

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P4 THINK

## J&K GOVT SITS ON FRA CLAIM FORMS

For almost one year I have been constantly writing on Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 commonly known as Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA). I have explained different aspects of the...

P5 THINK

## DESIGNED FOR DEUL

Twitter has come under increasing public scrutiny for facilitating hostile communication online. While the micro-blogging site promotes itself as providing a "free" and "safe" space to talk, critics have highlighted the company's inept response to repeated...



P8 SPORTS

## SOUTH AFRICA PAGE GREAT DALE STEYN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Resembling a work of art when in full flight with his wicked swing and toe-crushing yorkers, all-time pace great Dale Steyn on Tuesday announced retirement...



## Quote!

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.  
—George Santanaya

## NEWS DIGEST

### BSF, ITBP Get New Chiefs

**NEW DELHI:** Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer, on Tuesday took over as the new director general (DG) of the Border Security Force while his batch-mate Sanjay Arora assumed charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). • [More On P6](#)

### Afghan Teenager Arrested In Kathua

**KATHUA:** The Jammu and Kashmir police Tuesday detained a 17-year-old Afghan boy in Kathua district, officials said. They said Abdul Rehman, son of Abdul Rashid Ahmed, was apprehended near a Covid testing centre. • [More On P6](#)

### BSF Man Found Dead In Rajouri

**JAMMU:** A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on Tuesday was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Rakesh Kumar of BSF 69 Battalion was found dead under mysterious. • [More On P6](#)

### Leopard Caught Alive In Manasbal

**SRINAGAR:** The Wildlife department on Tuesday caught a leopard alive in Manasbal area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The residents of Chashma Manasbal on Tuesday morning observed the movement of a leopard. • [More On P6](#)

### PDD Lineman Dies Of Electric Shock

**SRINAGAR:** A Power Development Department (PDD) employee died on Tuesday after receiving an electric shock in Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. PDD lineman Mohammad Amin of Sodipora village received an. • [More On P6](#)

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# Security Situation In J&K Has Improved: LG

## Says Govt Committed To Hold Polls After Delimitation Exercise Concludes

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved as compared to previous years, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday and asserted that the government is committed to providing security to panchayat members and extending every possible help to them to carry out their duty.

Sinha made the remarks at an event organised as part of parliamentary outreach programme for the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), which was attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and several Union ministers.

"The security situation has improved now compared to previous years.... There have been fewer incidents of killing of panchayat leaders this year compared to last year," he said at a press conference after the event. He assured panchayat members that they will be provided security



LG Manoj Sinha (L) with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla (R) at an event in Srinagar's SKICC on Tuesday.

and enough measures have already been taken in that direction.

In his speech at the event, Sinha said he was aware of the problems faced by elected representatives.

"The security problems here are general. We are trying to provide a secure environment

by using all means available to us. I assure you that your accommodation, security and other things will be taken care of. We will surely do whatever it takes to make the Panchayati Raj arrangement stronger and I am duty bound for that," he said. Speaking at • [More On P6](#)

**FAROOQ SAHAB RAISED SOME POINTS** quite emotionally, most of which is true. But I have not understood one thing till now, even as I know there are some difficulties, that for some reason or the other, this was not implemented here. I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whose directions, the three-tier Panchayati Raj was established in J&K."

## J&K Sees 166 New Covid Cases

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 166 more cases of novel coronavirus while no fresh fatality due to the deadly infection was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 148 new cases of Covid-19 while the remaining 18 cases were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 325419.

Srinagar, they said, recorded highest 74 new cases of coronavirus followed by Baramulla with 27 cases, Budgam 21, Bandipora 10, Pulwama 6, Kupwara 4 and Anantnag, Ganderbal and Kulgam 2 each fresh cases of virus. No new case of Covid-19 was reported from Shopian district.

