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P6 THINK

INDIA AT 75

On 15 August 2021, 74 years after independence and 71 years after India became a republic, instead of feeling ecstatic and consolidating our achievements we are forced to ponder over the question, whether our freedom fighters, leaders and con-

P7 ARABIC IN INDIA

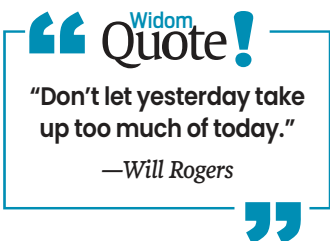
Arabic belongs to the Semitic group of languages. Ya'rib bin Qahtan is popularly known as the father of this language. Today, it is one of the official languages of the UNO (United Nations Organisation) and is spoken by a large



P11 SPORTS

KOHLI, BCCI BRASS 'INFORMALLY' CHAT OVER T20 WORLD CUP ROADMAP

The Indian team is fully focused on winning the ongoing Test series in England but both skipper Virat Kohli and the BCCI mandarins are also discussing the roadmap for..



Widom Quote!

"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today."
—Will Rogers

NEWS DIGEST

PM Recalls Sacrifice Of Imam Hussain

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain on Muharram and also his courage and commitment to justice. Muslims mourn the martyrdom of Hussain and his family on Muharram. In a tweet, ● [More On P10](#)

Raj Bhavan Observes 'Sadbhavana Diwas'

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday administered the 'Sadbhavana Diwas' pledge to the officials and staff members of the LG's Secretariat here at Raj Bhavan. "J&K's cultural harmony has ensured the peaceful co-existence of people of every community" ● [More On P10](#)

Govt Shifts 3 JKAS Officers

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday transferred three JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration, has been posted as Special Secretary to the Government, ● [More On P10](#)

Family Dispel Rumours, Geelani Is Fine

SRINAGAR: The family of Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Friday rubbished rumours over the deteriorating health of the veteran separatist leader. Geelani's son Naseem said Friday that his father was stable and fine. He also rubbished rumours making rounds about the falling health of his father. "Alhamdulillah, Abu is stable and fine," he told a local news agency KNO. Earlier, there were rumours about Geelani's falling ● [More On P10](#)

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..ENCOUNTER IN KHREW ENDS

2 Hizb 'Hit Squad' Members Killed



AFTERMATH: A family salvages belongings from the damaged house after the encounter. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Two Hizbul Mujahideen militants -- part of a hit squad of the outfit and responsible for 'civilian killings' -- were killed in an encounter with government forces in Pulwama district on

Friday, police said.

The government forces launched a cordon and search operation at Khrew in the Pampore area of the district following information about the presence of militants there, a police spokesman said.

"During the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given repeated opportunities to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated" ● [More On P10](#)

Intensify Search Ops Against Militants: DGP

A day after suspected militants shot dead a political worker in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, the Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Friday stressed on intensified cordon and search operations (CASO) against the militants. Chairing a security review meeting with the Army, CRPF and police officers in Kulgam on Friday, Singh said directed the officers to further strengthen and augment the intelligence as well as security grids in their respective areas for the safety and security of the people, a police spokesperson said. ● [More On P10](#)



LG Calls For Increased Testing In Coming Days

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday asked officials to increase testing in coming days and to accord highest priority to the areas reporting new positive cases so as to prevent the third wave of coronavirus.

"Maximum vaccination,



continuous analyzing the situation, strict adherence to Covid" ● [More On P10](#)

159 More Test Covid Positive In J&K

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a slight increase on Friday as 159 more people tested positive, while another person succumbed to the virus in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Of the new cases detected Friday, officials said, 123 surfaced in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 36 were confirmed ● [More On P10](#)

Kashmiri Youth Thrashed Outside His Office In Gurugram

Agencies

Gurugram: A Kashmiri youth was allegedly thrashed by six unidentified men outside his office in Sector-44 of Gurugram on Thursday night. However, the matter was reported to the police only on Friday.

The victim was identified as Tariq Bhat (22) of Handwara town in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been working in a corporate office as a Financial Advisor for two years.

The victim told the police that around 8 p.m. on Thursday, he was leaving for his home when the six men caught hold of him from behind and dragged him to a nearby park that was isolated at that time and beat him without saying anything.



"The victim told the police that he doesn't know who they were and why they beat him. The victim has received some injuries on the chest, back and head during the incident. The matter was reported to the police on Friday afternoon.

"We took the victim to the incident site" ● [More On P10](#)

SC To Police: Don't Arrest Merely Because You Can 'Personal Liberty Important Aspect Of Constitutional Mandate'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Merely because an arrest can be made as it is lawful does not mandate that it must be made, the Supreme Court has said, while observing that personal liberty is an important aspect of constitutional mandate.

The Supreme Court said if arrest is made routine, it could cause "incalculable harm" to the reputation and self-esteem of a person.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy said if the investigating officer of a case does not believe that the accused will abscond or disobey the summons, he or she is not required to be produced before the court in custody.

"We may note that personal



liberty is an important aspect of our constitutional mandate. The occasion to arrest an accused during investigation arises when custodial investigation becomes necessary or it is a heinous crime or where there is a possibility of influencing the witnesses or accused may abscond," the bench said in its order passed earlier this week.

The top court ● [More On P10](#)

Opposition Parties Demand Restoration Of Statehood To J&K

Ask Centre To Conduct Free And Fair Election At The Earliest

SRINAGAR: 19 opposition parties Friday demanded restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and release of political prisoners.

In a joint statement opposition parties also demanded holding of free and fair elections

in Jammu and Kashmir.

After a virtual meeting of the Opposition parties, where they stressed on unitedly moving forward to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the leaders also put out an 11-point charter of demands before the government.

The demands include a Supreme ● [More On P10](#)

PAGD Meeting On Tuesday To Discuss Situation

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has called for a meeting on August 24 to discuss and deliberate on the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting has been called at the residence of the amalgam's President and National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah, a local

Dir Health Asks Officers Not To Transfer Medics

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services Kashmir has directed all chief medical officers, block medical officers and other DDO's to desist from affecting transfers or deployments of doctors and paramedical staff of their own which is beyond their capacity.

Anyone who will be found

violating orders shall be dealt strictly and shall attract disciplinary proceedings, reads a circular issued by the director in this regard.

"It has come to the notice of this Directorate that Chief Medical Officers/Block Medical Officers are affecting transfer/deployments of doctors/paramedical staff of their own, which is beyond their" ● [More On P10](#)

'Will Promote Cutting-Edge Research In IUST': Prof Romshoo

Auqib Javeed

Days after being appointed as the new vice chancellor of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), noted academic Shakil A. Romshoo says he's focusing to promote some cutting-edge research—Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Disruptive Technologies—which none of the 11 universities of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh is currently covering.

"My predecessor has done a fantastic job," Dr. Romshoo, an award-winning Earth Sciences expert from Jammu and Kashmir, said.

"My efforts will be to utilise the existing infrastructure to promote academics and research in the varsity."

The fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian Society of Remote Sensing and Indian Society of Geomatics, Prof. Romshoo previously served as Dean Research at

University of Kashmir.

Lately, after assuming the charge of vice chancellor of IUST, Prof. Romshoo stressed on converting the challenges into opportunities "so that the IUST can achieve new heights in academics and research besides addressing the societal issues in the present scenario".

He detailed his varsity vision in an interview with Kashmir Observer.

From a noted scientist to a new administrator, how do you see the new campus role?

During my academic career as a scientist, I have had a significant administrative experience.

Since I've headed two departments for over 11 years, my academics and research experience will be helpful in running the university affairs.

How differently will you be handling the campus affairs?



See, my main focus will be to promote academics and research in IUST. During its 15-years of founding history, my predecessors have set a high benchmark in terms of academics and infrastructure.

My efforts will be to utilise this

infrastructure to promote academics and research.

Also, as a scientist, I'll be promoting some cutting-edge research—Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Disruptive Technologies—in the field of science and technology.

But how do you see this assertion where some people tend to say that subject experts can't be campus experts?

I think the vice chancellor that comes from academics has a long administrative experience. Even some experiments done in the national universities tell us that the campus can be best run by academics.

For example, the people working in Kashmir University (KU) have a long administrative experience to run departments.

As a former Dean of Research at KU, I was myself operating 250 projects with an annual financial outlay of about Rs. 50 crores.

To begin with, what specific areas you will be working on as a vice chancellor?

My first few months will be

focused on developing the master plan to help us implement the campus vision. Strategy document of that plan will be modular, will comprise of how to promote the plan, the teaching, how to make the university governance efficient, majorly how to promote the outreach of this university among the masses.

In all our universities, we lack outreach. And that's why, in these years, we haven't been able to take IUST to the level of KU.

But now, the four aspects—outreach, academics, research and admin—will be the part of the master-plan.

Also, there're certain areas that haven't been dealt with by the rest of the universities in JK, Ladakh and even at the national level. One area is innovation and incubation startups.

There're young and bright minds in Kashmir and there's a need to provide an enabling ● [More On P10](#)



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Saturday| 21-08-2021

از نیاتن با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول۔
درخواست منجانب:- فراس اعجاز بھٹی ۱۱ اعجاز اولدان اعجاز احمد بابا ساکنہ کرنگوہ انت ناگ
بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاریا RBA سر فکلیٹ
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاریا
سر فکلیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی
جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہے
نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت پیشہ عمر آمدنی
۱۔ اعجاز احمد بابا ولد غلام قادر بابا دوکانداری 49 سال 20,000/=
۲۔ شگوفہ زوجہ اعجاز احمد بابا گھریلو کام 45 سال
۳۔ فراس اعجاز ولد اعجاز احمد بابا زیر تعلیم 15 سال
۴۔ عیسیٰ اعجاز ولد اعجاز احمد بابا زیر تعلیم 12 سال
کنڈہ زیر بحث کو وہ بذمیں ذیقہ تعدادی 02 کنال موجود ہے۔ لہذا سر فکلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر
کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض پیش
کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیات دیو لگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول۔ دیو لگام
درخواست منجانب:- منیب چاویہ دیو لگام احمد دیو ساکنہ تلیا باگام
بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاریا RBA سر فکلیٹ
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈاریا سر فکلیٹ
دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔
نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت پیشہ عمر آمدنی
۱۔ چاویہ احمد دیو لگام احمد دیو گورنمنٹ سروس 51 سال LPC
۲۔ شمشاد زوجہ چاویہ احمد دیو گھریلو کام 45 سال
۳۔ منیب چاویہ احمد دیو زیر تعلیم 21 سال
کنڈہ زیر بحث کو وہ بذمیں ذیقہ تعدادی 02 کنال موجود ہے۔ لہذا سر فکلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر
کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض پیش
کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیات رنبیر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ذرا صاحب
درخواست منجانب:- عمر جمید ولد جمید احمد خان ساکنہ رنبیر پورہ تحصیل منٹن
بغرض حصول RBA سر فکلیٹ تحت 294 SRO
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست سر فکلیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے
جس کی فوار رپورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ سائل پیچھے پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بذمیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔ کنڈہ کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت عمر پیشہ ملازمت آمدنی
۱۔ جمیدہ بانو زوجہ جمید احمد خان ولد جمید احمد خان 55 سال 7000/=
۲۔ جمیدہ بانو زوجہ جمید احمد خان 50 سال گھریلو کام
۳۔ آ میر جمید دفتر جمید احمد خان 30 سال گھریلو کام
۴۔ عمر جمید ولد جمید احمد خان 26 سال زیر تعلیم
اس طرح سائل/سائلہ کا کنڈہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈہ میں ۰۰ ایک سرکاری ملازم
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تک ہیں سائل RBA سر فکلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد سات
دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بذمیں پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی عذریا
اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
RNA

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Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE
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میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پیر انڈنگ انجیر آر
اینڈ بی سرکل انت ناگ/ کو لگام کنڈہ بل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار
گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔

اطلاع عام۔
غلطی سے مجھے پاسپورٹ میں میرا نام Aamir Bashir Ganie اندراج ہوا ہے جب کہ
میرا اصل نام Aamir Bashir Ganai ہے اب اس کی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں
اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر پاسپورٹ آفس سرنگر میں پیش
کرے معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
بذریعہ:
Aamir Bashir Ganai
S/o:- Bashir Ahmad Ganai
RNA R/o:- Hassanpora Bijbehara Anantnag

از نیات قلم اباد
مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب نابدہ بیگم زوجہ نوبہ احمد خان ساکنہ ریشواری ہمراد
عطائی گئی تحت 294 SRO
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذمیں برکاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے
رپورٹ شمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کو منج ریشواری میں رہائش پذیر ہے
سر فکلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض
پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا
RNA نائب تحصیلدار

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے
ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈ کی کلاس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس
بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پیر
انڈنگ انجیر آر اینڈ بی سرکل انت ناگ/ کو لگام کنڈہ بل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار
گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
RNA نائب تحصیلدار

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.**
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No:- 27/Xen/Rew/Bla/2021-2022. Dated:20/08/2021
For the work of the Rural Engineering Wing, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, the following work is invited for tendering by the interested bidders. The bidders are requested to submit their bids in the form of a sealed envelope to the undersigned on or before the date mentioned below.

S. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs.)	Est. Cost (Rs.)	Time of completion	Quality of material	Material to be supplied	Location of work	Location of work
1.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
2.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
3.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
4.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
5.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
6.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
7.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
8.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
9.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
10.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
11.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
12.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
13.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.
14.	Construction of Road from the school to the field in the village of Baramulla.	5.00	5.00	10 days	MT.	MT.	MT.	MT.

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SBI, on 16th August. The #FloatingATM in the popular Dal Lake fulfils a long-standing need & will be an added attraction to the charm of Srinagar, the country's top lender said in a tweet.

SBI had launched the first floating ATM in Kerala in 2004. This floating ATM of SBI was installed in Jhankar yacht owned by Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC). This ferry operates between Ernakulam and Vayapyan region. SBI's first floating ATM was commissioned by the then Deputy Managing Director of Mumbai Corporate Center Ashok K. Launched by Kinney.

The amalgam also called for the immediate release of its head Miirwaiz Umar Farooq who is under house arrest since the revocation of J-K's special status by the Centre in August 2019.

