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P4 THINK

WILL THE TALIBAN SPILL-OVER REACH THE VALLEY? -PART 1

After the Taliban takeover of Kabul, and steady consolidation of the Islamist group's power and control over Afghanistan, apprehensions are rife that this momentous event in the...

P5 INDIA'S KINGS AND QUEENS OF CHESS

Over the last decade, India's political and economic progress has faltered. Its once-plausible aspirations of becoming a global power on par with China now seem fanciful. The COVID-19 pandemic ...



P8 SPORTS

KASHMIR'S 'SPECIAL' CRICKETER SET TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL DEBUT

Feroz Ahmad Ganie, 30, a resident of Panjpora, Sangam (Bijbehara) of south Kashmir's Anantnag district has been selected for the Indian Disabled Cricket Team (IDCT)...



If you're not confused, you're not paying attention.

—Tom Peters

NEWS DIGEST

10 Grenades Recovered in Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Ten hand grenades were recovered by a joint team of police and army from a residential house in Kralpora area of Kupwara district, officials said on Monday. They said that based on specific input, searches were launched by the army's 160 TA, 17 JAK RIF. [More On P6](#)

5 People Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Five persons including three jungle smugglers were shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu division after slapped with the Public Safety Act (PSA). Police had arrested three jungle smugglers from South Kashmir's Shopian district, sources said. On the [More On P6](#)

Missing Teenage Girl Found Dead

JAMMU: A teenage girl, who went missing in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, was found dead on the banks of a river in this district, police said on Monday. The 17-year old victim, Mehak Bi, went missing from her Mohalla Kamsar residence on August 21 and her body was found. [More On P6](#)

No New Covid Case Recorded In Ladakh

LEH: No new COVID-19 case was reported from Ladakh where seven people were cured from the infection, taking the overall recoveries so far to 20,223, officials said on Monday. The total number of COVID-19 cases in Ladakh stands at 20,491, they said, adding the number of active cases in the union territory stands at 61 -- 55 in Leh and six. [More On P6](#)

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SHOOTOUT IN SRINAGAR

TRF Chief, Deputy Killed

10 SOG Men In Civies Raid Aloochoi Bagh And Kill The Duo

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday killed two top commanders of The Resistance Front (TRF), including a longest surviving militant, in a covert operation in Aloochoi Bagh area of uptown Srinagar.

TRF Chief Abbas Sheikh and his deputy Saqib Manzoor, were killed on Monday evening in a brief shootout in a covert operation launched by the personnel of the Special Operations Group (SOG), Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar announced.

"We had information about their presence in the area. 10 jawans of police dressed in civies quickly surrounded the area and challenged them. When warned, they opened fire and in the retaliatory firing, both the terrorists were killed," Kumar told journalists at the shootout site.

Abbas Sheikh, a resident of Kulgam, had picked up a gun in 2005 and was associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen



Abbas Sheikh

Saqib Manzoor

before switching over to TRF two years ago. Earlier Abbas was arrested and released twice, according to police.

Saqib Manzoor, resident of Barzulla Srinagar and a post graduate, joined militant ranks last year as per police records.

Terming the killing of Abbas and Saqib as a "major success" for Jammu and Kashmir police, Kumar said that the TRF chief had "spread terror" and was recruiting young boys in militancy.

He said the operation was

conducted in a smooth manner and there was no "collateral damage." Asked how they received information about the TRF chief and his deputy, the IGP said: "They were tracking the movement of this group for the past few days and today they were cornered."

The IGP said that the slain militants were involved in recruiting youth, lobbing grenades and killing political workers and policemen in Srinagar city. He said that there are four more active militants in Srinagar. [More On P6](#)

CRPF Man Injured In Eidgah Attack

A Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) Head Constable was injured on Monday in a grenade attack in Eidgah area of the Old City here. Around 7:50 pm, unknown militants lobbed a grenade on a bunker of CRPF 61 battalion near Aali Masjid in. [More On P6](#)

Militants Trapped In Sopore Encounter

An encounter broke out between militants and government forces in Sopore town of Baramulla district on Monday night. According to reports, police, army's 53RR and the personnel of CRPF 179/ 177 battalions on Monday night launched a [More On P6](#)

PAGD Meeting Today To Discuss Kashmir Situation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is meeting on Tuesday to discuss the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and to discuss the future course of action.

According to insiders, the five party conglomerate, including National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement (JKPM) and Jammu and Kashmir Awami National Conference (JKANC) will meet tomorrow morning at the Gupkar residence of PAGD President Dr Farooq Abdullah to discuss the prevailing situation in the Union Territory.

The meeting, as per the insiders is scheduled to start at 11:00 am. "The invitation has been sent out to all the alliance constituents. Senior leaders [More On P6](#)

Experts Warn Of Imminent Third Covid Wave In Sept-Oct

Predict 2-5 Lakh Daily Positive Cases In Three Scenarios

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: An expert panel, set up by an institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has predicted a third wave of COVID-19 hitting the country anytime between September and October and suggested significantly ramping up vaccination pace.

The committee of experts, constituted by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), also said that children will have a



similar risk as adults since paediatric facilities, doctors and equipment like ventilators,

ambulances, etc. are nowhere close to what may be required in case a [More On P6](#)

J&K Logs 93 Covid Cases, One Death

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 93 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one more person succumbed to the infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 50 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and 43 others from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 324,295. Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 12, Baramulla 7, Budgam 3, [More On P6](#)



Army Offers Olive Branch To Militants

Agenceis

Manasbal: The Army on Monday appealed to the local youth who have joined militant ranks to surrender, saying the force believes in giving a second chance and the militants will be welcomed back with open arms if they accept their mistake.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) of the Army's Udhampur-based Northern Command, Lt General Y K Joshi made the remarks at a function at Manasbal Lake Park here in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The function was organised to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the homecoming of 23 boys who were forced to pick up arms, but were rescued by the Army in the Gurez sector and handed over to their



families later in 1998. They were felicitated by the Army at the function.

The Army commander said over the last few months, it has been observed that the families of young people -- who have joined the militant ranks -- are pleading with them to leave gun culture and cycle of violence, and come back to their families.

"It is heartbreaking to see this happening. We make all-out efforts to [More On P6](#)

THE ENEMIES OF PEACE SHOWED false dreams to the innocent children and traded their future. It is regrettable that few people from our own country got involved in this conspiracy,"

Hurriyat Junks Charges Of 'Selling' Pak MBBS Seats

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Hurriyat Conference on Monday rejected the allegations that amalgam leaders were involved in "selling" admissions in medical colleges of Pakistan for financing militancy in Kashmir.

The Hurriyat, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, in a statement said, "The Hurriyat Conference completely rejects and

denounces the propaganda being promoted in print and other media by authorities, that its executive leadership, who could recommend aspiring Kashmiri candidates to medical and technical colleges in Pakistan, would 'sell' the admission seats to students for money."

On Sunday, officials had said that a ban under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act may be [More On P6](#)

Police Cracks Sensational Malabagh Burglary Case

Woman Arrested, Looted Gold; Cash Worth Rs 60 Lakh Recovered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday cracked the sensational Malabagh burglary case by a arresting a woman and recovering stolen cash and jewellery worth Rs 60 lakhs.

The arrest of accused woman

comes a day after Kashmir Observer reported the sensational daylight burglary at the house of Ghulam Jeelani Khan in Malabagh, Sura when nobody was at home as the family had gone to Khyber Hospital for some medical treatment. The robbers had barged into the house between 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm on Friday.

On August 21, Khan had reported the theft of cash and gold from his [More On P6](#)



Kashmiri Professor's Ground Reporting Amid Grounded Homecoming in Kabul

Zaid Bin Shabir

DAYS after an armed group of Taliban arrived in his campus to assure his safety, a young Kashmir professor sent home another SOS -- this time from the chaotic Kabul Airport. He appealed for repatriation amid rattling gun shots. But instead of going home, he was taken for a panic ride.

"We thought it might be anything untoward," Prof. Aasif Shah, who teaches Economics at Kabul's Bakhtar University, told Kashmir Observer over phone from Afghanistan.

"Some of us even started crying. But we were relieved when the Taliban noted down our details and escorted us back to the airport." And since then, the young professor has been waiting for his homecoming flight.

Despite his grounded situation becoming a cause of concern for his family back home and regular media briefings, the Kulgam native remains the only voice sending SOS and



updates from the war-torn country. It was because of his dispatches that Raj Bhavan acted swiftly and alerted the Ministry of External Affairs for an immediate intervention.

On August 15, when Taliban

overtook Kabul in a bloodless coup, Dr. Aasif had to defer his class--fearing the full-scale offensive. But the changed guards after the end of the twenty-year-old "war of terror" soon allayed his fears.

"I was planning to come home on

Kabul Based Kashmiri Professor Finally Makes It To India

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A Kashmiri professor who was stranded at the Kabul airport for days finally was airlifted and as per reports reached New Delhi on Monday. Professor Asif Ahmad, who teaches Economics at Bakhtar University Kabul confirmed that he along with many other stranded people reached New Delhi from Kabul today. "My air ticket for [More On P6](#)

August 16, but the panic scenes at the Kabul Airport sent me back and since then, I'm awaiting evacuation," Aasif said. "We felt safer in the campus than in the airport where guns often roar and create panic."

Before reaching the brink of

SINCE PEOPLE WERE BEING evacuated without passports, visas and boarding passes, a lot of influx including the local Afghanis who somehow turned this into an opportunity to leave Afghanistan for a better life in any other foreign country, was coming to the airport and creating a crisis situation for the international travellers."

leaving the country, the professor was reading alarming news about the impending fall of Kabul. The rapid advancement of war had already created thousands of refugees, but Dr. Aasif felt that the US was acting with pressing urgency.

"Except the early hours of the Taliban's victory in Kabul, the fear and dismay have gradually turned into peace and calm in the city," Aasif says.

"A group of armed Taliban visited our campus on August 16 and assured us that this time the territorial takeover is bloodless, and assured everyone including non-Afghans full safety."

Despite this assurance, the historic city witnessed the gridlock of air traffic on the very first day of the throne takeover, with all government offices including runaway Afghan president Ashraf Ghani's palace and his regime's parliament shutting their operations.

"More than 400 flights landed in Kabul on the first day," Aasif says. "But within just 24 hours, Kabul swung back to normalcy."

On August 16, Aasif received a phone call with instructions to book a ticket to New Delhi and meet his fellow professor from Kulgam, Prof. Adil, with all of his belongings outside the varsity -- [More On P6](#)



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Using Team's Emotions Effective To Boost Creativity

Agencies

If you're putting together a team for a project, you might be inclined to pick people with cheerful, optimistic dispositions and flexible thinking. But a new management study indicates your team might also benefit from people who are exactly the opposite, according to experts at Rice University, the University of Western Australia, Bond University, and the University of Queensland.

The paper published in the Journal of Organizational Behavior is among the first research to reveal how, why and under what condition teams' "affective diversity" promotes team creativity.

The study, co-authored by Jing Zhou, the Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of Management and Psychology at Rice's Jones Graduate School of Business, investigates the effects of "team affective diversity" on team creativity.

Team members with what researchers call

"negative affect" exhibit critical and persistent thinking that allows them to identify problems needing solutions, as well as to search out and critically evaluate relevant information. On the other hand, team members with "positive affect" engage in broad and flexible thinking that expands their range of information and helps them see unusual and creative connections, the researchers say.

"At any given point in time, some team members may experience positive affect such as joy and inspiration, whereas others may experience negative affect such as frustration and worry," Zhou said. "Instead of trying to homogenize team members' effect, teams should embrace effective heterogeneity."

When a team experiences a high level of this "effective heterogeneity," what Zhou describes as "dual-tuning" leads to greater creativity.

The researchers tested their hypotheses among 59 teams working on a semester-long project in an undergraduate management



course at a university in Hong Kong. Each team developed a business plan, which involved designing a new product and differentiating it from potential competitors in the market.

Zhou stresses that a team's "affective heterogeneity" can serve as a resource for team creativity. "This unique type of diversity facilitates team creativity, provided the teams have a strong so-called "transactive memory system."

"Our study suggests that teams may be aided in using their effect heterogeneity via interventions that focus on building the team's transactive memory system, which can be accelerated when team members spend time together, share goals, receive information about member specializations, and train on the task together," Zhou said.

