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P3 CITY

'WHO IS HUSSAIN' QUENCHES THIRST OF MOURNERS, COPS IN CITY CENTRE

Britain-based charity organisation 'Who is Hussain' reached out to people in Srinagar on Tuesday by organising a free water distribution camp in the City centre.....

THINK

HASSAN KAK'S SUROOR

Today, there was an amateur elegy reciter in Majlis not more than 20 years of age. In a bid to encourage him to stand up in the huge crowd to do the job of a tear jerker, I went forward to lend him my vocal support. He recited the elegy "Suroor"



P7 STATE

J&K HAS EFFECTIVE HEALTH INFRA TO CONTROL COVID-19: GOVT

The government on Tuesday said J&K is one of the top performers in containment of COVID-19 as an effective network of health infrastructure



Quote!

"Don't compare your beginning to someone else's middle."

—Jon Acuff

NEWS DIGEST

Dulloo Posted FC Finance Department

Srinagar: Government on Tuesday posted Atal Dulloo (IAS) as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department. According to an order issued here by the government, Vivek Bhardwaj, (IAS) has been posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Health and Medical Education Department. Dulloo who was hitherto Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Health and Medical Education Department, shall also be the Chairman ● More On P6

Sultan Elected President Of Pak Kashmir

Islamabad: Barrister Sultan Mahmood was elected as the president of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) on Tuesday by the region's legislative assembly. Mahmood was supported by the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which won the election held on July 25. He secured 34 votes against his rival joint opposition candidate Mian Abdul Waheed, who received 16 votes. He will succeed Sardar Masood Khan whose tenure will end on August 24. Mahmood is a veteran politician and also served as the prime minister of PcK between July 1996-July 2001. Mahmood is the PTI's regional president and was elected as a member of the legislative assembly from LA-3, Mirpur-III.

Coaching Centre Sealed For Violating SOPs

Jammu: Authorities in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday sealed a coaching centre for violating COVID guidelines, officials said. The institute -- "Ignited Minds" -- was providing coaching to students from classes 8 to 10 in violation of official orders, they said. According to the official guidelines released last week, all schools and higher educational institutions, including coaching centres, would continue to remain closed for onsite or in-person teaching till further orders. ● More On P6

Ladakh Reports 4 New COVID-19 Cases

Leh: Ladakh recorded four fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 20,455 while the total active cases in the Union territory has gone down to 77, officials said on Tuesday. 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 20,171 patients have ● More On P6



KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Mourners raising pro-Islam slogans while leading 8th Muharram procession through Srinagar's Maulana Azad Road on Tuesday.

Police Uses Force To Stop Muharram Procession In Srinagar

Scores Injured, 5 Hit By Pellets, Dozens Detained

Mohammad Raafi/
Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Scores of mourners were injured, at least half a dozen by pellets, after government forces burst teargas canisters and fired shotgun pellets to prevent thousands of people defying ban order to take out traditional 8th Muharram procession in this capital city.

Over two dozen mourners were detained and many 'thrashed' by the riot police.

Early in the morning, mourners in small batches made attempts to reach Guru Bazar locality of Shaheed Gunj to take out the traditional 8th Muharram procession that remains banned since early nineties. There was heavy deployment of armed police and all entry points were sealed with concertina wires and other

barricades.

Chanting "Labaik Ya Hussain", the mourners were intercepted by police and paramilitary personnel at a number of places including Batmalu, Jehangir Chowk and Abi Guzar.

The CRPF and police party led by SHO Shaheed Gunj Sabzar Ahmad used batons to stop mourners from regrouping. Some of the mourners were severely thrashed. Nearly a dozen ● More On P6

Journalists Thrashed For Covering Procession

Police on Tuesday lathicharged and thrashed a group of journalists covering a Muharram procession here, evoking criticism from various quarters.

● More On P6

153 More Recover From Covid In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday recovery of 153 more coronavirus infected people, while 83 new cases and one more Covid-19 related death was confirmed in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 153 more Covid-19 patients have recovered -- 58 from Jammu division and 95 from the Valley ● More On P6

Police Informer Remains Untraced Six Years After Framing Kashmiri Man

Agencies

New Delhi: Even six years after announcing a reward of Rs two lakh on absconding Delhi Police Special Cell alleged informer Sabir Khan Pathan, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is still unable to trace him. Pathan is wanted for falsely framing a Jammu and Kashmir resident Sayyad Liyaqat Shah, whom the Special Cell had arrested in 2013 on charges of being a Hizb-ul



A file photo of Sayyad Liyaqat Shah

Mujahideen member.

An NIA official privy to the development ● More On P6

Pak Kashmir Refugees Hit Streets, Demand Financial Help

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A group of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) refugees on Tuesday staged a demonstration here in support of their demands, including a financial assistance of Rs 24.50 lakh per family.

The centre has approved a package of Rs 2,000 crore for the 36,384 displaced families from PcK on December 20, 2016 under the Prime Minister's Development Package.

In the aftermath of the country's partition in 1947, thousands of families from Pakistan controlled areas of Jammu and Kashmir migrated and settled in various parts of Jammu. Subsequently, during India-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971, a large number of families were displaced from Chhamb Niabat area of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are still waiting for a permanent settlement and want the ● More On P6

SBI Chairman Calls On LG

Srinagar: State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Tuesday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here

The Chairman apprised the LG about the latest initiatives taken by the SBI in J&K for greater financial inclusion. He also discussed with the Lt Governor the various upcoming financial services to be extended to the citizens of the UT, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, asked the Chairman ● More On P6

In FOCUS

I've no idea about the telling transition depriving me of my growing up memories. Should I lament because I've no special school memories of last two years? How's that going to shape up my academic life ahead?

'We Deserve Campus Life': Kashmiri Student Pens Pathos Of Isolation

Farzana Bashir

I recently looked into the mirror at length, and saw that I've visibly grown sulking and sullen. I'm yet to step out of my teen years and yet, that striking change surprised me. I tried to smile at my reflection, but I couldn't fake it. I don't know how to explain this change. Perhaps, my long-drawn home captivity is guilty of charge.

But I wasn't always like this. In that speculative summer of 2019, I was an ebullient girl busy with my campus life. Then in Class 11, I'm in first year of my

college now -- but I can't tell how I graduated from my school to college during this period.

I've no idea about the telling transition depriving me of my growing up memories. Should I lament because I've no special school memories of last two years? How's that going to shape up my academic life ahead?

I wonder about it, just like I marvel at my homeland's different shades of life. And in this process, I've become well-versed with the strife vocabulary and everything that now governs the pulse of life in the valley.

Even before Article 370 was read down, students of Kashmir

had no good life. Most of us were raised with troubles and tensions. The constant curbs and campus depravity would make us feel some prisoner in our own right. And this affected my expression and engagement with life.

However, life within walls can be cruel. Even if you've best study material and facilities available, you tend to miss the classroom ecosystem and the real life interactions. You crave for those small moments of joy and giggles with your classmates, and those face-to-face interactions in actual learning atmosphere.

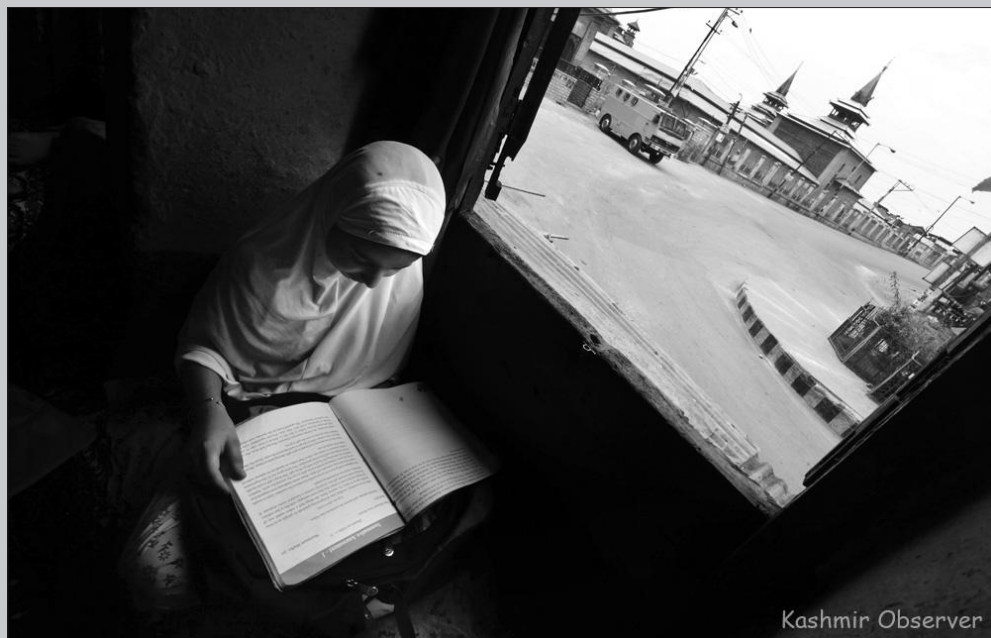
But now, when most of us sit

for those monotonous online classes, they never make you feel the same way. There's something with this mechanical routine which leaves you annoyed at the end of the day. You become mad and moody. And this, I reckon, is a regressive sign.

Surviving this grueling schedule filled with internet blackouts, communication crises and physical outings do alter your outlook and make you grow beyond your years.

You may be well-acquainted with your homeland hues, but this coming at the cost of your campus freedom is disturbing.

