can be introduced to the outside world. He said that foreign as well as domestic tourists should come to know that apart from Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg and Yousmarg there are a lot of places which are yet to be explored and hold very high potential from the tourism point of view in both Jammu Division and Kashmir Division. He said this is the area where ITDC needs to play its part and help in the promotion and marketing of JK tourism.

Advisor said that Lieutenant Governor has directed the tourism department to come up with the list of new Tourist destinations

and has laid stress on revival of trekking routes. The Advisor said that ITDC needs to visit the locations which are being identified in Jammu and Kashmir and point out the basic amenities, facilities and wayside amenities that are required to give a flip to the Tourism infrastructure in



the Union Territory. He said that we need consultancy services of ITDC to identify the infrastructural gaps so that these locations could attract footfall of tourists from outside world.

He said that apart from normal tourist destinations, we have earmarked areas for trekking, paragliding, water rafting and winter sports. He also said that there are certain rivers where rafting can be introduced, besides certain programmes are also in the pipeline. Advisor also said that Jammu and Kashmir has a huge potential for adventure tourism and will be a focus of attention

for the government.

Advisor Baseer Khan said that there is a need to identify and set goals on the basis of priority before embarking on working on different models and there is a need to delineate and identify areas where ITDC can provide its support.

He said that Dodhpathri, Bangus, Gurez, Sonmarg, Besholi, higher areas in district Rajouri and Doda are some of the areas which need long term investment for better dividends.

While setting the goals and identifying the requirements, Advisor emphasised that everything has to be achieved by drawing a timeline for each activity in order to usher into new areas of activities as far as tourism is concerned.

Secretary Tourism, JK gave a brief about the new destinations and said government has taken several steps to boost tourism and is giving attention to the development of tourism-related infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. He also said that the department is looking at public-private partnership and outsourcing some of its assets like hutments, hotels, road side facilities and said that the help of ITDC will be quite gainful. He also said that ITDC needs to provide its support in organising road shows, publicity campaigns, running of documentaries on international market, workshops.

ITDC assured full support in bringing JK on the map of world tourism and said that they will be soon visiting the places and taking necessary measures in exploring new destinations. They also said that regular interactions of the tourism industry of Kashmir with the tour operators in rest of the country will be organised so that tourists are diverted to JK.

Navin reviews release, re-validation of funds during 2021-22 under CSS Agri and allied departments

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Department (AP&FWD), Navin Kumar Choudhary on Friday chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the release and re-validation of funds during 2021-22 under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of AP&FWD and allied departments.

Director Finance AP&FWD, Director Planning AP&FWD, Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Animal/Sheep Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir and Director Sericulture J&K, Director Fisheries J&K and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

While reviewing the progress of proposals being sent to the Finance Department, the Principal Secretary impressed

upon all the heads of the respective departments to submit their pending proposals with the Finance Department of all the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and

pective departments.

During the meeting, the departments were also asked to submit details of the unspent balance of funds of their accounts, if any, and subsequently



central sector schemes as soon as possible.

He also directed the concerned officers to submit the information of funds of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with respect to the hierarchy of officers of their re-

be transferred to the SNA account. He also asked the officers to make a robust system in their respective departments so that beneficiaries of schemes shouldn't visit their offices while bills are generated and submitted with treasuries on time.

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

Agencies

New Delhi: 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 un-



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.

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

Ookla is already witnessing a 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.

74% mid-market business leaders in India optimistic about economy in 2021: Grant Thornton

MUMBAI: For the first time since the start of the pandemic, 74% mid-market business leaders, surveyed in India, are optimistic about the Indian economy compared with 69% globally, according to a Grant Thornton survey.

This biannual Grant Thornton Global Survey gathers responses from nearly 5,000 business leaders in 29 economies, including the G20.

The outlook remains more-or-less the same compared with H2 2020 survey results, but one can see a tremendous improvement in mid-market businesses outlook, pointing

towards a wider economic recovery.

"Indian economy is on a steady path of recovery. India's long-term fundamentals remain strong and supported by various policy reforms, the investment and business activity are likely to gain full steam ahead as things open further in India and overseas," said Vikas Vasal, National Managing Partner, Tax, Grant Thornton Bharat, adding that living with the pandemic is inevitable, however, businesses are now better equipped than before in ensuring that the recovery remains stable.

At the heart of this recovery is a much stronger outlook by the mid-market business. 69% are expecting to grow their turnover in the next 12 months, while 68% are expecting an increase in profitability.

The improved outlook chimes with the World Bank's forecast of a 5.6% growth in the world economy in 2021 and what it terms as 'its strongest post-recession pace in 80 years'. Also, investment sentiments by these businesses, are tilting towards technology (70%), R&D (68%), staff skills (66%) and physical plants

and machinery (65%).

"Initiatives such as Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Production-Linked Incentive Scheme, have opened several avenues for business in the country to expand their horizons and compete globally," said Vasal.

The survey has tracked shifts in attitudes towards internationalisation during this pandemic. With 57% of companies looking to expand their geographic sales footprint this year--the third highest in the sample--international sales and a larger global footprint appear to be a real priority for businesses.

Airtel announces closure of spectrum trading agreement with Jio, gets Rs 1,005 crore

Agencies

Telecommunications company Bharti Airtel on Friday announced the closure of its spectrum trading agreement with Reliance Jio to transfer the 'Right to Use' of Airtel's 800 MHz spectrum in three circles to Jio.

Airtel said that the company has received Rs 1,004.8 crore (net of tax) from Jio for the proposed transfer. In addition, Jio will assume future liabilities of Rs. 469.3 crores relating to the spectrum, it said in the exchange filing.

Vodafone Idea launches new postpaid plans starting at ...

In April, Airtel had announced a spectrum trading agreement with Reliance Jio. The company entered an agreement with Reliance Industries' telecom subsidiary Jio to transfer the 'Right to Use' of Airtel's 800 MHz spectrum in Andhra Pradesh (3.75 MHz), Delhi (1.25 MHz) and Mumbai (2.50 MHz) to Jio. The agreement was subject to statutory approvals.

"Through this agreement, Airtel will receive a consideration of Rs 1037.6 crores from Jio for the proposed transfer. In addition,

Jio will assume future liabilities of Rs 459 crores relating to the spectrum," the Sunil Mittal-led telco had announced in a release on April 6.

"The sale of the 800 MHz blocks in these three circles has enabled us to unlock value from spectrum that was unutilised. This is aligned to our overall network strategy," Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel had said in the statement.

Shares of Bharti Airtel were trading more than 2% higher at Rs 636 per share in Friday's afternoon deals on the BSE.

Airlines Can Operate Maximum Of 72.5% Pre-Covid Domestic Flights: Centre

Agencies

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.

WhatsApp announces chat transfer between iOS and Android, with a catch

Agencies

Twelve years since WhatsApp's release, the company has finally allowed chats to be transferred between Android and iOS apps.

Until now, if you had a WhatsApp account and decided to change phones from Android to iOS or vice versa, you would not have been able to transfer your chats with it--officially. The reason was that Android backs up chats to Google Drive while iOS did so to iCloud--the two cloud-based storages being incompatible with each other.