- 1541- Ottoman Turks under Suleiman the Magnificent capture Buda, the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom. Dominate central Hungary for 150 years
- 1573- Spain begin siege of Alkmaar in the Netherlands
- 1598- Deed of Transfers proclaims Netherlands independence
- 1673- Sea battle at Kijkduin: De Ruyter defeats English & French fleet
- 1703- The Edirne Event: Turkish army removes Sultan Mustafa II, lessening the power of the sultans
- 1808- Battle of Vimeiro: British and Portuguese forces led by General Arthur Wellesley defeat French force under Major-General Jean-Andoche Junot near the village of Vimeiro, Portugal, the first Anglo-Portuguese victory of the Peninsular War.
- 1914- Belgium: German troops occupy Taminies
- 1914- French offensive in the Ardennen/Sambre
- 1915- Italy declares war on Turkey in World War One
- 1942- World War II: a Nazi flag is installed atop the Mount Elbrus.
- 1943- Japan leaves Aleutian Islands
- 1953- Sultan Sidi Mohammed Am Joesseof V of Morocco deposed
- 1957- 1st launching in Baikonur, Kazakhstan (R7 "Semiorka" - rocket)
- 1965- Gemini 5 launched into Earth orbit (2 astronauts)
- 1968- Radio Prague (Czechoslovakia) at 12:50 AM announces a Soviet led invasion
- 1968- Warsaw Pact forces continue their invasion of Czechoslovakia to end the reform movement known as the Prague Spring
- 1972- US orbiting astronomy observatory Copernicus launched
- 1972- 33rd Venice Film Festival opens
- 1986- Volcanic eruption in Cameroon releases poison gas, killing 2,000
- 1989- Voyager 2 begins a flyby of planet Neptune
- 1991- Latvia declares its independence from USSR
- 1993- NASA loses contact with Mars Observer
- 1994- The last French troops pull out of Rwanda, ending their highly controversial mission there
- 2001- NATO decides to send a peace-keeping force to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- 2014- Israeli airstrike in Rafah kills Mohammed Abu Shammala, Raed al Atar and Mohammed Barham - 3 of Hamas's top commanders
- 2015- Oldest "message in a bottle" - more than 108 years after put in sea by UK Marine Biological Association announced found on beach in Amrum, Germany
- 2015- 1st British unmanned drone hit on UK citizen outside a conflict - ISIS fighter Reyaad Khan in Raqqa, Syria

1443

0-42

Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

MUSHTAQ AFTAB

In another case, Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar s/o Ghulam Ahmad Zargar r/o Badipore has managed to secure a job allegedly by producing a fake certificate of academic qualification. According to reliable sources, he is barely read upto 4th standard. However, he managed to get a certificate of having passed his 9th class (under metric) examination from the government higher secondary school, Nagam, in 1996 allegedly, through his brother, Abdul Rasheed Zargar, who is a teacher at Badipore.

On the basis of the alleged fake certificate, Zargar was appointed as a peon in the animal husbandry department. He has been working at the veterinary dispensary here for about three years past. Sources said the department did not take any action to unravel the facts and bring the accused to justice even after the matter was brought to its notice.

[illegible][illegible]

Sydney Extends Covid Lockdown Until September-End

Agencies

Sydney: Australian authorities on Friday extended a COVID-19 lockdown in Sydney until the end of September and introduced a night curfew in the city's worst-affected suburbs, after nearly two months of curbs failed to contain an outbreak of the Delta variant.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian also announced the city's 5 million residents must wear a mask as soon as they step outside their homes, except when exercising which has been limited to an hour a day. Berejiklian said she had

the latest outbreak to 65.

Australia, which has successfully suppressed the virus for most of the pandemic, is struggling to contain the Delta outbreak, a sharp turnaround for a country which had experienced only sporadic flare-ups for several months this year.

In the 12 local council areas at the epicentre of Sydney's outbreak, a curfew will be in place from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. from Monday.

Police have been given sweeping new powers to ensure compliance with lockdown measures across the city, which have been in place since June 26, and limit



been forced to impose tougher restrictions because of both an escalation in the number of COVID-19 cases and the fact that some people continued to flout lockdown rules.

"I asked health and police to work together, to give me a final list of what we can throw at this, to leave no shadow of a doubt as to how serious we are about getting the rate of growth down, the case numbers down," Berejiklian said in a televised media conference.

Berejiklian reported 644 new infections on Friday, most of them in Sydney, down from a record 681 hit a day earlier. Daily cases have topped 400 for the past seven days. Four new deaths were announced, taking the total number of deaths in

the movement of people.

"If someone enters a (local government area) of concern without excuse, not only will they be fined, they will be sent home and they will have to self isolate for 14 days," New South Wales state Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said.

Despite a third wave of infections from the Delta variant, which has thrown more than half of the country's 25 million population under strict stay-at-home orders, Australia's COVID-19 numbers are relatively low, with some 42,100 cases and 975 deaths. But a slow national vaccination programme, with only about 28% of people above 16 fully vaccinated, has left the country vulnerable to more deaths and hospitalisations.

Yemen, Hamas pledge support for Syria against foreign aggression

Agencies

Yemen's defense minister has pledged support for the Syrian government in the face of "blatant foreign interference", praising Damascus for standing up to the aggressive and hegemonic countries. Major General Mohammed Nasser al-Atefi made the remarks in a message on Thursday to his Syrian counterpart, Ali Abdullah Ayyoub, to congratulate him on his reappointment to his position, Yemen Press Agency (YPA) reported. In his message, al-

Damascus and Homs cities.

Syria's official news agency SANA quoted a military source as saying that Israel launched an air raid from the southeast side of Beirut against some posts in the surroundings of Damascus and Homs.

"Our air defenses confronted the [Israeli] missiles and shot down most of them, and the outcomes of the aggression are being verified in the meantime," the source added. "Israel aggressive behavior real cause of tension"

The spokesman of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said



Atefi stressed the importance of enhancing communication and co-operation between the armies and brotherly peoples of Yemen and Syria, expressing the solidarity of the Yemeni armed forces and their support for the Syrian armed force against blatant foreign interference.

He also praised the great struggle made by his Syrian counterpart, along with members of the various branches of the Syrian armed forces "in combating the countries of aggression and global arrogance."

Late on Thursday, the Syrian Army's air defenses intercepted an Israel missile in the surroundings of

the aggressive behavior of the Israeli regime, including its bombing of Syria overnight, is the real cause of tension in the region.

"It is necessary to confront this aggressive Zionist behavior and put an end to it and deter it from continuing this aggression," Hazem Qasem said. Syria and the Israeli regime are technically at war due to the latter's 1967-present occupation of the Arab country's Golan Heights.

The Israeli regime maintains a significant military presence in the territory, which—similar to the Lebanese airspace—it uses as one of its launchpads for attacks against the Syrian soil.

'Unflyable' Planes, 'Melting Buildings': How US Blew Cash In Afghanistan

Tony Capaccio/ Bloomberg

The rapid collapse of Afghanistan's government to the Taliban fueled fears of a humanitarian disaster, sparked a political crisis for President Joe Biden and caused scenes of desperation at Kabul's airport.

It's also raised questions about what happened to more than \$1 trillion the U.S. spent trying to bring peace and stability to a country wracked by decades of war. While most of that money went to the U.S. military, billions of dollars got wasted along the way, in some cases aggravating efforts to build ties with the Afghan people Americans meant to be helping.

A special watchdog set up by Congress spent the past 13 years documenting the successes and failures of America's efforts in Afghanistan. While wars are always wasteful, the misspent American funds stand out because the U.S. had 20 years to shift course.

Here are 10 projects that the U.S. watchdog -- the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or Sigar -- identified as wasted effort: \$549 Million Planes Sold as Scrap

An effort to build up an Afghan air force included spending at least \$549 million for 20 refurbished Italian-made G222 twin-turboprop aircraft. But 16 of the planes were left languishing in the weeds of Kabul's international airport after persistent maintenance issues made them unflyable.

They were eventually sold as scrap for 6 cents a pound, or \$32,000. The Justice Department in May 2020 told the watchdog that "it was not going to prosecute the criminal and civil cases related to the failed G222 aircraft program" so "as a result, no one will be held accountable."

Road to Nowhere
The U.S. Agency for International Development spent \$176 million to build a 101-kilometer (63 mile) road between Gardez city and

Khost Province. Less than a month after it was finished, Sigar inspectors found that five segments were destroyed and portions of two other segments had washed away, according to an October 2016 audit. Woodland Camouflage

The U.S. spent as much as \$28 million buying uniforms for the Afghan military with camouflage patterns that didn't match



the environment. But Pentagon officials said the design was chosen because Afghanistan's minister of defense at the time thought it looked good.

"He liked the woodland, urban, and temperate patterns," according to a June 2017 assessment.

In a memo to the force that year, then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said "rather than minimize this report or excuse wasteful decisions, I expect all DOD organizations to use this error as a catalyst to bring to light wasteful practices."

'Melting Buildings'
The U.S. spent \$500,000 with an Afghan contractor in May 2012 to construct a training range for the Afghan Special Police Training Center in Logar Province. It was designed to replicate a typical Afghan village and be used for conducting simulated search and clearance exercises.

But inspectors found that water had begun penetrating the walls within four months of the U.S. taking control of the training range. Bricks used in the construction had too much sand, and too little

clay, and began to erode. A January 2015 audit referred to the structures as "melting buildings."

War on Drugs
Afghanistan has long been the world's top producer of opium poppies. Besides its human toll, the Afghan drug trade was seen as undermining reconstruction and security goals by financing insurgent groups, fueling gov-

ernment corruption and eroding state legitimacy.

Over a 15-year period, the U.S. spent about \$8.6 billion on Afghan counternarcotics efforts. Still, by 2017, poppy cultivation and opium production reached record highs and "drug production and trafficking remain entrenched," Sigar wrote.

Power Transmission Failure
Inspectors found that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mismanaged a \$116 million contract with an Afghan company to build a power station to provide electricity to more than one million Afghans. The mismanagement resulted in the U.S. spending almost \$60 million on a project that wasn't operational "because land-acquisition and right-of-way issues have not been resolved, and there was no contract provision to permanently connect the system to a power source," Sigar reported in March 2018.

Sigar auditors found the system might also be "structurally unsound and pose a risk" to Afghans who live near transmission towers and lines, or worked in a nearby substation.

Harris embarking on Vietnam visit in shadow of Afghanistan debacle

Agencies

Even before the dust settles down in Afghanistan, where the Taliban militant group toppled the US-backed government and forced the American troops to withdraw, US vice president Kamala Harris is embarking on a trip to Vietnam, the site of even more infamous American military debacle.

The trip to Vietnam and Singapore, starting Monday, was announced last week, before the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, but it is likely to whip up a storm over America's failed war in Afghanistan. The stark parallels between the dramatic turn of events in the besieged Afghan capital last week and what unfolded in Saigon in 1975 has sparked a buzz. Senior US government officials, speaking to reporters on Harris' Southeast Asia trip, have sought to downplay or dismiss historical comparisons between Saigon and Kabul.

"She will continue to work on those issues (Afghanistan) and be in constant contact with Washington and her colleagues during this trip," a senior US official was quoted as saying by The Hill. "At the same time it is also

true that Southeast Asia is really important and that's why she's going."

Reuters quoted a senior US administration official as saying that the trip was choreographed to send a message that the US was in the region "to stay," as Washington seeks to garner international sup-

port for Harris, said in the White House statement.

Reuters quoted a senior US administration official as saying that the trip was choreographed to send a message that the US was in the region "to stay," as Washington seeks to garner international support to counter China's growing



port to counter China's growing regional and global influence.

"President [Joe] Biden and Vice President Harris have made it a top priority to rebuild our global partnerships and keep our nation secure, and this upcoming visit continues that work -- deepening our engagement in Southeast Asia," Symone Sanders, senior advisor and chief spokesperson for Harris, said in the White House statement.

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Erdogan says Turkey is not Europe's 'refugee warehouse'

AP

Faced with a potential new migration wave from Afghanistan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on European nations Thursday to shoulder the responsibility for Afghans fleeing the Taliban and warned that his country won't become Europe's refugee warehouse.

In a televised address following a Cabinet meeting, Erdogan also said his government would if necessary engage in talks with a government that could be formed by the Taliban for the stability and security of this country. Erdogan's comments come amid an increase in recent weeks in the number of Afghans making their way into Turkey across the border from Iran. Anti-migrant sentiment is running high in Turkey as it grapples with economic woes including high unemployment that have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and there is little appetite in the country to take in more people. We need to remind our European friends of this fact: Europe which has become the center of attraction for millions of people cannot stay out of (the refugee) problem by harshly sealing its borders to protect the safety and well-being of its citizens, Erdogan said. Turkey has no duty, responsibility or obligation to be Europe's refugee warehouse, Erdogan said. Erdogan said his country is home to 5 million foreign nationals including 3.6 million Syrians who fled the civil war in the neighboring country and 300,000 Afghans. Around 1.1 million are foreigners with residence permits, he said.

In 2016, Turkey and the European Union signed a deal for Turkey to stem the flow of hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees towards Europe, in return for visa-free travel for Turkish citi-

zens and substantial EU financial support. Erdogan has frequently accused the EU of not keeping its side of the bargain. The president said he was aware of the Turkish public's unease about refugees. He reiterated that the country had reinforced its border with Iran with military, gendarmerie



and police and that a wall being erected along the frontier is nearing completion. Our state is primarily responsible for the safety and well-being of its 84 million citizens. On the other hand, we are not a society that lacks character, thinks only about itself and turns its back on those who come to our door, Erdogan said. In reference to the millions of Syrians in Turkey, Erdogan said that those who have learnt Turkish, acquired professional skills and adapted to the country would remain in Turkey, while others would have to return to Syria once conditions in the war-torn country improve.

It is our responsibility toward our own citizens to help those who do not succeed to return to their homes in parallel with an improvement of the situation in their own country, Erdogan said.

Around 450,000 Syrians have already returned to Syria, he added.



China's Astronauts Make Spacewalk To Upgrade Robotic Arm

Agencies

Beijing, China: Chinese astronauts edged into space on Friday to add the finishing touches to a robotic arm on the Tiangong space station.

The foray, the second spacewalk in two months and relayed on state television, is part of China's heavily promoted space programme which has already seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the moon.

In June, three crew arrived at the station, where they are set to remain in space for a total of three months in China's longest crewed mission to date.

On Friday, astronauts Nie Haisheng and Liu Boming successfully exited the Tianhe core module to install foot stops and a workbench on the station's robotic arm, said the

China Manned Space Agency in a statement.

Video footage showed the astronauts working outside the spacecraft while tethered to it with a long rope. Their tasks also include working on a thermal unit and adjusting a panoramic camera, state broadcaster CCTV reported. This marks only the third spacewalk for Chinese astronauts, after the first in 2008 -- when Zhai Zhigang made China the third country to complete a spacewalk after the Soviet Union and the United States. The second took place in early July, when Liu and the third crew member Tang Hongbo left the station. It is China's first crewed mission in nearly five years and a matter of huge prestige as the country marks the 100th anniversary of the ruling Communist Party.

NEWS MAKER

China Offers Sops to Encourage Couples Have More Children

TRANS ASIA NEWS

Beijing: China's national legislature on Friday formally endorsed the three-child policy mooted by the

couples to have three children, was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) In an apparent attempt to address the reluctance of the Chinese

measures, including those in finances, taxes, insurance, education, housing and employment, to reduce families' burdens as well as the cost of raising and educating children, state-run

long-term population growth, the report said. In May this year, the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) approved a relaxation of its strict two-child policy to allow all couples to have up to three children.

China permitted all couples to have two children in 2016, scrapping the draconian decades-old one-child policy which policymakers blame for the demographic crisis in the country. Chinese officials claim the one-child policy implemented for over three decades has prevented over 400 million births.