Zhou co-authored the paper with March To of the University of Western Australia, Cynthia Fisher of Bond University, and Neal Ashkanasy of the University of Queensland.

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس خواہ غلام نبی نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول لارنو درخواست منجانب:- صاحبہ جان، حذیفہ مقبول اپران محمد مقبول لون ساکنہ دیو لگام بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا RBA سر فیکٹ ہے۔

اشتبہار ہمراہ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سر فیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنہہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	امدنی
۱۔	محمد مقبول لون ولد غلام حسن لون	سرکاری ملازم	ایک لاکھ سولہ
۲۔	خلدہ زوجہ محمد مقبول لون	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	صاحبہ جان دختر محمد مقبول لون	زیر تعلیم	
۴۔	حذیفہ مقبول ولد محمد مقبول لون	زیر تعلیم	
۵۔	حیاں مقبول ولد محمد مقبول لون	زیر تعلیم	

سائل کا کنہہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس خواہ غلام نبی نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول لارنو درخواست منجانب:- خوشبو جان دختر وئی محمد پڑساکنہ گوہر پورہ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا RBA سر فیکٹ ہے۔

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نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	امدنی
۱۔	ولی محمد پڑ	65 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
۲۔	حسینہ بانو زوجہ ولی محمد پڑ	60 سال	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	خوشبو جان دختر وئی محمد پڑ	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
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المشہق

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ارشید احمد بٹ ولد غلام حسن بٹ ساکنہ میر احمد انتہ تاگ

از نیابت قلم اباد

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب رہینہ اختر دختر غلام محمد ملک ساکنہ ڈاریل پائین ہمراہ عطایگی RBA تحت 294 SRO

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مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب منظور احمد شیخ ولد غلام رسول شیخ ساکنہ نوگام ہمراہ عطایگی لیگل ہیئر سر فیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتبہار ہمراہ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع نوگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض پیم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

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از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول لارنو درخواست منجانب:- محمد عاقب چوپان ولد محمد جبار چوپان ساکنہ رین آر تھر بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا RBA سر فیکٹ ہے۔

اشتبہار ہمراہ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سر فیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنہہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ	عمر	پیشہ	امدنی
۱۔	جبار چوپان	باپ	53 سال	مزدوری	
۲۔	خیمیا بانو	ماں	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	گوہر احمد چوپان	بھائی	25 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۴۔	شازی جان	بہن	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۵۔	محمد عاقب چوپان	سائل	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۶۔	مختش جان	بہن	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

سائل کا کنہہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایکو کیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ساگام مضمون درخواست منجانب:- اربا یاسین گنائی ولد محمد یاسین گنائی ساکنہ انکام بغرض حصول RBA سر فیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتبہار ہمراہ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سر فیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ حسب رپورٹ سائل کا خاندان پچھلے 15 سالوں سے سکونت پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی فرسے آج تک ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کرے۔ بروئے پٹواری رپورٹ سائل کا کنہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد یاسین گنائی ولد محمد یوسف گنائی	58 سال	مزدوری	
02	سما قارشاہہ زوجہ محمد یاسین گنائی	54 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	اربا یاسین ولد محمد یاسین گنائی	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	مہراں یاسین ولد محمد یاسین	11 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح کنہہ 4 افراد پر مشتمل ہے سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ بعداً معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

(تحریر الصدا ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول)

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کوڈی کا اس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض سپر انٹنڈنگ انجیر آراہندی سرکل انتہ تاگ کو لکھ کر بھجولے۔ دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشہق

RNA

طارق احمد بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ ساکنہ مونگہال انتہ تاگ

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کوڈی کا اس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض سپر انٹنڈنگ انجیر آراہندی سرکل انتہ تاگ کو لکھ کر بھجولے۔ دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشہق

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Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Offices' Signboard Removed Amid Talk Of Ban

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, the Hurriyat Conference faction led by Syed Ali Geelani, on Sunday removed its signboard at the group's head office at its leader's residence in Srinagar's Hyderpora area.

The development came amid indications that both the blocs of the separatist group could soon be banned by government of India.

"They themselves removed the boards fearing action," a senior government official told NDTV, adding that the ban would be under Section 3 (1) of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Under this section of the Act, if the Central government is of the opinion that any association is, or has, become an unlawful association, it may be notified as unlawful.

"A proposal has been mooted as per the Centre's policy of zero tolerance for terrorism," the official said.

In June, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked stakeholders operating in Kashmir Valley to keep a check on growing radicalisation. Following this, a number of raids were carried out in Jammu and Kashmir by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

To back its case for a ban, the Centre has annexed several cases being probed by NIA related to terror funding. Many second-rung cadres of both factions are in jail since 2017, according to the Union Home Ministry.

Among these are Altaf Ahmed Shah, son-in-law of Geelani, along with the latter's close aide Ayaz Akbar -- the faction's spokesperson -- businessman Zahoor Ahmed Watali, Peer Saifullah, and Shahid-ul-Islam.

The All-Party Hurriyat Conference came into existence in 1993 with 26 groups, including some pro-Pakistan and banned outfits such as the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and the Dukhtar-e-Millat. It also included the People's Conference and the Awami Action Committee headed by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq.

In 2019, the Centre banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and the JKLF under UAPA.

The Jammu and Kashmir police recently arrested four separatist leaders, including some Hurriyat constituents, for "selling" Pakistani MBBS seats to Kashmiri students and using that money to support and fund militancy.

Srinagar Master Plan Needs Review For Preservation Of Biodiversity: Mayor SMC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council Monday organized a stakeholders meeting on development of City Biodiversity Index (CBI), Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Srinagar City at Banquet Hall, here.

Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Junaid Azim Mattu

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor congratulated the Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council for initiating the task of preparing the base line of Biodiversity of Srinagar and the Strategy and Action Plan. He called for preservation of every component of Biodiversity in Srinagar as a sacred cause which should be performed with a sense of duty and earnestness.

He also elaborated upon the scope of the stakeholders meeting and informed on the benefits of Urban Biodiversity especially for the city of Srinagar. He further informed that the City Biodiversity Index is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of the biodiversity conservation efforts against their own baseline.



was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. As Srinagar and Jammu are being developed as Smart Cities, Government of J&K has initiated development of City Biodiversity Index for these Smart Cities and J&K Biodiversity Council approached United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the task has been assigned to a renowned organisation, ICLEI, South Asia.

The City Biodiversity Index is based on 23 different indicators pertaining to the Native Biodiversity Ecosystem services, governance and management of Biodiversity. City Biodiversity Index is an important tool which enables a City Municipal Corporation to plan and manage the city's biodiversity towards development of a sustainable City.

He advocated that Urban Development and Planning Policies and priorities will determine the fate of our Biodiversity. He said our Master Plan in Srinagar will need to be reviewed and re-conceived with the preservation of Biodiversity as an integral part of the Plan.

He concluded by stating that Srinagar Municipal Corporation commits itself to working earnestly towards Biodiversity conscious planning and will extend full support to J&K Biodiversity Council.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests spoke on the rich biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir and activities of J&K Biodiversity Council on documentation and conservation of the rich biodiversity of J&K with the involvement of Biodiversity Management Committees.

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation while speaking on the occasion expressed his concern on the challenges the City of Srinagar is facing on account of Pollution of Lakes and declining components of Biodiversity like birds, habitat, and spread of invasive species and changing climate. He also assured full involvement of SMC in planning and conserving the biodiversity of Srinagar.

The programme Coordinator, Dr. Monalisa Sen, from ICLEI South Asia conducted hands on exercises on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services for all stakeholders, including officials of the line department, members of J&K Biodiversity Council, SMC, NGOs, and scholars/students among others.

‘11 More Academic Colleges Required To Cater City Student Population By 2035’

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities have projected that at least eleven more academic colleges in Srinagar Metropolitan Region (SMR) will be required by year 2035 to cater the student population in the city.

The Srinagar Metropolitan Region plan reveal that about eleven additional academic colleges have to be provided by 2035 in Srinagar Metropolitan Region with one college for one lakh population respectively.

The documents read that the backlog of three Technical Edu-

cation Centres of category (B) shall include an Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Technical Centre and a Coaching Centre that are recommended for the planning period.

"Besides, three Engineering Colleges, and four Professional Colleges are also proposed to be established during next 20-25 years within the local area," reads the SMR master plan 2035.

It also states that it was proposed that the locations for such higher order facilities shall be finalized as per the land use policy and Development Code of this Master Plan.

SMR master plan further reads, "Known for its serene environment and picturesque setting in the lap of Himalayas, Kashmir Valley in general and Srinagar in particular provides huge potentials for developing the city into a Knowledge Hub which shall include the development of a Cyber city and a Tech-city."

The Srinagar Development in a final draft has said that the master plan envisages that the Government should facilitate joint ventures PPP format engaging the local entrepreneurs and the investors from country and abroad.

Poetry Competition Concludes At Kardeslar Cafe



Srinagar: 'Yakjut Makjut' a poetry competition concluded on Monday at Kardeslar The Kashmir Cafe in downtown Srinagar.

"We are pleased to bring to your attention that SAAYA- A SHADOW OF HOPE in collaboration with We The Helping Hand NGO successfully concluded 'Yakjut Makjut' poetry competition," a statement said.

The event was attended by people from all walks of life

who showed active participation in the same.

Professor Mohammed Husain (Ex HOD School of Law, KU) was the Chief Guest of the event.

The presidents of SAAYA and We The Helping Hand Foundation Waseem Chashoo and Umar thanked all the participants for showing up at the event and making it a success. Qazi Fozia presented the vote of thanks. Khaleel Firdous was the host for the event.

.....Capacity Building Training Programme

Programme Aimed To Sharpen Investigation Skills: DGP

Srinagar: The second phase of joint capacity building programme of Jammu and Kashmir Police with National Investigation agency (NIA) started at Police headquarters here on Monday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh was the chief guest at the inaugural session.

Welcoming the officers from NIA and investigating officers of J&K Police in the programme, the DGP expressed his pleasure to be the part of the very useful programme.

He extended his gratitude to the DG NIA Kuldeep Singh for facilitating the series of capacity building programmes by assigning faculty members from NIA. He thanked the officers from NIA who would be imparting the capacity building training to J&K Police IOs.

The DGP said that "we already had one training programme in PHQ and this is second in the series and added that three or four such training programmes would be organized in Jammu also."

He said that the aim of these training programmes is to further sharpen the investigation skills of JKP investigating officers. Singh said that it is a very useful course and feedback of the last course has been very healthy and encouraging as the officers have been very happy with the kind of investigation techniques they were introduced and discussed by officers from NIA.

While going through the course plan, the DGP said that the training course covers most of the areas which are very important for the investigation and added that the background of this course is that we have a

huge number of UAPA cases in J&K and aim is to take them all to the logical conclusion.

He said that our officers have investigated some of the UAPA cases effectively but the magnitude is such that our majority of the officers should be familiar with the investigation techniques of UAPA and other special crime cases. He directed



the AIG (Training/Policy) PHQ to briefly document each and every lecture of the training programme and subsequently circulate them to the participants.

The ADGP (Headquarters) PHQ M.K Sinha in his keynote lecture of the inaugural session shared his experience of working and investigating various important cases during his seven and a half year deputation to CBI through a PowerPoint presentation. He explained how speedy and result oriented investigation is conducted in a holistic manner.

He said that conducting such

programmes would definitely help in improving the quality of investigation and help in securing convictions. He stressed for meticulous documentation and teamwork for result oriented investigation.

In his exhaustive and comprehensive presentation, Shri Sinha discussed different provisions of the UAPA in detail. He also gave an overview of the laws dealing with terror and crime in the past and merits of the UAPA viz a viz the laws on the subject in the near past.

The ADGP discussed the good practices of investigation in detail being practiced by the central investigation agencies. He highlighted the need for collecting evidence including digital evidence as per statutory provisions for getting convictions from the courts of law. He also highlighted different mechanisms for effective investigation and also supervision being followed in central agencies and the need to adopt such mechanisms in JKP.

AIG (Training/ Policy) PHQ, J.S Johar in his address said that the objective of organizing such trainings is to augment the investigation skills of our IOs for conducting robust investigations. He said that the training programme would be a healthy mix of lectures, feedback, revisions and discussions.