While third-party apps allowed for this transfer, due to them being unofficial, they raised a security issue.

Now, WhatsApp has enabled

this cross-platform functionality via Samsung's Smart Switch transfer tool. The new tool was revealed at Samsung's Galaxy Unpacked event, and will debut on Samsung's newest Galaxy foldable devices, with a broader Android release later. The app will allow chats to be transferred from an iOS device to a Samsung one via a Lightning to USB-C cable (most of which retail for over Rs 1,400 online).

However, iOS users wanting to transfer data from an Android will need to wait, though a WhatsApp spokesperson told TechCrunch they were working to bring this feature to users worldwide.

The transfer currently only works with a single backup file.

Time for industry to make investments: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Appeals business leaders to tie up with foreign partners to attract investment and reduce reliance on imports

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that the government has taken all the necessary reforms to help economy and



now it is time for the Indian business leaders to come forward and make investments to boost economy.

"Time has come for the industry to come forward and make investments, push economic recovery," Nirmala Sitharaman said addressing the CII

Annual Meeting 2021.

Sitharaman reminded industry representatives of what the government has done to boost economic growth and to improve the investment climate including the corporate rate

done by us in October 2019," the minister said.

Sitharaman explained that the government did not ask for an extra penny of tax from either individuals or corporations to manage the coronavirus pandemic. She appealed to the business leaders to tie up with foreign partners to attract investment and to reduce their reliance on imports. "I would think this is the best time for the Indian industry to ensure that everybody whose investment is coming out of some geographies are drawn to India. You stand up for India, you partner with them and you open up. I can see totally new areas into which Indian industry is moving in and I would invite all of you to take this opportunity, take the bull by its horns," the minister said.

The finance minister assured the business that government is committed to the revival of the economy and will continue to undertake various steps to boost growth.

Adi Godrej to step down as Godrej Industries' chairman; Nadir Godrej to take over

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Veteran industrialist Adi Godrej will step down as chairman as well as from the board of directors of Godrej Industries Ltd, passing on the baton to his younger brother Nadir Godrej, effective October 1, according to a company statement.

The 79-year-old industrialist will continue to serve as chairman of the Godrej Group and chairman emeritus of GIL, said the statement.

"Nadir Godrej, who is currently managing director of GIL, will take over as chairman and managing director of the company," it added. GIL is a holding company of the Godrej Group.

It has significant interests in consumer goods, real estate, agriculture, chemicals and financial services through its subsidiary and associate companies, across 18 countries.

Adi Godrej has served GIL for

almost four decades.

"It has been a privilege to serve Godrej Industries for over four decades, during which we have delivered strong results and transformed our company," said Adi Godrej.

He thanked the board for its support and guidance, his team members, business partners, shareholders, investors, and communities, for their continued partnership.

"I am very confident that our best years are ahead of us, and I look forward to Nadir and our team achieving our exciting aspirations," Adi Godrej.

In the statement, Nadir Godrej thanked his brother for his vision and leadership, which shaped the company.

"On behalf of our team at Godrej Industries and our board, I want to thank our chairman for his vision, values and exceptional leadership that has guided and shaped our compa-



ny. Our leadership team is committed to building forward on these foundations; continuing to serve our people and communities, and creating long-term value for all our stakeholders," said Nadir Godrej said.

On August 4, Adi Godrej announced to step down from the

board of group's FMCG arm, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), effective next month.

In GCPL, he already passed on the baton to his younger daughter Nisaba Godrej in 2017 as chairman. But, he will remain as chairman emeritus of the FMCG firm.

India's Armed Forces Are Ready To Deal With Any Security Challenge: CDS

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India's armed forces are ready to deal with any security challenge, and measures taken to increase synergy among the three services will enhance their overall capabilities, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Friday.

Gen Rawat also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions to modernise the armed forces and noted that there was a need to increase their capabilities further.

The Chief of Defence Staff was speaking at an event to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence which is being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Gen Rawat said India is a peace-loving nation but it had to train its forces for war considering the kind of challenges it has been facing.

"Our prime minister has given us some directions that we have to focus on our country's economic revival, think on human resource development and encourage technology and research. We have to progress towards military defence reforms," Gen Rawat said. In an apparent reference

to cross border militancy into Jammu and Kashmir, he said ending it is one of the focus areas.

"The armed forces are ready to deal with any challenge," Gen Rawat said, adding efforts taken to increase jointness among the forces will enhance their capabilities.

As part of India's mega defence reform initiative, Gen Rawat has been working on the theaterisation model under which at least six new integrated commands are being envisaged.

As per the plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory under an operational commander.

At present, the Army, Navy and the Air Force have separate commands. Initially, a plan has been firmed up for the creation of Air Defence Command and Maritime Theatre Command.

In his brief address, the Chief of Defence Staff also remembered Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for their leadership role in India's Independence movement.

SII's Poonawalla Bats For Booster Dose, Opposes Mixing Of Vaccines, Criticizes Export Ban

Agenceis

Pune: Serum Institute of India chairman Cyrus Poonawalla on Friday said that taking a third or 'booster dose' of Covishield, the coronavirus vaccine manufactured by his firm, was desirable.

He also said he was not in favour of mixing two different vaccines, and criticized the Union government for banning exports of vaccines. Poonawalla was speaking to reporters after receiving the Lokmanya Tilak award here.

"After six months, the antibodies go down and that is why I have taken the third dose. We have given the third dose to our seven to eight thousand SII employees. For those who have completed the second dose, it is my request to take a booster dose (third dose) after six months," he said.

The ideal gap between two doses of Covishield is two months though the Union government increased it to three months because of dose shortage, he said.

"I am against the mixing of two different vaccines. There is no need to mix two different vaccines," Poonawalla said, when asked about a recent ICMR study that a cocktail of Covishield and Covaxin was found to have generated better immunity within a small



group.

If such combination of doses did not work, each vaccine manufacturer will blame the other company, he said. Later, in a statement to clarify his remarks, Poonawalla said such mixing can be resorted to if a particular vaccine is not available at the time of second dose.

He also dismissed reports about 'threats' to the Poonawalla family. His son Adar had left the country for a usual summer vacation, he claimed.

Asked for his view on the government's assurance to complete the vaccination in the entire country by the end of this year and the claim that 45 crore doses will be available by September, he said, "What do you think? Politicians sometimes boast..."

"Our production of COVID-19 vaccine is 10 crore per month

and producing that much quantity is not easy," Poonawalla added.

No company in the world can provide 10 to 12 crore doses in a month, he said.

"However, with the advance preparations by SII and investments of thousands of crores, we can produce 110 to 120 crore doses per year. As other companies are also producing the vaccines, the immunization will increase," he said.

Poonawalla termed the Union government's decision to ban the export of vaccines as a very bad move.

"My son asked me not to open my mouth (on the issue). But it is my view that exports ought to be opened, he said.

Over 150 countries are dependent on the SII for vaccines and are blaming the company for stopping the supply during a crucial period, he said.

In his speech at the award ceremony earlier, he praised the Narendra Modi government for cutting red-tapism, and recalled how the industry used to face "hardships" in securing permissions and "harassment from bureaucrats" 50 years ago. Speedy permissions granted by the government authorities made the development of the coronavirus vaccine within a very short time possible, he noted.