● More On P6



Kashmir Observer



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**KASHMIR
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Wednesday| 18-08-2021

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o: Mohannad Ramzan Sheikh R/o: Badran Beerwah Budgam (Transferor) of Maruti 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 0766 Chasis number 870436 Engine no. 4600152 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Abdullah Dar S/o. Mohammad Subhan Dar R/o Larkipora (Allahpora) (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/U Magam is also required Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3104 Dated 17/08/2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir



**Office of The Regional
Transport Officer Kashmir**

NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Hafizullah Dar S/O Ghulam Hasan Dar R/o Usmania Colony Bemina, Srinagar (Transferor) of TIAGO bearing registration No. JK01AF-7304 chasis No: 79893 Engine No: 65961 Model 2017 in favour of Danish Qayoom Wani S/O Abdul Qayoom Wani R/O Tanpora Bye Pass Batmaloo (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period. Sd/- NOJK-RTOK 5742 Dated: 16/08/2021 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir



**FATHER'S NAME
CORRECTION IN PASSPORT**

In my passport no; J-7214291 expiring on 23/02/2022 issued at Srinagar, name of my father is written as Mohammad Tajamul Hussain, which is now to be corrected and written as TAJAMUL HUSSAIN in my fresh passport. Objections if any maybe communicated to Regional passport office, Srinagar within seven days as no objections will be entertained thereafter.

**GHAZAL QADRI
D/O TAJAMUL HUSSAIN
Lane 3, Bulbulbagh, Barzulla**

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ہماری والدہ محترمہ ہلیہ مولوی غلام محی الدین بروز سوموار داعی اجل کو لبیک کہہ گئی۔

انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون

موجودہ حالات کے پیش نظر اجتماعی فائتہ خوانی آبی مقبرہ واقع بابا مزار میں انجام دی گئی۔ لیکن انفرادی طور پر تعزیتی مجلس 20 اگست تک جاری رہے گی۔ لیکن بروز جمعہ اجتماعی اختتامی مجلس صبح ساڑھے سات بجے مقبرہ پر انجام دی جاگی۔

سگور رائل

مولوی امداد ساقی، مولوی حمید حسین،
مولوی مصداق الحسن، مولوی ہلال انجم،
مرزا عبد حسین بیگ

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈی کاٹھن ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پیر انڈنگ ٹھیکہ آرائی بیڑی سرکل انتہ تاگ/ کوٹاکم تکمیل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر RNA
مختار احمد پورے ولد عبد الغنی پورے ساکنہ سڈورہ انتہ تاگ

اطلاع عام

میری آٹھویں جماعت پاس سرٹیفکیٹ کیں گے ہوئی ہے اب اسکی ڈپلی کیٹ کا پی ٹی ٹی کاٹھن مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پیر انڈنگ ٹھیکہ آرائی بیڑی سرکل انتہ تاگ/ کوٹاکم تکمیل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر RNA
جادو احمد وانی ولد غلام احمد وانی ساکنہ بلراہامہ

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جادو احمد وانی ولد غلام احمد وانی ساکنہ بلراہامہ

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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

**Office Of The Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir**

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Rustum S/o: Haji Abdul Jabar Bhat R/o: Punzwa Vilgam Kupwara owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 5644 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Humhama. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3094 Dated 17-08-2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir



Samoon Asks Officers To Enhance Beautification Of KGP College

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Tuesday visited Kashmir Government Polytechnic (KGP) College and State Board of Technical Education Office (BOTE), Srinagar. Principal Secretary directed the concerned for clearing the leftover debris in the institution within 2 days to enhance beautification of the campus.

Principal, KGP, apprised the Principal Secretary about cleanliness drive undertaken in the college for

equipments.

During inspection of Library, he asked the management for update of Library by way of procurement of books and furniture besides undertaking repairs and renovations.

Principal Secretary asked the Executive Engineer R&B Division-II to get technical sanction finalized and tendering process expedited with regard to infrastructure development and restoration of flood hit buildings in the campus.

He also emphasized on repairing and restoration of 100 kwp capacity



removal of debris and other unwanted material from the college campus. He informed that the college has undertaken various placement drives in the past and during the current month, 18 pass outs from various disciplines have been absorbed in the private sector.

While deliberating upon admission process, Principal Secretary emphasized upon 100 per cent utilization of seats during the current academic session by way of wide publicity through print and electronic media.

Principal Secretary also inspected Heritage Craft Centre of the college where one year Heritage Craft course (Wood Carving course) is offered to the interested candidates.

Taking stock of infrastructure facilities available in the college, Principal Secretary directed for auction of unserviceable machinery items so as to create space for modern

Solar Power Plant which was damaged in floods of 2014.

Principal Secretary exhorted upon the youth to undergo training at Polytechnic Colleges in available disciplines to fetch better career avenues. He said that Polytechnic Colleges in the UT have a state of art infrastructure and youth are being trained as per industry needs. He also informed that Government is working for introduction of new job oriented courses in the Polytechnic Colleges.

While visiting the State Board of Technical Education Office, Srinagar, Secretary BOTE briefed the Principal Secretary about the status of results declared recently. He further apprised him that the Board has completed updation process of the official website of BOTE as per the circular instructions of the IT Department.

‘Who Is Hussain’ Quenches Thirst Of Mourners, Cops In City Centre

Zaid Shabir

Srinagar: Britain-based charity organisation ‘Who is Hussain’ reached out to people in Srinagar on Tuesday by organising a free water distribution camp in the City centre, Lal Chowk.

The non-profit organization has it's chapters in 109 cities

“The idea was simply to educate people about Hussain (AS) life by giving them free water amid this ongoing heat.”

The organisation had initially aimed at distributing 10,000 water bottles by 15th Muharram but in the last 6 days they’ve already distributed 2100 water bottles. “The way

humanity and the teachings of our Imam,” Abrar told Kashmir Observer.

“Today, we’ve supplied more than 1300 water bottles to both Police personnels who had placed restrictions on Muharram procession and to the mourners who were trying to carry out a procession,” Abrar added.



worldwide including Srinagar where around 25 volunteers have been tirelessly working in order to aware people about Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussain ibn ali.

“This saabel was started on 3rd Muharram in Regal Chowk and since then we have distributed more than 2000 water bottles among people irrespective of their religion,” Abrar Ali, a member of the organisation told Kashmir observer.

we’re working, I’m sure we will exceed our target limit.” Abrar said. “Nothing’s more jubilating than that.”

Pertinently, the organisation is well known for their humanitarian work across the world. Apart from this, the organisation has supported a lot of initiatives including the idea of creating a wall of kindness for needy people. “Our NGO is an apolitical organisation. Whatever we do is out of our love for

As a matter of fact, the 25 member team of the organisation have strictly adhered to Covid protocols and distributed water only after maintaining Covid SOP’S. “We’re using water dispensers, disposable cups and packed water bottles in order to curb the spread of the virus,” Abrar said.

As per Abrar, the ongoing free water distribution saabel will continue till 15th Muharram at Regal Chowk.

Parliamentary Delegation Exhilarates Officers To Make Srinagar Cleanest City

Takes review of waste management, priority sector lending by banks and safety measures put in place by oil companies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the first day of its visit here the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation Tuesday exhilarated upon the officers of Srinagar administration and Municipal Corporation that the efforts need to be doubled so that Srinagar comes up as a cleanest hill station instead of its current ranking of 36th.

The Committee held threadbare discussions with J&K administration on several issues related to the waste management rules laying special emphasis on Swachh Bharat Mission and cleanliness of rivers and lakes in J&K.

The delegation is lead by its Chairman, Pratap Singh Bajwa and 11 other Rajya Sabha members.

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta briefed them about

POWERMENT portal the public is kept abreast with the expenditure made by the administration.

He also made out that around 4500 youth clubs under Mission Youth started functioning in J&K from the 15th of Aug. He said that unemployment in J&K is being tackled holistically here with its percentage decreasing to nearly 11% despite covid pandemic. He further gave out that it is the endeavour of this government to slash it down under 5% in future.

The Chief Secretary also revealed that around 9514 projects worth Rs 3900 crore have been completed in J&K with 6167 projects within a year only. He said that each project has to be now mandatorily e-tendered here brining total transparency in the system of award of contracts and quality of work executed.

In a separate presentation made

PH, Oxygen Demand, and Biological oxygen demand are all within permissible limits in these water bodies. Further he informed the committee that the desilting, de-weeding and extraction of lily pads is going on at a brisk pace.

The Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) explained before the Parliamentary Committee that the Corporation is catering to about 1.55 million population having nearly 1.84 lakh households. He mentioned that the corporation is scheduled to collect about 526 tonnes of waste daily. He gave out that 60% municipal area is serviced by door to door collection from households.

He also said that SMC is working on an innovative idea of ‘Sunday for Srinagar’ to clean areas that are neglected or vulnerable for garbage accumulation. He further made out



the historical steps taken by the administration during the past couple of years. The CS informed the visiting delegation that the UT has fully adopted the 73rd and 74th amendments of the constitution bringing governance to the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary also apprised the committee that for the first time District Development Council (DDC) elections had been conducted with a large participation of people giving the vibrant and people friendly Council to them.

The CS further revealed that the UT has the distinction of being an open defecation free region besides having the robust system of door to door collection of municipal waste in the municipal areas. He gave out that all the recruitments including class IV are now entrusted to recruitment board.

Dr Mehta also mentioned that there is proper rule of law in the UT now and institutions have been strengthened at every level. He claimed that every public penny is accounted for with the help of error-free mechanism that has been put in place. He said that with the help of IT tools like BEAMS and EM-

by Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Dheeraj Gupta to the committee the compliance of J&K to different rules related to waste management were deliberated upon. It was said that J&K has formulated and implemented the policy and strategy for solid waste management (SWM) besides devised an action plan and bylaws for the same. He gave out that tenders for bio-remediation of 9 polluted rivers has already been floated.