In the afternoon session, SP NIA Vishal Garg while giving a brief introduction of the vision and mission of NIA highlighted its impact on terror activities in J&K and other parts of the country. He also highlighted the main objectives of the capacity building training programme.

Free Medical Camp Organised At Shaheen Public School



Observer News Service

Srinagar: NGO Helping Hands Care Foundation J&K and NGO Ali Asgar Blood Bank Care Foundation on Thursday organised a Blood Donation cum Free Medical Camp on the occasion of 10th Ashoora at Shaheen Public School Gasiyar.

The camp was inaugurated by Chairman of Ali Asgar Blood Bank Care Foundation J&K, Jassam Muzaffar in presence of the senior doctors of Blood Bank Government Medical College Srinagar and Dr Umer Nazir incharge divisional Covid

Control Room Kashmir besides large number of volunteers were present on the occasion.

On the occasion scores of youths arrived at the camp to donate their blood in the remembrance of the sacrifice of Martyrs of the Karbala. The camp was organised in collaboration with Blood Bank SMHS Hospital Srinagar. Scores of patients were provided free medicines and medical advice by the professional medical and paramedical staff during the camp. Medicines worth Lacs of rupees were distributed among the needy patients.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1608- 1st English convoy lands at Surat, India
- 1690- Job Charnock sets up East India Company HQ camp by Kalikata village (modern Calcutta)
- 1704- Battle of Mátaga: largest naval battle in the War of the Spanish Succession; Tactically indecisive but a Grand Alliance strategic victory
- 1789- French Revolution: The National Assembly proclaims freedom of speech
- 1814- British forces capture Washington, D.C. and destroy many landmarks (War of 1812)
- 1891- Thomas Edison patents motion picture camera
- 1904- Battle of Liao-Yang 200,000 Japanese against 150,000 Russian, Japanese tactical victory
- 1912- District of Alaska becomes an organized incorporated territory of the United States
- 1914- German troops occupy Namur, Belgium
- 1920- With British approval, Greece is encouraged to take offensive action against Turkish nationalists in Asia Minor
- 1929- Turkey & Persia sign friendship treaty
- 1931- France & USSR sign neutrality/no attack treaty
- 1937- In the Spanish Civil War, the Basque Army surrenders to the Italian Corpo Truppe Volontarie following the Santoña Agreement.
- 1966- USSR launches Luna 11 for orbit around Moon
- 1968- France becomes the world's fifth thermonuclear power with a detonation on Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific
- 1976- Soyuz 21 returns to Earth
- 1978- USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1985- STS 51-L mission scrubbed at T-5m because of bad weather
- 1991- Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as head of USSR Communist Party
- 1992- Diplomatic relations are established between the People's Republic of China and South Korea.
- 1993- Mars Observer comes closest to Mars
- 1994- Israel & PLO initialed accord giving autonomy to Palestinians in West Bank in education, health, taxation, social welfare & tourism
- 1995- Microsoft debuts Windows 95
- 1997- Gordon Spence discovers 2' 2976221-1 (36th known Mersenne prime)
- 2004- 89 passengers die after two airliners explode after flying out of Domodedovo International Airport, near Moscow. The explosions were caused by suicide bombers (reportedly female) from the Russian Republic of Chechnya.
- 2006- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) redefines the term "planet" such that Pluto is considered a Dwarf Planet.
- 2015- Physicist Stephen Hawking presents a new theory on black holes at a lecture at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
- 2015- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announces that for the 1st time 1 billion people logged into Facebook
- 2016- Astronomers announce discovery of earth-like planet named Proxima b orbiting star Proxima Centauri
- 2016- 6.2-magnitude earthquake strikes central Italy, north east of Rome, killing 268, injuring 400

From KO Archives

Minefields yield deadly harvest in Poonch, Rajouri

15% border population crippled

RAJINDER SINGH

POONCH: The Line of Control (LoC) gouged across the state of Jammu and Kashmir has an insatiable thirst for human blood. The appetite was, after all, whetted on human suffering as at the outset the line tore apart families, separating brother from brother and parents from their off-spring.

The moments of lull be-tween intense exchanges of artillery fire are regularly shattered by landmine explosions, as unsuspecting shepherds or carefree village children trip over one of the countless lethal de-vices cunningly 'sown' under the ground; and the helpless people living along the line have to reap the deadly harvest.

According to an estimate, about 15 percent of the population bordering the LoC in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri has been crippled by landmines. Planted by security forces to check movement across the LoC, the minefields often maim innocent civilians. Dr. Subhash Raina, chief medical officer of the Poonch district says result of landmine explosions and cross-border shelling, three to five injured people are routinely shifted everyday to the district hospital from the Poonch sector alone.

Twelve-year-old Abdul Lateef lost his left leg in a blast as he was collecting firewood in a forest near Shahpur, recently.

Brother, Abdul Hameed, his senior by two years, rushed to his help and had his right leg blown off by another mine concealed nearby.

As Hameed was talking to a group, of media persons from his hospital bed, an-other victim was rushed in from Goonterian, a locality adjoining Hameed's native village.

This time it was an eleven-year-old-girl, Razia, with her chest punctured by bullets. She had been hit while grazing cattle in her locality. The young victim was rushed to the theatre, and after the surgery, doctors de-scribed her condition as 'out of danger'. The same, however, cannot be said of the numerous villages that border the LoC from Jammu to Ladakh. Be it Uri in Baramulla or Tangdhar in Kupwara, danger lurks at every step the residents take in their attempts to give a semblance of normalcy to their shattered lives.

(Kashmir Observer, August 24, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

A chance for peace

A week after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the war-scarred country is yet to get a government. So far, the Taliban has been providing security across the country, including in Kabul where the US and the other western countries are in the process of evacuating their people and the Afghans who worked for them. This has plunged the airport into chaos. One can only hope that it clears up as soon as possible.

It is also important that Kabul gets a stable, inclusive government soon. This alone would bring peace to a country wracked by four decades of war and conflict, that has ravaged it and killed lakhs of people. According to media reports, the top Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar would meet with jihadi leaders and politicians, aiming at an "inclusive government set-up."

Baradar who has been the main public face of the Taliban over the last two years, is likely to head the next government. He was the one who signed the peace accord between the Islamist group and the Trump administration in Doha in February 2020.

However, while the Islamist group may have effortlessly taken control of Afghanistan, there are still pockets of resistance to its rule. One such pocket is the Panjshir Valley where Ahmad Massoud, son of the assassinated legendary Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, has vowed to resist the Taliban. The Valley is currently the center of the resistance in Afghanistan. Media reports have said that the Taliban fighters are now heading to Panjshir to seize it from Massoud.

On his part, Massoud has sought negotiations with the Taliban to form a "comprehensive government". It remains to be seen whether the Taliban will engage in a dialogue with Massoud, or seek to capture the territory from him. And in case, some regional powers seek to support Massoud in his resistance, the conflict is likely to drag on and Afghanistan will continue to be a battleground for a regional one-upmanship.

Here is hoping that this doesn't happen and that Afghanistan's neighbours seek rather to cooperate to stabilize the country. Last time when the Taliban was in power they had succeeded in stabilizing the country. But this peaceful phase was largely undone by their rough-neck and obscurantist governance. In their new avatar, they are giving an impression that they have changed. They have promised an "inclusive government" which respects the rights of women and the minorities. However, the situation would become clear in the weeks and months to come. As things stand, the world has little option but to trust the Taliban.

OTHER OPINION

Curbing Delta

The overall number of coronavirus cases in India is on a downward trajectory though around 35,000 cases continue to be added almost daily. Nearly three in four of these infections are from Kerala and Maharashtra with the former — once heralded as the model State in tackling the pandemic — contributing close to 60% of the national total. There may be several reasons why this is the case and one of the conjectures is that newer variants may be playing a significant role. A weekly update from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a repository of labs tasked with monitoring variants of the coronavirus, says that the Delta variant remains most responsible for the continuing spread of infections in India.

Concerning as this variant is, it should not be forgotten that the purpose of the existing vaccines is to prevent hospitalisation and mortality, and the limited evidence so far is that vaccine coverage has played a role in keeping hospitalisation in most States to manageable levels as well as allowing normalisation of economic activity. Unless there is a dramatic fall in susceptible hosts globally, it is unlikely that transmission will obliterate itself. India's Drugs Controller General has now approved a three-shot vaccine, ZyCoV-D, for use in those 12 and above. The interim efficacy data of this vaccine shows that it has only 66% efficacy which is lower than what most of the other vaccines delivered in their trials. Zydus Cadila also has not published phase-3 results from the trials and so it is quite uncertain if the vaccine will meaningfully curb transmission but may well be effective in boosting India's vaccine arsenal, cutting disease and saving lives. The INSACOG still monitors too few a proportion of coronavirus samples given that India has the second highest numbers globally. Improving coverage and increased vaccination continue to remain the best bets against the pandemic.

The Hindu



AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko/Zemlianichenko

Will the Taliban Spill-Over Reach Kashmir? -Part 1

Muhammad Tahir

After the Taliban takeover of Kabul, and steady consolidation of the Islamist group's power and control over Afghanistan, apprehensions are rife that this momentous event in the neighbouring country (of geostrategic importance) could have a spill-over effect over Kashmir, which is a site of a low-intensity armed conflict since past three decades.

That the ongoing rapid changes in Afghanistan are detrimental to India's strategic and security interests (particularly with respect to the Kashmir situation) is widely believed and now echoes frequently among experts. Security analyst, Christine Fair, says that "we are quickly entering some version of the 1990s, but a more dangerous version...I anticipate that there will be grave consequences for India." (Open Magazine, 23 July 2021). Arguing in the similar vein, Suhassini Haidar writes in The Hindu (13 August 2021) "For New Delhi, already countering hostilities at the LAC with China and the LoC with Pakistan, an unfriendly government in Kabul can only complicate its strategic options."

Closer home, senior Kashmiri journalist, Ahmed Ali Fayyaz, tweeted on 16 August that following the US defeat by the Taliban and the euphoria generated in its wake, "a new spell of militancy is imminent" in Kashmir. He also made an interesting observation regarding how the changed Afghan situation is reflecting in Kashmir, saying that "Sense of Pak-friendly Taliban's victory & US-friendly India's defeat in Afghanistan is visible among followers of militants/ separatists in Kashmir. But they are publicly tight-lipped due to post Aug-2019 situation. Had it been in 2018, there would have been celebrations on streets." (It is pertinent to mention that 2018 was one of the bloodiest years in the past decade wherein, as per the JKCCS' estimates, at least 586 people were killed, including 160 civilians, 267 militants and 159 members of the security forces. Two years prior, in 2016, large scale anti-India protests had occurred in

That the ongoing rapid changes in Afghanistan are detrimental to India's strategic and security interests (particularly with respect to the Kashmir situation) is widely believed and now echoes frequently among experts

Kashmir, following by student-led street protests in April 2017.)

Former NDTV anchor, Barkha Dutt, has suggested that to pre-empt any negative fallout of the Afghanistan situation on India, New Delhi should take some quick decisions. Writing in Hindustan Times (20 August 2021), she proposed: "From a menu of limited choices, India can and should do some things fast — get a political process going in Jammu and Kashmir, where restoration of statehood should not be delayed; keep an informal, tactical line of communication open with the Taliban, despite the revulsion it evokes in most of us."

On the other hand, defence experts from the security establishment believe that the fallout

Khalil (of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen) in Karachi and offered \$25,000 per month to his organisation "to find fighters to wage war in Kashmir, a sum that could rise dramatically if Maulana Khalil achieved anything like his success in Afghanistan." The resources would come from the American money that the Brigadier and his team had reserved as "a contingency fund to aid rebellion in Kashmir."

The Brigadier and Masood Azhar had a certain perception of Kashmiris, and they were of the view that Kashmiris didn't have in them to be effective insurgents.

According to Azhar, "The Kashmiris were just too moderate to mount the kind of total war that was needed if India was to be unseated." For

Security analyst, Christine Fair, says that "we are quickly entering some version of the 1990s, but a more dangerous version...I anticipate that there will be grave consequences for India."

of the regime change in Kabul is marginal, and it is unlikely to pose any major security threat to Indian rule in Kashmir. In the words of Lt-Gen. Davendra Pratap Pandey, who is the General officer Commanding of Srinagar-based 15 Corps of Indian army, "...there is a possibility that the U.S. forces' pull-out from Afghanistan may push some militants into Kashmir, but the situation is not what it was 30 years ago."