'India Constantly Monitoring Situation In Afghanistan'

Agenceis

New Delhi: India is prepared for any possible eventuality including evacuation of its officials and nationals from Afghanistan in view of fast deteriorating security scenario with the Taliban wresting control of several major provincial capitals such as Kandahar and Herat, the second and third largest Afghan cities.

India is constantly monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and contingency plans are in place to deal with any situation including evacuation of officials and Indian citizens if required, people familiar with the development said.

It is learnt that a number of international organisations including media entities have approached Indian authorities to help them in the evacuation of their staff if the situation deteriorates further.

With the Taliban stepping up its onslaught across Afghanistan, the US has announced to send around 3,000 troops to Kabul to evacuate a significant number of its embassy staff.

The UK is also sending 600 troops to help British nationals leaving the country in view of the massive spike in violence.

India evacuated its staff from its consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif earlier this week in view of the rapidly escalating violence by

the Taliban around the capital city of Balkh province.

"We are closely monitoring developments in this regard. We are concerned about the deteriorating security situation," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday about the developments in Afghanistan.

The Taliban has made rapid advances in the last few days and reports said it now controls about a third of Afghanistan's provincial capitals.

A US statement on Thursday said Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin spoke with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to stress that the US remains invested in the security and stability of Afghanistan in the face of violence by the Taliban.

The Taliban's capture of Kandahar and Herat is seen as a major setback for the Afghan forces.

The militant group has also captured the strategically located provincial capital of Ghazni on Thursday, increasing its territorial control in the country.

Meanwhile, the Afghan foreign ministry said it has raised with the international community the "grave concerns" of the government and people of Afghanistan over the Taliban's brutal attacks on cities, which have led to "war crimes and blatant human rights violations and humanitarian catastrophe".

OUR PRIME MINISTER HAS GIVEN us some directions that we have to focus on our country's economic revival, think on human resource development and encourage technology and research. We have to progress towards military defence reforms."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Overnight Highway

after two militants, who had positioned themselves in a building, started firing "indiscriminately" on a BSF convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Kashmir Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said the slain ultra, identified as Usman from Pakistan, was a "dreaded terrorist" active for the past six months.

"Around 3 pm (Thursday), terrorists fired upon the convoy of BSF on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway near Malpora Mir Bazar area of Kulgam. The fire was retaliated by an ROP (road opening party) of police and security forces," a police spokesman said.

There were no injuries in the initial attack. Police and Army reinforcements reached there immediately and cordoned off the area, the spokesperson said.

"The force party ensured not to give any chance to the terrorists to escape. The terrorists managed to take shelter in a nearby huge building. The holed-up terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the joint party of police/security forces which was retaliated, leading to an encounter," he said.

The IGP said there was a general input for the last one week that "terrorists were planning an attack on the national highway on Baramulla-Srinagar road or Qazigund-Panthe Chowk".

"So, the police and security forces were ready. This shows how good the response of the security forces has been that there was retaliation and the militant was not allowed to flee," Kumar told reporters here.

He said when the BSF convoy was coming, "two terrorists fired indiscriminately from a huge building, but there was no injury to us".

"Security forces cordoned off the area and the encounter ensued. GoC (general officer commanding of the Army's south Kashmir-based) Victor Force and I monitored the operation during the night. We used rocket launcher and a militant was neutralised during the night. "Since it is difficult to search in the dark, in the morning, the dead body of a Pakistani terrorist identified as Usman, who had been active for the last six months, was recovered," he said.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition, which includes an AK-47 rifle, magazines, grenades, RPG-7 rocket launcher, was recovered from the encounter site, he said.

Kumar said it shows the "terrorists they were planning something big".

"It is after a long time that RPG-7 has been recovered (in Kashmir) and the police and security forces have averted a major incident. I am proud of the police and security forces," he said, adding, "We achieved a major success by killing Usman – the dreaded Pakistani terrorist."

The police spokesman quoted above also said a CRPF jawan and an Army personnel and two civilians got injured in the "indiscriminate firing by the terrorists".

All the injured have been taken to a hospital for treatment, he said.

CRPF Man,

were removed to the hospital for treatment.

The grenade attack triggered panic in the area, prompting the shopkeepers to down their shutters and run towards safer places. The movement of traffic was also affected briefly.

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

BJP Leader's House

prayers for early recovery of injured. Perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice soon," the LG said on Twitter.

A three-year-old child was killed and six members of BJP leader Jasbir Singh's family were injured in the grenade attack on his house in Khandli area of the district last night.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also condemned the attack.

"Condemn the grenade attack in Rajouri in

which a four year old child was killed & several others injured. My sympathies with their loved ones," she said.

Security Tightened

Kumar said all security arrangements have been put in place across the valley and the forces are on alert.

"There is checking, frisking, and drone surveillance on the people. We are using technical surveillance. We will ensure an incident-free function in every district, including Srinagar," Kumar told reporters here.

He said people should not feel any fear and participate in the functions.

"Pakistan is always instigating militants to stop people, by carrying out terror incidents. Do not be afraid, your force is ready and we will provide security," The IGP said.

Kumar was speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium where a full-dress rehearsal took place. The function was presided over by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole.

Pole hoisted the national flag and took salute at the March past, the officials said.

He also inspected the parade on the occasion, they added.

The officials said the contingents of various security forces participated in the March past.

Various senior civil administration and police officers were present on the occasion, they said.

As a precautionary measure, the security forces had sealed a road link -- from Sonwar Chowk to TRC Chowk -- around the venue and the traffic was diverted via other routes, the officials said.

MPs Panel Arriving

at Gulmarg to check the status of the Waste Management rules in and around Gulmarg.

"The committee will also oversee a discussion session with representatives of banks including J&K bank along with several other representatives from CERC, NTPC, PFC, PGCIL and J&K State Power Development Authority," the order reads.

Apart from the on-spot tours, the committee will also meet officers from the home ministry and the local administration in Srinagar.

Among the officers deputed by the Home Ministry in the region, Chief Secretary Arun Mehta is expected to meet the delegation. Pertinently, the standing committee on energy is also expected to be touring J&K from August 21 to 26.

Meanwhile, the standing committee for external affairs led by former law minister PP Chaudhary is likely to visit J&K for five days in the first week of September. The committee is expected to augment infrastructure facilities in J&K to boost economy in the region.

According to the sources in the administration, over 100 MP's are expected to visit J&K on a study tour by the end of September.

J&K Logs 129

outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 323190.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 21, Baramulla 8, Budgam 11, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 3, Anantnag 5, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 8, Jammu 15, Udhampur 5, Rajouri 9, Doda 16, Kathua 1, Samba 1, Kishtwar 3, Poonch 1 and Reasi 15 new cases of Covid-19. No new case of virus was reported from Shopian, Bandipora and Ramban districts.

Also, officials said, 112 more patients have recovered, 60 from Jammu Division and 52 from Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, there was no death due to the virus, however. So far 4395 people have fallen victim to the pathogen in J&K—2156 in Jammu division and 2239 in Kashmir.