In the winter capital, officials said, Ramban reported 6, Jammu 4, Doda 5, • [More On P6](#)

## Birla Advises Par Panels To Visit Remote Areas In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday advised the parliamentary standing committees to undertake regular study tours of far-flung areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh as well as the northeastern states and suggest possible solutions for mitigation of grievances of local people.

Birla stated this during his week-long visit to the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as part of the parliamentary



outreach programme for strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions.

Addressing panchayat leaders from across Jammu

and Kashmir, Birla said with the holding of local elections in the union territory, democracy has strengthened at the • [More On P6](#)

## 'Committed To Provide All Basic Amenities To People'

The Centre is committed to providing all basic amenities to the citizens of the country, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel has said. During an interaction with officials in Ganderbal district on Monday, Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated numerous schemes with respect to housing, health, drinking water, cooking gas and electricity so that the benefits trickle down to the last man standing in the queue. • [More On P6](#)

## Rs 100 Crore Worth Timber Rots Due To Official 'Apathy'

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Signifying the messy state of affairs in the forest department and the State Forest Corporation (SFC), thousands of timber logs worth Rs 100 crores have been left to decay in several forest ranges across Budgam district depriving people of their sanctioned share of timber for the past many months.

The given inordinate delay by the SFC has caused an impairing financial damage to the state exchequer, sources told Kashmir Observer Tuesday. The issue, they said, has been compounded by the Forest Department followed by SFC's failure to lift the naturally fallen trees in Budgam's Pir Panjal range,



Two boys walk through a forest area in Budgam district. KO file photo, Abid Bhat

creating scarcity of the timber in the region.

Despite the growing demand, the thousands of feet of fallen trees in the Raithan Forest Range in Yusmarg, Sukhnaag Forest Range and

Doodhganga Forest Range in Doodhpathri, were not lifted, auctioned and were subsequently dumped in these three forest ranges instead. "The trees had been uprooted during a • [More On P6](#)

## HM Launches Portal For Industrial Development In J&K

### Says Rs 50,000 Crore To Be Invested In UT After Launch Of New Scheme

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that Rs 50,000 crore is expected to be invested in Jammu and Kashmir after the unveiling of a new central scheme for industries.

Launching a web portal for registration of industrial units under the 'New Central Sector Scheme' in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said a new dawn of investment and industrial development will begin in the Union Territory with this initiative.

"Today, the most attractive industrial policy of the country is here. Under this policy of the

Modi government, investment of more than Rs 50,000 crore will come in Jammu and Kashmir and under this, there will be all-inclusive, all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The scheme aims to give fresh thrust to the industry and services-led development of Jammu and Kashmir with emphasis on job creation, skill development and sustainable development by attracting new investment and nurturing the existing ones.

Shah said the responsibility for the development of Jammu and Kashmir is not only of the local people but of everyone in the country.

"I request the country's industrialists to come here and take advantage of this scheme and invest in the UT and make it one of the most important industrial states in the country and move towards making it • [More On P6](#)

## Will Sweep Polls, Form Next Govt In J&K: Dr Farooq

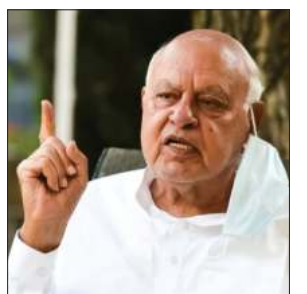
### Regrets Non-Participation In 2018 Panchayat Polls

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday asserted his party will win the next assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, indicating for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 that his party would participate in the polls.

"We will win and I am telling you this with authority that if they conduct polls in a free and fair manner, then the National Conference will be the biggest party here," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event titled "Parliamentary outreach programme for the empowerment Panchayati Raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir".

The NC chief, who represents the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, however, regretted his party's



non-participation in the 2018 panchayat polls and the 2019 Block Development Council elections.

"Our party did not contest the polls and I regret it. We should have (contested) and we will in the future, God willing," the veteran politician said.