These apprehensions, speculations, and assumptions are based on certain historical context, and it is worth recalling that history, albeit with a caveat that it is not yet a fully reconstructed history because credible archival materials have not been exhausted on the subject.

A Look Back in History

In their 2012 book The Meadow, investigative journalists, Adrian Levy and Cathy-Scott Clark, details how a certain Brigadier 'Badam' of Pakistan's external spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), had planned to redirect some battle-hardened Anti-Soviet insurgents to Kashmir as the Afghan War was drawing to a close in late 1980s. Basing their claims on the sources within Pakistan security agencies and a journal maintained by Maulana Masood Azhar, Levy and Clark writes, "Now, in 1989, with the war in Afghanistan coming to a close, tens of thousands of pumped-up Muslim guerrillas at a loose end and Kashmir boiling up of its own accord, it was obvious to Brigadier Badam (and many others he served with) that their moment had come."

Quoting from Sada-i-Mujahid (Voice of the Mujahid), the journal that Masood Azhar edited, Levy and Clark claims that Brigadier 'Badam' had approached Maulana Fazlur Rehman

the Brigadier, Levy and Clark writes, Kashmiris "had a habit of going their own way, preferring to mount their own campaigns." Availability of surplus of guerrillas from the Anti-Soviet campaign was thus an opportune moment to grasp and use to tip Kashmir over the edge. The Brigadier envisaged a full-fledged infiltration across LOC to bolster the local insurgency.

In her 1996 book, Kashmir in Conflict, Victoria Schofield says that the fighters who partook in the anti-Soviet jihad found their way into Kashmir via the porous border in the tribal area at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Their numbers swelled amid the collapse of Mohammad Najibullah regime in 1992. Most of these Afghan fighters were associated with the Harkat-ul Ansar ('The Movement of The Victorious', formed in 1993 in Pakistan through the merger of the HuM and two other groups). Quoting security analyst, Anthony Davis (Janes Intelligence Review, Vol 7, No. 1, 1995), Schofield writes that some Kashmiris believed that Afghans had joined the Kashmir insurgency as a way to reciprocate for their help during the anti-Soviet jihad. According to Schofield, "Between 1990 and 1995, the Indian government identified 297 'foreign mercenaries' arrested or killed of which 213 were from Pakistan or Azad Kashmir, and 84 from Afghanistan" (p. 178)

...to be concluded

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

The author is an independent researcher



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Online Education is Hampering the Holistic Development in Children

There seems to be no end in sight to the pandemic. It has greatly altered our lives in several ways. Work from home, online classes and commuting seemed great at first but a year and half into the pandemic has made us realise how our previous ways of life were crucial for our overall well being.

The lack of social interaction has taken a toll on us, it has impacted our mental health in several ways. Education sector is the worst hit as schools

remain closed in most parts of the country. The online education apart from being inaccessible to a vast majority of our population is also inadequate and doesn't compensate the loss of physical classroom learning. The primary school children have been the worst affected since they have had no exposure to physical classroom learning and social interactions. Education is not just about delivering lectures, taking assignment and holding exams, it is also about developing social skills, exchanging

ideas, fostering friendships and learning how to interact and work with peers. Social interactions are crucial for the holistic development of a child in the formative years especially. The deprivation of the same could have many adverse impacts on the various facets of an individual's life. Therefore, it is extremely important for the government to expedite the reopening of school and give the importance it holds for the primary school children, they should be made a priority. Mandating the wearing of

N-95 masks, ensuring proper social distancing and limiting the number of children in a classroom can help children return to classroom without any risk to their health. It is not necessary to call children to school 7 days a week, a hybrid mode of education can be put in place for the meantime but what is crucial is that physical classroom learning should be resumed as soon as possible.

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India's Kings And Queens Of Chess

Arvind Subramanian

Indian parents have gambled their life savings to send their sons to international tournaments; girls have put aside their own dreams so that their male siblings can access limited resources; and players themselves must make hard choices between career preparation and the pursuit of the game.

Over the last decade, India's political and economic progress has faltered. Its once-plausible aspirations of becoming a global power on par with China now seem fanciful. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating human and economic toll. In such circumstances, sports can be a national balm.

This year's Tokyo Olympic Games brought a slight reprieve. India took home its first gold medal in track and field, achieved a partial return to past glory in men's field hockey, and saw its women's field hockey team display heart-wrenching grit and determination, even as it fell short of winning a medal. Ultimately, though, a ranking of 48th in overall medals – for a country with 1.4 billion people – only reinforced the sense of underperformance.

Against this backdrop, a game of the mind may be one of the brighter spots. India is quickly becoming a legitimate global chess superpower, leading the United States and China on key metrics, and running neck and neck with Russia, the historically dominant chess power. Since 2012, 44 Indians have been anointed as grandmasters (GMs) – the highest achievement in chess – compared to 18 for China and 22 for the US. Even Russia added just one more than India.

This is no small achievement, considering that an Indian first attained GM status only in 1988 – a full 41 years after independence. Reflecting this ascendancy, the Indian team of men and women tied for first place with Russia in the 2020 FIDE Online Chess Olympiad.

Just as heartening as the overall tally of GMs is the age profile and regional distribution of India's chess talent. Nearly half of the last 20 GMs – and some of the most promising of them – are in their teens, and several players come from outside the metropolises that usually account for chess champions. Just as India's proficiency in cricket improved as opportunities broadened beyond the English-speaking elite, chess has flourished by drawing in talent from smaller cities and towns.

Why is this explosion of talent happening now? National sporting success is not easily explained; but, in India's case, a "superstar effect" cannot be ruled out. We can never know why 1970s Sweden produced tennis great Björn Borg, the winner of 11 Grand Slam titles. But we do know that there was an explosion of Swedish talent in subsequent decades as Borg became a role model that young Swedes wanted to emulate.

Similarly, India's excellence in chess today is almost certainly tied especially to its first GM, Viswanathan Anand, and also to female players like Koneru Humpy. Anand came out of the blue in the late 1980s to become the world's leading player, winning five world championships and remaining at the top – in both the traditional and more rapid versions of chess – for nearly 25 years. Humpy is the reigning women's world rapid chess champion and was the youngest woman ever to become a GM when she attained the



rank in 2002. With a lag of a decade or two, the current crop of GMs appears to have burst onto the scene as a result of the Anand and Humpy effects.

But other factors are also at play. In the pre-digital world, learning, playing, and competing at the top levels of chess often required an organizational infrastructure (not always India's strong suit). But now, every player is connected to the internet, and chess students can avail themselves of chess engines and databases as well as virtual access to experts. Online tournaments allow players to compete from the remotest places. As the digital revolution has unfolded, India's hundreds of millions of young people have become a deep pool for chess talent. At this scale, the probability of producing excellent players has risen exponentially.

Another hypothesis is that the advent of sophisticated chess machines has tilted the skill set in favor of memory relative to brute calculation over the board. These machines establish winning and losing patterns of play that a player can memorize and then recall during a match. In this new era of chess, the Indian education system's over-emphasis on rote learning may offer a distinct advantage, as it does in spelling bee contests, where Indian-Americans also tend to dominate.

But India's chess revolution is not complete. For all of its GMs, none are in the world's top ten, and none pose a serious threat to Magnus Carlsen, the Norwegian reigning world champion who took the title from Anand in 2013.

Moreover, there is a harsher side to the digital era's democratization of opportunities in chess. Indian parents have gambled their life savings to send their sons to international tournaments; girls have put aside their own dreams so that their male siblings can access limited resources; and players themselves must make hard choices between career

preparation and the pursuit of the game. Even with the new digital tools, success at the highest levels requires resources and a team of other players, psychologists, managers, and fitness coaches.

Most critically, while chess opportunities are expanding, there are still hard limits in place. Sadly, all of the major axes of exclusion in Indian society – group identity, geography, and gender – seem to carry over into the game. Disadvantaged minorities such as the Dalits (formerly known as "untouchables") and Muslims are thinly represented, if at all, among the top players, as are players from the poorer regions of the Hindi-speaking heartland. Among India's expanding roster of GMs, there are only two women (whereas China has nine).

Still, India is churning out GM-level chess talent at a ferocious pace. If its problems of still-limited resources and exclusion can be addressed, its future as a chess superpower will become only brighter.

This would make for a fitting historical irony. In the twentieth-century filmmaker Satyajit Ray's *The Chess Players*, two self-centered noblemen, neglecting their spouses and official responsibilities, obsessively play chess even as their kingdom is being annexed by the British. Successful colonization is portrayed as Britain's superior ability at the metaphorical chess game of imperial strategy. Today, in the more literal version of the game (reputedly invented in India centuries ago), that history is being reversed: Indians are gradually becoming the grandmasters of the world.

Arvind Subramanian, a former chief economic adviser to the government of India, is the author of *Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China's Economic Dominance*

Project Syndicate

From Staunch Grammar to Creative Flow

Brett Healey



Fiction authors are pretty good at writing sentences with striking images, worded just the right way.

We might suppose the images are striking because the author has a striking imagination. But the words seem just right because the author also has a large repertoire of grammar.

As writing teachers, we often neglect one of these skills in favour of the other. If we inspire students to write creatively at length but don't teach them how to use the necessary grammatical structures, they struggle to phrase their ideas well. If we teach students about grammar in isolation, they tend not to apply it to their stories.

But research shows it's possible to teach grammar as a way to strengthen students' writing.

My research with year 5 students examined one method of teaching grammar for writing. We can teach students how to imagine the scene they are creating, and then teach them which grammatical features help turn their imagination into text.

I found five effective ways to teach the link between imagination and grammar.

1. Set up the imaginative tripod

Most of the stories students brought to me lacked a clear sense of perspective. I taught students to imagine their scene like a film director – they had to decide exactly where their camera tripod should be set up to film their scene. Placing it above, close, far away from or beside the character creates different images and effects.

Director and camera crew on film set

Just like a movie director decides the position of their camera to film a scene, students' language choices create a perspective to tell their story. Shutterstock

Then I showed them how careful use of adverbs, verbs and prepositions creates this perspective in writing.

This is done in Philip Pullman's novel, *Northern Lights*, to place you right beside the character in the room. "The only light in here came from the fireplace"

2. Zoom in on the details

Young writers often need help adding detail to their stories. A film director might zoom right in on a character's hand pulling the trigger on a gun to intensify the action of shooting. A writer does the same. I taught students to imagine significant details up close, which helped them select specific nouns to place in the subject position of the sentence.

In *Aquila*, by Andrew Norriss, specific nouns of body parts are the actors in the sentence.

"As his feet searched for a foothold, his fingers gripped the grass."

3. Track the movement

It is common for students to write about movement in rather static terms, such as "she ran home". In a film, a director might choose to follow the

I taught students to imagine their scene like a film director – they had to decide exactly where their camera tripod should be set up to film their scene. Placing it above, close, far away from or beside the character creates different images and effects

movement by panning the camera, using a dolly, or filming multiple shots to allow us to experience the full path of movement.

I taught students to imagine watching the movement in their stories through a series of windows – first, second, third – and choose which parts they wanted to include. This helped them choose which verbs and prepositional phrases to use.

In *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, we watch Bill the pony galloping off through three windows, each with a prepositional phrase.

"Bill the pony gave a wild neigh of fear, and turned tail and dashed away along the lakeside into the darkness."

Horse running in paddock

Verbs and prepositions convey the

movement that brings a sentence to life. Shutterstock

I also taught students to describe how much space an object takes up using the same movement grammar, such as stretched along and rose from.

In *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman, we pan across the perimeter of the cemetery.

"Spike-topped iron railings ran around part of the cemetery, a high brick wall around the rest of it."

4. Focus the attention

When we read a novel, there is always something standing out in our attention: a thing, a description, a feeling, an action. I taught students to think about which part of their scene stands out in their mind, and then use "attention-seeking" grammar to focus on it.

One way to make things stand out is to use grammar that deviates from conventional use, like placing adjectives after nouns. Another way is to use repeated grammatical structures.

In *Tolkien's The Return of the King* we get both of these at the same time to contrast the physical states of the orc and Sam.