There were three fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. Thus far 41 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added. (With GNS inputs)

LG To Honour

entire country.

"These warriors have put relentless efforts without even caring for their own lives and the lives of their family members and even remained away from their dear ones during this pandemic. With the day and night efforts of these Health Care warriors, Jammu & Kashmir was successful in keeping the positivity rate of patients and mortality rate within controllable limits," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

He said that the LG appreciated the services rendered by the Health Care Warriors and has decided to honour 50 Covid Warriors with Certificate of Appreciation on August 15.

"With the hard work of our doctors, health workers, and other services, we have ensured better healthcare delivery during pandemic. I would like to convey gratitude to them on behalf of the entire Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha, as per the official spokesperson said.

Among others, the LG has approved name of Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah, Prof. & Head, Pulmonary Medicine CD Hospital Srinagar, Dr. Rahul Gupta, Head of Department, Chest Diseases GMC, Jammu, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, Professor, Internal Medicine, SKIMS Soura, Prof.(Dr) Ghulam Jeelani Romshoo, Head of Department, Medicine GMC, Anantnag, Dr. Tajamul Hussain, CMO Budgam, Dr. Ravinder Pal Singh, Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO J&K in recognition of their dedicated services during Covid Pandemic.

"Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir handled the Covid-19 pandemic with great professionalism and used all possible resources to provide Care and Cure to the patients suffering from Covid-19 in both waves," the official spokesperson said.

British Journalist

soldiers died the following day in an IED blast. It took three days for the security forces to be certain they were back in control.

India responded by heaping pressure on battle-weary Pakistan, threatening war, the authors say. "But internal reporting by combined intelligence was cursing and painfully honest. It acknowledged that several key pieces of protection were missing, "despite constant warnings".

More than 91 kilometres of the Punjab border was not fenced," they write. "At least four reports had suggested that rivers (and dry creeks) were vulnerable spots, but no nets were pegged across them.

There were no extra patrols, despite six written requests. Surveillance technology and movement trackers had not been deployed," they say. They also quote a BSF officer telling them that the border guarding force was "thin on the ground because it concentrated its activities in Kashmir, and its requests for more men had been ignored repeatedly".

On the Pathankot strike, Levy and Scott-Clark say that terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed had paid for the 350 kilos of explosives but they had been procured in India and the haul was waiting for the raiding party on the Indian side.

"Indian allies, including corrupt local police officers, were suspected of scouting the airbase. One of these dirty cops had found an area where there were multiple vulnerabilities: the floodlights were down, and the C.C.T.V. cameras had no coverage. There was no surveillance equipment of any kind and a large tree grew beside the perimeter wall that one written report identified as a security hazard," the book, published by Juggernaut, says.

An IB officer who investigated the case told the authors that the "police officer or one of his collaborators had climbed up and attached a rope. The raiders had used it "to heave over 50 kilos of ammunition, and 30 kilos of grenades, mortars, and AK-47s" used in the strike".

The heavily armed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants sneaked into the air base, killing six soldiers and an officer. Four militants were gunned down by the Indian security forces.

The authors write that after the Pulwama attack, "spy games were at play by seasoned officers

on both sides of the border who knew that once the past was edited the future remained clouded".

The book also mentions how ISI considered Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer on death row in Pakistan over espionage charges, a "small fry" and "intended to turn him into an enormous trophy".

They quote an unnamed officer connected with the ISI who says, "The I.S.I. waited patiently, hoping to grow Jadhav into something special and then when he was big enough, as a target, the I.S.I. would pull him in."

Govt To Act Against

Distress Sales) Act-1997 shall be taken cognizance by the competent authority (district magistrate) with timely action for eviction, custody and restoration of such properties and also action against the violators.

"The revenue officers shall dispose off cases on priority, with due consideration to the circumstances and specifically, while taking decision with regard to the limitation period," it adds.

The order by J&K administration comes two days after Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Rajya Sabha that nine properties of Kashmiri Pandits had been restored to original owners so far in J&K and the district magistrates (DMs) were the legal custodians of the immovable properties of the migrants, who take suo moto action on eviction proceedings in cases of encroachment, while the migrants can also request DMs in such cases. (With PTI inputs)

98,000 Kashmiri

or possessing immovable property in any part of Jammu and Kashmir on or after 1944, is entitled to domicile of the Union Territory.

On May 16 last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration took a historic decision by re-opening "fresh registration" for Kashmiri migrants and displaced people that paved the way for inclusion of bonafide people who migrated from the UT.

"Bonafide migrants and bonafide displaced persons who are not yet registered with the relief and rehabilitation commissioner (migrant), Jammu and Kashmir, can apply before the competent authority for registration for purpose of issuance of a domicile certificate only," an order issued by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, had said on May 16 last year.

The relief and rehabilitation commissioner (migrant) of Jammu and Kashmir shall be the competent authority for the purpose of registration of displaced persons, besides Kashmiri migrants to issue domicile certificate, the order said.

For this purpose, migrants and displaced people can apply online with one of the proofs, including a copy of permanent resident certificate, name in electoral roll of 1951 and 1988, proof of working in an autonomous body or entity before 1.11.1989, proof of owning immovable property in Jammu and Kashmir on or after 1944, among others.

Friday Prayers

of Jamia Masjid expressed surprise and resentment over the closure of central religious places including the Jamia Masjid, Hazratbal shrine, Khanqah-e-Maula and Astaan Aalia Makhdoom sahab for Friday prayers by administration under the "guise of COVID-19", terming this attitude of the rulers as extremely regrettable and appalling.

"The Anjuman Aqaf had ensured that people who came to the mosque for prayers fully follow the COVID SOP guidelines. But today, the authorities closed not only the Jamia Masjid and other central and important places for Friday prayers, but on the contrary, an attempt was made to create an atmosphere of fear and panic by deploying heavy military contingent around many central places of worship," an Anjuman spokesperson said, in a statement issued here.

He said that due to the closure of central

mosques, people at many places offered prayers on streets and outside compounds in protest.

"It's ironic that on one hand all concerns regarding Covid are being ignored when it comes to asking people to participate in official functions while restrictions are being imposed on Friday prayers and worship in central mosques, shrines and imambaras where Covid SOPs are being fully followed," the spokesperson said.

Apart from seeking lifting of restrictions on the Jamia Masjid as well as all other major places of worship, the Anjuman also demanded immediate release of its President and Hurriyat Conference (M) Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. (With agency inputs)

Man Held With

at Morh Kotan in the district, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said.

During checking, a suspicious person was apprehended and during his search, an IED attached with four sticky bombs and Rs 10,500 were seized from his possession, he said.

The man, identified as Mehmood Hussain of Kasbalari area of Poonch, was arrested, the officials said.

With this a major tragedy ahead of Independence Day was averted, they added.

An FIR has been registered at police station Mendhar and further investigation is on, the officials said.

LG Performs Chhari

and reach the holy Cave of Amarnath shrine via Pahalgam route following the Chhari Mubarak Yatra tradition.

The traditional Chhari puja began on Vyas Purnima on 24th July at Pahalgam where Bhoomi Puja and Dhawajrohan ceremonies were held.