He further presented that in compliance to Biomedical Waste Management rules the UT has constituted the State level Advisory Committee and District level Monitoring Committee. Similarly action has been taken regarding implementation of Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules, e-Waste, Plastic Waste Management Rules and Hazardous & other Waste Management Rules.

In his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sanjeev Verma presented the status of cleanliness of various water bodies here including lakes and rivers. He presented the studies of 4 lakes including Dal, Wular, Mansar and Surinsar lakes. He divulged that the

that SMC has poultry waste collection service in all 74 wards besides providing service of construction & demolition waste service on minimal charges by applying online.

The Commissioner also said that to tackle the menace of polythene pollution SMC is currently running a 6R campaign of reduce, reuse, recycle, remove, refuse and report. He revealed that the corporation deals with the waste on scientific lines as they have 3 scientific cells established at Achan land fill site.

The Commissioner also said that around 9 lakh tonnes of legacy waste is treated through bio-mining and bio-remediation technique. He revealed that the corporation has tendered out waste to energy project besides had signed an agreement for power purchase to be generated from this plant.

The Parliamentary Committee appreciated the measures taken by the UT administration in achieving certain goals and fulfilling the parameters of Swachh Bharat Mission. They said that ‘Sunday for Srinagar’ initiative is an impressive idea and should be adopted nationwide.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 293 BC - The oldest known Roman temple to Venus is founded, starting the institution of Vinalia Rustica (grape harvest festival)
- 1217 - First historical record of Scottish scholar Michael Scot, signs and dates his translation of al-Bitrui's "On the Sphere" in Toledo, Spain
- 1564 - Spanish King Philip II joins Council of Trente
- 1587 - Saul Wahl is elected King of Poland, according to legend.
- 1605 - Spanish army under of general Spinola conquers Lingen
- 1769 - A lightning strike on the Bastion of San Nazaro in Brescia, Italy, ignites 90 tonnes of gunpowder, killing 3,000 people
- 1864 - Battle of Petersburg: Battle of Weldon Railroad day 1 of a 3 day battle
- 1868 - French Astronomer Pierre Janssen discovers helium in solar spectrum during eclipse
- 1924 - France begins withdrawing troops from the Ruhr
- 1925 - Belgium & US sign treaty about war debts
- 1940 - Battle of Britain: The air battle known as "The Hardest Day" occurs; Luftwaffe lose approximately 69 aircraft and the RAF lose 68 in one of the largest ever air battles
- 1945 - Sukarno elected 1st President of Indonesia by the Preparatory Committee for Indonesian Independence (PPKI)
- 1964 - Charles Helu elected president of Lebanon
- 1964 - South Africa banned from Olympic Games because of apartheid policies
- 1964 - USSR launch 3 Kosmos satellites
- 1971 - New Zealand Prime Minister Keith Holyoake announces in Parliament that New Zealand's combat force would be withdrawn from Vietnam before the end of the year, coinciding with a similar announcement by the Australian government
- 1976 - USSR's Luna 24 soft-lands on Moon
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini demands Saint War against Kurds
- 1979 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1985 - Suisel Launch (Halley's Comet Flyby)
- 2008 - President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf resigned due to pressure from opposition.
- 2013 - 6 people are killed by a bomb blast on a bus in West Bengal, India
- 2016 - Jamaica's Usain Bolt wins the gold medal in the men's 200m for the 3rd successive Summer Olympics, recording a time of 19.78 in Rio de Janeiro

From KO Archives

Public to pay for Hizb decision: RR

SRINAGAR: Fear has gripped several Sopore localities after a Rashtriya Rifles (RR) officer warned locals that common people would have to pay dearly for the cease-fire withdrawal by the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, news agency, KPS reported from Sopore today.

The threat came this morning when residents of Seelu found themselves under a security forces cordon following a night during which they kept up a fearful barrage of gunfire, reports from Sopore said.

Inhabitants were ordered to assemble in the open and village elders told to use the public address systems in mosques to announce that people would now be penalised for the Hizb decision to revoke the cease-fire, the report said. An officer of the 22nd Rashtriya Rifles told the assembled villagers to co-operate with the security forces and keep them informed about militants' movements, threatening that the entire locality would be razed to the ground if the security forces came under a militant attack.

(Kashmir Observer, August 18, 2000)

VVIP Wazwaan & a bridge too far

GHULAM MUHAMMAD

Sopore: Even as the long wait for completion of the Hathishah bridge here is over, its formal opening awaits a ministerial indulgence. For a good two mo'nths, no minister or VIP has been available to cut the ribbon to enable the people benefit from its erection. The inordinate delay &am generated resentment among the local people who have been inconvenienced due to its absence over the years.

According to reports, the authorities had slated the formal inauguration of the bridge at least thrice so far. On every such occasion, the engineers had to arrange the customary feast, known as wazwan, for the august guests to partake. Obviously forces alleged, the charges on this account might have to be borne out of the funds provided for the main project. Reports said the border Security force (BSF) personnel manning the security posts on filler side of the bridge were not allowing any vehicle to pass over the bridge on the plea that no minister had so far inaugurated it formally. However, they allowed some pedestrians selectively prohibiting the general public to walk over the bridge.

It may be recalled the speaker of the legislative assembly, Abdul Ahad Vakil, was the one to crack an occasional whip to get the work on the bridge, which had been going on at a snails pace over the years, speeded up. He held several meetings with engineers and even promised its completion long ago. Now that the work is complete, no minister is available to Commission Bridge.

(Kashmir Observer, August 18, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

K O V I E W

Taliban Victory

As the Taliban completed the takeover of Afghanistan, the US president Joe Biden in a televised address on Monday defended his government's decision to exit the war-torn country, saying this was the right thing to do. He said the US should not have continued fighting in the country when Afghan forces themselves were not willing to do so. Biden acknowledged that the Taliban seizure of Kabul had "unfolded more quickly than they had anticipated," but added that he stood squarely behind his decision to leave as he didn't want to go back to fighting the Taliban "in the middle of the spring-fighting season." Biden only spelt out the cold reality of the current situation in Afghanistan that has left neither the US nor the world with any choice but to accept it.

Likewise, Taliban's return to power is also a moment of truth for India. The country sees its investment in the development of the country over the last two decades going to waste. India has also had to close down all its consulates and the embassy. Two Indian Air Force C-17 transports flew into Kabul on August 15 to evacuate Indian embassy personnel, including Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel who defended the mission.

The situation evokes the memory of the mid-nineties when the Taliban had toppled the then squabbling Mujahideen government. The US exit and the Taliban victory will alter the geopolitics of the region. It is likely to have massive security implications for the neighbours including for India and Pakistan. And the only way to deal with the unfolding situation is for the regional countries to cooperate. This is more urgent for India and Pakistan which have always been working at cross-purposes in their dealings with Afghanistan. Pakistan has always wanted a pro-Islamabad regime in Kabul to achieve its alleged goal of strategic depth as a cushion against India. India, on the other hand, seeks a pro-New Delhi government to deny Pakistan this advantage.

There are now several factors at play: One is the larger geopolitics of the region with the unfolding situation in Afghanistan at its core. The Taliban victory has suddenly reduced India's capacity to influence the outcome in the country. Accordingly, Pakistan is suddenly in a greater position of leverage. The long-standing rivalry and suspicion between the two nations make the matters worse. It persuades them to act at cross-purposes in Kabul. And they would continue to do so until they reach an understanding between themselves.

The challenge before the two countries is not only to establish a dialogue to address their mutual issues but also to bring their divergent policies and positions on Afghanistan in line. With stakes in Kabul getting bigger and bigger with every passing day, much hinges on how the neighbours are able to handle and steer their relationship in the weeks and months to come.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Abide by the SC's verdict on Section 66A

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday said it was "shocking" and "distressing" that there was a fivefold increase in the registration of cases under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act though it quashed the provision in 2015. The petitioner, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), informed the court that while there were 229 cases pending in 11 states when the law was scrapped, in the next seven years, 1,307 cases were added. Section 66A authorised the police to arrest people for social media posts construed as "offensive" or "menacing". Attorney General, KK Venugopal, appearing on behalf of the Centre, said that the section is still there in the statute, with only a footnote saying that it has been struck down, and, so, police officers fail to notice it. He suggested the section be marked as "struck down" next to where it is mentioned in the Act, and the footnote must also read that the provision does not exist anymore.

The registration of cases under the scrapped section is indeed shocking, and could not have continued without the indirect support of the State. In 2019, the SC asked the chief secretaries and director generals of police of all states and Union Territories to publicise the judgment. But the Act continued to be used to deny citizens their constitutional right of free speech.

Hindustan Times



Unsustainable Growth

GOI's Decision to Give Agricultural land for Non-Farm Activities Is Wrong

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The Union Minister of State for Home affairs, Nityanand Rai, recently said that as per the adapted land laws of Jammu and Kashmir the Government can allow transfer of agricultural land for public purposes such as education, healthcare or charitable work.

While responding to a question by Congress MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh in Rajya Sabha, the Minister said that the Government altered the land laws of Jammu and Kashmir wherein no domicile or permanent resident certificate is required to purchase non-agricultural land in the J&K.

In a written reply the Minister of State for Home affairs said:

"After 5th August, 2019, all provisions of the Constitution of India have been made applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which necessitated changes in existing laws in Jammu and Kashmir by Adaptation Orders so as to conform with the provisions of the Constitution of India."