"But the orc was in its own haunts, nimble and well-fed. Sam was a stranger, hungry and weary."

5. Convey the energy of action

Many of the students wanted to create action scenes in their stories, which they did using the previous strategies. However, they lacked the energy felt in an action-packed novel. I showed them a sentence like this one from *The Blackthorn Key* by Kevin Sands.

"A musket ball tore at my hair as it punched into the window frame behind me, sending out a shower of splinters."

The students could see how energy transfers across the clauses, like dominoes, from noun to noun. In this case, the energy starts with the musket ball, and transfers to hair, window frame and finally the shower of splinters, carried by the action verbs.

I asked the students to imagine how a chain of action might appear in their stories and select the appropriate nouns and verbs to do the job.

The Conversation

Afghan crisis: India continues evacuation mission; brings back 146 from Doha

NEW DELHI: India on Monday evacuated over 70 people, including its citizens and a group of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, from Kabul to Dushanbe in Tajikistan in an IAF aircraft while another batch of near-equal strength is planned to be taken out of the Afghan capital to the Tajik city at the earliest, people familiar with the developments said.

Separately, India brought back 146 of its nationals to Delhi in four different commercial flights from the Qatari capital Doha, days after they were evacuated from Kabul by NATO and American aircraft.

With Monday's evacuation, the number of people brought back to Delhi has gone up to around 730 since August 16 when the first group was airlifted from Kabul, a day after

the Taliban seized control of the Afghan capital city.

The people cited above said the evacuees, who were taken to Dushanbe, are likely to be brought back to Delhi from the Tajikistan capital in a civilian aircraft on Tuesday.

India has stepped up efforts to evacuate its citizens as well as its Afghan partners from Kabul in view of the deteriorating security situation in the Afghan capital and other parts of the country after the Taliban swept to power last week.

Thousands of Afghans have been crowding around the Kabul airport for nearly a week, in a desperate attempt to flee the country fearing the Taliban's brutality.

The people cited above said most of the 146 Indians brought

back from Doha were employees of western companies and organisations that were operating in Afghanistan.

It was the second batch of Indians that was brought home from Doha. A total of 135 Indians were flown back to Delhi from the Qatari capital in a special flight on Sunday.

Out of the second batch of Indians who returned home from Doha, 104 people were brought back in a Vistara flight, 30 by a Qatar Airways flight and 11 of them returned by an Indigo flight.

One person returned by an Air India flight, they said.

India on Sunday evacuated 392 people including two Afghan lawmakers in three different flights under the evacuation mission amid a continued scramble by various countries to

rescue their citizens from Kabul.

The Taliban seized control of Kabul on August 15 after taking over almost all key towns and cities following the withdrawal of the US forces.

Within two days of the Taliban's capture of Kabul, India evacuated 200 people, including the Indian envoy and other staffers of its embassy in the Afghan capital.

The first evacuation flight brought back over 40 people, mostly staffers at the Indian embassy on August 16. The second aircraft evacuated around 150 people including Indian diplomats, officials, security personnel and some stranded Indians from Kabul on August 17.

India carried out the evacuation missions in coordination with the US and several other friendly countries.

MP: Case filed against bangle seller under POCSO Act; 3 held for assaulting him

Indore/Bhopal: Police have arrested three persons on charges of assaulting a bangle seller, but the episode took a new turn when he himself was later booked under the POCSO Act for allegedly touching a 13-year-old girl inappropriately in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Monday.

The bangle seller, Tasleem Ali (25), was also accused of possessing fake documents related to his identity, they said.

The officials said the minor girl filed a complaint with the Banganga police station in Indore against Ali, alleging he introduced himself as Golu, son of Mohan Singh to sell bangles at her home on Sunday and after describing her as very beautiful, he touched her inappropriately.

When the girl raised an alarm, her mother rushed out of home and when the bangle seller tried

to escape from the spot, neighbours and other local residents caught and thrashed him, they said, adding three persons were arrested for assaulting him.

In the melee, Ali, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, left behind a carry bag in which two Aadhaar cards were found, the officials said.

While one of the cards had the name of Asleem, son of Morsingh, the second one carried his identity as Tasleem, son of Mohar Ali, they said.

Based on the girl's complaint, a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and IPC sections 420 (cheating) and 471 (using fake documents as real ones), among others, was registered against Ali, the officials said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashutosh Bagri said, Cops have found two Aadhaar cards of

different names from the carry bag of Ali besides a burnt voter identity card in which his name was not clear. But in the column of father's name, 'Mohan Singh' is printed on it. State Congress spokesman Aminul Khan Suri posted a 44-second video of Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh-based Ali, in which he is heard stating, Years back, an identity card was made in my village with my pet name Bhura while in the Aadhaar card my name is written as Tasleem Ali. None of these identity documents are fake and they both are real. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra said in Bhopal, The controversy started when this man described himself as a Hindu to sell bangles to women during the holy month of saavan, while he actually belongs to another community.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

TRF Chief, Deputy

and around 50 to 60 OGWs are operating as well. "We will try to catch alive all the active militants and arrest the OGWs," Kumar said.

TEXT OF POLICE STATEMENT

"As per police records, both the killed terrorists were involved in killing of several political workers, police personnel and civilians. Saqib Manzoor was involved in killing of Adv Babar Qadri last year," he said.

He said that the killed militants were also involved in several grenade attacks on security establishments & were also involved in several other "terror crimes and civilian atrocities".

"They were also involved in reviving terror folds in district Srinagar and in the process recruited 7 youths into terror ranks in District Srinagar among them 4 stands already neutralized," the police spokesperson said.

He said that Sheikh was a Hizbul Mujahideen militant, arrested and released twice before he joined the TRF, a shadow outfit of Lashkar-e-Taiba. He said there are several militants and OGWs in Sheikh's relationship.

Giving details of the cases involving Sheikh, the police spokesperson said that among others the TRF chief was involved in the killing of a soldier Deepak Kumar in an IED blast in Shamsipora area on Srinagar-Jammu highway in Kulgam on January 27.

According to police, Sheikh and his associates are also responsible for the killing of two policemen Mohd Yousuf and Suhail Ahmad Lohar in Baghat Chown on February 19 and the killing of two CRPF personnel in Lawaypora area of the city outskirts.

"On 17.06.2021, he along with his associates fired upon Police cop namely Javid Ahmad Kambay S/o Ghulam Mohammad Kambay near his residence at Saidpora Eidgah, who later achieved Martyrdom," the police spokesperson said.

"On 23.06.2021, he along with his associates fired upon a mobile shop owner inside his shop at Main Chowk Habba Katad near Fashion Inn shop resulting in his on spot death," he added.

Also, the police spokesperson said that Sheikh along with his other associates planned an attack on Police inspector Parvez Ahmad Dar in front of local mosque at Menganwari Nowgam area of district Srinagar.

The police also held Sheikh responsible for a series of grenade and firing attacks on civilians, politicians, and security forces.

"Recently, a Sarpanch Gh Rasool Dar and his wife, a panch of BJP, were killed in Anantnag on the direction of Abbas Sheikh. Deceased BJP leader and Abbas Sheikh were from same area in Kulgam district," he said.

About Manzoor, the spokesperson said that he was responsible for killing advocate Babar Qadri, jeweller Satpal Nischal, BJP Worker Abdul Hamid Najar and other civilians and security personnel.

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were also recovered from the spot. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes. In this connection, Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and further investigation is in progress," the police spokesperson added.

CRPF Man Injured

Eidgah area here, officials said. The grenade exploded with a bang leaving a CRPF Head Constable identified as Pravin Kumar injured. Kumar, who received splinter injuries in his right hand, right shoulder and right thigh, was removed to the SMHS hospital for treatment, officials said. Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer that the CRPF man has received minor injuries and his condition is stable.

"We have kept him under observation for now," he added. The grenade attack on CRPF came over an hour after police killed two top commander of The Resistance Front (TRF) in a brief shootout in Aloochoi Bagh area of the city.

Militants Trapped

cordon and search operation in the Peeth Seer area of Sopore after receiving inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

As the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the forces, triggering off a gunfight.

A senior police officer said exchange of fire between militants and security forces was going on

Quoting sources, a local news agency GNS reported that two to three militants are believed to be trapped.

BJP Burns Mehbooba's

Mehbooba Mufti's effigy. Protests were also held in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Reasi districts by the party.

Speaking to reporters, Sethi demanded an investigation to ascertain whether she has any links with the Taliban.

"The links Mehbooba Mufti has with the Taliban should investigated. By such remarks, they are trying to incite people and divide them on religious lines," he said.

"Mufti should be ashamed of her remarks. It looks she is hatching a conspiracy to divide the people of J&K," Sethi added.

Rastriya Bajrang Dal activists, led by its chief Rakesh Kumar, also held anti-Mehbooba protests and burnt her effigy here.

They demanded Mufti be arrested for her statement.

Addressing PDP workers on Saturday, Mufti had asked the Centre to take a lesson out of Afghanistan where the Taliban seized power and made the US flee, and urged the government to hold dialogue in Jammu and Kashmir and return its special status which was revoked in 2019.

Referring to the Taliban seizing power in Afghanistan, the former chief minister warned the Centre to not test us" and asked the government to mend its ways, understand the situation, and see what is happening in your neighbourhood.

Army Offers

ensure that we seek surrenders and facilitate surrenders even when we are in the midst of intense operations. We want the youth to come back to the mainstream and we will always welcome them with open arms, he said.

The GoC-in-C said the Army and the civil administration will facilitate not only their surrender but also ensure that they are well integrated back into the mainstream.

"The Indian Army is there to give a second chance to any youth who accepts his mistakes and wants to surrender and come back to the mainstream. We, the uniformed forces, are here to save lives and not to take lives. The system, the entire administration, will facilitate not only their surrender but also ensure that they are well integrated back into the mainstream," he said.

Lt Gen Joshi said the Indian Army gives a lot of importance to observing human rights when conducting counter-militancy operations. "We ensure that we use minimum force and that there is minimum collateral damage, he added.

The Army commander said in the last 32 years of violence, the dreams of thousands of parents have been destroyed and the force is pained to see that.

"The enemies of peace showed false dreams to the innocent children and traded their future. It is regrettable that few people from our own country got involved in this conspiracy," he said.

"As far as possible, every Kashmiri youth, who has taken the wrong path, has to be brought back to the way of peace by offering him to surrender (his arms)," he said.

The GoC-in-C said be it the fight against militancy, the campaign of development, or sports or natural disaster, the way the youth of Kashmir have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Army, the society and their country, is appreciable.

"I can say proudly that the Indian Army by giving innumerable sacrifices, and brick by brick, has built peace in Jammu and Kashmir and the youth are working shoulder to shoulder with us to give it a new shape, he added.

Hurriyat Junks

imposed on both factions of the secessionist conglomerate Hurriyat Conference.

They said a recent probe into the granting of MBBS seats to Kashmiri students by institutions in Pakistan indicates that the money collected from aspirants by some organisations, which were part of the Hurriyat Conference conglomerate, was being used for funding militant organisations in the union territory.

The amalgam said that it wants to put on record that "this is completely unfounded, and can be verified by those students or parents whom they have recommended, many among them being from economically weaker sections".

Police Cracks

house which was safely stored for a wedding scheduled next month. Acting swiftly, police filed a case FIR No. 91/2021 U/s 454, 380 IPC at the Police station Soura and a special investigation team (SIT) was formed to probe the case.

Meanwhile, in a press conference held Monday, Superintendent of Police (SP) Hazratbal, Irshad Hussain Rather said that the after sustained efforts including technical and

utilising services of FSL, the investigating team zeroed on one suspect lady and during sustained questioning the accused confessed her involvement in commission of the theft and on her disclosure the spoils of the loot were recovered,

"The arrested person has confessed to her crime and a team from Soura Police Station has also recovered the looted cash and gold worth approximately 60 to 70 lakhs," Rather said.

The SP also appealed to people to make use of CCTV Cameras at home for added safety.

Locals of the area have applauded the efforts of the Srinagar Police for a commendable feat of solving the crime within 48 hours. The investigation is still ongoing to ascertain the possible involvement of other suspects.

The Police is ensuring that the recovered items be handed back to the owners after due process.