Pertinently, keeping in view the pandemic this year arrangements were made for the virtual puja, hawan & online prasad booking through various online services of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. The Board has also arranged for a live telecast of morning and evening Aarti from the holy Cave of Lord Shiva both on TV and Digital platforms.

Govt Transfers

Director, SICOP, holding additional charge of Managing Director, SIDCO, has been transferred and posted as Secretary/CEO, KVIB, against an available vacancy.

As per separate order, Haris Ahmad Handoo (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, with immediate effect.

Tej Krishan Bhat (JKAS), Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare.

Ashok Kumar Pandita (JKAS), Additional Secretary to the Government, Information Department, has been transferred and posted as Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), J&K.

Soura Placed

within the 2-kilometre radius in/around the Anchar Soura," he said.

He further said that a police team led by the SP Hazratbal along with SHO Soura and the experts used the drones from SKIMS Park.

"Aerial surveillance helps to keep a close watch on the suspects. It also helps to further strengthen the security cover that is put in place," the police spokesperson added.

Ladakh Reports

Kargil district.

Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. A total of 20,136 patients have recovered till date.

A total of 1,900 samples -- 1,137 from Leh and 763 from Kargil returned a negative result in the latest round of tests, they said.



“AT NO GIVEN POINT, IT LOOKED LIKE he was confused or thinking too much. He was very clear with his plans and when you trust your plans, it definitely works. I thought today was his day and he made it really count.”

England To Play 2 T20s In Pakistan Before Twenty20 World Cup

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: England will play a two-match Twenty20 cricket series in Pakistan before both teams leave for the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates in October.

Both matches were initially scheduled to be played in Karachi, but the Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday said it was moving the series to Rawalpindi due to “operational and logistical reasons.”

Pindi Cricket Stadium will host the games on Oct. 13 and Oct. 14.

It will be England's first tour to Pakistan since 2005. The England squad will return for another limited-overs series and World Test Championship

matches next year.

While the England's men team will be touring Pakistan after a 16-year break, England's women's squad, led by Heather Knight, will tour Pakistan alongside their men's team for the first time.

“We are delighted to welcome both the England men's team and the England women's team, who will be touring Pakistan for the first time,” PCB chief executive Wasim Khan said.

The England squads will arrive October 9.

Eoin Morgan's England men's squad will leave for the UAE on Oct. 15. Knight's women's team will stay in Rawalpindi for the three ODIs on Oct. 17, 19 and 21.

Did BCCI Medical Officer In SL Delay Krunal Pandya's COVID Testing?



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The COVID-19 positive case of Krunal Pandya during the white ball tour of Sri Lanka has raised questions about BCCI's medical officer on tour delaying RT-PCR test by a day, leading to eight players missing out on two T20I games.

It has now emerged that Krunal, after sensing symptoms like throat pain, had immediately red-flagged team's accompanying doctor Abhijit Salvi on July 26 but neither was a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) done right away nor was the player immediately isolated.

In fact, despite throat pain, the team doctor allowed the player to attend the team meeting and only on July 27 morning was his RT-PCR Test done. The reports came late in afternoon after which BCCI and SLC decided to jointly postpone the game by a day as eight of his close contacts were also tested.

Initially all of them tested negative but later before the team left Sri Lanka, Krishnappa Gowtham and Yuzvendra Chahal were also found to be positive.

The Indian white ball team led by Shikhar Dhawan and coached by Rahul Dravid played three ODIs and three T20 Internationals winning the first series 2-1 and losing the shortest format 1-2.

“Krunal had throat pain on July 26 and he followed the protocol informing the

medical officer. It is strange that he should have been immediately isolated with a Rapid Antigen Test (self test kit) done. But nothing of that sort happened,” a BCCI source privy to developments in Sri Lanka, told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

“Although Rapid Antigen Test is not conclusive but it's the first part of protocol. But I can confirm, Krunal despite throat pain attended team meeting,”

“In fact, another question that's being raised is how come BCCI's medical team in Sri Lanka agreed to testing every fifth day whereas in IPL, testing is done every third day,” the source added.

“Thanks to secretary Jay Shah, who intervened and the crisis of a series cancellation was averted by isolating all close contacts. His move saved the series and also helped the Sri Lankan Cricket board. But had the medical team been pro-active, the situation could have been averted,” the BCCI insider said.

The man in question Salvi was contacted by the PTI for his side of the story.

“I will not make any comments,” Salvi said.

The T20 series defeat was primarily due to India only having four specialist batsmen with as many as eight close contacts of Krunal were put in mandatory isolation after the player tested positive.

The trio of Krunal, Chahal and Gowtham returned home earlier this month.



Specially Abled Budgam Cricketer Selected For Bangladesh Cricket Series

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Board of Disabled Cricket Association (BDCA) India has selected a specially disabled young cricketer from Central Kashmir's Budgam village for One Day International Series (ODI) series against Bangladesh.

BDCA has intimated 25-year old cricketer Nayeem Ahmad Malla who hails from Aarath village of Budgam about his selection through an official letter.

“On behalf of the BDCA and its Board members I wish to inform and congratulate you that based on your past performance and

the recently concluded four days probable Cricket Selections Camp at Hyderabad organized by Board of Disabled Cricket Association,

you have been selected in the Indian Cricket Team for the ODI series against Bangladesh. You have also been selected in test match and T-20 series against Bangladesh,” reads the letter received by Nayeem from General Secretary of BDCA, K Rami Reddy.

Nayeem is a well-known cricketer who has already represented Jammu and Kashmir at National level.

The jubilant family members told news agency Kashmir News

Trust that they are really happy and wish Nayeem performs well in Bangladesh.

Nayeem said that he was picked up by the Selection Committee during trials at Hyderabad. “They were impressed by my performance and I was informed about my selection during the trials and today I received an official letter from the Board,” he said.

Nayeem comes from a family with humble background. He doesn't hesitate in admitting that he used to be a slopseller in Kolkata and did menial jobs to support his family.

India All Out For 364 In 1st Innings On Day 2 At Lord's

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India were bowled out for 364 in their first innings on the second day of the second Test against England here on Friday.

In reply, England was 24-2 after tea with Mohammed Siraj removing Dom Sibley for 11 and Haseeb Hameed for 0. The early inroads have put India in firm control of the second test.

The 39-year-old James Anderson's name will go up on the famous Honours Board at Lord's for the seventh time in his career after compiling figures of 5-62 at the home of cricket as England roared back into the match. This was his 31st five wicket haul.

India added just 88 runs to its dominant overnight score of 276-3, losing four wickets before lunch and another three in the first hour of the second session.

Resuming at 346 for seven after lunch, India added just 18



runs in the second session of the day for the loss of three wickets.

Rishabh Pant played well against the English bowlers but fell for 37 runs off 58 balls. India lost two wickets in quick succession. Moeen Ali dismissed Mohammed Shami for 0. KL Rahul (129 runs off 250 balls)

and Ajinkya Rahane (1 run off 23 balls) departed early with pacers Ollie Robinson and James Anderson giving England massive breakthroughs.

The five-match series is levelled at 0-0 after the rain-marred opener ended in a draw at Nottingham.