The decision to permit the third child came after this month's once-in-a-decade census showed that China's population grew at the slowest pace to 1.412 billion amid official projections that the decline may begin as early as next year.

The new census figures revealed that the demographic crisis China faced was expected to deepen as the population of people above 60 years grew to 264 million, up by 18.7 per cent last year.

China Daily reported.

The NPC has revised the law to implement the central leadership's decision to cope with new circumstances in social and economic development and promote balanced



ruling Communist Party, in a major policy shift aimed to prevent a steep decline in birth rates in the world's most populous country.

The revised Population and Family Planning Law, which allows Chinese

couples to have more children due to mounting costs, the amended law has also passed more social and economic support measures to address the concerns. The new law stipulates that the country will take supportive

Nearly \$100m stolen in Japan crypto heist

In a latest digital scam days after one of the biggest ever cryptocurrency heists, hackers have stolen \$97 million worth of Ethereum and other digital coins belonging to Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Liquid.

The company, in a tweet posted late Thursday, announced what it termed "compromise", saying that it is moving assets that were not affected into more secure "cold wallet" storage, reports Fortune magazine. The company has also suspended deposits and withdrawals after the second major theft of cryptocurrencies in recent days. Last week, digital token platform Poly Network was at the centre of a \$600m heist and since then, the hacker has returned around \$427m of the assets, according to BBC.

"We are sorry to announce that #LiquidGlobal warm wallets were compromised, we are moving assets into the cold wallet," the company said on Twitter.

Founded in 2014, Liquid operates in over 100 countries and serves millions of customers around the world. It is one of the world's top 20 biggest cryptocurrency exchanges by daily trading volumes, according to CoinMarketCap data.

"Liquid's teams are still assessing the attack vector used and taking measures to mitigate the impact to users," the company said in a blog post. "Liquid will continue to do everything in its power to mitigate the impact from this incident and restore full service as soon as possible."

Liquid did not put a dollar figure on the amount, but blockchain analytics company Elliptic said its analysis estimates the losses at about \$97 million.

Of that, \$45 million were in

Ethereum tokens, which are being converted into Ether, preventing the hacker from having those assets frozen. Other cryptos taken in the heist include Bitcoin, XRP, and stablecoins.

Liquid is one of the 20 biggest crypto exchanges, as ranked by daily trading volume, per CoinMarketCap. In the past 24 hours, it has traded nearly \$141 million in crypto. The news of the hack comes just over a week after hackers took \$600 million in cryptocurrency, which is likely the biggest heist ever in the world of decentralized finance. Those attackers returned half of what they stole the next day and eventually returned almost all of it (\$135 million remains locked in an account that requires a password from the hacker).



Kathua Helicopter Crash... Searches Continue For Missing Pilot

Agencies

Jammu: Five days after the recovery of body of one of the two missing pilots of a helicopter of Indian Army's aviation corps which crashed near Ranjit Sagar Dam in the Basohli area of Kathua on August 3, searches continued for the second pilot on Friday, officials said.

While the body of one of the pilots identified as Lt Col AS Baath was recovered on Sunday, there was no trace of the remains of another pilot yet, official sources said.

Army has intensified search

operations for Pilot and helicopter which had crashed into the Ranjit Sagar Dam on August 3. Submarine Rescue Unit of Indian Navy was flown in to explore digitally located wreckage at depth of approximately 80 - 100 meters, the officials said. Indian Air Force also lifted the heavy equipment from Vishakhapatnam to Pathankot for speeding up the underwater search. Army and all other agencies including Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, NDRF, Ranjit Sagar Dam Authority and District Authorities continued searches for the missing pilot.

PWD Appeals Public To Post Grievances On Mobile App

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Public Works Department has asked public to post their grievances regarding roads, bridges, buildings etc on Hamari Sadak Mobile App.

The Mobile App "Hamari Sadak" of PW(R&B) Department was

launched in April this year for dedicated use of general public who could give direct feedback by uploading their grievances.

This will ensure speedy and efficient redressal of grievances. The App is available on www.jkpw-doms.in and Application Store of android mobile phone.

Teenager Electrocutd In Pulwama

Pulwama: A teenage boy was electrocuted to death in Newa area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday.

An official said that Marood Ahmad Dar (13) son of Mohammed Ashraf Dar resident of Urwan Poshwanin locality of Newa, a 7th standard student, received an electric shock while he was repairing electric wire of a water pump. "He was immediately taken

to the hospital in an unconscious state, where doctors declared him dead on arrival," the officer said. He said that after completing all the legal and medical formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family members for last rites.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and started investigation.

Boy Drowns In Sindh River

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: A 14-year-old boy drowned to death while he was taking a bath in Nallah Sindh at Watulbagh Lar area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Friday evening.

Officials said that a 14-year-old boy identified as Zaher Ahamd Khan, son of Mohammad Sultan Khan of Urpush was

bathing in Nallah Sindh when he drowned.

They said that police, SDRF Unit Ganderbal and locals have started a rescue operation but couldn't save his life. The body has been shifted to District Hospital Ganderbal, officials said, adding that the body was handed over to the family after completion of legal and medical formalities.

Govt Invites Global Tech Players For Making J&K A Favourite Investment Destination

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a premier e-Governance related event organized at the National level by ETGov-ernment.com, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Amit Sharma invited all leading technology players across the board for making J&K as

tant session relating to "Future Ready Digital Ecosystem for Central Government, State Governments and Local Governments".

CEO JaKeGA was very particular in talking about the lead role played by the agency in successfully implementing eOffice Project in all departments of Civil Secretariat J&K which



their favourite investment destination since lot of IT-enabled Projects are coming up here in coming days.

He made a special presentation on leading role played by ace e-Governance Agency of the UT towards transforming the way government has been working here during the last few months in an all-impor-

has resulted into paperless office functioning besides ensuring that both the secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar keep functioning simultaneously throughout the year. He added that a corollary to it is the recent successful establishment of Central Repository Units (CRUs) in both Secretariat complexes which has facilitat-

LG's Adv Asks JKWDC To Meet Expectations Of J&K Women

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, who is also Chairman, JKWDC and Secretary, Social Welfare appreciated the efforts made by the management of WDC for completing the accounts of the corporation well on time.

He urged the corporation to continue doing the good work and meet all the expectations of women associated with it. He asked them to provide the guidance to the women taking the loan from the corporation to invest it in a better way.

He was speaking at the 29th Adjourned Annual General Meeting (AGM) of J&K Women's Development Corporation (WDC) where the accounts for the year 2019-20 were adopted.

The Advisor further asked them that the women constitute half of the human population and deserves better op-



portunities to excel and make the mark. He advised the corporation to assist women in realisation of their dreams who

harbour any in the field of entrepreneurship.

The Managing Director, Dr. Naheed Soz while welcoming the shareholders informed that the financial health of the corporation is up to the mark as on date. She further informed the chair that WDC has disbursed Rs. 255.26 crores of loan benefiting 18976 women under various schemes. She also claimed that the recovery of loan amount has reached up to 95% in the corporation.

Regarding the shareholders the MD gave out that the LG has a shareholding of 95.95%, Administrative Secretary Finance has 1.62%, Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare 1.62% and Managing Director, JKWDC 0.81% share holding in the corporation.

LG's Adv Inspects Rural Development Works In Qazigund

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, Friday inspected various ongoing Rural development and Power development works besides reviewing tourism scenario in Qazigund, Anantnag.

The Advisor inspected the Receiving Station Shempora which has been augmented by 3.7 MVA from 16.3 MVA to 20 MVA and put

to the area in the coming winters.

Advisor also inspected the playfield and crate bund built by RDD under MGNREGA at Wanpora. He directed to complete Crate work on the Nallah adjacent to the playfield and also insisted to focus on more such wage generating works and the works that could be taken up in collaboration with irrigation department and other departments especially to wade off flood threats.



to public use. Advisor directed the concerned officers to take up the third cycle of branch cutting from 8th of September as has been directed by him in the series of meetings already taken. He directed the officers to expedite the metering process and replace the rotten poles and wires immediately. He fixed September 30 as timeline for the whole process for PDD to complete so that efficient power supply is provided

Advisor enjoined upon the executing agencies across the departments to utilize the remaining working season to the optimum so that the ongoing public welfare and developmental works are culminated in the current season. He laid special emphasis on employment generating works so that people get meaningful livelihood opportunities near their places of residence.

BJP Trains Volunteers In Anticipation Of Third Covid Wave

Agencies

Jammu: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit has trained party members to become health volunteers at 17 of its organisational districts in preparation for a possible third wave of COVID-19, party general secretary Devinder Kumar Manyal said on Friday.

"Till date, four party members and one IT in-charge at each organisational district of the Jammu province have been trained by two specialised doctors, one yoga teacher, and one AYUSH para-medico," Manyal told reporters here.

In a one-day workshop, volunteers were given training on how to use pulse oxymeter, thermometer, thermal scanner, and were instructed on the use of oxygen

cylinders and oxygen concentrators, he said.

"The volunteers were briefed on how to detect and handle people with mild, moderate, and severe symptoms of the coronavirus. They were also trained in procedures for isolating, quarantining, mass COVID-19 testing, and on vaccination procedure, Manyal said.

A child specialist instructed volunteers on symptoms of infection in children and their management at home and in hospital.

Volunteers were cautioned that a patient must be treated by a trained doctor only, he said.

The J-K BJP is planning to train 21,000 health volunteers in preparation for a possible third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir, Manyal said.

DC Shopian Discusses Revision Of Sale Price Of Minor Minerals

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Friday convened a meeting here to discuss various measures for the fixation/revision of sale price of Minor Minerals including sand, gravel, bajri and other related raw materials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC exhorted upon the concerned officers to strictly abide by the rules and regulations besides stressed to adhere to all the requisite parameters. He directed the concerned to work in coordination and cohesion so that the process is streamlined. Moreover, Vaishya emphasized the strengthening of the mechanism of checking illegal sand and other minerals from river beds and other vital locations.

Director Agriculture Visits Sweet Corn Area Of North Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday visited sweet corn areas of North Kashmir's Uri Sub-division of Baramulla. During the visit, the Director convened a meeting of the officers and other stakeholders to discuss the different plans for the promotion and marketing of the sweet corn in the valley.

The Director said that a multi-dimensional marketing platform would be offered to the sweet corn growers for their socio economic transformation. He asked the concerned officers to identify 10 hectares of land in each zone of Uri for the promotion of sweet corn.

Work On Power Projects Reviewed In Kupwara

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of projects under various schemes of the Power sector in the district.

On the occasion, the DC took work wise review of the projects under Languishing projects, DDUJCY, R-APDRP and PMPD schemes.

He stressed upon the concerned engineers to ensure completion of all on-going power projects within the stipulated time frame. He directed them to provide uninterrupted power supply to the people especially in far flung areas so that they do not face inconvenience.

It was informed in the meeting that 7 augmen-



tation projects under the PMPD scheme relating to Receiving Stations of Sogam, Chowgul, Doolipora, Ganapora, Khumriyal, Kralpora and Krusan have been completed so far. Further, 45 percent of work has also been completed on construction of Armpora-Khumriyal 33KV line under the same scheme.

It was also informed in the meeting that 3 projects

including construction of 1x6.3 MVA Receiving Stations at Teethwal, Keran and Machil have also been completed. Moreover, under the Languishing projects scheme, 3 projects including construction of 1x6.3 MVA Receiving stations at Karihana, Changmulla and construction of a transformer repairing workshop at Tangdhar have also been completed.

DIC Gbl Holds Sensitization Program on CAB

GANDERBAL: District Information Centre (DIC) Ganderbal Friday conducted an interaction cum sensitization program on Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) with the Trade Union of Ganderbal to sensitize and promote Covid Appropriate Behaviour here.

During the program, the participants were made aware about CAB and other basic SOPs like washing hands frequently, wearing masks, maintaining social distance etc.

The District Information Officer (DIO) Ganderbal while speaking on the occasion requested

the Trade Union representatives that the message regarding CAB and other basic precautions with regard to Covid shall reach to every shopkeeper of the town and urged them that CAB and SOPs are observed in letter and spirit so that possible 3rd wave could be prevented.

President Municipal Council, Ganderbal also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of observing CAB and said that active cooperation from all sections of society including shopkeepers is must to avert the COVID-9 pandemic in the district.

Representatives from

Trade Union also shared their valuable suggestions regarding CAB and said that regular drives shall be conducted by the enforcement teams to enforce the CAB strictly in the district.

They also appreciated the DIC Ganderbal for conducting the program and said that awareness programs shall continue in other parts of the district so that messages regarding CAB could reach every citizen of the district.

President Municipal Council Ganderbal, Advocate Altaf Ahmad, DIO Ganderbal and officials of DIC Ganderbal were also present on the occasion.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION Ganderbal NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Single Cover System upto Rs.2.50 crores

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl-e-NIT No.99of 2021-22 under endorsement No.8617-23 Dated: 18-08-2021

Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invites Item rate Basis in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. (CPWD, Railways and other State Governments).

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Bid Security Declaration	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1.	Name of Scheme:- Upgradation of Guzham, Batwina, Dab, Batpora, Waskura road via allied links Under NABARD (RIDF-XXV). Name of Work: Upgradation of link roads Rawatpora, Asthanpora Lamnora, Baghwanpora, Jamia Masjid, Baghwanpora Batwina, Hakun, Guzham, Gunzipora Batwani b.w.o P/L WBM, G-II in Patches/stretches and G-III in full, Construction of R/Wall, Cement concrete drain and laying of X-drainage pipes at different spots and Impmt/ Upgrad of Lamnora road at Batwina, Hakan road b.w.o P/L Macadamization under NABARD (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	200.00	2600/=	As per format	03 Months	HMPO/AA/Class Civil having agreement with any HMPH
	Name of Scheme:- Impmt./Upgrad. of Watlar link road at Lar Ganderbal (Phase 1st) under NABARD (RIDF-XXV). Name of Work: Upgradation of road surface b.w.o P/L GSB, WBM G-II, construction of cement concrete Drain, Protection Walls and Macadamization on Watlar link roads at Lar Ganderbal (Machine Mix Laid with paver).	162.50	2600/=	As per format	03 Months	HMPO/AA/Class Civil having agreement with any HMPH

M.H Account:- NABARD RIDF.XXIV
Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of funds:- Available.
Technical Sanction. Accorded

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18/08/2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20/08/2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	20/08./2021 from 10.05 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	27.08.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28.08./2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal/Bandipora

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal-Bandipora H.Q. Ganderbal. (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- 50% of the normal deposit shall be released only after successful completion of 2nd year duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer and the balance 50% after successful completion of 3rd year duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer.
- The tar to be used for macadamization works shall be procured only from Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The payments Memos are to be certified by the JE and AEE concerned.
- ALL KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL shall have to be strictly as per prescribed specifications and approval of the Engineer In-charge.