Experts Warn

large number of children become infected. The report, which has been submitted to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), observed that only around 7.6 percent (10.4 cr) people are fully vaccinated in India and if the current vaccination rate is not increased, India can witness six lakh cases per day in the next wave.

"Leading experts have repeatedly warned of an imminent third COVID-19 wave in India. Epidemiologists predict a series of surges till we achieve herd immunity through infection or vaccination and the disease becomes endemic," the report said.

The NIDM report quoted the prediction of experts from IIT Kanpur which suggested three likely scenarios for the third wave based on the level of unlocking.

In scenario one, it said that the third wave could peak in October with 3.2 lakh positive cases per day.

In scenario two, with the emergence of new and more virulent variants, the third wave could peak in September with likely five lakh positive cases per day.

In scenario three, the experts predicted that the third wave could peak in late October with two lakh positive cases per day.

According to the report, earlier, it was proposed that if 67 percent of the population became immune (a few by infection and rest through vaccination), herd immunity could be achieved.

But this has now been complicated by the new and more virulent mutated variants of SARS Cov-2 that have the ability to escape immunity from earlier infections and in some cases even the prevalent vaccines, it said.

This has pushed the target immune population for achieving herd immunity to 80-90 percent.

Hence, our health system and vaccines are caught in a race against the virus and are trying to catch up with risks that are evolving every day creating uncertainty all over the world, it said.

The NIDM is now taking a clue from several warnings indicating an imminent third wave, trying to understand them and prepare for the third wave. With this backdrop, it engaged with multiple stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in an attempt to formulate consolidated recommendations for actions that can prevent or mitigate an impending surge.

The report said there isn't sufficient data to back widespread fears that children will be hit more severely in the anticipated third wave of the pandemic. However, as the virus continues to evolve, this is going to be a major challenge for children as there is no approved vaccine for children in India yet (first week of August).

Children with COVID-19 infection have largely been seen to be asymptomatic or develop mild symptoms. But this becomes worrisome in case children have any comorbidity or other special needs.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, out of all the children hospitalised due to COVID, 60-70 percent had comorbidities or low immunity.

Children have also been seen to develop MIS-C (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome) which is a rare but extremely serious condition developed post-COVID recovery, it said.

According to a parliamentary standing committee report in 2015, there is an 82 percent shortage of paediatricians in India's primary health centres and up to 62.8 percent of positions for paediatricians in community health centres were vacant.

The working group committee experts suggested a holistic home care model, immediate increase in paediatric medical capacities and prioritising mental health issues among children, the report said.

According to the COVID vaccination dashboard of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as of August 2, 2021, 47,85,44, 144

(over 47 crore) individuals have been administered at least one dose of COVID vaccine.

According to a recent study done by professors and alumni from Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) in collaboration with Nirma University, the vaccination rate of India is currently 3.2 percent and if does not improve, India can witness six lakh cases per day in the third wave.

But if the government's proposal to increase this rate by five times (1 crore doses per day) comes to fruition, India will see only 25 percent of the cases (seen in the second wave) during the third wave peak.

According to data from the CoWin portal, out of the total 30.9 crore doses administered since January 2021 till 25 June 2021, 14.3 crore went to women vis-a-vis 16.7 crore to men. The proportion of vaccine coverage -- 856 doses to women for every 1,000 doses for men -- does not match India's current sex ratio of 924 women per 1,000 men.

The largest state in India, Uttar Pradesh, has 42 percent vaccination of women, West Bengal has 44 percent female coverage, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (predominantly rural UT) 30 percent.

Only a few states - Kerala and Andhra Pradesh -- have more vaccine coverage for women than men. Rural women are even more marginally placed vaccination-wise, the report said.

J&K Logs 93

Pulwama 4, Kupwara 8, Anantnag 5, Bandipora 4, Ganderbal 3, Kulgam 4, Jammu 2, Rajouri 5, Doda 28, Samba 1, Kishtwar 3, Poonch 2, and Reasi 2 new cases of coronavirus. No new case of virus was reported from the four districts of Shopian, Udhampur, Kathua and Ramban.

Also, the officials said that 203 more Covid-19 patients have recovered--114 from Jammu division and 89 from the valley.

Regarding the fatality, officials said that one more person succumbed to the virus in the winter capital, taking the fatality count to 4403 people--2163 in Jammu and 2240 in Kashmir.

The officials also said that there were 43 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since Sunday evening.

PAGD Meeting

of all the parties are expected to attend the meeting and present their viewpoint on the prevailing situation. Over 100-150 political leaders are expected in the meeting," a National Conference leader told Kashmir Observer.

The meeting, he said, will also discuss the future strategy to achieve the goal of seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir that was revoked by the Centre in August 2019.

Pertinently, the last meeting of PAGD was held at the residence of Farooq Abdullah on August 4.

Kashmiri Professor's

the first meeting point in a series of stops on his bid back to Kashmir.

"Since people were being evacuated without passports, visas and boarding passes, a lot of influx including the local Afghans who somehow turned this into an opportunity to leave Afghanistan for a better life in any other foreign country, was coming to the airport and creating a crisis situation for the international travellers," the professor says.

"That day, more than 400 flights landed in the Hamid Karzai International Airport."

However, on the second day, Aasif, along with Prof. Adil and his wife Asfiya, hurried a goodbye to a local Afghani campus friend. But later, at the airport, someone informed Aasif that they would be leaving that evening, August 17, hours before the Kabul Airport became non-functional and restricted the air travel.

The Kashmiri trio landed back in their Bakhtar University on the same day. It was not the gradual adjustment to life on the outside that Aasif had been planning before the Taliban entered Kabul.

"As much as I was preparing myself mentally to come home, I never thought that the homecoming would become so difficult," the professor says. "Lately, some 150 flights took off from Kabul, giving us hope that our flight from India will come and evacuate us from the country."

Notably, the drawdown followed by the departure of American troops has exacerbated long-running dynamics in Afghanistan. Afghans who aided the American effort are frantically looking for ways out of the country. The U.S. system for vetting Afghan visa applicants remains exhausting and time-consuming. And the rumours and misinformation that have long plagued the country have intensified, fuelling public confusion, panic and what many call, the airport tragedy.

"Biden's surprise announcement in April that he would withdraw nearly all American troops in five months did not allow enough time for U.S. officials to safely evacuate Afghan allies, who since Taliban's emergence in Kabul, have been finding ways to exit Afghanistan," Aasif says.

The American administration may have done more than simply acquiesce in the rescue effort.

At the height of the standoff, the Delta Force—the American commando unit that was fighting Taliban units on the ground—was called to set up a special air corridor to help insure the safety of the rescue flights from Kabul to the other parts of the world.

"These guys did Desert Storm," Aasif says. "They see things in black-and-white. They were supposed to help everyone but rather they turned things difficult for others by taking control of the airport in order to provide a safe passage for their own Americans. These people first tried to tear down the Afghani culture of Beard and Turban and are now driving the airport into a state of chaos."

Amid all this, the professor says, the International media have been trying to represent a different picture of the region.

"There's a totally opposite image to what the media has been trying to play in this ongoing chaos. The situation is peaceful and calm but I really want to travel back to Kashmir, as the future here remains uncertain," Aasif says while remembering his wife and daughter Ayesha.

Kabul Based Kashmiri

New Delhi was scheduled last Monday but got cancelled due to chaos at the airport. I reached New Delhi today," he said.

He has been teaching there for the last four years. "I came to Kabul last month to conduct the examinations of students and was expecting to return home in the third week of August. Then I along with a colleague and his wife were stuck there. Our families were worried about our safety," he said.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha last week said that he spoke to MoS Foreign Affairs, V Muraleedharan for immediate evacuation of professors from Kulgam teaching at Bakhtar University in Kabul.

"He has assured the government is committed to bring back every citizen safely as soon as possible. I assure the families of Prof Asif Ahmed and Prof Adil Rasool that they are safe and will be home soon," LG had said in a tweet.

10 Grenades

and SOG in the residential house of Mohammad Yousaf Mir in Gasla Dardpora Kralpora during which ten hand grenades were recovered.

A case FIR number 92/2021 under section 3/4 Explosive Substance Act has been registered in this regard at Police Station Kralpora for further investigations, they said.

The house owner's son Nazir Ahmed Mir has already crossed the LoC in the year 2000 and hasn't returned back, they further said. (GNS)

5 People Booked

recommendations of Forest Department, PSA was slapped upon them.

All these three jungle smugglers were shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail Jammu.

Police sources identified the trio as Ghulam Muhammad Bhat of Tharian village, Riyaz Poswal of Shalidar Zarkin village and Altaf Poswal of Dunaroo Keller.

Besides, two persons on charges of anti-national activities were also shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail under PSA.

The duo have been identified as Shahrum Bhatia alias Gujar son of Gulabuddin of Kodiaawalam Rajouri and Mudasir Ahmed Koka son of Abdul Rashid Koka, a resident of Melhora Shopian. (KNT)

Missing Teenage

on the banks of the river on Sunday evening, a police official said.

He said the postmortem of the deceased was conducted and the body was handed over to her family for last rites after completion of legal formalities. Police are ascertaining the cause of her death, the official said.

No New Covid

in Kargil district. Officials said no new Covid case was reported in Ladakh on Sunday. The death toll due to COVID-19 in Ladakh stands at 207 -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil, officials said.

A total of 1,637 sample reports, including 716 from Leh and 921 from Kargil, were found negative, they said. No Covid-related death was recorded in Ladakh on Sunday. All the patients who were discharged after recovering from the infection were from Leh, officials said.

Dilapidated Srinagar-Bandipora Road Leaves Commuters Fuming

Agencies

Srinagar: Brewing strong resentment, residents of North Kashmir's Bandipora district Monday accused the authorities for failing to undertake repair work of the Srinagar-Bandipora road.

The local residents of the district said, that the Bandipora-Srinagar road at many places including Nasou, Papachan, SK-Payeen, Ajas, Bazipora, Shadipora, Dangerpora, and Chortung Pass is dotted with potholes posing risk to accidents.

They said that the road is in a dilapidated condition for the last few years but the authori-

ties have failed to even pay a visit to ascertain the damages.

A group of locals said that they have to visit Bandipora town frequently for their routine work and their vehicles often get damaged due to bad condition of the road.

"While the main road is in bad condition, the interior roads are even worse, with most of them remaining mere mud tracks," Ishfaq Ahamad a local said.

The residents appealed the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to personally look into the matter in order to redress their grievances.

Banihal-Qazigund Flyover Develops Cracks, Traffic Diverted

Banihal: A flyover near the recently opened Banihal-Qazigund tunnel Monday developed a crack, prompting diversion of traffic for repairs, officials said. The officials said that it was a minor crack that will be taken care off.

The 8.5-km-long Banihal-Qazigund tunnel, built at a cost of Rs 2,100 crore, was opened for traffic early this month.

Work on the tunnel, which is part of an ongoing four-lane highway project, was started in June 2011 by the Navyug engineering company, and its operationalization reduced travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by about 1.5 hours.

The officials said workers noticed the crack on the stretch between the toll plaza in Banihal and the tunnel early Monday, following which traffic coming from Kashmir towards Jammu was immediately diverted.

DIPR's Cultural Wing Holds Cultural Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations, a variety of cultural programme were Monday organised by the

mad Saznawaz, Ather Balpuri, G M Anzwali, G M Khanday joined by Feroz Ahmed Shah and party, a popular Kashmiri folk group presented patriotic songs.

Hilal Mattoo, Shabeer Hakak



Cultural Unit Srinagar, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with District Information Centre Kupwara at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara.

On the occasion, artists of Cultural Unit Srinagar and some renowned artists of the valley enthralled the audience with their theme based performances. The artists of Cultural Unit Srinagar including Mushtaq Ah-

and a group of theatre actors highlighted the progress and achievements of the nation since independence through their skit. They also presented one more skit to generate covid awareness among the masses.

Cultural officer Tawheed Ahmad Mir, in his video message applauded the artists and said that every citizen should be connected with the country by heart. This sense of pride shows us the way to live the "mantra of unity".

Govt Restricts Participation In Tendering Process To Residents Of Panchayats

Authorizes RDD to engage retired JEs, AEs/AEEs to expedite execution of developmental works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an important decision to accelerate the development process at the grass-root level, the Government has decided that participation in the tendering process of works up to an amount of Rs 3 lakh shall be restricted to the residents of the concerned Panchayats. In the event of inadequate response to the tenders, the participation norms will be relaxed to include bidders from the neighbouring Panchayats.