Majority of the farmers are officially recognized as marginal farmers as there is very little agricultural land holding in Jammu & Kashmir. The size of small agricultural landholdings in J&K was estimated at 0.55 hectares during the agriculture census 2015-16, but unofficial sources say that land holding is much smaller (around 0.45 hectares). In Kashmir Valley, the size is even smaller. During the 2010-2011 agriculture census, the average size of operational land holdings in India was 1.15 hectares. This figure was lower, at 0.62 hectares in Jammu and Kashmir. Districts in Kashmir valley had even lower landholding sizes than the state as a whole. Kulgam 0.39 hectares, Anantnag 0.39, Shopian 0.56, Pulwama 0.48, Srinagar 0.31, Budgam 0.43, Baramulla 0.51, Ganderbal 0.37, Kupwara 0.51, Bandipora 0.48. This figure again came down during the 2015-16 census as discussed above. In Kashmir valley, where most farmers own less than an acre of land, any Government policy related to land acquisition, especially for "development projects", needs to take into account the fragile mountainous environment and climatic conditions as well.

At a time when the agricultural land is shrinking day by day and population is on the rise, the Government of India is planning to allow the use of agricultural land in J&K for non-farm activities such as transferring land for setting up educational institutions, hospitals or charitable institutions. In this schema, what is the future of agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir?

Transferring 24000 kanals of land for "industrial growth" not only violates SDGs but also the National Land Use policy

Amendment in J&K Land Laws

On October 26th 2020 in exercise of the powers conferred by section 96 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 the Central Government issued an order called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. Through this order, several land laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir were repealed or amended. Some of these amended or repealed laws include J&K Land Revenue Act, Tenancy Act, Agrarian Reforms Act, Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, Common Lands Act, Consolidation of holdings Act, Flood plain zones Act and Land grants Act. J&K Land Revenue Act 1996 and J&K Devel-

opment Act 1970 were amended in such a way that certain provisions were incorporated in these laws and some other laws as well to pave the way for non J&K residents to buy land and property in Jammu & Kashmir which is already a land deficit place.

Additionally, farmers of J&K come under the category of marginal farmers. The national average land holding is 1.25 hectares (25 kanals or more). In a place where there is already

At a time when the agricultural land is shrinking day by day and population is on the rise, the Government of India is planning to allow the use of agricultural land in J&K for non-farm activities such as transferring land for setting up educational institutions, hospitals or charitable institutions. In this schema, what is the future of agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir?

scarcity of land, how can the Government allow outsiders to buy land in Jammu & Kashmir? By allowing conversion of farm land for non-farm activities, Jammu & Kashmir will turn into a concrete jungle.

Our paddy lands and apple orchards will perish after a few decades and that will prove to be disastrous. In the future, we will have scarcity of food grains. Infact, even now J&K imports a large percentage of food grains. If the Government allows more and more buildings to come up on our agricultural land, J&K will be inhabitable and completely dependent after a few years.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics in its several reports has shown constant decline of production of food grains in J&K. These arbitrary decisions not only violate many laws of the land but it also goes completely against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set up by the United Nations in 2015 are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. According to the national review report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India, the opening statement of which begins with Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase whose literal meaning is "the world is one family". PM Modi in his statement at UN during SDG summit in 2015 said:

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are thus part and parcel of the country's long-standing tradition and heritage. Indeed, the goals substantially reflect the development agenda of India. Much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet."

However, the policy adopted by the Government for the so-called development of J&K is completely un-sustainable and not environment friendly at all.

Violation of Land Use Policy

Transferring 24000 kanals of land for "industrial growth" not only violates SDGs but also the National Land Use policy.

The decisions taken by the Government by amending or repealing Jammu & Kashmir's land laws violates the National Land Use Policy 2013. The preamble of the national land utilization policy makes it clear that land is the most important component of the life support system. The operative part of the preamble under sub heading use of land must be judicious reads as:

"There is a need for optimal utilization of land resources. The country can no longer afford to neglect land, the most important natural resource, so as to ensure sustainability and avoid adverse land use conflicts. There is a need to cater land for industrialization and for development of essential infrastructure facilities and for urbanization. While at the same time, there is a need to ensure high quality delivery of ser-

vices of ecosystems that come from natural resource base and to cater to the needs of the farmers that enable food security, both of which are of vital significance for the whole nation"

The Government is planning to transfer the same amount of forest land for industrial growth which is totally against all environmental laws. J&K which imports rice and pulses from Punjab and other states will be made further dependent on them which will have a

direct impact on our economy.

Jammu & Kashmir, in fact, needs green development. We need to set up research institutions for Ayush, Ayurveda and Unani medicine. I remember when PM Modi came to Jammu for campaign during 2014 elections, he spoke highly about Jammu & Kashmir's mountains and the herbal wealth inside our forests. He said there is huge potential to produce herbal medicines and allied aromatic plants, but till date very little has been done in this regard. Now the government is

Even now J&K imports a large percentage of food grains. If the Government allows more and more buildings to come up on our agricultural land, J&K will be inhabitable and completely dependent after a few years

planning to use agricultural land for non-farm activities. This is unacceptable. Why can't industries be set up to explore herbal wealth in Pirpanjaal mountains or creating agriculture based industries in J&K?

Prime Minister Modi during his Independence Day speech a few days back spoke in detail about shrinking agricultural land. He said that the Government needs to give maximum benefits to farmers who have small landholdings. But the Government is planning something else in Jammu & Kashmir.

If the Government is really sincere and wants development in J&K, it needs to focus mostly on agriculture based activities from Lakhampur to Kupwara. Authorities at helm need to ensure mass production of Rajma in Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar and Bhaderwah areas or enhancing Basmati production in Jammu's RS Pura or developing Mushk Badji rice in Kashmir valley's selected areas or creating new nurseries of ultra high density apples and other fruits.

The Government instead is planning to construct hospitals, schools, colleges on agricultural land. This is a callous, irresponsible and unwise decision.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen fellow. He is Chairman of J&K RTI Movement and Anant fellow for Climate Action. Feedback at bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

Hassan Kak's Suroor

What a beautiful consolation Imam Hussain and his elegies are to people like Hassan Kak in this world

Arshad Hussain

Hassan Kak was convulsing with weeping and with his head buried in his hands. Since the elegy reciter had already hinted that tears shed in the name of Imam Hussain is guarantee of "Shafaat" in the hereafter, I could feel Hassan Kak was thinking about himself

Today, there was an amateur elegy reciter in Majlis not more than 20 years of age. In a bid to encourage him to stand up in the huge crowd to do the job of a tear jerker, I went forward to lend him my vocal support. He recited the elegy "Suroor" of which the opening line is, "Oh God I couldn't get the time to derive pleasure in praising you".

Well! I directed my gaze horizontally and saw Hassan Kak whose anecdote I had written 4 years ago. He is now suffering from stomach cancer. His story was abstractly whirling at the back of my mind. How he had been working from the age of 10 with a wage rate as minimum as 0.5 rupees and how when touched 60 years of age he was finally detected with stomach cancer. I remember how he would often tell me "Ba Thakus Wayen" (I am tired now) with this labour but there is no option either, I have to work.

Since his story was whirling and pecking at my brain, I saw Hassan Kak alerted. Yes, the Elegy reciter had reached that part of Marsiya where he was selling them the idea of salvation. It said that if you could shed tears to Ahlul Bayt, it will be the atonement of your errors and transgressions in this world.

Hassan Kak was least bothered — he was busy adjusting his skull cap and then the elegy reciter started to recall and relive the tragedy of Karbala. Hassan Kak was convulsing with weeping and with his head buried in his hands. Since the elegy reciter had already hinted that tears shed in the name of Imam Hussain is guarantee of "Shafaat" in the hereafter, I could feel Hassan Kak was thinking about himself. Thinking how the sands of the time are pouring fast against him and hence he wanted to send as much tears as he could, which would be of more worth than diamonds and pearls; later to be pawned against his minor and major errors in this world in the hereafter.

At one occasion Hassan Kak stood up, weeping and waving his hands in grief over the line in which Zakir was telling How Lady Zainab (ra) was straining with the weight of shackles all along the journey from Karbala to Syria? Since it is 5th of Muharram this day is dedicated in particular to toddler son of Imam Hussain (as), Ali Asgar who was not more than 6 months of age and he too was denied few sips of water from the shimmering river of euphrates where the wild animals would quench their thirst freely but was restricted and prohibited to young as Ali Asgar for the water.

Yes. A tragedy in itself. How soft hearts in our breasts can turn to stony ones. Elegy reciter continued about How Imam was digging the



grave of his toddler son with the sword and was whispering to him the lullabies (Paanay Loul Gobras Kabri Sawanay). I again turned my gaze to Hassan Kak. He had his clenched fist against his eyes and was crying like anything as loud as he could, as if realising that his cancer is nothing in comparison with the pain of Imam Hussain.

When Majlis was called off, I followed Hassan Kak. Everyone was asking him Farki Cha? (feeling any better?) He was giving answers in the highest gaiety: Ahanhaz! Farki Cham! (Yes, I'm better only). I observed Hassan Kak had kept his boots 10 meters apart from the pavement under the thick blade of grass. Call it the insecurity of Hassan Kak due to the imminent fear of losing a pair of shoes to the crowd who may trample it

down or will nudge it to the nearby stream where it could be washed away.

Hasan Kak was the only one who was wearing Pheran in the Majlis and I could sense he was leaving from the Majlis in the highest form of "Suroor"/contentment, despite being an ailing cancer patient.

What a beautiful consolation Imam Hussain and his elegies are to people like Hassan Kak in this world. It gives "Suroor" to them which was apparently the title of the said Marsiya.

The author tweets at @arshadkout

Karbala epitomises the apogee of human values. While the event may have occurred over 1,000 years ago, its message is timeless and resonates with great clarity and magnetism even today, as if the battle occurred within our lifetimes.

Some may assume this is due to the fact that the tragedy is retold year after year. In cultures across the world epics relating to the feats of heroes exist and have become an established part of tradition.

However, one would be hard-pressed to find a historical event that exercises such profound influence over those who become familiar with its details. This is not due to the eloquent oratory or poetic tributes associated with the retelling of the Karbala saga. Rather, it has to do with the magnetism of Imam Hussain bin Ali and the immortal values Imam Hussain, his family and dedicated companions stood for.