DIPK-6938/21

(Er Zaffar Qureshi)
Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



After 20 years of misguided efforts, the US was destined to fail in its twin objectives of withdrawing from Afghanistan and leaving behind a stable, law-based society. The result is an immense human tragedy. Even if the Taliban do not revert to their worst practices, Afghan men and especially women will pay a high price for America's failures in the years and decades ahead

On 15 August 2021, 74 years after independence and 71 years after India became a republic, instead of feeling ecstatic and consolidating our achievements we are forced to ponder over the question, whether our freedom fighters, leaders and constitution framers dreamt of India in its present form?

At present we are standing at a cross-road, where a vast multitude of Indian citizens are wondering about their legal standing and the future, besides feeling concerned about the continued secular and inclusive character of Indian society. The largest majority of the country along with millions of other linguistic and religious minorities besides illiterate, landless, backwards and a mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been forced to ponder over the question of their legal identity in the country, whose constitution's preamble reads: "We, the people of India...Secular, Democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens..."

The largest minority community in the country has been thrown so many challenges in the last three years, that though confused and floundering, it was trying hard to come to terms with the harsh reality of being part of an India, which is being governed by the forces, which have always remained inimical to it.

A large number of people believe this to be the doing of the right-wing government at the centre. But the moot question is, how did it happen and who allowed it to happen? Leading us to a more sensitive and ponderous question, whether India ever really was a truly secular republic at all?

No one can deny the intricate human ties between the Indian citizens. Their sharing and caring for each other in times of need, standing together with each other in times of adversity. Coexisting and surviving for centuries as brethren, before the colonial masters altered the narrative based on two distinct communities.

Though it was presumed that independent India would provide a level playing field to all its citizens, irrespective of their caste and creed, the reality itself is vastly different. Writing in Young India, Gandhi longed for a Swaraj, which would be the rule of all based on justice, '... to me Hind Swaraj is the rule of all people, is the rule of justice.' --Young India--16.4.1931.

Secular Forces in India

Broadly, what is happening now



shouldn't worry any one, as it is happening due to their own complicity or lackadaisical attitude. When the so-called secular parties were in power, they never tried to reign-in the hard-line Hindutva elements. In reality, they always mollified and pampered them under the veneer of equal rights to every religion. Or within their hearts they too were communal.

In addition, a large number of highly educated Indians exercised their franchise in favour of the BJP, in the last two general elections, maybe being sympathetic and giving them a chance to govern, was considered being a Hindu Indian. And though they too have suffered from demonetisation, GST, rising inflation, yet they are

India At 75

The Indian republic has achieved much during the last 75 years of its existence, yet the question of majority and minority remain central to the national politics

Asad Mirza

still not ready to accept their wrong decision, as they want to watch the full movie, and yes, howsoever they profess to be seen as an educated, secular, forward looking, liberal person, within their hearts most are least concerned about minorities or backward classes of the country, except to have drawing room conversation about their plight.

The secular parties also pampered and kowtowed to the fixated Muslim elements, clerics who claimed to be Muslim leaders or representatives, due to which the Hindutva forces always bemoaned the appeasement of the minorities at the cost of the majority, and in turn reaped benefits for themselves at the hustings.

Muslims in India

The Muslim community apart from educational backwardness also faced its influence and economic power waning from 1947 onwards. However, it got a shot in the arm with the middle-east boom, after the 70s. Though, in the traversing period and till 1980s, its economic spine was tried to be broken by frequent riots in cities where it had proved its mettle as skilful entrepreneurs. And most of these riots happened when the so-called secular parties were in power both at the centre and state level.

From the mid-70s onwards, the community consolidated its economic gains and moved forward on the road to educational and social prosperity. From the 90s on, economic liberalisation further helped the community in a big manner, as now scores of its young technocrats found meaningful jobs at various MNCs, as there unlike the government sector the playing field was set level for all.

This economic independence also helped it to further consolidate its successes and the current generation is proof of this. A generation, which is not burdened by the baggage of partition and

A generation, which is not burdened by the baggage of partition and is socially and educationally empowered to take on its foes at an equal footing. A generation, which is equally at home wearing jeans and hijab, keeping beard and observing fasts, bringing to reality the adage that education, opens doors to emancipation. A generation, which is proud to be part of the secular framework of the country and its own religious identity, and has become adept at finding a central path between the two

is socially and educationally empowered to take on its foes at an equal footing. A generation, which is equally at home wearing jeans and hijab, keeping beard and observing fasts, bringing to reality the adage that education, opens doors to emancipation. A generation, which is proud to be part of the secular framework of the country and its own religious identity, and has become adept at finding a central path between the two.

This is what has upset the communal forces. They are afraid of a group, which is not shy of taking any challenge marred by its identity or its religion and is very comfortable in striking a workable balance between the two.

In the current scenario, to remain steadfast and work towards consolidating our secular democratic republic, the responsibility lies on the opposition and other parties to question the establishment's each and every policy in the parliament and at various other fora, and in the meanwhile also strive to work towards establishing a society and polity which does not rely on petty gains but wants to make the country stronger, based on principles enshrined in its constitution and obligated to by its founding fathers.

In addition, Muslims have to introspect and change their outlook on major issues confronting them. They have to focus on getting educated, getting rid of un-Islamic rituals, better utilise the community funds generated through Zakat and inculcate a community psyche, where each instead of the other, should first aim to reform him and his family and then come forward to reform the society in a professional and committed manner without keeping an eye on becoming the community leader. Remember we have to empower our community and this would be possible only when we are able to get the maximum number of our youngsters in every department of the administration, police, judiciary and military.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. @asad-mirza.blogspot.com

Why Nation-Building Failed in Afghanistan

DARON ACEMOGLU

ISTANBUL – The United States invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago with the hope of rebuilding a country that had become a scourge to the world and its own people. As General Stanley McChrystal explained in the run-up to the 2009 surge of US troops, the objective was that the "government of Afghanistan sufficiently control its territory to support regional stability and prevent its use for international terrorism."

Now, with more than 100,000 lives lost and some \$2 trillion spent, all America has to show for its effort are this month's scenes of a desperate scramble out of the country – a humiliating collapse reminiscent of the fall of Saigon in 1975. What went wrong?

Pretty much everything, but not in the way that most people think. While poor planning and a lack of accurate intelligence certainly contributed to the disaster, the problem has in fact been 20 years in the making.

The US understood early on that the only way to create a stable country with some semblance of law and order was to establish robust state institutions. Encouraged by many experts and now-defunct theories, the US military framed this challenge as an engineering problem: Afghanistan lacked state institutions, a functioning security force, courts, and knowledgeable bureaucrats, so the solution was to pour in resources and transfer expertise from foreigners. NGOs and the broader Western foreign-aid complex were there to help in their own way (whether the locals wanted them to or not). And because their work required some degree of stability, foreign soldiers – mainly NATO forces, but also private contractors – were deployed to maintain security.

In viewing nation-building as a top-down, "state-first" process, US policymakers were following a venerable tradition in political science. The as-

sumption is that if you can establish overwhelming military dominance over a territory and subdue all other sources of power, you can then impose your will. Yet in most places, this theory is only half right, at best; and in Afghanistan, it was dead wrong.

Of course, Afghanistan needed a functioning state. But the presumption that one could be imposed from above by foreign forces was misplaced. As James Robinson and I argue in our 2019 book, *The Narrow Corridor*, this approach makes no sense when your starting point is a deeply heterogeneous society organized around local customs and norms, where state institutions have long been absent or impaired.

This does not mean that the US should have worked with the Taliban. But it does mean that it should have worked more closely with different local groups, rather than pouring resources into the corrupt, non-representative regime of Afghanistan

True, the top-down approach to state-building has worked in some cases (such as the Qin dynasty in China or the Ottoman Empire). But most states have been constructed not by force but by compromise and cooperation. The successful centralization of power under state institutions more commonly involves the assent and cooperation of the people subject to it. In this model, the state is not imposed on a society against its wishes; rather, state institutions build legitimacy by securing a modicum of popular support.

This does not mean that the US should have worked with the Taliban. But it does mean that it

should have worked more closely with different local groups, rather than pouring resources into the corrupt, non-representative regime of Afghanistan's first post-Taliban president, Hamid Karzai (and his brothers). Ashraf Ghani, the US-backed Afghan president who fled to the United Arab Emirates this week, co-authored a book in 2009 documenting how this strategy had fueled corruption and failed to achieve its stated purpose. Once in power, however, Ghani continued down the same road.

The situation that the US confronted in Afghanistan was even worse than is typical for aspiring nation builders. From the very beginning, the Afghan

feuds and a recent history of civil war, the more likely response is violent conflict.

Perhaps things could have turned out differently if Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency had not supported the Taliban when it was militarily defeated, if NATO drone attacks had not further alienated the population, and if US-backed Afghan elites had not been extravagantly corrupt. But the cards were stacked against America's state-first strategy.

And the fact is, US leaders should have known better. As Melissa Dell and Pablo Querubin document, America adopted a similar top-down strategy in Vietnam, and it backfired spectacularly. Places that were bombed to subdue the Viet Cong became even more supportive of the anti-American insurgency.

Even more telling is the US military's own recent experience in Iraq. As research by Eli Berman, Jacob Shapiro, and Joseph Felter shows, the "surge" there worked much better when Americans tried to win hearts and minds by cultivating the support of local groups. Similarly, my own work with Ali Cheema, Asim Khwaja, and James Robinson finds that in rural Pakistan, people turn to non-state actors precisely when they think state institutions are ineffective and foreign to them.

None of this means that the withdrawal could not have been managed better. But after 20 years of misguided efforts, the US was destined to fail in its twin objectives of withdrawing from Afghanistan and leaving behind a stable, law-based society.

The result is an immense human tragedy. Even if the Taliban do not revert to their worst practices, Afghan men and especially women will pay a high price for America's failures in the years and decades ahead.

Project Syndicate

Arabic in India

Development of Arabic Studies



Mir Jamid Afzal

Arabic belongs to the Semitic group of languages. Ya'rib bin Qahtan is popularly known as the father of this language. Today, it is one of the official languages of the UNO (United Nations Organisation) and is spoken by a large group of masses in Asia and Africa. During the heyday of Islamic civilization, it was the lingua franca of a vast Islamic empire and its universal language of learning. It has left much influence over the European as well as Indian languages. Besides, it is the holy language of Islam and as such it has been studied in every nook and corner of the globe as a language of a great religion and civilization.

It is worth mentioning here in this connection that study of the Arabic language is essential from the viewpoint of socio-historical, cultural, job opportunities as well as Indo-Arab relationship. Arabic, in India, has been taught in different ways for more than fifteen centuries. The relations between India and the Arab world date back to very ancient times, and the Arab merchants appear to have played a leading part in establishing as well as strengthening commercial and cultural links between the two nations. With the advent of Islam in the Indian subcontinent, these ties of friendship became stronger than ever before, particularly, for cultural and political reasons.

Several Muslim empires were established on the soil of India which lasted for more than eight centuries. India became enriched with the treasures of various sciences of knowledge, arts, culture and literature. It is to be remarked here that India has been one of the most well-known non-Arab states where Arabic language and literature grew, developed and flourished on a large scale. During the period of Arab rule in the Indian Territory, Arabic continued to be the official language of the government and administration and the unrivalled medium of sacred knowledge and literary achievement.

Moreover, various Arabic madrasas and cultural institutions of higher learning under the personal guidance and scholarly interest of the Sultans were set up which produced a good number of poets, writers, Islamic thinkers, commentators of the holy Qur'an, scholars of the Hadith etc. Their noble works can be compared to any work of any great Arab scholar. Mention may be made here in this regard about the following scholars. Allamah Sighani Lahori (d. 1252), the author of the great book 'al-Ubabuz-Zakhir' on grammar and lexicography. Gulam Ali Azad Bilgrami (1116-1200 A.H.), who has penned many outstanding Arabic books on history and literature like 'Subhatul-Marjan'. Besides, he is regarded to be the greatest Indian Arabic poet and is well known as Hassanul-Hind. About 11,000 verses composed by him are the living proof of his extraordinary poetic talent.

Shah Waliullah Dihlawi (1114-1176 A.H.), who has produced the great book 'Hujjatullahil-Balighah', on the science of Hadith. Abdul Hai al-Hasani (1286-1341 A.H.), the writer of the famous book 'Nuzhatul-Khawatir' on the great Indian scholars in different fields from 622 A.D. up to the time of the author. Zainuddin bin Abdul Aziz who produced an authentic prose work entitled 'Tuhfatul Mujahidin' on the struggle of the Zamorins of Calicut against the Portuguese. Siddiq Hasan Khan (1248-1307 A.H.) who

besides being a poet, was a great scholar of Hadith, and authored a good number of valuable books on Arabic philology like 'Abjadul-Uloom'. Muhammad Ala al-Thanawi, composer of the outstanding dictionary 'Kash-shaf Istilahat al-Funun' on technical terms. Abul Faid Faidi (954-1004 A.H.), the author of the undotted tafsir 'Sawatiul-Ilham'. Abdul Haqq

The Indian Muslim scholars, therefore, took farsighted attempt to establish Arabic and Islamic cultural learning centres across the country, with a view to reviving the glorious position of Arab Islamic culture. And thus, an oriental university in the Punjab, an oriental Department at Aligarh, Darul Uloom Deoband, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama came into existence. Each of these institutions took great pains in countering the Christian challenges

Dihlawi (958-1052 A.H.), the pioneer of Hadith studies in the Indian subcontinent who produced many pearls and gems in Hadith literature like 'Lamatut-Tanqeeh'. Fadl Haqq Khairabadi (1212-1278 A.H.), one of the greatest Indian philosophers an author of the famous book 'al-Hadiyyatus-sayeediyyah' on wisdom literature, and so on.

Arabic as well as the religious sciences had lost their position of pride because of the disgusting aggressive educational policy of the British government. Instead of Arabic, English overnight became the medium of higher education and particularly, of secular arts and sciences. As a result, the Muslims fell behind in all aspects of life. This, of course, may be considered to be a planned strategy of Macaulay's scheme of education.

The Indian Muslim scholars, therefore, took farsighted attempt to establish Arabic and Islamic cultural learning centres across the country, with a view to reviving the glorious position of Arab Islamic culture. And thus, an oriental university in the Punjab, an oriental Department at Aligarh, Darul Uloom Deoband, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama came into existence. Each of these institutions took great pains in countering the Christian challenges. Besides, they were able to give birth to a new spirit in cultural as well as modern studies to a considerable extent. Consequently, Arabic language and literature, today, has been one of the important subjects of learning.

It is to be mentioned here that the Nadwis (scholars produced by Nadwa) took utmost care in bring-

ing out the Arabic language from the corner of obscurity and stagnation and proved with potency and lively activity that Arabic is a living language having bright prospects. They are still on their noble efforts in enriching and developing the Arabic language and Islamic culture in India. In the twentieth century, India has produced a good number of literary figures and writers who got worldwide fame and their literary products are similar to that of the great Arab literateurs. For instance, Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (1914-1999 A.D.), the author of the world famous book 'Islam and the World', Abdul Aziz Maimoni (1888-1978 A.D.) who formerly held the chair of Arabic in the universities of Aligarh and Karachi and since long has been recognized as one of the greatest living authorities on Arabic language and literature, Hamidud-din al-Farahi (1280-1349 A.H.), who has written the famous tafsir 'al-Imaan Fi Aqsamil-Quran' and so many others. These writers were greatly influenced by modern Arabic literature and its various art forms. Apart from that, they were impressed by western literature. Some modern styles and themes like criticism, politics, therefore, are visible in their popular writings. They are also followed by some later modern writers in these aspects to some extent.