The decision is aimed at enhancing transparency and speedy execution of develop-

mental works through local participation which will also boost public ownership of the created assets.

Residents of Panchayats, who wish to participate in the tendering process, will have to get registered in a simple system of registration, to be maintained at the level of Deputy Commissioners. These registrations shall be done on the basis of documentary evidence like Aadhaar, PAN Card, and Domicile Certificate, while the verification process shall be completed through Panchayats and the local police only. Detailed instructions are being

issued by the Finance Department on this.

Further, to address the shortage of engineering staff in the Rural Development Department, which may affect the pace of works in Panchayats, Rural Development Department has been authorized to engage optimal numbers of retired Junior Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers on a contractual basis as part of the Project Management Unit in respective districts. Instructions have already been issued for delegation of powers to AEEs in the Rural Development Department.

My Comments On Kashmir Are 'Final': Sidhu's Adviser

KO News Desk

New Delhi: Malvinder S Mali, an advisor to Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, said on Monday his recent comments on Jammu and Kashmir, made on social media, are "final." Meanwhile, Pyare Lal Garg, another advisor, who, along with Mali, was summoned by Sidhu over his remarks, said discussions in the meeting were on issues concerning the development of Punjab.

"Whatever I had to say, I've said on social media, and that is final. If anyone makes a mistake, they should reflect. We must continue to work for the welfare of Punjab," Mali said to the media after the meeting with Sidhu. In a Facebook post last week, Mali had described Kashmir as a "country of Kashmiri people." He had also questioned why Jammu and Kashmir has been "turned into an open jail" and for how long.

Separately, he had also posted a sketch of late former prime minister Indira Gandhi, in which she is seen standing near a heap of human skulls with a gun in her hand. A skull is seen hanging from the gun's

muzzle.

Garg, on the other hand, courted controversy for questioning Punjab chief minister

Lok Sabha MP Amar Singh and former IPS officer Mohammad Mustafa. Sidhu himself was made the Punjab Pradesh Con-



Captain Amarinder Singh's frequent criticism of Pakistan. "Today, we spoke to Sidhu ji on the issues of the development of the state. When a government does good work, we appreciate it, but if it does poorly, then also we criticise it," ANI quoted Garg as saying after the meeting.

Both Mali and Garg were among four advisers appointed by Sidhu on August 11. The other two appointees are Congress

gress Committee (PPCC) chief on July 18 following a long-drawn feud with Singh.

The respective comments made by Mali and Garg have drawn fierce criticism from the chief minister, as well as Manish Tewari, the Lok Sabha MP from Anandpur Sahib constituency in the northern state. The former, an Army veteran, warned the duo against making "atrocious and ill-conceived" comments.

Augment Electricity Supply Ahead Of Winter: LG's Adv Directs Officers

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla Aijaz Abdullah Saraf and other senior officers Monday inspected Receiving Station Amargarh and directed to ramp up the pace of work so that it is completed by 30th of September. He directed the officers to strictly adhere to the timelines

already stipulated. The Advisor directed the officers to augment the electricity supply in view of the approaching winter.

He issued on spot directions to replace rotten and damaged poles in a time bound manner. He further stressed upon the officers of PDD to replace the wires, conductors wherever required immediately and have the branch cutting of trees done expeditiously on the electricity corridors as per the directions

already given.

The Advisor also inspected various developmental works undertaken by the Rural Development department. The Advisor issued strict directions that emphasis should be laid on labour intensive works and the works that are properly reflected in the already prepared annual plans. He also directed to make timely payments of MGNREGA as it is related with the livelihood of rural labourers.

1300 Vacant School Buildings To Be Allotted To PRIs, Govt Depts

Agencies

Srinagar: With 1300 school buildings lying vacant in Jammu and Kashmir, J&K's chief secretary Arun Kumar Mehta has directed the General Administration Department (GAD) and Planning Development & Monitoring department to co-ordinate with respective deputy commissioners for allotment of these buildings.

The directions were passed by the CS during a meeting chaired by him on July 26.

"The Chief Secretary observed that the School Education department (SED) has furnished a list of 1300 vacant school buildings which can be utilized for Panchayat Ghars, offices of district development councils and district development councils as

also accommodating other department," read the documents.

"The Chief Secretary directed the GAD & PD&MD to coordinate in the matter in consultation with respective deputy commissioners for further allotment of these buildings."

After the CS's directive, the department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj wrote to its both directors to coordinate with the concerned DCs in the matter.

These school buildings were left vacant after PDP-BJP government after the previous government merged the schools with zero or less enrollment of students.

On the instructions of the government, the School Education department had recently collected data from Chief Education Officers about such buildings in Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

7 Erring Drug Retail Shops Sealed, 5 Licenses Suspended

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Drug and Food Control Organisation (D&FCO) Monday inspected 163 drug establishments, issued 11 show cause notices to the Retail/Wholesale establishments of which 7 were closed down on spot for various violations vis-à-vis non-maintenance of sale and purchase records, improper storage of drugs, unhygienic conditions of premises and non-issuance of bills/ cash memos.

Also licenses of 5 shops were suspended and a total fine of Rs.42, 800 was imposed.

The drives were conducted in districts including Budgam, Baramulla, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Kupwara.

The stakeholders were directed to maintain records of Psychotropic/Habit forming properly and on spot instructions were issued to the license holders for strict adherence to the SOPs of the license. The Chemists were again warned and given strict instructions to maintain sale and purchase records of various Psychotropic drugs properly, to maintain storage conditions of the drugs as per their requirement and issue bills/ cash memos regularly.

During this special drive they were once again sensitized to retain the photocopy of the prescription wherein Schedule H1 and Psychotropic drugs have been prescribed for record and reference purpose so that misuse of such drugs is minimized.

Social Forestry Dept To Scale Up Afforestation Programme

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Director, Social Forestry, J&K, Roshan Jaggi, Monday said that the department shall plant almost three times more plants as compared to last year in Village Panchayats with the cooperation and support of PRIs to scale up its afforestation programme.

The Director said this during his tour to Kupwara, and added that the Department has constituted Panchayat level Plantation Committees in all 4289 Panchayats to seek cooperation and involvement of local people in identifica-

tion of lands, plantation activities and its future management.

The interim benefits like grasses, fodder, fuelwood are given free of cost to villagers and on harvesting of mature plantations, 75 percent of the revenue is transferred to Village Panchayat Fund, which is used for developmental works and raising of new plantations as per decisions of VPPC.

He said this has encouraged the Village Panchayats to offer their vacant lands to raise plantation assets with the assistance of the Social Forestry Department.

After Spike In Covid Cases, Community Classes Suspended In Kulgam

Observer News Service

Kulgam: In view of sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in Kulgam



and Anantnag districts, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud bhat Monday ordered to suspend the community classes in all govt as well as private schools, coaching centres with immediate effect for two weeks.

spirit. However they shall insure the conduct of online classes in their institutions as circulated from time to time. Any kind of violation of the said order, will be viewed seriously and strict action will be taken under Disaster Management act.

Bar Association Demands Action Against Tehsildar Hajin

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K High Court Bar Association Monday demanded strict action against Tehsildar Hajin Safiya Abdullah for humiliating a Lawyer.

The Association has filed a written complaint before Divisional Commissioner Kashmir after one of its Member Advocate Sameer Dar was humiliated & thrown out from Court by Tehsildar Hajin Safiya Abdullah. The Tehsildar was directed by DC to decide the matter

within two weeks and file a compliance report which she failed to do on merits within given time.

Bar Association in a statement said that Tehsildar was asked to decide the case on merits by Dar which provoked her for no reason and instead of performing duties, she used unethical language against the lawyer and humiliated him in court.

The association also demanded strict and immediate action against her.

Farmers Should Propose Solutions To Problems: LG's Adv

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan Monday suggested the farmers to propose solutions of their problems themselves. He asked them to be the drivers on the vehicle of problem solving instead of looking towards the administration only. The Advisor was speaking during an interactive session with farmers organised by Agriculture Department, Kashmir.

The Advisor impressed upon the farmers to take full interest in farming as the fate of the trade is changing considerably. He maintained that farmers are happening to be job creators worldwide instead of job seekers. He said that the trade is gaining due recognition and respect from the last few years.

He advised the farmers to promote the indigenous brands under proper tagging, labelling and packaging. He asked them that income increases with innovative ideas not solely through administrative interventions.

Advisor Khan encouraged the farmers to make land their identity. He made out that the significance of land can be gauged

by the fact that it can not be created afresh. He asked them to safeguard it for the sustainable gains instead of making short-term immediate profits through



its conversion.

The Advisor asked the farmers to adopt the cooperative farming to maximize their gains and to solve the issue of small land holdings. He suggested them to embrace modern technology and techniques to multiply the margin of profit.

He asked youth to come forward and invest their intellect and energy in advancing the agriculture sector. He advised them

to establish their own quality checking labs with full support of the administration. He made out that our lands are more promising than that of Europe.

The committee took stock of implementation of centrally sponsored projects besides assessing status of utilization of funds.

The Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta apprised the Committee of various development works taken up under AMRUT and other centrally sponsored schemes.

While interacting with the media, Chairman of the committee said that the purpose of their visit is to review the pace and status of ongoing centrally sponsored projects. He expressed satisfaction over the status of execution of works taken up so far saying that this centrally located multilevel car parking Janglat Mandi having capacity of

MP's Panel Reviews Status Of Centrally Sponsored Projects

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A 31 member Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Chairman Jagdambika Pal Monday visited the multi level car parking Janglat Mandi and sewerage plant Pahalgam.

The committee took stock of implementation of centrally sponsored projects besides assessing status of utilization of funds.

The Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta apprised the Committee of various development works taken up under AMRUT and other centrally sponsored schemes.

200 car parking will ensure proper traffic management besides minimizing road congestion in the district.



JKFA Announce Super-Division Fixtures, To Start From August 25

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Monday announced the commencement of Annual League Football Tournament 2021-22 with the Super-Division league set to

Annual League Football Tournament 2021-22									
Organized by:- DFA Srinagar (J&K Football Association)									
In collaboration with J&K Sports Council									
Supper - Div. Matches									
M.No	Date	Time	Club/Team	V/s	Club/Team	Pool	Venue		
1	25/8/21	03:00PM	IFC Kashmir	v/s	Qamarwari FC	B	Synthetic Turf		
2	25/8/21	5:00 PM	IFC Kashmir	v/s	Sher-e-Khas FC	A	Synthetic Turf		
3	26/8/21	3:00 PM	Young Rangrath FC	v/s	Court Road FC	C	Synthetic Turf		
4	26/8/21	5:00PM	Towheed FC	v/s	Young Iqbal FC	F	Synthetic Turf		
5	27/8/21	3:00 PM	Kashmir United FC	v/s	Galaxy FC	E	Synthetic Turf		
6	27/8/21	5:00PM	Syed Tajuddin FC	v/s	Hamdaniya FC	D	Synthetic Turf		
7	28/8/21	3:00 PM	Old City FC	v/s	IFC Kashmir	B	Synthetic Turf		
8	28/8/21	5:00PM	Solina Sports	v/s	Young Rangrath FC	C	Synthetic Turf		

Organizing Secretary
Wali Mohammad
Ph:-7885684336
Face book page:- J&K Football Association

kick off from August 25. The Super-Division will see the participation of 14 football clubs from Srinagar, with the matches set to be played at Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

The participating Super-Division teams include: IFC Kashmir, Qamarwari FC, Sher-e-Khas FC, FC Views, Young Rangrath FC, Court Road FC, Towheed FC, Young Iqbal FC, Kashmir United FC, Galaxy FC, Syed Tajuddin FC, Hamdaniya FC, Old City FC and Solina Sports. The opening day fixtures will see IFC Kashmir take on Qamarwari FC at 3:00 pm, while Sher-e-Khas FC will lock horns with FC Views at 5:00 pm. The Super-Division is being organised by JKFA's District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

The DFA Srinagar organises Valley-based league tournaments including Premier Division, Super-Division, A-Division and B-Division annually, and will be announcing dates regarding the same in the coming days.