Why is Karbala relevant today? Karbala matters because until all those negative attributes Imam Hussain took a stand against arrogance, materialism, the lust for power and tyranny exist, the Hussaini model will also need to exist to strengthen mankind's resolve to stand firm against these diseases of the soul.

Karbala reminds us that while the weak speaking strictly in terms of worldly power may appear to be defeated in the short term, in the collective memory of mankind the Almighty exalts those who stand firm in the face of oppression, while He belittles the oppressor.

In fact, perhaps the central message of Karbala is sabr. As some scholars point out, unlike the narrower colloquial meaning of patience, sabr in reality means standing firm and not compromising on principles, come what may. Can there be a greater example of sabr than what Imam Hussain endured? His children, brothers, kinsmen and companions were brutally slain before his eyes as they fought off the marauding Syrian hordes, while he himself fell in a hail of enemy arrows, swords and daggers while prostrating before the Almighty.

But perhaps most painful for Imam Hussain must have been the thought of how the Syrian forces would treat the ladies of the Ahlul Bayt after his martyrdom. When, after his return to Madina from Damascus, Imam Ali bin Al Hussain Zain Al Abideen, Imam Hussain's

eldest and only surviving son, was asked what the most painful experience of Karbala was, Imam Zain Al Abideen replied As Sham, As Sham, As Sham, referring to the undignified manner in which the granddaughters of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the other ladies of the Hussaini camp were led through the streets and palaces of Kufa and Damascus.

Even a fraction of these sufferings would break an average person. Yet Imam Hussain held fast to sabr perhaps as no other individual in history has. And in this is a lesson for all oppressed and demoralised peoples. We in Pakistan, broken as we are by terrorism, crime, moral bankruptcy, collapse of governance and a host of other socioeconomic woes, need to seek inspiration

from the Hussaini model.

Karbala is not a remembrance of death, but an immortal symbol of hope and life. While azadari softens hearts through weeping for Imam Hussain, the mourning of Karbala is in fact a renewal of faith and a reaffirmation of values. By shedding tears for Hussain and his companions, every year those who love him renew their pledge to side with the truth and resist oppression. We need not be despondent over our current state of affairs. We need to inspire ourselves through the spirit of Karbala to lift us out of the morass of hopelessness. We need to shun the narrow divisions of sect, ethnicity and tribe and ally ourselves with the divine, universal values of Hussain.

Karbala teaches man to live with dig-

nity and respect; as per tradition, while addressing the enemy forces Imam Hussain is reported to have said haihat min az-zillah (we reject humiliation), indicating that man should not bow before tyranny. While perhaps only Imam Hussain and his companions had the moral strength to be martyred in battle that later saw their heads hoisted atop lances, we need to make sacrifices in our own way.

Ultimately, Karbala is a symbol of love, of devotion. As per a well-known tradition, the night before Ashura Imam Hussain ordered the torches to be dimmed and allowed any of his followers who wished to leave to do so. It is said hardly anyone left.

After all, the brave souls of the Hussaini camp knew it was better to sacri-

fice themselves under the leadership of Imam Hussain on the path of the truth rather than plead forgiveness from a tyrannical, unjust regime.

In an age where the rat race for material gain has resulted in the death of values and inequality is rife, man needs to rise above his base desires and realise his human potential. For while man's material surroundings may have changed between 61AH and today, his spiritual and moral predicament is pretty much unchanged. Karbala is a perfect point of reference to begin this

Ultimately, Karbala is a symbol of love, of devotion. As per a well-known tradition, the night before Ashura Imam Hussain ordered the torches to be dimmed and allowed any of his followers who wished to leave to do so. It is said hardly anyone left

endeavour.

When Imam Hussain was left alone in the field, after all his brave companions and family members had been martyred, he raised a final call: Hal min nasirin yansurna? (Is there anyone who will come to our aid?) This call was not bound by time, space, sect, religion or language. The Hussaini invitation stands. The question is; who amongst the oppressed of the world is willing to respond with a resounding Labbaik ya Hussain?

DAWN

Many start-up avenues of self-employment more lucrative than govt jobs: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Aug 17 (PTI) Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said in Jammu on Tuesday that many start-up avenues of self-employment are more lucrative than government jobs and the need is only to change the mindset, according to a statement.

He said many are inclined to prefer a small-time government job with a meagre salary instead of a self-employed start-up initiative which could comparatively beget manifold returns from the beginning itself.

Singh was interacting with agriculture start-ups, young entrepreneurs and farmers after inaugurating a one-day awareness-cum-training programme at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

The programme was conducted under the Aroma Mission Phase-II.

Singh was told by a young entrepreneur that by using modern technology in cultivation, he had started earning Rs 3 lakh per annum from beginning itself from a bare one hectare of land while two B.Tech engineers said that their income through a similar start-up initiative had doubled within a short span of five months, according to the statement.

In response, the minister said, there is

a message for the misguided youth who keep struggling for a daily wage job which may not fetch them more than Rs 6,000 per month, whereas young people opting for start-ups are not only providing lucrative livelihood for themselves but also for their peers.

"Start-up avenues of self-employment are more lucrative than government jobs and the need is only to change the mindset which is inclined to prefer a small-time government job with a meagre salary instead of a self-employed start-up initiative which could comparatively beget manifold returns from the beginning itself, the statement quoted Singh as having told the gathering.

Singh said the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has abolished interviews, as a result of which there will be lesser and lesser scope for jobs through nepotism, favouritism or any other considerations by manipulating the interview marks.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of every right citizen to educate the youth to determine his priority with clarity and to decide whether he has merit and talent for a government job or skill and entrepreneurship to earn livelihood through a vocation outside the government sector, he said.

In fresh violence, governor's carcade attacked in Meghalaya during curfew

Shillong, Aug 17 (PTI) After a day of no untoward incidents, fresh violence was reported in Meghalaya state capital Shillong during curfew hours on Tuesday when unidentified miscreants attacked the carcade of Governor Satya Pal Malik with stones on its return from Assam after dropping him at an airport there, a Raj Bhavan official said.

The governor took a flight to the national capital and safely landed in Delhi.

"Unidentified miscreants pelted the convoy of cars with stones in Mawlai area of the city when it was returning (from Assam). A few vehicles were damaged in the attack but no one was hurt," the official said.

Violence erupted in Mawlai and Jaiaiw areas of Shillong on Independence Day during the funeral procession of a former militant, who was killed in a recent police encounter, prompting the administration to clamp curfew in the state capital and withdraw mobile internet services in at least four districts.

An officer in the rank of superintendent of police accompanied the governor to the airport and a formal complaint is likely to be filed with the East Khasi Hills district administration on Wednesday, the official said.

The curfew will be in force in Shillong till 5 am of August 18.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said that the curfew will be lifted for daylight hours on Thursday as there were no

untoward incidents in the last 24 hours.

Cheristerfield Thangkiew, the former self-styled general secretary of the outlawed Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), was shot dead in an encounter when the police raided his home in the early hours of August 13.

Thangkiew, who had surrendered in 2018, was shot dead when he allegedly tried to attack a police team with a knife during the raid in connection with a series of IED blasts in the state. Unidentified miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the private residence of the chief minister at Third Mile area of Upper Shillong on Sunday night but no one was injured. He was at his official Polo Hills residence at that time. A few hours later, a CRPF vehicle proceeding to control the situation came under attack by a mob who were burning tyres on a road at Mawlai. Two police vehicles were also torched at the two affected areas on Sunday night. The situation remained peaceful on Monday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved deployment of additional central armed paramilitary forces (CAPFs) to assist the state in containing the law and order situation in the state capital.

The Meghalaya government on Monday announced a judicial investigation into the encounter killing of the 54-year-old former militant leader.

Prevalence of Delta variant not different between vaccinated and unvaccinated groups: ICMR study

Chennai, Aug 17 (PTI) A study by the ICMR on covid-infected individuals in the city has indicated that the prevalence of B.1.617.2 (Delta variant) "was not different between the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups." B.1.617.2, or the Delta variant of covid causing Sars Cov2 was the dominant circulating strain and one of the primary drivers for the country's covid second wave, the study, approved by the ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, said. Those involved in the study include researchers from the National Institute of Epidemiology, here.

Covid-infected persons, both vaccinated and unvaccinated ones, who visited the Greater Chennai Corporation's triage centers between May 3 and 7, were enrolled in the study.

"The study findings indicate that the prevalence of B.1.617.2 was not different between the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. Delta variant was the dominant circulating strain and one of the primary drivers for the second wave of rS-CoV-2 in India." "Studies have documented reduction in neutralization titres among Covishield and Covaxin recipients after infection with delta variant. This might be the reason for the breakthrough infections observed in the fully vaccinated individuals," it said.

However, the proportion of patients progressing to severe illness and mortality was lower in the vaccinated groups, it added. While B.1.617.2 has the potential to infect both the vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, however, the progression of illness seems to be prevented by vaccination. "Therefore, non-pharmaceutical interventions must continue to slow down the transmission. Additionally, the pace and scale of vaccination has to be increased to mitigate the further waves of the pandemic," it said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Police Uses Force To Stop

mourners were also detained. The police also manhandled a few journalists covering the procession near Jehangir Chowk.

In the afternoon, the residents of Guru Bazar tried to take out the procession towards Dalgate. However, the government forces deployed in advance thwarted their attempt

"The cops came charging on us. They used batons and pushed us back to the locality," Humayun Khan, an eyewitness said.

By afternoon mourners assembled in groups all along the Gurubazar-Dalgate stretch, the traditional route of 8th Muharram procession banned by successive civilian and governor administrations since 1989.