The scholars and writers who have been teaching in modern colleges and universities have taken part mainly in translation. We note that a number of valuable works have been translated from Sanskrit, English, Urdu into Arabic by them. Likewise, they have translated hundreds of short stories, plays, novels as well as social, cultural, political and religious scholarly essays from English, Hindi and many other Indian languages into Arabic. In this way, the modern university teachers have played a great role in enriching Arabic literature and Islamic culture which can never be ignored. Some of the writers who have earned high popularity in contemporary universities through their erudite treatises are Dr. Abdul Halim Nadwi, Dr. Zubair Ahmad Faruqi, Dr. Masud Rahman Khan, Dr. Md. Rashid Nadwi, Dr. Shafiq Ahmad Khan Nadwi and Dr. Aslam al-Islahi.

On the other hand, the scholars of the religious institutions have occupied leading positions in compiling and producing books purely in Arabic on Islamic as well as various literary topics. Here mention may be made of the names of Anwar Shah Kashmiri (1292-1352 A.H.), the author of the most authentic book on Hadith literature 'Faidul Bari', Wahiduzzaman Kairanwi (1929-1996 A.D.), the writer of the book 'al-Qiratul-Wadihah', Rabi Hasan Nadwi (b. 1929 A.D.), the present Rector of Nadwa and the author of the outstanding book 'al-Adabul Arabi Bain al-Ardin wa Naqdi n' and so on.

In reality, they have devoted themselves exclusively to the study of religious sciences and to the cultivation of high standard Arabic. It is significant to note here in this context that like all other non-Arab states, in India too, the holy Qur'an has been one of the greatest factors which participated in developing the Arabic language, widening its scopes and strengthening its basic elements. The Muslims assumed the study of Arabic with great importance in order to appreciate the teachings of the divine messages of the Qur'an. The most prominent madrasas and Islamic learning centres which have been playing leading part in enriching Arabic literature and Islamic culture throughout the country are (a) Darul Uloom Deoband, (b) Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, (c) Jamiah Salafiyah Benares, (d) Madrasatul Islah and Madrasatul Falah, Azamgarh, (e) Jamiah Islamiyyah, Mubarakpur, (f) Darul Uloom

Baskandi, etc. The most famous colleges in which Arabic language and literature have been taught are numerous in number located in various parts of the country.

Now let's cast a glance at the leading Indian universities which have been contributing much in vari-

It is worth mentioning here in this connection that study of the Arabic language is essential from the viewpoint of socio-historical, cultural, job opportunities as well as Indo-Arab relationship. Arabic, in India, has been taught in different ways for more than fifteen centuries. The relations between India and the Arab world date back to very ancient times, and the Arab merchants appear to have played a leading part in establishing as well as strengthening commercial and cultural links between the two nations

ous ways in the development of the Arabic language and literature to a large extent. Calcutta University established in 1857 A.D. Arabic study in this university was started from its very inception and it got new impetus since 1916 A.D. presently, the Department of Arabic and Persian has been taking utmost care in teaching Arabic with special attention in modern and functional Arabic. Madras University established in 1857 A.D. Arabic was included in its offering courses in 1927 A.D. and was taught under the Department of Islamic studies which contained Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages. In these days, here, Arabic is being taught in various levels of learning like M.A., M.Lit., Ph.D. and certificate courses.

Aligarh Muslim University which was founded by Sayed Ahmad Khan as a college in 1875 A.D. and was recognized as a university in 1920 A.D. It has been offering courses on Arabic language and literature since its very inception through the orientalists. This university has a remarkable contribution in the development of Arabic literature in the Indian subcontinent. In addition to teaching, its concerned Department has been publishing a large number of Arabic books, journals, newspapers, magazines, etc. Some of them have already gained much popularity in the Arab world. Bombay University established in 1857 A.D. In this university too, Arabic language and literature has been taught in different stages of learning including doctorate.

The scholars and writers who have been teaching in modern colleges and universities have taken part mainly in translation. We note that a number of valuable works have been translated from Sanskrit, English, Urdu into Arabic by them. Likewise, they have translated hundreds of short stories, plays, novels as well as social, cultural, political and religious scholarly essays from English, Hindi and many other Indian languages into Arabic. In this way, the modern university teachers have played a great role in enriching Arabic literature and Islamic culture which can never be ignored

Jamia Milliyah Islamiyyah established in 1920. Although Arabic was introduced in its curriculum at the very beginning yet the Department of Arabic came into existence in 1982 A.D. Here, different courses on Arabic language and literature are offered in different standards of education including B.A., M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. along with certificate and diploma courses in modern Arabic. Besides the above mentioned universities, in this connection, it needs mention of Delhi University, Lucknow University, Usmaniyyah University, Benares Hindu University, Allahabad University, Kerala University, Kashmir University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Gauhati University, Assam University.

The writer is a student of Arabic hails from Amlar Tral in South Kashmir

Arabic as well as the religious sciences had lost their position of pride because of the aggressive educational policy of the British government. Instead of Arabic, English overnight became the medium of higher education and particularly, of secular arts and sciences. As a result, the Muslims fell behind in all aspects of life. This, of course, may be considered to be a planned strategy of Macaulay's scheme of education

Tribal Affairs Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K

Jewellers to go on token strike on Aug 23 against gold hallmarking

Agencies

New Delhi : Jewellers across the country will go on a 'token strike' on August 23 against the "arbitrary implementation" of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery, All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) said on Friday.

The strike will be supported by 350 associations and federations from all four zones of the entire gems and jewellery industry, the GJC claimed.

Mandatory gold hallmarking has come into force from June 16

two lakh pieces per day. At this speed, it will take 3-4 years to hallmark this years' production.

"Currently, the new HUID system is taking almost 5 to 10 days to hallmark the products, resulting in a complete bottleneck and the industry is on standstill. ...Tonnes of jewellery is lying idle due to delays in the existing hallmarking process and BIS is simply adding fire to our anxiety instead of resolving issues," he said. It is estimated that yearly almost 10-12 crore gold jewellery pieces are manufactured in India. In addition, existing stock



in a phased manner. The government has identified 256 districts from 28 states and union territories for the phase-1 implementation. Gold hallmarking, a purity certification of the precious metal, was voluntary in nature so far.

"The one-day token strike is our peaceful protest against arbitrary implementation of HUID (hallmark unique identification number), which is impractical and unimplementable," Ashok Minawala, past Chairman of GJC, said in a statement.

Minawala is a jewellers' representative on government-appointed committees and Director of Danabhai Jewellers Group.

He said jewellers cannot accept the new HUID as it has nothing to do with the purity of gold. The BIS feels the new HUID will improve gold purity but jewellers think it is just a tracking mechanism.

Stating that the HUID system is extremely time consuming, GJC Director Dinesh Jain said the current speed and capacity of hallmarking centres is about

of almost 6-7 crore pieces are yet to be hallmarked. This takes the total count of pieces to be hallmarked in a year to almost 16-18 crore pieces, he added.

That apart, HUID is not fool-proof as there have been lots of issues such as double HUID on the same piece, same HUID on multiple jewellery etc, he said, adding that these are already brought to the notice of the BIS.

Mumbai Wholesale Gold Jewellery Association President Prakash Kagrecha said jewellers have welcomed the hallmarking and the growth in registration has risen from 34,000 to 88,000 jewellers, which shows the jewellers commitment towards consumers.

"However, the hallmarking centres have been reduced as 83 centres have been either suspended or cancelled. The new HUID process involves cutting, melting, and scraping of jewellery, which is intended to sell. The entire process of hallmarking is defeated when a jewellery has been damaged," he said.

Diesel price cut by 20 paise, no change in petrol price

Agencies

New Delhi: Diesel prices were reduced for the third consecutive day while petrol prices continued to remain unchanged. In the national capital, diesel was sold for Rs 89.27 per litre, 20 paise lower than the previous level. Petrol price was at Rs 101.84 per litre.

Similarly, in Mumbai, diesel price also fell 20 paise to Rs 96.84 a litre, while petrol was unchanged at Rs 107.83 per litre.

Global crude oil prices continued to decline. The October contract of Brent crude oil on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) was trading at \$66.72 per barrel.

The fall in global oil prices should have resulted in around Rs

2 per litre reduction on retail rates of fuel. However, OMCs still want to see market movements before making further cuts.

The pump prices of auto fuels have been static since July 18.

The long price pause for auto fuels came after fuel prices increased for 41 days in the current financial year. The 41 increases have taken up petrol prices by Rs 11.44 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel rates have increased by Rs 8.74 per litre in the national capital. Prices of both auto fuels reduced only once in April by 16 and 14 paise per litre respectively.

Diesel prices were also reduced by 16 paise per litre in Delhi on July 12 and again now on August 18, 19 and 20.

Initiative to generate employment, enhance milk production: Govt

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: Tribal Affairs Department has rolled out plan for establishment of Milk Villages, Milk Chilling Plants (MCP), Milk Product Processing and other facilities in

ing funded under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for tribal welfare included 8 villages, one each in Rajouri, Anantnag, Poonch, Jammu, Shopian, Reasi, Kupwara and Budgam, with a cost of Rs 80.00 Lakh per village, he added. He said that an amount of Rs 90

linkages. The department is also providing research grant first time to the Tribal Research Institute for survey, analysis, evaluation, DPR formulation, skilling and other aspects for focused planning in livestock husbandry sector among others.



tribal villages aimed at supporting milk production and supply chain besides providing sustainable employment opportunities to youth.

"The project is aimed at providing employment to more than 1500 tribal youth and infrastructure creation under Phase-I which will be followed by expanded coverage to all districts", maintained Secretary Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary while elaborating on this innovative initiative being launched in the UT.

Dr Shahid informed that the six new Milk Villages approved under the UT CAPEX budget included 2 villages in Shopian, one each in Pulwama, Rajouri, Ganderbal and Poonch. These villages have been allocated Rs 80.00 Lakh each for livestock up gradation, machinery, equipment and market linkages. The villages be-

Lakh has also been earmarked for Snagerwani in Pulwama and Argi in Rajouri for completion of earlier sanctioned projects.

Likewise, two Milk Chilling Plants to be established at a cost of Rs 100.00 Lakh have also been sanctioned for Shopian and Ganderbal. The department has also initiated the process for identification of villages with potential of milk supply chain for providing skilling, livestock product management, supply chain infrastructure and other facilities.

Potential areas in districts like Udhampur, Samba, Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Budgam, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora with significant tribal population are being mapped for establishment of Milk Villages in a phased manner. Separate outlay has also been earmarked for skill development and market

The process of selection of potential milk villages by district administration with inputs from Animal Husbandry Department and representatives of local self-government will consider production and processing potential. The villages having maximum potential will be selected in phase-I and a waiting list of villages shall be maintained for subsequent coverage.

Pertinently, all the Milk Villages approved by the Tribal Affairs Department are being established with 100% government funding meanwhile the department is actively coordinating with banks and financial institutions for establishment of 100 Milk Villages and Chilling Plants with Public-Private Partnership wherein scheme upfront subsidy and interest subvention is being explored.

Establish RLM Haats at District level: Dr Sehrish to officers

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, August 20: Mission Director Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today convened a meeting with the officials of JKRLM (Umeed) to discuss the implementation of Chief Secretary's instructions for the formation of 11,000 SHGs by September 30 2021.

On the occasion, the Mission Director asked the officials to work on a mission mode and achieve the targets on time. She assured them that the mission will provide all the support for achieving the same.

The Mission Director further impressed upon the officials to identify various commercial activities suited for the rural economy and initiate a process to provide necessary training and establish both the forward and backward linkages.

In order to provide ready market and promote SHG products, Dr Sehrish impressed upon the

officials to establish permanent JKRLM haats at district level with the support of district administration. The SHGs should be deputed to the rural haats on rotation basis, she added.

The MD further instructed the

sakhis will assist SHG members in availing various banking facilities and social security schemes, as was revealed in the meeting.

The officials further discussed the plan of action for social mobilization of rural women and



officials to identify bank branches where credit linkage is more than 50 loan accounts. Such accounts will be supported through engagement of bank sakhis at the branch level. These bank

federating them into SHGs.

The meeting was attended by Additional Mission Director Kashmir, Reyaz Ahmad Beigh, State Project Managers of Umeed and other officials of the Mission.

SpiceJet launches 14 new domestic flights

Agencies

SpiceJet airline launched 14 new flights including 12 industry first non-stop flights. SpiceJet will be the first airline to connect Bhavnagar-Delhi, Bhavnagar-Surat, Gwalior-Jaipur, Kishangarh (Ajmer)-Mumbai, Pune-Tirupati and Varanasi-Dehradun. The air-

big city in Gujarat where SpiceJet will fly to. Home to the world's largest ship-breaking yard, Bhavnagar has great potential for both business and leisure travellers and the increased air connectivity will help further boost trade and tourism."

While flights from Bhavnagar to Delhi and Mumbai will op-



line also plans to launch a non-stop flight connecting Bhavnagar with Mumbai.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia flagged off the inaugural SpiceJet flight from Bhavnagar to Delhi virtually in the presence of MoS Civil Aviation, General (Dr) VK Singh (Retd), Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola and CMD of SpiceJet, Ajay Singh, while Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani attended the event virtually. The inaugural flight took off from Bhavnagar at 3:45 PM today. Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "The airline is committed to enhance regional connectivity. We will also be connecting Bhavnagar with Mumbai. Bhavnagar is the sixth

erate on all days except Tuesdays, the airline will connect Bhavnagar with Surat and Pune with Tirupati thrice-a-week.

Flights between Jaipur and Gwalior and Kishangarh (Ajmer) and Mumbai will operate four a week and those between Varanasi and Dehradun will operate on all days. SpiceJet will be deploying Q400 aircraft on these routes. In addition, IndiGo also launched domestic flight connecting Jabalpur to Mumbai and Delhi effective Aug 20. IndiGo airline in an official statement said the airline will also connect Jabalpur with Hyderabad and Indore w.e.f August 28, 2021. These new connections will strengthen Indigo's domestic connectivity to and from Jabalpur.

Nissan Renault Financial Services India donates Rs 1 crore to PM CARES Fund

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd on Friday said that Nissan Renault Financial Services India (NRFSI) has donated Rs 1 crore to the PM CARES Fund towards COVID-19 relief measures.

Nissan Motor India has already contributed Rs 6.5 crore towards local communities, with a cash contribution to the Tamil Nadu SDMA, Tamil Nadu CM Relief Fund and COVID-19 relief equipment to NGOs and hospitals.

With the donation of Rs 1 crore to the PM CARES fund by NRFSI, the total amount of contribution towards various COVID-19 relief measures in India from the automotive alliance has gone up to Rs 7.5 crore, the company said in a statement.