Advising Panchayati Raj Institutions members, with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also present on the dais, Abdullah asked them to remain in touch • [More On P6](#)

## Police, Army Reaches Out To Militant Families

Press Trust Of India

**SHOPIAN:** In a first, the top army commander in the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday met members of around 80 families whose children have joined various militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir and urged them to bring their wards back in whatever way possible.

"I request you to pull out your children from the

swamp called terrorism. I leave it up to you how you pull them out but please do it," General-Officer-Commanding of the Srinagar-based Chinari Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey told the families at a function held at a stadium in this highly-volatile district of south Kashmir.

This is for the first time that the senior most army officer in the valley has met in person the • [More On P6](#)

# Cash N Carry

## Super Store

**Jawahir Nagar Srinagar.**  
**9622904015**



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از نیابت قلم اباد  
فیصل رشید ڈار و عدنان رشید دارالادان عبدالرشید  
اسرا کہ خودی ماور بحر اوعطا یگی  
PSC سرٹفکیٹ تحت SRO 294  
استہتر بربراد گامی ہر خاص وعام  
حاجہ منجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل درختہ نہیں دیو کہ جس اسلسلے میں پکاری حلت سے رپوت بشمول  
یکار طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عاں سے کراں ملتی متع خودی دار، رہاں نہیں پڑے ر ہارو کہہ پڑے فرو پڑے مشعل  
رٹفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو تدر اعترض ہو تو دار پناہڈیاں اعترض ساتھ ایم ایدر دفتر نہیں پیش  
کرے معیار گرنے بعد کو کسی بھی تدر اعترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
نائب تحصیلدار  
sult

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

**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been received from one.      Shri : Javid Ahmad Khan    S/o: Ab. Gafar Khan R/o: Lalgam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 5301 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Srinagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3224

Dated 31/08/2021  
mcb



Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

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

**NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been received from one, Shri : Syed Saroor Ahmad S/o: Syed Zia ud din R/o: Deharmuna Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 5085 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Magamgal Bagh .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3222  
Dated 31/08/2021  
mcb

Assistant Regional Transport  
officer Budgam Kashmir





## Navin Inaugurates Sale Of Vegetable Seedlings At Lalmandi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Navin

Principal Secretary said that seedlings of different crops produced on scientific lines are more disease resistant and productive, which ultimately makes venture



Kumar Choudhary, Tuesday inaugurated the sale of seedlings of different vegetable crops produced purely on scientific lines in High Tech Polygreen Houses at Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The sale witnessed tremendous enthusiasm of people with overwhelming participation, not only from Srinagar but also from far-flung areas of the valley.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, Principal Secretary said that the department is committed to promote kitchen garden and backyard vegetable culture in the urban areas of valley and a number of steps have already been taken in this regard.

of vegetable production economically viable. He asked the kitchen garden lovers to avail this opportunity and take maximum benefit of all such initiatives offered by the department.

Joint Director Agriculture Kashmir Farms, Syed Waseem Ahmad Shah, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Shahid Iqbal, Joint Director Apiculture and Mushrooms, Mohammad Syed and other senior officers of the department were also present.

Later, Principal Secretary AP&FWD presided over a farewell organised in honour of 5 Agriculture Officers of Kashmir division on their superannuation today.

## Training of Senior, Junior Assistants Concludes At JK IMPARD

SRINAGAR: Director General, J&K IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat, Tuesday chaired the joint valedictory function of two training courses of two months' duration. These courses included "Secretariat Assistant Training Course for Senior Assistants" and "Foundation Course for Junior Assistants" which were attended by 102 Senior Assistants and 110 Junior Assistants of various department of Jammu and Kashmir government.

In his valedictory address, Director General said that J&K IMPARD is determined to fulfill government's commitment of training its frontline functionaries to the best of capacity and capabilities. He informed the participants that the Institute has signed an MoU with National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) under which officers of J&K will be deputed to various training institutions of the country. Presently, the first ever batch of 30 officers is undergoing training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)-Mussouri, he added.