It soon took the shape of a procession as several thousand mourners, mostly youth, assembled at Dalgate crossing and again attempted to march towards Lal Chowk while another group marched from the opposite side on MA Road.

Here again, the cops fired tear smoke shells and resorted to baton charge to disperse them.

"The mourners regrouped and continued their march forcing police to retreat from many points. Later, police fired warning shots after failing to break-up the procession with batons, teargas canisters and pellets," Shabir Hussain, an eyewitness said.

While the forces were trying to disperse mourners at Dalgate, another group appeared near the corporate headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited. Carrying Islamic flags and reciting Nauha's, the mourners were intercepted by the CRPF and police from proceeding ahead.

According to reports dozens of people were injured in police action. Reports of over two dozen mourners being detained were also received.

Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer that five youth with pellet injuries were brought to the hospital for treatment.

"Of them, two have pellet injuries in eyes and three others in other body parts. All of them are stable and currently under observation," he said.

Pertinently, the two major processions of 8th and 10th Muharram in Srinagar were banned in 1989 by the then Governor Jagmohan fearing the processions may turn into pro-freedom demonstrations. Ever since only small mourning rallies and processions are allowed in the interiors of few Shia dominated localities.

The 8th Muharram procession used to be led by Maulana Abbas Ansari whose Itehadul Muslimene continues to challenge the ban order by defying restrictions every year.

POLICE VERSION

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the police respects religious sentiments of the public, but at the same time, it is their joint responsibility to defeat the "ill designs of vested interests" who try to disturb the peaceful atmosphere.

"We #respect the religious #sentiments and practices of all but at the same time it is also our joint #responsibility to defeat the ill designs of vested interests who try to disturb #peaceful atmosphere," the Kashmir Zone Police quoted the IGP as having said in its official Twitter handle.

In a statement issued in the evening, a police spokesperson said that in violation of the government's prohibitory orders against Muharram procession on Guru Bazar-Dalgate route, some people tried to take out processions at various locations in Dalgate-Civil Lines area, while police exercised maximum restraint and tried to disperse them peacefully.

"However, in a bid to take out such a procession a group assembled near Polo View who too were stopped and advised by the on duty police party to disperse peacefully in view of the Govt ban. Instead some of the miscreants started manhandling the police personnel deployed on duties and tried to

mount on the BP Rakshak vehicle of SDPO Kothibagh," the police spokesperson said.

Despite such provocation and hooliganism, he said, the officer and his party exercised maximum restraint, while suddenly a group of miscreants armed with sharp edged weapons started vandalizing the police vehicle and also attacked SDPO Kothibagh.

"In this incident, the police officer along with his escort personnel received multiple injuries and were shifted to hospital for treatment of their injuries," he said.

"In this connection, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation is in progress. The miscreants involved are being identified and strict action as warranted under law will be taken against them," he added.

Journalists Thrashed

Police also detained a few Shia mourners at Jehangir Chowk in the city as they tried to take out a procession to mark the eighth day of the Muharram mourning period.

The traditional Muharram procession used to pass through the areas of Abi Guzar, Lal Chowk and Dalgate areas, but has been banned since the eruption of militancy in 1990 as authorities maintain that the religious gathering has been used for propagating separatist politics.

As the media personnel, mostly photo and video journalists, were discharging their professional duties, police swung into action and lathicharged them, the scribes said.

They said the policemen, armed with batons, also thrashed some of the journalists and caused damage to their equipment.

The pictures and the videos of the incident were uploaded on various social media forums as the journalists protested the police action.

A senior police officer reached the spot and assured the journalists that he would look into the matter.

Kashmir Press Photographers Association (KPPA) condemned the use of force by police.

"KPPA terms the action unjustified and uncalled for. It is highly unfortunate that the police was thrashing the photojournalists (and stopping them) from performing their professional duties," a statement from the photojournalist body said.

Meanwhile, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah said the police action was unfortunate and expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha will ensure such incidents are not repeated.

"Very unfortunate to see J&K police personnel mercilessly thrashing journalists in Srinagar. These people were simply doing their jobs - reporting the news. They don't make the news & they don't engineer events to create the story. I hope @OfficeOfJ&K will ensure no repeat," Abdullah said on Twitter.

He also demanded that an independent photojournalist be compensated for the loss as his equipment was damaged allegedly in the police action.

"He's an independent photo-journalist. His camera is his livelihood. The administration owes it to Sajad to compensate him for the loss he has suffered while working," the NC leader said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also took to Twitter to highlight the issue.

"Media is spending hours debating the human tragedy & unfolding crisis in Afghanistan but will they speak up for their own community in Kashmir who were beaten to pulp today by security forces for doing their job?" Mufti tweeted.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) termed the thrashing of media persons as "unfortunate".

Media is the fourth pillar of democracy and routine coverage as part of its professional obligation must be allowed, they should not be intimidated while performing their duties, the party said in a statement.

JKPCC feels disappointed over the thrashing of mediapersons, who were covering the Muharram procession and expresses its full solidarity with the media fraternity, it said.

The party urges the government to ensure that mediapersons are allowed to perform their duties, without any fear, it added.

Peoples Conference (JKPC) led by Sajad Lone too condemned the police action.

"Merciless beating of journalists is highly condemnable. We express serious concern over such repeated acts of use of force on the media fraternity without any accountability. Surprisingly, the upholders of the law are out to demolish the founding principles of law," the JKPC said in a tweet.

Apni Party senior vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir termed the thrashing of mediapersons as undemocratic.

In a statement issued here, Mir said the media is the fourth pillar of democracy and the coverage of routine happenings is a part of their professional obligation that must not be dissuaded with the use of force or any sort of intimidation.

"Today's incident in which journalists allege that they were thrashed by police while doing their duty is extremely unwarranted. These journalists were performing their usual professional duties. These kinds of occurrences need to be stopped as it taints democratic ethos of our country," he said. — PTI

BJP Leader Shot Dead

indiscriminately upon him.

In this incident, the police spokesperson said, Dar received critical gunshot injuries and died on spot.

"As claimed by BJP party spokesman, deceased person was BJP worker. As per district police no one had approached for security and even local BJP leader didn't share his name in the list of PPs," he said.

The police spokesperson said that a case has been registered in this regard under relevant sections of law and investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this "terror" crime.

"Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on. Police will identify the culprits and appropriate action would be taken at the earliest," he said.

Condemning the killing, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said he was "deeply anguished to hear about attack on political leader Javid Ahmad Dar at Brazzole, Kulgam."

"I strongly condemn this cowardly attack. My deepest condolences to bereaved family in this time of grief," Sinha posted on his official Twitter handle.

"Terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs, and those responsible for such heinous acts shall be brought to justice," he said in another Tweet.

Dar's assassination comes over a week after unknown militant shot dead BJP Sarpanch Ghulam Rasool Dar and his Panch wife from Redwani Kulgam, in the neighbouring Anantnag district on August 9.

More recently, suspected militants lobbed a grenade at the house of BJP leader Jasbir Singh in Rajouri district killing a child and injuries six others.

Since the revocation of Kashmir's semi-autonomous status by Modi-led government in August 2019, at least 20 BJP workers have been killed by militants across the Valley.

Meanwhile, J&K's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and several mainstream parties have condemned the killing of the BJP leader.

In a statement issued here, BJP spokesperson termed the killing of his party worker as a "barbaric" and "cowardly" act and urged police to nab the killers and punish them sternly.

"Militants are feeling frustrated and targeting innocents. Killing unarmed people won't lead to anything," he said.

National Conference (NC) Vice President and former Chief Minister and Omar Abdullah also condemned the killing.

"Terrible news from Kulgam. Javed Ahmed was gunned down in cold blood. I unreservedly condemn this terror attack & send my heartfelt condolences to Javed's family and colleagues," Omar posted on his Twitter handle.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President and former CM expressed sympathies with Dar's family and said that there is no place for such acts of violence.

Peoples Conference (PC) President, Sajad Lone also condemned the killing and demanded the killers to be brought to justice soon

"Unreservedly condemn the killing of BJP leader in Kulgam. I hope the killers are brought to justice soon. Share my condolences with the family of the deceased," he said.

153 More Recover

during the last 24 hours leaving active cases at 1158—473 in Jammu and 685 in Kashmir. During the same time, officials said, 83 fresh cases of coronavirus were reported from the Union Territory —45 from Kashmir Valley and 38 from the winter capital.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 17, Baramulla 5, Budgam 3, Pulwama 4, Kupwara 4, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 2, Ganderbal 3, Kulgam 3, Jammu 9, Rajouri 8, Doda 7, Kathua 1, Kishtwar 5, Poonch 5, and Reasi 3. Four districts of Shopian, Udhampur, Samba and Ramban reported no new case of coronavirus.

The officials further said that one Covid-19 related fatality was reported from Jammu thus taking the overall death toll since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 4398—2159 in Jammu and 2240 in Kashmir.

Police Informer Remains

of the case said, "Pathan is still absconding." The NIA had announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh against Pathan alias Munna -- a resident of Madhya Pradesh -- in September 2015. He has been on the run since 2013. The NIA in its charge sheet in 2015 has named absconder Pathan as the main accused, who had allegedly planted weapons on Shah to project him as a terrorist. The agency had absolved Shah of terror charges in January 2015 and had also submitted its report to Home Ministry seeking permission to investigate some Delhi Police officials for allegedly "conspiring" to target Shah.

NIA has termed Pathan as "an informer cum follower" of the Delhi Police Special Cell in its charge sheet.

Shah was arrested by the Special Cell of the police on March 20, 2013 when he was returning from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir to the Kashmir Valley via Nepal at Sunauli border with his wife and children.