Nissan Motor Corporation Senior Vice President, Global Treasury and Sales Finance Rakesh Kochhar said, "the

second wave of COVID-19 has disrupted many lives and left people with uncertainties. NRFSI has come forward and donated Rs 1 crore for the well-being of society to support the government during these challenging times".

He added that Nissan India is also committed to help society and its employees through continuous support and CSR outreach.

Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd President Sinan Ozkok said since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has always helped its employees and other stakeholders through its differentiated CSR initiatives.

"We are dedicated towards providing all the necessary means to the people in need. Our donation to the PM CARES Fund is an endeavor to extend a helping hand to society, during these challenging times," he added.

DC Shopian discusses fixation/revision of sale price of Minor Minerals

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting here to discuss various measures for the fixation/revision of sale price of Minor Minerals including sand, gravel, bajri and other related raw materials.

At the outset, a detailed discussion on various matters was held during which it was informed that the price/sale of minerals shall be evaluated keeping in consideration various parameters viz bidding cost, mining cost, roy-

alty DMF, loading/unloading costs, transportation cost and other miscellaneous costs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC exhorted upon the concerned officers to strictly abide by the rules and regulations besides stressed to adhere to all the requisite parameters. He directed the concerned to work in coordination and cohesion so that the process is streamlined. Moreover, Vaishya emphasized the strengthening of the mechanism of checking illegal sand and other minerals from river beds and other vital locations.

Facebook India launches loans programme for small businesses in 200 places

Facebook India on Friday announced a new programme called the "Small Business Loans Initiative", in partnership with online lending platform Indifi, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.

India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme. It is open to businesses registered across 200 towns and cities of India.

Indifi is the first lending partner that Facebook has tied up with and the programme is built with the potential to bring more partners on board.

The goal of the initiative is to make business loans more easily accessible to small businesses, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector, the technology giant said.

According to the "Future of Business" survey conducted by Facebook in collaboration with OECD and the World Bank last year, almost a third of operational SMBs on Facebook in 2020 said that they expected cash flow to be one of their primary challenges.

Getting access to timely credit is particularly challenging for micro and small businesses that have just started out and might not have a long credit history.

Through Facebook's partner-

apply for loans without collateral through a quick online application.

"Facebook is deeply committed to creating economic opportunities for India's small busi-

nesses. Access to timely capital is more important than ever as it can help them jump-start their recovery and drive big growth... As a company, we are at the spear end of the digital trans-

formation and we believe that the Small Business Loans Initiative can provide big impetus to early entrepreneurs to fuel their ideas and their appetite for taking risks," said Ajit Mohan, vice president and managing director, Facebook India. The initiative was announced at a virtual event "Enabling MSME Growth through Financial Inclusion," hosted by Facebook India in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

The event also saw Niti Aayog's Chief Executive Officer, Amitabh Kant, deliver the keynote address.

"FICCI lauds Facebook efforts of empowering the MSME sector with the right opportunities, skills, and solutions. FICCI has always advocated for stronger private sector participation for the growth of India's MSMEs and welcomes the launch of Facebook's Small Business Loans Initiative to make access to credit more easily available to the industry," said Uday Shankar, president, FICCI.

Small businesses applying under this programme will not be charged a processing fee by Indifi, which will also disburse



ship with Indifi, small businesses that advertise with Facebook can get loans at a predefined interest rate of 17-20 per cent per annum. The programme will also enable small businesses to

nesses. Access to timely capital is more important than ever as it can help them jump-start their recovery and drive big growth... As a company, we are at the spear end of the digital trans-

ASHAI FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sudden demise of Begam Showkat Ashai R/o Ashai Villa Gogji Bagh, Opposite New Convent School Srinagar who left for heavenly abode today i.e; 20th August 2021 (Friday). May Allah Almighty grant her highest place in Jannat Ul Firdous. Ameen

The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 23rd of August 2021 (Monday) at 9:00 AM at our ancestral graveyard Ashai Kocha Fateh Kadal Srinagar.

Bereaved: Ashai Family
9419000716, 9419000466

Winning 2024 Polls Ultimate Goal, Time To Rise Above Political Compulsions: Sonia To Oppn Leaders

Agenceis

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday urged top opposition leaders to rise above political compulsions to take on the BJP in the interest of the nation and start planning "systematically" to realise the "ultimate goal" of winning the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to provide a government that believes in the values of the freedom movement and provisions of the Constitution.

Gandhi gave the clarion call at a virtual meeting of leaders of 19 opposition parties including NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and four non-Congress chief ministers—TMC's Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), DMK's M K Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and JMM's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand)—hosted by her, after which they decided to move unitedly against the BJP and hold joint protests across the country from September 20 to 30.

Gandhi also told the meeting -- one of the biggest gatherings of opposition leaders in recent times -- that there is simply no alternative to working cohesively.

The opposition leaders urged the people of the country to save India for a better tomorrow even as Pawar said those who believe in democracy and secularism must come together for saving the democratic principles and ethos of our country and

collectively draw up a "time-bound action programme".

"We must collectively prioritize each issue and solve them one by one to give our country a good present and future," Pawar said in a series of tweets.

Chief Minister Banerjee also urged all parties to unitedly defeat the BJP in the next general elections due in 2024, and called for a core committee of leaders to chalk out the joint agitational programme.

Chief Minister Stalin tweeted to say federalism is being "destroyed" due to the "scant respect" the BJP has for states' rights, and it is imperative that the opposition stands united at this hour.

The leaders also put out a 11-point charter of demands before the government, including a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the Pegasus snooping row, repeal of the three farm laws, early elections in Jammu and Kashmir and early release of all political detainees and a high-level probe into the Rafale jet deal.

"Of course, the ultimate goal is the 2024 Lok Sabha election for which we have to begin to plan systematically with the single-minded objective of giving a government to our country that believes in the values of the freedom movement and in the principles and provisions of our Constitution," Sonia Gandhi told the leaders, as she made a strong pitch for opposition unity.

"This is a challenge, but

together we can and must rise to it because there is simply no alternative to working cohesively. We all have our compulsions, but clearly, the time has come when the interests of our nation demand that we rise above those," she added.

Noting that the 75th anniversary of the country's independence is indeed the most appropriate occasion "to reaffirm our individual and collective resolve", Gandhi assured the opposition leaders, saying "the Indian National Congress will not be found wanting".

Chief Minister Banerjee asked leaders of the opposition parties to put aside differences and fight unitedly against the BJP.

The TMC supremo in her address said the opposition parties should forget who will be the leader, said a press release issued by the party.

"Let us forget who will be the leader and keep our personal interests aside. Every opposition party should be brought in. The fight is against BJP. In these meetings those not allied with the Congress must also be invited," she added.

"The people will lead, they are the leaders. Let us set up a core group and work together to decide on next line of action and programmes, the release quoted Banerjee as saying.

In a joint statement issued by leaders of the 19 parties, they said, "We will jointly organise protest actions all over the country from 20th to 30th

September, 2021."

The leaders said the forms of these public protest actions will be decided by the respective state units of their parties, depending on the concrete conditions of the Covid regulations and protocols in the states. These forms, amongst others, may include dharnas, protest demonstrations and hartals, according to the joint statement.

"We, the leaders of 19 Opposition parties, call upon the people of India to rise to the occasion to defend our secular, democratic, republican order with all our might. Save India today, so that we can change it for a better tomorrow," they said.

The meeting convened by Sonia Gandhi came days after the washout of the recent Monsoon Session of Parliament following a relentless demand by a united opposition for a discussion on the Pegasus snooping controversy, which the government said was a "non-issue" and declined. The Centre, however, managed to pass several bills amid the ruckus by the opposition parties in Parliament which adjourned sine die on August 11, two days ahead of the scheduled date of August 13.

The Congress chief said the Monsoon Session was a washout entirely due to the government's "obstinate and arrogant unwillingness to discuss and debate urgent issues of public importance" such as the Pegasus row, a repeal of three "anti-farmer" laws, price rise, the assault on

federalism and the institutions of democracy that affect each and every citizen of the country.

In spite of this, the session was marked by the determined unity that all the opposition parties demonstrated for over 20 days in both the houses, she said.

"We functioned in a coordinated manner with daily discussions among our floor leaders.

"I am confident that this unity will be sustained in the future sessions of Parliament as well, but the larger political battle has to be fought outside it," Gandhi said.

Former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja and Sharad Yadav of the Loktantrik Janata Dal were also present at the meeting.

The Congress, TMC, NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena, JMM, CPI, CPI (M), NC, RJD, AIUDF, VCK, Loktantrik Janata Dal, JD(S), RLD, RSP, Kerala Congress (Mani), PDP and IUML were the 19 parties who were represented at the meeting. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi, both Congress, also attended.

Leaders of the AAP, BSP and SP were not present at the meeting. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, however, wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi expressing his inability to attend as he was touring the interior areas of Uttar Pradesh. According to the joint statement, the document was sent to him for his approval.

Zyklus Cadila's needle-free Covid vaccine ZyCoV-D gets emergency use approval in India

New Delhi: Zyklus Cadila's indigenously developed needle-free COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D was granted the Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) by the drug regulator on Friday, making it the first vaccine to be administered to beneficiaries in the age group of 12-18 years in the country, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) said.

Describing the development as a momentous feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country is fighting COVID-19 with full vigour.

According to the CoWIN portal, over 57.5 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

"India is fighting COVID-19 with full vigour. The approval for world's first DNA based 'ZyCoV-D' vaccine of @ZyklusUniverse is a testimony to the innovative zeal of India's scientists. A momentous feat indeed," Modi said in a tweet.

It is the sixth vaccine to get the emergency use authorisation in the country after Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russian vaccine Sputnik V and the vaccines of Moderna and Johnson and Johnson.

Of these, Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V are in use.

These vaccines are being given to only those above 18 years of age and unlike ZyCoV-D, which has three doses, these are administered in two doses.

"Double good news for the nation! @CDSCO_INDIA_INF approves the 1st DNA-based, needle-free #COVID19 vaccine in the world - 'ZyCoV-D' of @ZyklusUniverse. Making children of India COVID-safe, this

vaccine can be used for individuals aged 12 and above," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet.

"ZyCoV-D is the 6th approved #COVID19 vaccine in India, and the 2nd indigenously developed one. PM @NarendraModiji's vision of #AatmanirbharBharat and Make in India delivers another significant accomplishment!" he said in another tweet.

"After evaluation of interim Phase III clinical trial results in consultation with Subject Expert Committee, CDSCO has approved DNA COVID-19 vaccine (ZyCoV-D) of M/s Cadila Healthcare for restricted use in emergency situation in India for 12 years and above," the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) wrote on Twitter.

The DBT said ZyCoV-D is the world's first DNA-based vaccine against the coronavirus and when injected, produces the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and elicits an immune response, which plays a vital role in protection from the disease as well as viral clearance.

The "plug-and-play" technology on which the plasmid DNA platform is based can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring, it said.

"Zyklus Cadila has received approval for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for ZyCoV-D today i.e. 20/08/2021, the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA-based vaccine for COVID-19 to be administered in humans, including children and adults 12 years and above," the government department said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Hizb 'Hit Squad'

leading to an encounter," he said.

In the ensuing encounter, two militants of Hizbul Mujahideen were killed and their bodies retrieved from the site of the gunbattle, the spokesman said.

He identified them as Musaib Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Khrew Pampore, and Muzamil Ahmad Rather, a resident of Chakoor Pulwama.

As per police records, Bhat had a history of "terror crime" records and was involved in planning and executing several "terror attacks including civilian atrocities", the spokesman said.

"He was also involved in the killing of a civilian, Javid Ahmad Malik (peon), at Lurgam area of Tral and part of a hit squad of Hizbul Mujahideen responsible for civilian killing in South Kashmir," he said.

Rather had joined the militant ranks recently, he added.

Incriminating material and arms and ammunition, including an AK-rifle and a pistol, were recovered from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said.

The recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe the duo's complicity in other crimes, he added.

Intensify Search

The DGP who was accompanied IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, he said, stressed for intensified cordon and search operations to eliminate remaining militants.

"The DGP said all the suspicious elements that are providing any kind of support to terrorist activities should be kept under radar to foil their attempts. Stringent action should be taken against the elements found involved in anti peace activities," the police spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the DGP reiterated the importance of maintaining close synergy between the J&K Police and other agencies to meet the security challenges.

"The DGP directed the officers to revisit the security plans of their respective jurisdictions. He directed officers to remain extra alert as terror outfits are continuously trying to foment trouble and disturb the peace. The DGP ordered a series of measures to further tighten the nose of anti-nation elements," he said.

"The DGP directed the officers to brief their respective officers and personnel on a regular basis, especially the forces guarding the vital installations and important persons," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that the officers representing different forces briefed the DGP about the measures taken on different fronts with regard to safety and security of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the meeting was attended by DIG south Kashmir, Abdul Jabbar and SSP Kulgam Gurinderpal Singh, Brig Sector 1 RR Vijay Mahadavan, Brig Sector 2 RR A. S. Pundher, DIG CRPF Anantnag, O.P. Upadhyay, SSP Kulgam, COs of Army, CRPF and gazetted jurisdictional officers.

Army Sends

KG Brigade addressed a presser and said that at around 3:45 pm. on August 18, soldiers deployed along the LoC through a well coordinated and established surveillance system observed some suspicious movement.

"Immediately a cordon was established and three individuals were apprehended," he said, adding, "These individuals turned out to be

young children of age between 9 and 17 years."

He said these three children had inadvertently crossed the LoC while carrying fishing activity.

The army officer said that there was fourth individual who returned back and army did not open fire because he too was a child.

"As they claim, they are from Trotti Darmshall and Chattrra which is across the LoC," he said, adding, "These children were taken care of compassionately by us and provided requisite provisions for comfortable stay as is the culture of ours."

Soldier Slips

the party which was moving along a treacherous route from Jabbiwal to Bagsar (Poonch)," he added.

The slain soldier was a native of Gurdaspur, Punjab. He is survived by his parents.

SC To Police

passed the order while hearing a plea against the Allahabad High Court verdict which had dismissed an application seeking anticipatory bail in a case in which FIR was registered seven years ago.

The bench noted that contrary to the observations made in the top court verdict of 1994 on how a police officer has to deal with a scenario of arrest, the trial courts are stated to be insisting on arrest as a pre-requisite formality to take charge sheet on record in view of provisions of section 170 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc).

Section 170 of the CrPc deals with cases to be sent to magistrate when evidence is sufficient.

The top court said the word 'custody' appearing in section 170 of the CrPc does not contemplate either police or judicial custody but it merely connotes the presentation of accused by the investigating officer before the court while filing charge sheet.

It noted that section 170 of the CrPc does not impose an obligation on the officer-in-charge to arrest the accused at the time of filing of charge sheet.

"Merely because an arrest can be made because it is lawful does not mandate that arrest must be made," the bench said, adding, "If arrest is made routine, it can cause incalculable harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person."

While setting aside the high court order, the bench noted that the petitioner had already joined the investigation before approaching the Supreme Court and a charge sheet was ready to be filed.