Best I Have Seen KL Rahul Bat, Says Rohit Sharma

Press Trust of India

LONDON: KL Rahul batted with an uncluttered mind and perhaps was at his best while executing the plans to perfection during his superb hundred, feels opening partner Rohit Sharma.

Rohit himself scored an attractive 83 and added 126 for the opening stand with Rahul, who ended the first day of the second Test unbeaten on 127.

“It was probably the best I have seen KL bat and he was in control from ball one till we finished the day today. Very much in control,” Rohit said after the day's play on Thursday.

“At no given point, it looked like he was confused or thinking too much. He was very clear with his plans and when you trust your plans, it definitely works. I thought today was his day and he made it really count,” the senior player said.

Rohit's own innings laid the foundation and he seemed happy that both him and Rahul were able to control their minds while facing the new ball and cut down the risky shots.

“That's the challenge of Test cricket. You may have lot of shots in your book but when you know that conditions are against you, you have to keep talking to yourself and you have to cut down the shots that are unnecessary specially with the new ball,” Rohit explained.

“Once you play and get the feel of the pitch and conditions, then may be you can try and play some shots. We respect the conditions here and it's also important to go out and implement plans. That is something as a batting group have done reasonably well — right from Australia tour to today.”

He feels that batsmen now understand their roles better.

“Our batters now understand their role which is the most important thing and I think they are playing by their roles.”

When asked what kind of discussions he had with Rahul as they opened in England for the first time, the answer was a signature Rohit.

“Honestly, there was no discussion as KL was not supposed to play the first game and Mayank (Agarwal) was supposed to play that game.

“Unfortunately, he (Mayank) got hit on his head and he missed out due to concussion and then only KL stepped in. Once we went out to bat, we were discussing about what we need to do and things like that. Yes, first time I have played with KL in Test cricket but I have batted with him a number of times.”

Batting testing conditions can feel very lonely and if the batting partner is communicative, it makes the job a lot easier.

“We know each others games and we understand each others' games. And it's important to keep talking in the middle. It can be very lonely out there, if you are not communicating and I feel it's nice to have a partner who is willing to communicate and take the game forward.

“KL and myself — our mindsets are pretty similar and we want to take the game forward.”

While he doesn't consider his innings as the best he has batted overseas, he does feel that it was the most challenging one.

“I wouldn't say the best innings because as long as you play you will have lot of opportunities but certainly the most challenging one. I felt very good, really happy with the way we started off and unfortunate dismissal bit we couldn't have done anything about it,” concluded Rohit.

First Test, Day 1: West Indies 2/2 After Dismissing Pakistan For 217

Agencies

KINGSTON: The West Indies stumbled to stumps at 2-2 Thursday after dismissing Pakistan for 217 on an eventful opening day in the first cricket test.

Twelve wickets fell on a day shortened by bad light after the West Indies won the toss and sent Pakistan in to bat.

Five Pakistan batsmen got starts but Fawad Alam's 56 was the only half century of an innings that lasted 70 overs.

Pacemen Jason Holder (3-26) and Jayden Seales (3-70) took three wickets each and Kemar Roach added 2-47 for the West Indies.

Just when Day 1 seemed to be going all one way, Pakistan pacer Mohammad Abbas (2-0) had left-hander Kieran Powell well caught low at second slip by Imran Butt and trapped Nkrumah Bonner lbw on consecutive deliveries in his second over.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite survived the four-over spell before stumps and

was unbeaten on one. Earlier, Pakistan reached 21 before both openers fell within nine balls.

Roach bowled Butt (11) in the seventh over and Seales claimed his first wicket next over when he had Abid Ali (9) caught behind. Azhar Ali and skipper Babar Azam added 47 for the third wicket before Seales struck again, having Ali (17) caught by Holder at second slip to a ball that bounced sharply and came off the shoulder of the bat.

Pakistan didn't add to the score before Roach had Azam (30) caught behind in the next over.

Fawad Alam rebuilt the innings in middle-order partnerships of 33 with Mohammad Rizwan (23) and 85 with Faheem Ashraf, who scored 44 from 66 deliveries before he was run out in the 63rd over by Roston Chase with a diving, under-arm throw from square leg.

The innings lasted seven more overs with Fawad bowled by Holder, ending his 117-ball, three-hour innings, among the three Pakistan wickets to fall with the total on 217.

Unmukt Chand, India's U19 World Cup-Winning Captain, Retires

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Unmukt Chand, who had led India to U-19 World Cup title triumph but struggled to replicate his success at the senior level, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of the game.

Chand, 28, announced the decision on social media with a series of tweets and a lengthy note along with his some memorable videos.

In all probability, Chand will play in a T20 league in the United States, like his U19 World Cup-winning team-mate Smit Patel.

To compete there, he needed to announce his retirement since the BCCI does not allow its registered players to compete in foreign T20 Leagues.

“Though a part of me is not at peace with the way things have unfolded in the last few years, I still choose to see the silver lining and with fond memories bid adieu to BCCI and seek better opportunities around the world,” Unmukt wrote in the lengthy note.

Chand, a right-handed batsman and off-break bowler, who led India to 2012 U19 World Cup win, soon became a household name in the country.

Chand was the ‘Man of the Match’ in the final, as his 111 not



out had shaped India's victory.

“Cricket is a universal game and even though the means might change, the end goal is still the same — to play cricket at the highest level,” the former U-19 skipper further wrote.

He also thanked the BCCI and described winning the U-19 World Cup as the biggest moment of his life. After his U19 exploits, former Australia skipper Ian Chappell had written in one of his columns that he should be included in the Indian team.

For Chand things happened at a break-neck speed as he landed a big television commercial with the legendary Mahendra Singh

Dhoni and Virat Kohli.

The Delhi-born top-order batsman wrote his World Cup memoir, something that had even amused former India captain Rahul Dravid. But there were also many instances in his life, which did not go down well with former cricketers.

He once took a break from India A camp to attend a talk show seminar of a private channel which had prompted former World Cup winning India skipper Kapil Dev to criticize him on the stage.

Dev's team-mate and former chairman of selectors Sandeep Patil wanted him to be sent to Zimbabwe in 2015, but he somehow missed the bus.

Lukaku Seals €115 million Return To Chelsea From Inter

Agencies

LONDON: Romelu Lukaku sealed a return to Chelsea on Thursday night by moving from Inter Milan for a reported \$135 million, a record transfer fee for the European champions.

The Belgium striker is back at the London club where he spent three seasons from 2011, though he was out on loan for two of those years before being sold for 28 million pounds (now \$39 million) to Everton.

Now, Lukaku is one of the world's best strikers, prompting Chelsea to buy him back for more than three times that fee to make him the second most expensive player in Premier League history. England midfielder Jack Grealish joined Manchester City from Aston Villa last week for 100 million pounds (\$139 million).

“I'm happy and blessed to be back at this wonderful club,” Lukaku said. “It's been a long journey for me: I came here as a kid who had a lot to learn, now I'm coming back with a lot of experience and more mature.

“The relationship I have with this club means so much to me, as you know. I have supported Chelsea as a kid and now to be back and try to help them win more titles is an amazing feeling.”