Pak Kashmir Refugees Hit

government to implement the recommendations of a joint parliamentary committee which had recommended Rs 30 lakh for our rehabilitation," a spokesperson of the refugees union said.

He said the central government had sanctioned a package of Rs 2,000 crore for them in 2016 but the process is going on at a snail's pace and is yet to complete even after five years.

"We want the government to implement the recommendations of the joint parliamentary committee and release the pending Rs 24.50 lakh per family immediately," he said.

He said they are on the roads to seek justice as they have fled their homes without taking any belongings.

We need political and job reservation for our community. We want reservation in educational institutions for our children and also land for our permanent settlement, the spokesperson said.

SBI Chairman

to explore all possibilities to extend financial handholding to the youth through various schemes and interventions, besides taking initiatives under CSR.

"The Lt Governor observed that the

banking sector plays a key role in socioeconomic growth of any region and urged the chairman to continuously work with dedication in providing best financial services to the people of the UT," he added.

‘We Deserve Campus Life’

I can tell how a day felt like an era in these lockdown years. I lived in fear and passed through the sleepless nights. And yet, my ordeal of home captivity, so to speak, is far from over.

After that harrowing political lockdown, the pandemic curbs only made things worse. Fear of getting separated from your loved ones and then seeing them losing their battle of life to an invisible enemy was a chilling experience.

Today, when I eagerly await my campus life, I look back at the times spent since that defining summer. Life felt like a widow's curse, as the captive time changed the idea of life we once knew. More than anything, these years made me and my class conscious of our circumstances and identity.

As a student, I've so many questions to ask and yet I prefer silence over speech. I do fear the fatal consequences. Kashmiri students are very depressed because of the situation in the valley and I believe most of us deserve some normalcy in the form of our campus life.

- The writer is a first year college student from Srinagar.

Dulloo Posted FC

and Managing Director Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation, as per the order.

With his posting as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, Chief Secretary A.K. Mehta (IAS) has been relieved of the additional charge of the post.

Meanwhile, Ms. Rehana Batul (JKAS), Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances, has been designated as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances, with immediate effect, as Per proviso(i) to sub-rule (5) of Rule 21 of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008, reads a separate order issued by the government.

Coaching Centre Sealed

They said the enforcement team led by tehsildar Kishtwar Parmod Kumar along with SHO Kishtwar Abid Hussain closed down the private institute situated near government girls higher secondary school Kishtwar after it was found open.

Some students were also found without face masks and huddled together in violation of social distancing norms, the officials said.

The management of the institute also failed to provide necessary documents, they added.

The institute was served a show cause notice for further course of action, they said.

Ladakh Reports

recovered till date.

Of the total 4 new cases, three were from Leh and one from Kargil.

A total of 2,509 sample reports in Ladakh, including 934 from Leh and 1,575 from Kargil, were found negative, they said.

There was no new death due to coronavirus in Ladakh in the past 24 hours.

Ladakh has discharged nine patients with seven recoveries from Leh and three from Kargil.

With this, the total number of active cases in Ladakh has gone down to 77, including 65 in Leh and 12 in Kargil. The total active cases count in the UT stood at 82 on Monday. (PTI)

ACB Books Active, Retired Govt Officials For Misusing Positions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Tuesday produced a charge sheet against scores of in-service government teachers and retired officials for allegedly misusing their official positions.

ACB said that it has produced a charge sheet in a case under FIR number 29/2017 PS VOJ (now ACB Jammu) under section 5 (1) (d) r/w 5 (2) J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and 120-B RPC against Ram Rakha then ZEO Chowki Choura, Jammu, Sheru Ram then Headmaster Govt. High School Mallah (now retired) Tarsem Lal then Chief Education Officer (now retired) and Priti Rani ReT Teacher.

“The instant case was registered on the outcome of a verification conducted into the allegations on receipt of a complaint lodged by one Kasturi Lal son of Kaka Ram, a resident of Malla, Tehsil Karah Balli, District Jammu against Sheru Ram then Headmaster Govt. High School Mallah, and others that these public servants have misused their official positions for extraneous consideration to give undue benefit to one Priti Rani daughter of Bachan Dass a resident of Mallah, Tehsil Karah Balli District Jammu for appointing her as ReT Teacher in Govt. High School Mallah against the vacancy which was meant for ALC candidate. However, the accused beneficiary Priti Rani at the time of advertisement of post as well as at the time of joining was not possessing valid ALC certificate,” the statement said.

It added that the investigation conducted has revealed that in order to confer undue benefit upon Preeti Rani, the then Chief Education Officer, Jammu, namely Tarsem Lal, by abuse and misuse of his official position as public servant vide endorsement number

CEOJ/7931 dated 28.05.2014 forwarded the said order to Zonal Education Officer, Chowki Choura.

“The Zonal Education Officer Chowki Choura who was well aware of the facts that neither Preeti Rani had submitted valid ALC Certificate at the time of submission of application form nor thereafter but nevertheless in order to confer undue benefit upon Preeti Rani by abuse and misuse of his official position as public servant issued engagement order vide No. ZEO/CC/SSA/14-15/1468-71 dated 29.05.2014 of Priti Rani as RET Teacher against the post of ALC at Govt. High School, Mallah,” the statement added.

The investigation further revealed that pursuant to said order Priti Rani joined at Govt. High School Mallah on 29.05.2014 but at the time of joining also she failed to produce the requisite valid ALC Certificate before the Headmaster Govt. High School, Mallah namely Sheru Ram, the statement said.

“In furtherance to the criminal conspiracy hatched, then Headmaster Govt. High School, Mallah accepted her joining report and allowed her to perform her duties. The offence of conspiracy got established when after joining, Preeti Rani was immediately transferred from said school to the Office of Chief Education Officer, Jammu by accused Tarsem Lal, then CEO, Jammu,” the ACB said.

After completion of the investigation the charge sheet of the instant case for commission of offences under section 5 (1) (d) r/w 5 (2) J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and 120-B RPC against all the above named accused persons was presented today before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu for judicial determination, it said, adding that the next date of hearing in the instant case has been fixed for 04-09-2021 for further proceedings.

Jammu-Akhnoor Road Project...

Tarmat Ltd Put In Negative List For Poor Performance

Observer News Service

JAMMU: National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has put M/s Tarmat Ltd., (“EPC Contractor”) in negative list of Authority for failing to meet the agreed targets and poor progress of work on Jammu-Akhnoor Road project.

“In view of non-professional attitude of the EPC Contractor towards its obligations as per the provisions of the Contract Agreement and failure to meet the agreed targets and continued painful slow progress of work, NHIDCL is hereby placing M/s Tarmat Ltd., in the ‘Negative List’ of the Authority for a period of 01 (one) year from the date of issuance of this order or till it achieves the Milestone-III, whichever is earlier”, an order issued by the Corporation stated.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer, has warned the contractor

company of further action if it fails to achieve the desired results. He said that as per the Directions of office of the Lieutenant Governor all the development projects need to be expedited and lackadaisical approach will not be tolerated.

An order issued in this regard stated that the M/s Tarmat Ltd Signed an EPC Agreement on 07.06.2019 for the work of “Up-gradation to 4-lane with paved Shoulder of Jammu-Akhnoor Road section of NH-144A from Ganesh Vihar (Km 6.000) to Khata Chowk (Km 26.350) of 20.350 Km length in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to be executed on EPC basis (Package-III)” at the contract price of Rs.193.99Cr., with construction period of 24 months commencing from the Appointed Date i.e.12.07.2019 on the terms, conditions and covenants contained in the Contract Agreement which are in force and remain effective.



J&K Has Effective Health Infra To Control Covid-19: Govt

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The government on Tuesday said J&K is one of the top performers in containment of COVID-19 as an effective network of health infrastructure has been put in place right from Panchayat level in the form of Covid Care Centers.

LG’s Advisor Baseer Ahmad Khan urged upon senior citizens, Imams, PRIs being elected representatives to come forward and use their influence in spreading the message about the Do’s and Don’ts related to COVID-19 pandemic. The Advisor outlined the importance of PRIs and by referring to them as the eyes and ears of the U.T administration in stopping the spread of Covid-19.

He was speaking while he took an extensive visit of Doodhpathri and its adjacent areas in order to have an on spot status of ongoing projects including budget accommodation at Tangenar T20 hotel, hutment area 2nd at Shaliganga, Playground at Tangnar Raiyar under RDD, Augmentation of receiving station at Khanshab. Advisor Baseer Ahmed Khan also inaugurated Cafeteria at Nambelhar constructed by Department of Tourism. The Advisor during his inspection of these places and spots directed concerned executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work on all the projects and complete the construction expeditiously keeping in view the impending winter season.

Asserting upon the basic facilities, the Advisor said, Doodhpathri is an emerging tourist destination and the government is working on all fronts to provide advanced facilities for the comfort of tourists visiting this place. He said focus is on to improve the electricity supply and efforts are

‘Will Defeat 3rd Wave Before Its Arrival’

Agencies

Srinagar: The government on Tuesday said that the possible 3rd wave of Covid will be defeated before its arrival, appealing the people to follow the standard Operating Procedures in letter and spirit.

Talking to media persons on the sidelines of a function, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather said that the government has already started preparations with regard to the possible third wave of Covid.

He added that oxygen plants with a capacity of 1000 LPM, have been set up in every district of the Valley. “As the possible 3rd Covid wave will affect the children and women, the ICUs and NICUs have been set up in all the districts to tackle the situation,” he said.

Dr Rather further stated that as the preparations have been made, the pos-

sible 3rd Covid wave will be defeated before its arrival. However, he appealed to people to follow the Covid related guidelines in letter and spirit, adding that following SOPs is the only way out to defeat the virus.