"If the investigating officer has no reason to believe that the accused will abscond or disobey summons and has, in fact, throughout cooperated with the investigation, we fail to appreciate why there should be a compulsion on the officer to arrest the accused," it said.

It referred to judgements delivered by high courts on the issue which said that criminal courts cannot refuse to accept a charge sheet simply because accused has not been arrested and produced before it.

"We are in agreement with the aforesaid view of the high courts and would like to give our imprimatur to the said judicial view," it said, adding, "We have, in fact, come across cases where the accused has cooperated with the investigation throughout and yet on the charge sheet being filed, non-bailable warrants have been issued for his production premised on the requirement that there is an obligation to arrest the accused and produce him before the court."

It noted that a distinction must be made between the existence of the power to arrest and

the justification for exercising it.

Referring to the case before it, the bench said when the petitioner has joined the investigation which is complete and he has been roped in after seven years of lodging of FIR, there is no reason why at this stage he must be arrested before the charge sheet is taken on record.

Opposition Parties

Court-monitored investigation into the Pegasus snooping row and a high-level probe into the Rafale fighter jets deal, a repeal of three new farm laws, early elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the release of all political detainees in the Union Territory.

"Release all political prisoners in J&K. Restore full statehood including J&K cadre of central services. Conduct free and fair elections at the earliest," read the opposition statement.

However, the joint statement was silent on the demand for restoration of Article 370.

The virtual meeting convened by Sonia Gandhi also saw participation of National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party, who were respectively represented by Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti.

PAGD Meeting

news agency KNS reported Friday.

The report said that the constituents of the PAGD have been asked to also bring their senior-most leaders to the meeting.

PAGD spokesperson, MY Tarigami said that a meeting has been called on August 24 to discuss the prevailing situation.

He, however, refused to divulge in further details.

One being asked whether this is going to be a convention, he said that this is a simple meeting called to discuss the current situation.

Notably, PAGD last met on August 04 at Farooq Abdullah's residence, wherein it was decided that the next meeting will be held on August 24.

The PAGD is an alliance of mainstream parties — National Conference, Peoples' Democratic Party, CPM, Awami National Conference and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement — that was cobbled after the Centre abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 and divided it into two union territories (UTs).

LG Calls For

protocols, and enforcement of containment measures should be the focused area of the administration at all levels to tackle the future health challenges," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

He made these remarks while chairing weekly meetings with the Covid Task Force, SSPs, and reviewing the Covid response and containment measures of the Districts' Administrations.

Emphasizing on adopting multifold strategies to prevent the third wave, the LG, as per the official spokesperson passed specific directions for further enhancing the testing and tracing in the coming days

"The effective preventive and surveillance measures have shown favourable results in reducing the intensity of the second wave. We need to consolidate the substantial gains achieved in containing the spread and accord highest priority to the areas reporting new positive cases. The sustained decline in positivity rate must be maintained," Sinha said.

While taking stock of the cumulative Covid vaccination, the LG, as per official spokesperson observed that the J&K Government has substantially ramped up the vaccination capacity across the UT, which will add to the efforts

of inoculating the maximum population.

"He directed the officials to work with renewed energy for increasing the speed of vaccination in the 18-44 age group and meet the targets in a time-bound manner," he said.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG stressed on strict enforcement of containment measures and directed the District Authorities to clearly demarcate the containment zones at the micro-level.

"Terming better crowd management as imperative to break the spread chain, the Lt Governor asked the Civil and Police Administrations to discharge their collective responsibility for enforcing Covid Appropriate Behaviour in workplaces and in public, especially in crowded places," he said.

During the meeting, the official spokesperson said that the LG also invited suggestions from Divisional Commissioners, ADGP Jammu, IGP Kashmir, DCs and SSPs for implementing a robust strategy in the UT to prevent the third wave.

Earlier Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary while giving a detailed briefing on district-wise analysis of Covid situation informed about the latest status of active cases, positivity, vaccination, surveillance and contact tracing activities.

"It was informed that all Districts continue to be in green zones as per the cardinal Indicators for assessing the COVID 19 Situation," the official spokesperson added.

159 More Test

from the winter capital thus taking the overall number of cases reported since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 323951.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 29, Baramulla 8, Budgam 4, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 14, Anantnag 25, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 8, Kulgam 22, Jammu 10, Udhampur 1, Rajouri 6, Doda 14, Samba 1, Kishtwar 1, Poonch 2 and Ramban 1 new case of Covid-19. Three districts of Kathua, Reasi and Shopian reported no new case of virus.

Also, the officials said that 126 more coronavirus infected patients have recovered—64 from Jammu division and 62 from the Valley.

The officials also said that one more succumbed to the virus in Jammu division on Friday, taking overall fatality count in J&K to 4401—2161 in Jammu and 2240 in Kashmir.

Kashmiri Youth

to know what happened the previous night. We are also scanning the CCTV footage of the spot to establish the identity of the men who were behind the incident," Jasvir Singh, station house officer (SHO) of Sushant Lok police station said.

The corporate office where the victim is working tweeted that "We stand in support of our employee, Tariq Bhat and are in constant touch with local authorities to help him. The wellness of our employees is paramount to us and we will do everything possible to ensure the safety of everyone".

However, sources claimed that a day before the incident, the victim had an argument with a colleague in his office who had warned him not to speak in a loud voice.

Dir Health Asks

jurisdiction/competence and also violation of transfer policy framed by Government vide order No:948-JK (GAD) of 2020 dated 15/10/2020," reads the circular.

"As such, it is impressed upon all the chief medical officers/block medical officers and

other DDO's to desist from such practice and not to issue any such order without prior approval from this directorate. Any laxity in this regard shall be dealt seriously and shall attract disciplinary proceedings," It adds.

The fresh circular also put in abeyance all the orders which have been issued by the CMO/BMOs at their own level since May-2021.

'Will Promote

environment so that their innovativeness and capabilities could be translated into some innovations in the university.

At international levels, there're certain themes like Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and disruptive technologies which have not been covered in any university in Kashmir. It will also be my focus.

How will you solve the student-related problems?

It's important to provide students with a very good environment. The university should also help in placements. And it can be only done by providing students the skills that will help them to get a better place.

But then, Student Exchange Programs have been a long pending demand.

Well, it's important to send the students to other universities where they can enhance their skills. And that's why, the first thing soon after the appointment was to frame a committee to implement the National Education Policy-2020. The policy focuses on student exchange programs.

Lastly, as compared to other campuses, how do you rate IUST?

This is a very interesting question. I must tell you my predecessor has done a fantastic job. The education and infrastructure in the campus is excellent, but there's still a scope of improvement.

PM Recalls Sacrifice

PM Modi said, "We remember the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and recall his courage as well as commitment to justice. He devoted great importance to peace and social equality."

Raj Bhavan Observes

and religion. "Let us all reaffirm our commitment to promote harmony and peace in the society," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor was also present on the occasion.

"Sadbhavana Divas" is observed with an objective to encourage national integration, peace, affection, and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions, the official spokesperson added.

Govt Shifts

Information Department, reads an order issued by Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD) Manoj Kumar Dwivedi on Friday.

According to the order, Bashir Ahmad Bhat (JKAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Joint Secretary in the J&K Sports Council, Srinagar.

Similarly, Jatinder Mishra (JKAS), also awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Deputy Director in the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K.

Family Dispel

health especially in his hometown Sopore area of north Kashmir.

Afghan Footballer Zaki Anwari Dies After Clinging To US Military Aircraft



Agencies

KABUL: Afghan authorities on Thursday confirmed that a young footballer fell from a US military plane leaving Kabul airport.

Afghan news agency Ariana said Zaki Anwari fell from a USAF Boeing C-17 and that the death had been confirmed by the General Directorate for Sport.

Crowds of people seeking to flee Afghanistan have thronged the airport since Taliban insurgents swept to power on Sunday, many seen trying to

board a moving plane.

Local media reports said that at least two people fell to their deaths after aircraft carrying hundreds if not thousands, took off. The US air force has also confirmed that human remains were found in the landing gear of an aircraft after it arrived in Qatar.

In a statement on Facebook, Afghanistan's General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports paid tribute to Mr Anwari.

"May he rest in heaven and pray to God for his family, friends and sports colleagues," the sports body said.

Ranji Trophy Gets Start Date, Senior Domestic Cricket To Start With Mushtaq Ali T20

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has issued a fresh itinerary for domestic cricket in India with the 2021-22 season of the Ranji Trophy tournament scheduled to be played between January 5 to March 20.

The Ranji Trophy wasn't held during last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the logistical obstacles faced for having an extended bio-bubble for 38 teams.

The blue-riband tournament is back in BCCI's domestic calendar but the senior men's cricket will commence from October 27 with the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which will be held after the IPL in order to ensure availability of quality cricketers.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy (National One Dayers) will be played from December 1 to 29th, while senior women will play their first tournament -- National One Day -- from October 20 to November 20.

The season starts with women's and men's U-19 one-dayers (Vinoos Mankad) starting September 20 and it would be followed by U-19 challenger trophy for both women and men starting October 25 and 26th respectively.

The U-25 (State A) One-dayers will be held from November 9 to December 10 while the CK Nayudu Trophy (also U-25 from previous year's U-23) will start from January 6.

Groupings:

For the senior men's tournaments (Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy), the 38 teams will be divided into six groups. There will be five Elite Groups with six teams each and one Plate group with eight teams.

For U-25 level, there will be five Elite Groups of six teams each and one Plate group of seven teams.

Australian Pacer Nathan Ellis Bags IPL Contract

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Australian pacer Nathan Ellis has landed an IPL contract ahead of the second leg of the league in the UAE after being named as a travelling reserve in the national team for the T20 World Cup.

"Ellis was being chased by three IPL franchises for the upcoming tournament before agreeing to terms with an unnamed team on Thursday night," stated a report in cricket.com.au.

Earlier on Thursday, the 26-year-old Ellis was named as one of three Australian reserve players for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will follow the IPL.

The development comes less than a fortnight after he picked up a hat-trick on international debut against Bangladesh in Dhaka.

The right-arm fast bowler's IPL deal is subject to approval from Cricket Australia which is likely to give him its go-ahead.

His wickets against Bangladesh included Mahdumullah, Mehidy Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman off the final three balls of the innings as he became the first cricketer to take a hat-trick on T20I debut.

He joined Brett Lee and Ashton Agar to become the third Australian to take a hat-trick in a T20 International match.

Ellis went unsold in the player auction in January.

Parvez Rasool & JKCA Tussle Over Missing Pitch Roller

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's top cricketer and budding coach Parvez Rasool has been accused of withholding JKCA pitch rollers and machinery, according to a notice issued by the J&K Cricket Association's BCCI appointed Sub-Committee.

The JKCA notice, signed by Committee Members JKCA, warned Rasool of returning the withheld pitch rollers or face "police action".

"You are holding machinery of JKCA... Before taking any harsh step in the direction which may include inviting police action for breach of trust and in order to maintain cordial relationship, you are directed to immediately return all machinery within one week failing which JKCA will be free to take action," the notice said, according to a report published in The Indian Express.

A total of 2 notices were sent as emails and named Rasool owing to his District-level cricketing activities at his hometown in Bijbehara of Anantnag district.

In another email, current Sub-Committee member and BJP spokesperson, Brigadier (ret'd) Anil Gupta has been quoted as saying: "Do we have any proof to nail him down?"

The notices clearly infuriated the well-known cricketer who responded to the said emails by asking if this was the way to "treat" a



cricketer of his calibre.

"This is to inform you that I Parvez Rasool first international cricketer have represented my country and also played in IPL, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar trophy, India A, Board president XI, Irani Trophy, captained the J&K Ranji team from last 6 years and only cricketer from J&K who got best all-rounder award from BCCI 2 times. Today I got a letter stating that I have taken roller from JKCA which is really unfortunate... Let me clarify that I haven't taken any roller or machine from JKCA. I am a player who is playing cricket. I just want to ask is this the way

to treat international cricketer who has given life and soul to J&K cricket. You have an affiliated body in all districts; you should ask them for any JKCA equipment if present in their districts rather than me," Rasool wrote back, according to the report. The report also mentions that Rasool had shot back his reply on July 26.

The report quotes Gupta saying that the notices were sent only for audit purposes, and that a "ledger book must be maintained".

Since there have been no further comments from either party involved, many hope that the issue will be amicably resolved.

Kohli, BCCI Brass 'Informally' Chat Over T20 World Cup Roadmap

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian team is fully focused on winning the ongoing Test series in England but both skipper Virat Kohli and the BCCI mandarins are also discussing the roadmap for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will be an acid test for the captain himself.

The Test win at Lord's has certainly released a lot of pressure off Kohli but he is well aware that his captaincy future hinges on the team's performance in UAE where they start against arch-rivals Pakistan.

It is learnt that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah and vice-president Rajiv Shukla had an informal meeting with the captain during the second Test match at Lord's and various aspects related to T20 World Cup came up for discussion.

"Yes, BCCI top bosses did meet Kohli but let's say that it will not be fair to divulge the finer details of the discussion. But with very little time left for the T20 World Cup and India not having any games prior to the (IPL), discussion was more about the roadmap going into the event," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

With India playing the Test series till September 14 and then the players being busy with their respective IPL franchises, time is of essence and no wonder that officials had a chat about the big event with Kohli.

Under Kohli, India have lost in the 2017 Champions Trophy final, 2019



ODI World Cup semi-final apart from this year's WTC final. Not being able to clear ICC semi-final or final hurdle has been a cause of concern.

During the past few ICC white ball tournaments, combination has been an issue for the Indian team, especially during the 50 over World Cup in England where they didn't even have a settled middle order with as many as three specialist wicketkeepers (MS Dhoni, Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik) playing the semi-finals against New Zealand.

With the team selection slated for some time next month, there are multiple issues that needs to be sorted out including bowling workloads, all-rounder's position, wrist spinners and the like for like replacements.

There are a few questions that chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma, skipper Kohli, coaches Ravi Shastri and Bharat Arun along with BCCI top brass need to be on same page to prepare a team that can challenge England

and West Indies in the shortest format.

It is a given that Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav are not in contention but how will Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah's workload be managed keeping IPL in mind? Will Mohammed Siraj's red ball form be counted?

Will both Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar fit into the same XI if you also have Bumrah and Shami available?

Who among Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthi and Rahul Chahar will join Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravindra Jadeja in the spin bowling department? Will Hardik Pandya be able to bowl his quota of four overs? Who among Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer can make it to playing XI?

The BCCI would expect that both Kohli and Chetan Sharma would soon be on same page as India aim to win their first senior ICC title since 2013 when they annexed the Champions trophy under MS Dhoni's leadership.

Players Under Mental Strain, Need Break Ahead Of T20 WC: Muhammad Rizwan

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Living in the bio-bubble is putting the players under "mental strain" and they need a break from international cricket to be fresh for the upcoming T20 World Cup in UAE, Pakistan's Test vice-captain Muhammad Rizwan said.

"It is not easy remaining in the bio-bubble all the time and we have been playing a lot of cricket in the last one year and more. It is good for us but at the same time it becomes a mental strain on the players as well," he said during a virtual session on Thursday.