11th District Srinagar Taekwondo Championship Begins

Observer News Services

SRINAGAR: The Taekwondo Association of District Srinagar (TADS) on Monday kicked off the opening ceremony of 11th District Srinagar Taekwondo Championships under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association (JKTA) at Doon International School, Srinagar.

from District Srinagar participated," the J&K Taekwondo Association said in an official statement.

"On the occasion of auspicious opening ceremony, Nuzhat Gul Secretary, J&K Sports Council was the Chief Guest, while Bashir Ahmad Bhat Joint Sec. J&K Sports Council joined as Guest of Honour," the statement added.



The event aims at the development of this Olympic sport at grass-root level across all corners of Srinagar District. The Gold medallists of all age groups will be selected for upcoming State Championship.

"Every athlete of the District be it junior or senior was having an enormous craze in their eyes for the said event. Around 250 athletes

"Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar, Manager Gindun Stadium, and Chairman Doon International School presided over as Special Guests.

"The event will be held under the supervision of Nissar Hussain (Vice President, JKTA) and the closing ceremony will be held on August, 24 at the Doon International School," the statement concluded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of Son has been wrongly spelled in school records as Furkaan Fayaz while his correct name is Furqan Fayaz which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file shi/her objection in the office of the Islamia Model School Pohru Peth within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. **FAYAZ AHAMD**
F/O FURQAN FAYAZ

SULT

ایک ضروری اطلاع ڈپٹی کمشنر صاحب کپورہ سے مودبانہ گزارش

میں مسیٰ حلیم گنائی ولد قادر گنائی ساکنہ موضع بمہ ڈوگر ماگام تحصیل ہندوارہ ضلع کپورہ جناب ڈپٹی کمشنر صاحب سے مودبانہ گزارش کرتا ہے کہ میں اور میرا عیال پچھلے تین سال سے پانی کے ناتے ترس رہے ہیں۔ جبکہ میں نے تقریباً پچاس بار ڈی سی صاحب ہندوارہ کے پاس بھی درخواست پیش کی ہے مگر تمام PHE ملازمین مجھ پر طرف سے نظر انداز کرتے رہے۔ اور گاؤں میں ہر ملازم اپنے اثر رسوخ پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ اور سائل کو ہر طرف سے غریب شخص دیکھ کر نظر انداز کیا جاتا ہے۔ لہذا میں بذریعہ اخباریہ پیغام جناب ڈی سی صاحب تک پہنچانہ چاہتا ہوں کہ خدا راہ مجھے انصاف دیا جائے۔

میں یہی امید رکھوں گا کہ جناب والا جلد از جلد انصاف کرے گا۔

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Kashmir's 'Special' Cricketer Set To Make International Debut

Firdous Parry

ANANTNAG: Feroz Ahmad Ganie, 30, a resident of Panjpora, Sangam (Bijbehara) of south Kashmir's Anantnag district has been selected for the Indian Disabled Cricket Team (IDCT) for the upcoming International series against Bangladesh.

Ganie was picked by the selectors after his outstanding performances in the recently concluded '4-days probable cricket selection camp' at Hyderabad, organized by Board of Disabled Cricket Association (BDCA).

"I was called by IDCT for trials that were held in Hyderabad from August 4 to August 8 and I performed well in that, and later when the team was announced, I was in the list," said the jubilant Ganie.

Ganie was interested in sports since childhood especially in cricket. He used to spend most of his days in the cricket field with his friends and peers.

But in 2014, something unfortunate happened to Ganie: he met an accident while travelling in his car. Fortunately, he survived the accident but his right foot was left seriously injured. After multiple surgeries he was able to walk again but with a limp.

For that moment Ganie, a special-abled man now, thought his world, his desires and his aims were over. But destiny had other plans for Ganie!

"I was bedridden at home for almost two years. I lost all hope to play cricket again," said Ganie. But with the support of his family and friends, he was again able to stand up and play cricket.

This accident was a turning point in his career and he calls it a blessing in disguise.

"Should I call it my misfortune or a blessing, this accident gave me an opportunity to play in the J&K disabled cricket team," said Ganie.

It was through the guidance of one of his well-wishers that he came to know about the J&K disabled cricket team, and after getting in touch with them, there was no turning back for Ganie.

It was in 2016, that he represented J&K disabled cricket team in at Jharkhand for the first time, and overwhelmed his opponents.

ments with both his bat and ball. "Team J&K played well and first time reached to semi-final. I played three matches and won two Man of the Match awards," recalls Ganie.

He was called to Bangalore for IPL trials but was not selected because of his foot injuries. After that, he played many national

Ganie gives credit for his success to his sponsors UIS and KSB.

"I did not get any support from sports association and I used to play outside the state at my own expenses. But yes, my sponsors supported me right from the beginning and are supporting me even today," he said.

Ganie wants the government



tournaments.

"By this, I finally understood what my goal was (that is, to play at international level)," he said.

He started playing cricket from his home ground and then Kashmir Sports Bijbehara (KSB) selected him in their team. Ganie says that he got all the support from family, friends and teammates, and that he had to work hard in order to reach here.

"In Kashmir, there are not separate tournaments or leagues for disabled cricketers. So, I used to only play in normal cricket tournaments at district and club level," he said.

In the Kashmir-based leagues, he played through KSB in South Kashmir and United International Sports (UIS) in North Kashmir.

to provide platforms and organize cricket leagues for disabled cricketers. "We would produce many good cricketers who can play at a bigger level," he said.

"Always stay mentally fit and don't think we are weak," suggests Ganie for the disabled sports-persons.

"For you will not be able to do anything if you are mentally disabled," he said.

Alongside Ganie another specially-abled cricketer, Nayeem Ahmad Malla, a resident of Aarath village of Budgam district and a shawl seller by profession, was selected for Indian Cricket team to play in the International series against Bangladesh.

The series is scheduled to be held from September 12.

I WAS BEDRIDDEN AT HOME for almost two years. I lost all hope to play cricket again," said Ganie. But with the support of his family and friends, he was again able to stand up and play cricket.

Fawad Alam 124 Lifts Pakistan On Day 3 Of 2nd Test Against West Indies

Agencies

KINGSTON: Pakistan batsman Fawad Alam resumed an innings which began on day one and completed a century on day three of the second cricket Test against the West Indies, guiding his team to a strong position in a severely rain-affected match.

Fawad was 124 not out when Pakistan declared its first innings at 302-9 shortly after tea on Sunday. The West Indies lost openers Kraigg Brathwaite and Kieran Powell and Roston Chase before stumps when it was 39-3 with Nkrumah Bonner 18 not out and nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph yet to score.

Fawad had been 76 when he was forced to retire hurt on Friday with what appeared to be a severe and recurring cramp in his left leg. With bad light curtailing the first day's play, then rain washing out all of the second day and the first session of the third day, Fawad,

rehydrated and recovered, had a long wait before his innings could continue.



"It wasn't easy," Fawad said. "The conditions were challenging.

"On day one it was hot and we were 3-2. We needed to come back in this test match, we had to build partnerships as me and Babar (Azam, who made 75) did on the first day." Pakistan resumed at 212-4 Sunday and had slumped to 231-7 when Fawad made his way back to the crease. He reached his fifth test century — all five coming in different countries — from 186 balls with 16 fours, becoming the anchor of the remainder of the Pakistan innings. He found some support from Hasan Ali, who was run out for 9, and Shaheen who made 19 and added 35 for the ninth wicket.

Jayden Seales claimed the first Pakistan wicket to fall Sunday, trapping the overnight batsman Faheem Ashraf lbw for 26 in the fourth over of the second new ball. The ball appeared to be passing across Faheem but straightened late and beat the inside edge of the bat.

Jason Holder then dismissed Mohammad Rizwan and Nauman Ali (0) with consecutive balls in the 92nd over. Rizwan (31) fell lbw to a delivery which cut back late and struck him high on the pad. He called for a review which upheld the umpire's call as replays showed the ball hitting the top of leg stump.

Nauman was surprised first ball by a delivery which rose sharply from a close to a length and took an outside edge before carrying to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva.

Hasan fell attempting a misjudged second run, beaten by a superb piece of fielding by Nkrumah Bonner and Shaheen gloved a catch from a short ball from Seales to Powell at short leg. Seales finished with 3-31 while Kemar Roach, who bowled 27 overs, took 3-68 and Holder 2-46 from 23 overs.

Shaheen dislodged Brathwaite and Powell in a fiery opening spell. The left-handed Powell fell lbw to Shaheen for the second time in the series, beaten by a ball which straightened and took him on the knee roll in front of middle and off, making a review futile.

Brathwaite was bowled by a fast, in-swinging yorker which beat the West Indies captain for pace. The West Indies had improved from 9-2 to 34 when Chase (10) was bowled by Faheem. After several balls went away from the right-handed Chase, Faheem brought one back which kept low and passed between bat and pad.

The West Indies lead the two-match series 1-0 after winning a tense first test by one wicket.

Sports Infrastructure Worth Rs 202 Cr Being Developed Across J&K: DYSS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director, Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K, Gazanfar Ali on Monday chaired an important meeting of officers and engineers to review progress of various works on different playing

While going through various slides of the PowerPoint presentation, which was based on the completed works and the projects in pipeline, Gazanfar Ali said that the Government is committed to provide high standard facilities of play and recreation to the youth of J&K at their



courts and sports infrastructure being developed by the Department across Jammu & Kashmir.

While expressing serious concerns over delay in completion of various playfields due to COVID-19 pandemic, Ali directed the Engineering wing of J&K Sports Council as well as officials of the DYSS that the timeline for completion of works should be followed in letter and spirit and any laxity in the same would be viewed very seriously.

He further stated that the completed and to be completed sports infrastructure worth Rs 202 Cr would give boost to the sports activities in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

doorsteps.

He stressed upon building such sports facilities as per the laid down norms.

Joint Director YSS Bashir Ahmed, Deputy Director YSS Jatinder Mishra, Deputy Director Planning YSS Ravi Kumar, Executive Engineer Construction Division (Kashmir) Er Hilal Ahmed Shiekh, Executive Engineer Construction Division (Jammu) Er Davinder Singh, Accounts Officer of the Department Of YS&S Mohammad Hussain, DYSSO Srinagar Balbir Singh and other officers and officials of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K were present on the occasion.

Mark Wood Ruled Out Of England Vs India Third Test With Jarred Shoulder

Press Trust of India

LONDON: England pacer Mark Wood was on Monday ruled out of the third Test against India with a "jarred" shoulder, dealing another blow to the under-fire hosts.

with the England medical team. The 31-year-old will be assessed at the end of this Test match."

Injured senior pacer Stuart Broad has already been ruled out of the series. The team is also without the services of speedster Jofra Archer,



Wood had hurt his shoulder while fielding during the second Test at Lord's with India going on to win the game by 151 runs to take 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

"England seamer Mark Wood has been ruled out of the LV= Insurance third Test against India with a jarred right shoulder," the ECB said in a statement.

"Wood sustained the injury on the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's and will not be fit to play at Emerald Headingley starting on Wednesday.

"He will remain with the squad in Leeds and will continue his rehab

who is also injured, and all-rounder Ben Stokes, who has taken an indefinite break from the game to address his mental wellbeing.

Wood had bowled well in the Lord's Test, picking up five wickets.

Seamer Saqib Mahmood, who was called up as cover for Broad, could be handed a Test debut. The 24-year-old has played seven ODIs and nine T20s. Other seam options in the squad include Craig Overton, James Anderson, Ollie Robinson and Sam Curran.

India and England take on each other in the third Test, starting here on Wednesday.

Afghanistan Cricket Board Gets New Chairman Post-Taliban Takeover

Press Trust of India

KABUL: Former chief Azizullah Fazli was on Sunday named act-

oversee ACB's leadership and course of action for the upcoming competitions," the ACB tweeted.

Speaking to PTI, ACB CEO Hamid



ing chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), the first new appointment in the governing body since Taliban's takeover of the strife-torn nation. Fazli earlier served as ACB chairman from September 2018 to July 2019.

"Former ACB Chairman @AzizullahFazli has been re-appointed as ACB's acting Chairman. He will

Shinwari said earlier this week that he expected cricketing activities to go on as usual since Taliban supports the game.

It remains to be seen how Fazli and Co handle the logistics for Afghanistan's next international assignment against Pakistan in Sri Lanka, with commercial flights suspended at Kabul airport.