Meanwhile, Rotary Club of Kashmir Tuesday donated over 100 concentrators for the Kashmir hospitals. Director Health Services Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather Tuesday unveiled the oxygen concentrators.

On the occasion, various initiatives under the campaign include honoring health institutions and COVID frontline workers of Jammu and Kashmir, distribution of oxygen concentrators for J&K and Ladakh, launching Rotary Rahat Medical mission in for needy patients, announcing opening of schools for specially-abled children in Jammu and Kashmir regions and launching mental health awareness programs.

on to install and introduce all requisite infrastructure before the onset of winter. He said to boost the transmission supply this year the damaged and rotten electric poles, conductors and wires are being replaced on war footing basis across U.T of J&K.

Commenting upon resources at tourist destinations, the Advisor emphasized that the exist-

ing infrastructure needs further maintenance and up-gradation to attract more footfall of tourists. He however outlined that the preservation of Ecology and Environment along with development has to be given the paramount preference. He further said that the Master plan should be framed after careful examination and thorough scrutiny.

Health Officials In Kulgam Register Unvaccinated People In Covid Database

Agencies

Kulgam: In a shocking development, some health officials in South Kashmir’s Kulgam district are asking Asha workers to collect Aadhaar cards of unvaccinated people and to register them as vaccinated in the official database.

Quoting sources, a local news gathering agency reported that of five medical blocks, officials at four mainly in Kulgam are pressurizing Asha workers to collect the Aadhaar cards of unvaccinated persons and then to put the details of persons as vaccinated in their database.

Sources said that to hide it, officials link their phone numbers and of their relatives so that they will get SMS and unvaccinated people who have been shown vaccinated won’t get any information about it.

They said that if one will call ANMs (incharge Covishield session sites) to submit the line listing of beneficiaries who have been uploaded in the database it will be a wrong mobile number uploaded on behalf of their Aadhaar cards.

Sources added that trend is going on only to show that they are better performers and to

please their reporting officers.

They added that two CHOs who instead working on ground either remain off duty or spend their day at BMO offices in Kulgam are mainly involved in it.

Sources said that most vaccination taking place in the district is being done on Aadhaar and phone number basis while nothing is being done on ground.

Chief Medical Officer Kulgam Mohammed Rafiq Dhobi said that he is in a meeting and will definitely look into the matter.

He assured that the involved persons will face strict action.

Army Personnel, 3 Others Denied Bail In Extortion Case

Agencies

Srinagar: A local court in Boniyar Tuesday denied bail to Territorial Army man and three accused persons for extortion, wrongful restraint, assault with intent to outrage modesty, cheating by personating, criminal intimidation and to harass young couples in Boniyar area of North Kashmir.

On 3rd August, Police Station Boniyar received information that at village Chehlan, Mohammad Ilyas Khan along with some other persons were illegally making videos of people particularly young couples who come to visit lower Jhelum on mobile phones by posing as security personnel and are harassing them by snatching valuables, mobile phones and cash.

Accordingly Baramulla Police registered FIR in Police Station Boniyar for Extortion, wrongful restraint, assault with intent to outrage modesty, cheating by personating and criminal intimidation

During initial investigation the accused Persons including 161 TA Army Men namely Shams-u-din and Naseer Ahmad were arrested and their mobile phones in which many recorded audio, video clips and chats were found were seized.

Earlier, APP Shahzad Ahmad Yattoo vehemently opposed the bail application by arguing that the accused have committed the offence against society by projecting fake Security Personals and Said that the Investigation of the case is still going on and more arrests are expected and more severe offences are likely to be attracted in the case.

Judicial Magistrate Boniyar Shaber Ayaz after listening to both the counsels has rejected the Bail application of all three accused persons.

While Rejecting the Bail application Court said that the offences alleged against the accused person could have an unhealthy effect on society and adversely impact personal liberty of individuals.

Committed To Promote J&K Handicrafts Worldwide: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government is committed to promote the Crafts, especially the Handicrafts sector of Jammu Kashmir, said Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan.

He was speaking while conferring State Awards to the Artisans in Handicraft sector and releasing Special Postal Covers by India Post at Kashmir Haat Exhibition Ground here.

“The present dispensation which is being led by LG Manoj Sinha is committed to promote all the crafts and handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir. He wants to take the region’s handicrafts industry to the highest pedestal both nationally and internationally,” Advisor Khan said during his address at the award distribution

ceremony.

He added that the government has rolled out the Karkhandar scheme for artisans and weavers to revive traditional crafts of the Union Territory.

He said that the main thrust of the scheme would be to identify and impart skill upgradation training in such crafts which are facing human resource crunch, like Walnut wood carving, Silver filigree, Carpet, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband and Paper Machie crafts.

Director Handloom and Handicrafts Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah also spoke on the occasion and gave an overview of the schemes being implemented by the department to preserve unique skills like weaving Shawls, making Papier Machie products, Carpets and Wood works.

از نیابت رنیر پوره ہاجلا اسامیاز احمد ذار صاحب درخواست منجانب: سایہ ایوب زوہد الیاس احمد خان ساکنہ رنیر پوره تحصیل منٹن بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO 294				
بمحرش	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	ادائی
۱۔	اعلیٰ محمد خان	70 سال	مزدوری	7000/=
۲۔	حاجہ زوہد علی محمد خان	68 سال	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	راجہ محمد خان ولد علی محمد خان	36 سال	دکانداری	20,000/=
۴۔	مسرت زوہد اعجاز محمد خان	30 سال	گھریلو کام	
۵۔	عقیفہ دختر اعجاز محمد خان	1 سال	بچہ	
۶۔	الیاس احمد ولد علی محمد خان	36 سال	مزدوری	
5000/=				
۷۔ سایہ ایوب زوہد الیاس احمد خان 34 سال گھریلو کام				
اس طرح سائل / سائیکل کنڈہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم نہیں ہے سائل کے پاس دو ہڈیاں 11 کنال آراض موجود ہے جبکہ سالانہ ادائی= 115000 روپیہ تک ہیں سائل نے کوئہ کی سالانہ ادائی تمام ذرائع سے ستر بنا = 499000 روپیہ تک ہیں سائل RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد اسات دن کے اندر اندر پناہدراش یا پناہدراش دفتر ہڈیاں پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
RNA				

WG Discusses Measures To Establish Tribal Research Institute, Allied Culture Centres

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Working Group constituted by the government for establishment of Tribal Research Institute held its first meeting to finalize the plan for infrastructure, manpower, tribal human resource besides cultural and research wings.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and Director TRI, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, chaired the Working Group meeting.

The Working Group discussed various plans for time bound establishment of Tribal Research Institute and associated culture centres in the UT. The agenda included roadmap for establishment of TRI, proposal for sanction of staff, deputation of staff from various organizations and department, tribal research fellowships, establishment of museums, tribal research chairs, institute of research in tribal health, institution of awards, organizing camps covering health screening and awareness among tribal communities,

research studies/documentation, timelines for various initiatives and inter-sectoral coordination.



Dr Shahid Choudhary laid out roadmap for establishment of TRI which will include Research and Cultural Wings covering diverse fields. The TRI with headquarters at Srinagar will have Tribal Research Chairs in Jammu University, BGSB University Rajouri, Kashmir Uni-

versity and Central University Jammu. Three museums proposed to be started in two phases at Poonch, Rajouri and GDCT Jammu were also discussed apart from research centre proposed at Ramnagar and Doda. TRI is rolling out fellowships in various research fields related to tribal welfare and development.

Institute of Research in Tribal Health has been proposed to be set up as a part of TRI in collaboration with Government Medical College, Srinagar. Museum at Poonch and Rajouri in collaboration with Jammu University and BGSBU respectively and one museum at Jammu is being established at GDCT in collaboration with administration.

Secretary JKAACL and Director Archives & Archeology, Rahul Pandey proposed all the support for museums and technical staffing. Director, Libraries and Research, Rafi Ahmed discussed about establishment of libraries on various aspects of tribal languages and culture as well as new literary projects.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL)

Sher-i- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura Srinagar.

Notice Inviting E- Tenders

NIT NO : SIMS/HEC/ET/24 of 2021-22 Dated: 11-08-2021.

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

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Docu-ment	Earnest Money	Class of contrac-tor	Time of comple-tion
02.	Construction of wash room for casualty area adjacent to Level 3 rd emergency (near Masjid) at SKIMS.	Rs. 18.07 lacs	Rs. 700/=	Rs. 36,140/=	"BEE & CEE"	70 working days

1.	Major Head of Account	M&R-2210
2.	Position of AA	Accorded
3.	Technical Sanction	Accorded
4.	Position of funds	Committed
5.	Downloading/uploading of bidding documents	14-08-2021 to 23-08-2021 upto 3 PM
6.	Submission of hard copy end date	24-08-2021 to 25-08-2021 Upto 3PM
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	28-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be sggg/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

2. Bids must be uploaded with scanned copy of cost/fee of tender document & earnest money (Bid Security) in the shape of DD & CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Director Finance, SKIMS Soura Srinagar.

3. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms & conditions are contained in the bidding documents, available on skims website

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (Civil)

Hospital Engineering

Department

SKIMS, Soura

No: SIMS 139/ 82 /2021-22-1099-1106

Dated: -08-2021

Chaos in Sgr after Muharram Procession Disallowed

Authorities on Tuesday foiled processions by members of the Shia community in Srinagar to mark the eighth day of the 10-day Muharram mourning period, officials said. Several members of the community were detained at various places in the city, they said.

The officials said a few members of the community tried to take out the processions but were barred by the police and they were later detained.

Heavy deployment of police and security forces was made in areas where there were apprehensions about the processions taking place, they said.

While the police said there were no restrictions anywhere in the city, barricades were put up at many places here to stop the mourners from taking out the processions.

KO Photos By Abid Bhat