Rizwan, a wicketkeeper-batsman, said the senior players wanted to be rejuvenated for the World Cup scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14 in UAE.

Sources close to the Pakistan team confirmed that head coach, Misbah-ul-Haq and chief selector, Muhammad Wasim had discussed resting captain Babar Azam, Rizwan and fast bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali for the ODI series against Afghanistan in Sri Lanka.

The Pakistan and Afghanistan boards are expected to release dates of the three matches this week after indications that the new Taliban controlled government in Kabul has given a go ahead to the series.

If the four main players do take a rest from the series, it will be a first in Pakistan cricket that so many senior players have taken a break from any series at home or abroad.

Pakistan lost the opening Test against the West Indies by one wicket and Rizwan said it was disappointing.



"The bottomline is we lost the Test after coming so close to winning it and it hit us and we are now looking to bounce back strongly in the second Test," he said.

Rizwan also said that time has come to see which players in the team were able to make an impact to the eventual result when playing in pressure situations.

"I think it is also important to look at players who make small but game changing contributions in a match. We need such impact players."

Rizwan said playing short two-Test series in recent times has been challenging for the team because it is difficult to give a proper run to players and judge them.

He was referring to the continued poor form of opener, Imran Butt in the first Test.

Rizwan said it is not easy to build a consistent team in such short series although he isn't worried about how Pakistan will fare in the ICC World Test Championships as a lot of cricket still remains to be played.

"Our main focus now is to level this series by winning the second game and getting equal points from it."

Chris Cairns Off Life Support After Heart Surgery

Press Trust of India

AUCKLAND: Former New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns is off life support and is recovering following a heart surgery, his lawyer said on Friday.

Cairns had suffered a major medical emergency - an aortic dissection - earlier this month and was put on life support.

Aortic dissection is a serious condition in which a tear happens in the inner layer of the body's main artery.

One of the best all-rounders of his time, Cairns played 62 Tests, 215 ODIs and two T20Is for New Zealand between 1989 and 2006. His father Lance Cairns also played for New Zealand.

The 51-year-old, however, later faced allegations of match-fixing when he played in the now-defunct Indian Cricket League in 2008 and fought many legal battles to prove his innocence during which he won a defamation case against IPL founder Lalit Modi in London in 2012.



"I'm pleased to advise that Chris is off life support and has been able to communicate with his family from hospital in Sydney," his lawyer Aaron Lloyd said in a statement.

"He and his family are thankful for all of the support and well wishes from everyone, and for the privacy they have been afforded. They request that this continues as they focus on his recovery moving forward."

He again faced fixing allegations from fellow cricketers Lou Vincent and Brendon McCullum before being acquitted of perjury and perverting the course of justice following a gruelling trial in London court in 2015.

Fighting corruption allegations took a toll on his life and at one point of time he had to take up a job with the Auckland Council to drive trucks and clean bus shelters to foot the legal bills.

Lionel Messi Launches NFT Crypto-Art Collection 'Messiverse'

Agencies

Lionel Messi has launched his own collection of non-fungible tokens (NFTs), crypto art that was created with his image by digital designer BossLogic and will go on sale on Friday.

Messi, 34, is portrayed as a king, superhero and Greek titan in works entitled "Man from the Future", "Worth the Weight" and "The King Piece" that celebrate his career highlights.

Australia-based BossLogic is known for his work with Marvel Studios and Disney.

An NFT is a form of crypto asset which uses blockchain to record the ownership status of digital objects, such as images, videos and text. While anyone can view the item, only the buyer of an NFT has the



official status of being its owner.

The market for NFTs has exploded in recent months.

In March of this year, Christie's auction house sold a digital work by the artist known as Bleep for almost \$70 million.

"Art is like football. Eternal," Messi said on his Twitter account in early August announcing the launch.

Works in the collection titled "Messiverse" will be available for purchase on the Eternity Chain platform, known for producing original NFT pieces for sportstars.

BossLogic said depicting Messi had been "a huge honor" in a post on Twitter in which he shared the "Man from the Future" artwork, which shows an image of Messi from behind, with the number 30 jersey that he will wear at his new club, Qatari-owned Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

Messi left Barcelona last week after more than 20 years to join PSG. His signing-on fee includes some of the French club's cryptocurrency fan tokens.

'India Will Win 15 Medals Including Five Golds At Tokyo Paralympics'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's Chef de Mission for the Tokyo Paralympics, Gursharan Singh believes the country will produce its best ever performance this year, returning with at least 15 medals including five golds.

India will field its largest-ever contingent with 54 athletes set to compete in nine sports including - Para Archery, Para Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Canoeing, Shooting Para sport, Para Swimming, Para Powerlifting, Para Table Tennis and Para Taekwondo.

"I am confident that these would be our best ever Paralympic Games. Our Para-athletes have



worked very hard in the past years and shown great results in

international competitions. They are raring to go for the Games,"

Singh, secretary-general of the Paralympic Committee of India, said in a release.

"We are expecting around 15 medals including 5 golds at these Games. We have high medal hopes in Para Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Shooting and Para Archery."

India has a total of 12 medals including four gold in 11 Paralympic appearances.

The first batch of the Indian team, led by PCI President Deepa Malik, have arrived in Tokyo.

T Mariyappan, who is India's flag bearer at the Games, has also arrived in Tokyo and there will be a lot of expectations from the para high jumper to clinch his second Paralympic gold in Tokyo.

1st Covid Vaccine For Children Above 12 Approved In India

Agenceis

Bengaluru: India's drug regulator today approved Zydus Cadila's three-dose COVID-19 DNA vaccine for emergency use in adults and children aged 12 years and above, bringing in the sixth vaccine authorised for use in the country.

The company said it plans to manufacture 100 million to 120 million doses of ZyCoV-D annually and has started to stockpile the vaccine.

The generic drugmaker, listed as Cadila Healthcare Ltd, applied for the authorisation of ZyCoV-D on July 1, based on an efficacy rate of 66.6 per cent in a late-stage trial of over 28,000 volunteers nationwide.

ZyCoV-D is the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine against the

coronavirus. It uses a section of genetic material from the virus that gives instructions as either DNA or RNA to make the specific protein that the immune system recognises and responds to.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com Zydus Cadila's vaccine, developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, is the second home-grown shot to get emergency authorisation in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

The drugmaker said in July its COVID-19 vaccine was effective against the new coronavirus mutants, especially the Delta variant, and that the shot is administered using a needle-free applicator as opposed to traditional syringes.

OPPOSITION MEET

Mamata Moots Panel Of Leaders To Decide On Programmes To Fight BJP

Agenceis

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday proposed to form a core group of opposition leaders to decide on joint movements against the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Virtually attending a meeting of opposition parties convened by Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, the Trinamool Congress supremo asked the opposition leaders to keep aside differences and put up a united fight against the saffron party.

"Let us forget who is the leader, let us keep our personal interests aside. Every opposition party should be brought in. People are the leader. Let us set up a core group and work together to decide on the next line of action and programmes," a senior TMC leader quoted her as saying at the meeting.

Banerjee also raised the issue of how "impartial institutions like the NHRC has been misused by the central government to malign opposition ruled state governments".

She also raised the farmers' issue and torture allegedly unleashed by the Centre against states ruled by opposition parties, another TMC leader said.

It is time to rise above political compulsions to realise the "ultimate goal" of winning the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Congress president Sonia Gandhi told top Opposition leaders on Friday as she pitched for a broad unity of the anti-BJP forces.

The Congress will not be found wanting while working towards this goal, she said at a virtual meeting of the leaders of 19 Opposition parties, adding that the 75th year of independence is an apt occasion "to reaffirm our individual and collective resolve".



"Of course, the ultimate goal is the 2024 Lok Sabha election for which we have to begin to plan systematically with the single-minded objective of giving a government to our country that believes in the values of the freedom movement and in the principles and provisions of our Constitution," Gandhi said.

"This is a challenge, but together we can and must rise to it because there is simply no alternative to working cohesively.

We all have our compulsions, but clearly, the time has come when the interests of our nation demand that we rise above those," she added.

Noting that the 75th anniversary of the country's independence is indeed the most appropriate occasion "to reaffirm our individual and collective resolve", Gandhi assured the Opposition leaders, saying "the Indian National Congress will not be found wanting".

The virtual meeting -- one of the biggest gatherings of Opposition leaders in recent times -- was attended by NCP's

Sharad Pawar, TMC's Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and DMK's M K Stalin among others.

Banerjee also urged the parties to keep their differences aside and work towards defeating the BJP in 2024.

She proposed setting up of a core group to chalk out joint Opposition programmes.

The meeting convened by Gandhi came after the washout of the recent Monsoon Session of Parliament due to a united Opposition's demand for a discussion on the Pegasus snooping controversy, which the government declined.

The Congress chief said the Monsoon Session of Parliament was a washout entirely due to the government's "obstinate and arrogant unwillingness to discuss and debate urgent issues of public importance" such as the Pegasus row, a repeal of three "anti-farmer" laws, price rise, the assault on federalism and the institutions of democracy that affect each and every citizen of the country.

In spite of this, the session was marked by the determined unity that all the Opposition parties demonstrated for over 20 days in both the houses, she said.

"We functioned in a coordinated manner with daily discussions among our floor leaders."

"I am confident that this unity will be sustained in the future sessions of Parliament as well, but the larger political battle has to be fought outside it," Gandhi said.

She claimed that it was entirely due to the Opposition parties that the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill was passed to restore the long-standing rights of the states to identify and notify the other backward classes (OBCs).

The Congress chief blamed

Breakthrough Infections In India Show High Proportion Of Delta Variant Of SARS-CoV2

NEW DELHI: Breakthrough infections of coronavirus cases comprise a very high proportion of the Delta variant, the INSACOG, a genome sequencing government consortium of laboratories, has said.

The continuing Covid outbreaks across India are attributable to the Delta variant, a susceptible population and reduced vaccine effectiveness in blocking transmission, the INSACOG added.

However, vaccination continues to be very effective in reducing severe disease and death, and public health measures to reduce transmission and inoculation remain critical, the INSACOG stressed in its latest bulletin dated August 16.

"As of now, sequencing of vaccination breakthroughs in India is also showing a very high proportion of Delta variant. Investigations for any new variants are ongoing," the INSACOG said.

Of the 30,230 samples of Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest sequenced by the INSACOG, 20,324 were of Delta, it said.

The Delta variant is currently driving the pandemic across several countries with China and Korea seeing new highs. Korea



has reported that the new surge is due to Delta plus K417N mutation.

The Delta variant resulted in a deadly second wave in the country between March to May that wreaked havoc on the health infrastructure, overwhelming hospitals. It infected lakhs and killed thousands.

In India, new cases of AY.1, AY.2, AY.3 (Delta Plus) are being seen in July samples from Maharashtra at a frequency of about 1 per cent. However, at this time none of these sub-lineages has been found to have a growth advantage over the Delta

parent lineage, it noted.

According to INSACOG (the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomics Consortium), 61 samples of Delta Plus variants have been detected in the country so far.

"Delta variant is the major VOC in India at this time. Continuing outbreaks across India are attributable to Delta, a susceptible population, reduced vaccine effectiveness in blocking transmission, and opportunities for transmission," the INSACOG said.

Daily coronavirus cases have seen a significant plunge since the second wave which peaked in May. PTI

“AS OF NOW, SEQUENCING OF VACCINATION breakthroughs in India is also showing a very high proportion of Delta variant. Investigations for any new variants are ongoing.”

Taj Mahal To Restart Night Viewing From Tomorrow, Only 50 People Per Slot



Agenceis

Agra: After remaining closed for over a year for night viewing, the Taj Mahal will open from August 21 for visitors who want to explore the marble monument under moonlight, officials said today.

Night viewing of the monument had closed on March 17, 2020 during the first lockdown due to COVID-19.

Archaeological Survey of India or ASI Superintending Archaeologist (Agra Circle) Vasant Kumar Swarnkar told

news agency PTI that night viewing will be allowed on August 21, 23 and 24 as the monument is closed every week on Friday and the lockdown is in effect on Sunday.

He said there are three time slots for visitors. From 8:30-9 pm, 9-9:30 pm and from 9:30-10 pm.

"In every slot, 50 tourists would be allowed as per guidelines of the Supreme Court," he added.

"The tickets can be booked a day in advance from ASI office's counter on 22 Mall Road in Agra," Mr Kumar said.

Rajeev Saxena, vice-president of the Tourism Guild of Agra, said it was a good step, but it would not attract weekend travellers until the restriction of lockdown on Sunday and curfew after 10 pm was not lifted.

"Tourists want to enjoy night-life of the city, they don't want to be packed in their hotels after 10 pm," he said.

A government approved tour guide, Monika Sharma, appreciated the move and said it was a ray of hope for the revival of Agra's tourism sector.

Driving license, registration certificate stored in Digi-locker valid documents: Delhi govt

NEW DELHI: Motorists in Delhi need not carry their driving license and registration certificate and can show these documents stored in Digi-locker platform, or m-Parivahan mobile app, when asked for by the traffic police and the transport department.

Driving license and registration certificate, available in digital form on the Digi-locker platform, or the m-Parivahan mobile app, are valid documents under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a notice issued by the transport department of the Delhi government said.

These are legally recognised at par with the certificates is-

Department duly accept the electronic form of driving license and registration certificate if shown in the Digilocker and m-Parivahan app," the notice said.

However, soft copy of driving license and registration certificate maintained in any other form is not acceptable as original record, it clarified.

The electronic record of driving license and registration certificate available on Digi-locker, or m-Parivahan, is also recognised at par with the original documents as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the notice stated.



sued by the transport department, it added.

"The Traffic Police and Enforcement Wing of Transport

DigiLocker is a cloud-based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents and certificates. — PTI

Taliban takeover of Afghanistan to benefit Pakistan the most: AIMIM Chief Owaisi



Agenceis

HYDERABAD: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi said Taliban takeover of Afghanistan would benefit Pakistan the most as the country's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) controls the terrorist outfit.

Speaking at an event here on Thursday, Owaisi said: "Pakistan has gained the most from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Experts are saying that Al Qaeda and Daesh have reached some areas in Afghanistan."

"Jaish-e-Muhammad, which indulges in the acts of terrorism including the attack on Parliament, they are now in Afghanistan's Helmand. One must remember that ISI controls the Taliban. ISI is an enemy of India, and uses Taliban as a puppet," he added.

Owaisi also stated that China

would also benefit from the Taliban takeover.

"As per a report, one out of nine female children dies before age of five years in India. There are atrocities and crimes against women here. But, they (Centre) are worried about what is happening to women in Afghanistan. Isn't it happening here as well?" Owaisi said slamming the Central government.

Earlier on Monday, the AIMIM chief had said India should have opened dialogue with the Taliban before it had full control of Afghanistan.

"Now that Afghanistan is in complete control of Taliban, we have no communication, no dialogue with them. All international and security experts have said talks should have been done. But, for last seven years Central government has failed to read what is happening," he said.

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



<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Inkishaf

How Kashmir's Green Land Is Being Dumped