A striker was regarded as a priority this offseason for Chelsea,



which became European champions without having a regular center forward after Timo Werner underwhelmed following his move from Leipzig.

Werner joined last year as part of Chelsea's biggest off-season spending spree — nearly \$300 million — since Russian owner Roman Abramovich took

charge in 2003 and the club has spent big again to entice Lukaku, who scored 47 goals in 72 appearances in Serie A for Inter in his two seasons in Italy. Inter won the league last season for the first time since 2010.

Lukaku joined Inter in 2019 from Manchester United, having failed to settle at Old Trafford

after his move from Everton two years earlier for 75 million pounds (then \$97 million).

With its finances badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic and an early elimination from the Champions League, Inter has been looking to reduce its wage bill and make a large profit in the off-season transfer window after taking out a loan from an American investment fund. Lukaku follows right-back Achraf Hakimi, who joined Paris Saint-Germain for 60 million euros (\$71 million), out of the door at Inter.

Lukaku didn't score in 15 appearances in his first spell at Chelsea, which he joined a decade ago dreaming of being as successful as club great Didier Drogba. Now he will get that chance at the second attempt.

“The way the club is going fits my ambitions perfectly at 28 and just coming off winning Serie A,” he said. “I think this opportunity comes at the right time and hopefully we can have a lot of success together.

“Since I left Chelsea, it's been a long journey with a lot of ups and downs, but these experiences made me strong and the challenge is to try to help the team win some more trophies. I can't wait to get started and to help the club achieve more success.”

3 Accused Of Assaulting Muslim Man In UP Get Bail 24 Hours After Arrest

Trans Asia News

Kanpur: Three people arrested for parading a 45-year-old Muslim man in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur town through a street, assaulting him and making him chant "Jai Shri Ram" slogans have been granted bail less than 24 hours after their arrest.

Three people, including one having affiliation to the Vishva Hindu Parishad, had been arrested for thrashing e-rickshaw driver Asrar Ahmad here and asking him to chant "Jai Shri Ram", police said on Friday.

A one-minute distressing video of the incident surfaced on social media, in which Asrar is seen being thrashed by some violent men. Asrar's crying little daughter is seen clinging on to her father and trying to protect him from the attackers.

Later, some policemen took him to their jeep. It did not stop here. The video also shows the miscreants hitting the man while in police custody while police personnel are seen "mute spectators".

According to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by the victim's family, Asrar was driving his e-rickshaw at around 3 p.m on Wednesday when a group of men wearing saffron gamchha (towel) started

abusing and beating him. They threatened to kill him along with his family members.

Kanpur Police Commissioner Asim Arun said the three men were arrested on Thursday night. One of the arrested, Aman Gupta, has affiliation to the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), police said.

Besides Gupta, the two others arrested are Rajesh, alias Jay, and Rahul.

After the arrest, a mob of Bajrang Dal workers held a protest outside the concerned police station in Kanpur and left only after what they called 'assurances' from the police about a fair investigation, saying they would return if those arrested were not released soon.

On Friday, only a day after the incident, all the accused were granted bail.

The incident comes on the back of growing instances of attacks on Muslims in Uttar Pradesh, ahead of the Assembly elections due early next year. The promulgation of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion, an ordinance, commonly known as "Love Jihad", has further emboldened to Hindutva outfits to target Muslim youth and create a sense of fear among the community, point out critics.

Mumbai Reports First Death Due To Delta Plus Variant, Third In Maharashtra



MUMBAI: Mumbai has recorded its first death due to the Delta Plus variant of coronavirus with a 63-year-old fully vaccinated woman succumbing to the infection in the last week of July, a civic official said. This was the third recorded death due to the Delta Plus variant in Maharashtra, state officials said.

Following the woman's death in Mumbai, at least two of her close contacts were also found infected with the variant which is considered highly infectious, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official.

A resident of suburban Ghatkopar, the woman died on July 27 in the ICU of a hospital. Only on August 11 the state authorities learnt that she had Delta Plus variant infection after the genome sequencing report came, the official said.

The woman had taken both the doses of Covishield vaccine, but tested coronavirus positive on July 21 with symptoms like dry cough, loss of taste, body-ache and headache, he said.

She was put on oxygen support and given steroids and Remdesivir, he said, adding that she had no travel history or history of reinfection.

Her six close contacts also tested coronavirus positive. Genome sequencing showed that two of them had been infected with the

Delta Plus variant while the results of others were awaited, the BMC official said.

Earlier, an 80-year-old woman from Ratnagiri district who had been infected with the Delta Plus variant died on June 13. She had not taken even a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine, officials said.

Another death due to the Delta Plus variant was reported at Nagothane in Raigad district, about 100 km from Mumbai, in July. Nidhi Chaudhari, Raigad collector, told PTI that a 69-year-old man who was suffering from co-morbidities tested positive on July 15 and died on July 22. The report about his Delta Plus infection was received later, she said.

"This person was fully vaccinated," the collector said, adding that there was no reason for panic as the administration has traced all his close contacts.

Two days ago, the Maharashtra government had said 20 new cases of the Delta Plus variant were detected in the state on Wednesday and seven of them were in Mumbai.

It took the number of patients found infected with this variant in the state to 65, said a health department statement. Of the newly detected cases, seven were in Mumbai, three in Pune, two each in Nanded, Gondia, Raigad, Palghar, and one each in Chandrapur and Akola districts, it said. PTI

Odisha Man Bites And Kills Snake In Bizzare Revenge Case

Agenceis

JAIPUR: In a bizarre case of human revenge, a 45-year-old tribal man reportedly bit a snake to death after the latter bit him in a remote village in Odisha's Jajpur district.

Kishore Badra of Gambharipatia village under Salijanga panchayat under Danagadi block was returning home after working in his paddy field on Wednesday night, when when a snake bit him on his leg.

Badra managed to capture the viper and bit it to death in a bid to take revenge.

"Something bit on my leg while I was returning home on foot last night. I switched on my torch and found it to be a poisonous krait snake. In order to take revenge, I took the snake in my hands and bit it repeatedly,

killing the viper on the spot," said Badra.

Following the incident he came back to his village with the dead snake and told his wife the whole tale.

Soon this became the talk of the village with Badra exhibiting the snake to his friends.

Some onlookers advised Badra to visit a nearby hospital, but he refused to go to the hospital and instead went to a traditional healer to seek advice on the same night.

Luckily for Badra, the snake bite and his biting the snake has seemingly had no impact on him.

Badra none the worse for his bizarre adventure, said on Thursday, "even though I bit the poisonous krait, I did not feel any difficulty. I went to a traditional healer residing near the village and was cured."

Multi-layered Security Arrangements at Red Fort for Independence Day



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NEW DELHI: A multi-layered security cover has been put in place to secure the historic Red Fort from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on the 75th Independence Day on Sunday.

The security ring, including NSG snipers, elite SWAT commandos, kite catchers, canine units and sharpshooters on high-rise buildings, has been placed around the Mughal-era fort, and adherence to social distancing norms will be must like last year due to the Covid pandemic.

According to the police, anti-drone systems have also been installed at the Red Fort in view of the recent terror attack at IAF station in Jammu airport where Pakistan-based terrorists used drones to strike the vital installation for the first time.