He also informed that IMPARD has been entrusted with the task of developing District Good Governance Index on the basis of which the administration of various districts of whole country would be compared. He added that IMPARD has also been assigned the task of carrying out Transparency Audit of various departments so that the overall governance system is improved for the benefit of common man. He said that infrastructural development would include constructing a large computer lab for the benefit of trainees of various training courses to be conducted in IMPARD and presently a newly constructed Block will serve as separate Secretariat Assistant Training Block within IMPARD.

He expressed gratitude to the Chief Secretary for extending complete support to IMPARD activities.

## 12 Commercial Vehicles Delivered To Beneficiaries Under 'Mumkin' Scheme

SRINAGAR: Continuing the efforts undertaken to provide sustainable livelihood to the unemployed enthusiastic youth of Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the Chairman, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Tuesday handed over the keys of highly-subsidized 12 commercial vehicles under 'MUMKIN' scheme to the beneficiaries in a function held at District Employment and Counselling Centre here. The Director Employment Kashmir, Nissar Ahmad Wani was also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the administration is working very hard with its vision and strategy to provide better employment avenues for youth of Srinagar through systematic livelihood generation programmes. While complimenting the beneficiaries, the DC emphasised upon them to work with passion and dedication to earn decent livelihood with dignity. He also advised them to work with determination for making profitable use of the vehicle in the commercial sector.

The DC added that providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to the unemployed youth is among top most priority of the Lieutenant Governor led administration. He observed that Mumkin scheme has made possible (Mumkin) that any unemployed youth desirous to earn dignified livelihood not only for their family but to become job providers for others through a business chain.

He stressed on youth to work hard and learn to make themselves physically and mentally prepared to meet any challenges in their lives with strength and fight out unemployment with a positive mindset. He said that the youth shall lead from the front and become job providers instead of job seekers.

The DC asked youth to come forward and avail the maximum benefits of self-employment schemes like 'Mumkin' launched by the Government which have been designed specially for their sustainable livelihood. He informed that the government has rolled out multiple self-employment generation schemes and the administration will handhold youth who are desirous to establish their own income generating units.

## MoS Prahlad Urges People To Participate In Developmental Activities

Visits Tangnar Water Supply Scheme AT Pantha Chowk

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel Tuesday held an

Government are being implemented at fast pace.

While giving the example of Jal Jeevan Mission, he said that such schemes are being executed while keeping future in

tion in the region, he expressed his hope that the UT administration's target of 100 percent tap water for every household till 2022 will be achieved in set timeline.



interactive session with Panchayat representatives and Paani Samiti members here at Pantha Chowk to discuss the status of Jal Jeevan Mission in their respective areas.

During his interaction, the Minister observed that the role and responsibility of Panchayat representatives will increase as the schemes and plans of the

mind so that the next generation would take pride at the facilities which would be at their disposal during their time.

He urged people to actively participate in all the developmental activities so that better facilities could be provided to them.

While congratulating the J&K administration for providing tap water to large popula-

On the occasion, the Minister also visited 10 Million Gallons per Day (10 MGD) Tangnar Water Supply Scheme, Pantha Chowk here and inspected the functioning of the filtration plant.

The Minister inspected different sections including Alum Tanks, Chlorination unit, and water testing laboratories at the water filtration plant.

## Handicapped Association Holds Protest, Demands Release Of Merit List

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Handicapped Association (JKHA) Tuesday held a protest demonstration at press colony, demanding the release of the list of candidates shortlisted for class fourth posts.

Talking to media in Press Colony, state president of JKHA, Abdul Rashid Bhat said that the interviews and exams for the class fourth posts had already been finalised and shortlisted for all categories without handicapped category.


"We don't understand why our posts have not been shortlisted.

Only SSRB knows the reason," Bhat said.


"Our well educated youth are jobless and are disappointed as SSRB always does partiality with us," he said. "We appeal government to look into the matter at an earliest so that our worries will come to an end."