India's Olympic contingent will be at the Red Fort as special guests on August 15.

Over 350 cameras have been installed and their footage is being monitored round the clock through two-police control

rooms situated in and around the Red Fort area, police said.

There will be around 5,000 security personnel at the Red Fort and they will adhere to social distancing norms, they said.

The Delhi Police had erected a huge wall of shipping containers decorated with graffiti for the first time earlier this month at the main gate of Red Fort for security reasons.

The containers have been placed in such a way that no one will be able to see inside the premises of the fort when the prime minister addresses the nation. Nobody would be able to peek inside the fort from the Chandani Chowk and adjoining areas, the police said.

The move comes after many protesters driving tractors reached the Red Fort and entered the monument on January 26 and hoisted a religious flag.

Over 70 police vehicles – including PCR vans, 'PRAKHAR' vans and QRT (Quick Reaction Team) vans will be stationed at the Red Fort area as part of security deployment along with intensified patrolling by police personnel on

motorcycle, the police said.

Patrolling on motorboats will be carried out in the Yamuna river by the Delhi Police to ensure no untoward incident takes place in the national capital.

Security arrangements have also been tightened at the Delhi borders where thousands of farmers have been protesting for over seven months against the centre's new agri laws.

The police have already carried out anti-sabotage checks in the area and visited hotels in the vicinity in search of suspicious elements, officials said, adding security verification of the residents, including tenants and servants, has also been conducted.

On Friday morning, a full-dress rehearsal of the 75th Independence Day celebrations was held at the Red Fort.

Personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force marched across the Mughal-era structure.

The security arrangements were stringent and there were traffic restrictions during the rehearsal. The Red Fort has already been closed for public, officials said.

Police personnel have been asked

Air Travel Becomes Costlier As Govt Raises Caps On Domestic Airfares By Up To 13 Per Cent

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Domestic air travel is set to become costlier as the Civil Aviation Ministry has raised the lower as well as upper caps on fares by 9.83 to 12.82 percent, according to an official order.

India had imposed lower and upper limits on airfares based on flight duration when services were resumed on May 25, 2020, after a two-month lockdown due to coronavirus.

The lower caps were imposed to help the airlines that have been struggling financially due to coronavirus-related travel restrictions. The upper caps were imposed so that passengers are not charged huge

amounts when the demand for seats is high.

In an order dated August 12, 2021, the ministry increased the lower limit for flights under 40 minutes of duration from Rs 2,600 to Rs 2,900 – an increase of 11.53 per cent. The upper cap for flights under 40 minutes of duration was increased by 12.82 per cent to Rs 8,800.

Similarly, flights with duration between 40-60 minutes have a lower limit of Rs 3,700 instead of Rs 3,300 now, the order said. The upper cap on these flights was increased by 12.24 per cent to Rs 11,000 on Thursday.

The flights with duration between 60-90 minutes have a lower limit of Rs 4,500 – an

increase of 12.5 per cent. The upper cap on these flights was increased by 12.82 per cent to Rs 13,200 on Thursday.

Now, domestic flights of duration between 90-120, 120-150, 150-180 and 180-210 minutes have lower caps of Rs Rs 5,300, Rs 6,700, Rs 8,300 and Rs 9,800, respectively, as per the ministry's order.

Till date, domestic flights of duration between 90-120, 120-150, 150-180 and 180-210 minutes had the lower limits of Rs 4,700, Rs 6,100, Rs 7,400 and Rs 8,700, respectively.

The lower cap on flights between 120-150 minutes duration was increased by 9.83 per cent to Rs 6,700, as per the new order.

Those Who Own One Flat Shouldn't Be Allowed 4-5 Cars: Bombay High Court

Agenceis

Mumbai: Expressing anguish over the lack of any uniform policy in Maharashtra over designated parking spaces for vehicles, the Bombay High Court has said that authorities must not allow citizens to own multiple personal vehicles if they didn't have adequate parking space.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni said on Thursday that authorities "should not allow families owning only one flat to have four or five cars if they do not have sufficient parking space" available in their respective housing societies.

The bench was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a Navi Mumbai resident and activist Sandeep Thakur, challenging a government notification that amended the Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations Rules, permitting developers to reduce car parking space.

Mr Thakur said in his plea that

developers do not provide sufficient parking spaces in new apartment colonies, thereby forcing residents to park outside the premises of the housing society.

"Reduction in the purchase of new cars is needed. You can't permit one family to have four to five vehicles just because they can afford it. You should cross-check if they have parking spaces or not," the high court said.

The high court questioned the rules challenged in the PIL and said there will be "chaos if a proper policy on vehicle parking is not formulated".

"All roads are flooded with vehicles and everywhere, 30 per cent space of roads is taken away by parking on both sides. It is a common phenomenon," it said. "These are genuine public concerns which have to be taken into consideration to come up with long-term measures so that we do not have a chaotic society. There has to be a policy in place."

The high court directed state's counsel Manish Pable to file a reply to the PIL within two weeks.

Scientists Build Soft Robots From Waste Onion Peels



Agenceis

Using porous carbon nanoparticles from waste onion peels, a team of scientists have developed soft robotic actuators with enhanced photomechanical capacity, the Department of Science and Technology said.

The actuators can act as efficient traps for illuminating low-power near-infrared (NIR) light and can convert a control signal into mechanical motion with bioengineering applications such as drug delivery, wearable and assistive devices, prostheses, and even artificial organs.

Soft robots or actuators consisting of rubber-like polymer with embedded nanomaterial, which convert a source of energy to mechanical motion, have been gaining much interest with targeted applications in areas, including bio-medical, military, and remote space operations.

Generation of predesigned motion facilitated by their flexibility, affordability, and easy customisation are the main reasons for such interest.

The high thermal conductivity of these nanoforms results in rapid distribution of the heat generated locally by thermal and photothermal stimuli, the DST said.

To take these actuators to the next level of development, heat traps can be created to capture and contain the generated heat

for slightly longer durations such that the achieved photomechanical actuation can be enhanced.

"A team led by prof. S Krishna Prasad at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, has realised such a possibility by utilising porous carbon nanoparticles (PCNs)," the DST said.

In the research work recently published in the 'Journal of Nanostructure in Chemistry' the porous nanocarbons (PCN) prepared from waste onion peels by Gurusurthy Hegde at the BMS College of Engineering in Bengaluru, it added.

The specific surface area of the high porosity PCNs were efficient traps for the illuminating low-power near-infrared (NIR) light resulting in the film comprising PCNs and PDMS achieving large magnitude (multi-mm) actuation with fast (sub-second) responses. These features are seldom obtained in single-layer films containing any other carbon nanostructure.

The researchers attribute the heat-trapping capability to the manner in which the PCN is prepared.

Pragnya Satapathy, a senior research fellow, said, "Exhaustive measurements performed show that the photothermal conversion efficiency and the heat-trapping capability is seen to be strongly correlated with the pyrolysis temperature employed for PCN preparation, and thus is an effective control parameter."

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



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Why Isn't Beneficiary List Of PM Ujjwala Yojna Being Made Public In Jammu And Kashmir?

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