Noble Mission School Qalamabad Zone Mawer (7006089518/6005917716)				
Salary statement of staff members.				
1.	Ab Hamid Najar	BA IDCA	Salary 5500/-	Principal
2.	Imtiyaz Ahmad	M SC B Ed	Salary 4000	Teacher
3.	Tanveer Ahmad	M SC Salary	4000	Teacher
4.	Rehana Rashid	M SC	Salary 4000	Teacher
5.	Reyaz Ahmad	M A	Salary 4000	Teacher
6.	Rahila Wani	M A Bd	Salary 4000	Vice Principal
7.	Ab Hamid Dar	B SC	Salary 6500	Teacher
8.	Sayima Gani	M A	Salary 3500	Teacher
9.	Rehana Akther	M A	Salary 3500	Teacher
10.	Bashir Ahmad	B A	Salary 3500	Teacher
11.	Rugaya Hilal	12th	Salary 2500	Teacher
12.	Reziya Mushtaq	10th	Salary 2000	Sweeper
13.	Altat Ahmad	10th	Salary 2000	Peon

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



Whereas an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Gh Mohi uddin Mir R/o Soibugh Budgam (Transferor) of Maruti alto vehicle bearing registration Number JK04B-1699 Chassis No. 01570633 Engine No. 4346440 Model 2010 in favour of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi S/o Mohd Shaban Sofi R/o Housing Colony Bagimethab Srinagar. Now it is therefore notified for the general information that objection, if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.



Sd/- Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER FOR MACADAM WORKS**

e- NIT No. 60 of 2021-22 DATED: 27/08/2021.

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Restoration of Sopore Bandipora Road by way of P/L 50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semi Dense with 6 mm thick Seal Coat. (Machine mix to be laid with Paver).	77.50 Incl. C/o Bitumen	1600	20 Days	AR	AAV with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner
2	Upgradation/Restoration of Ajas Inner Links and S.K.Payeen by way of P/L 75 mm thick Wet Mix Macadam ,50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semi Dense with 6 mm thick Seal Coat. Machine mix to be laid with Paver).	29.13 Incl. C/o Bitumen	1100	10 Days	AR	AAV with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner
3	Restoration of Plan Roads of Bandipora Town Roads by way of P/L 50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semi Dense with 6 mm thick Seal Coat. (Machine mix to be laid with Paver).	25.22 Incl. C/o Bitumen	1100	10 Days	AR	AAV with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner
4	Upgradation Jhal Abad Link (Kunnan Inner Link) by way of P/L 75 mm thick Wet Mix Macadam ,50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semi Dense with 6 mm thick Seal Coat. (Machine mix to be laid with Paver).	10.00 Incl. C/o Bitumen	600	07 Days	AR	AAV with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner
5	Upgradation of Malla Mohalla and Bhat Mohalla at Ayatmullah Bandipora by way of P/L WBM,G-II, 75 mm thick Wet Mix Macadam ,50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semi Dense with 6 mm thick Seal Coat. (Machine mix to be laid with Paver).	8.45 Incl. C/o Bitumen	600	07 Days	PRI Grants	AAV with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner

**Position of funds Available**  
**Position of TS: Accorded**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27/08/2021 from 06.00 PM.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/08/2021 from 06.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	27/08/2021 from 06.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02/09/2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02/09/2021 at 4.30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan** in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora** (tender inviting authority) in MH 0059 and Bid security Declaration as per Annexure A" or as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of cost) within the period as specified in SBD.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora** (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No. EE/R&B/Bpr/  
Dated: 27/08/2021  
DIPK-7580/21  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Bandipora

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

## This Day in History

- 1939 - Adolf Hitler orders extermination of mentally ill through the "T4 Euthanasia Program," arguing that wartime "was the best time for the elimination of the incurably ill"
- 1939 - Physical Review publishes 1st paper to deal with "black holes"
- 1939 - Switzerland proclaims neutrality at the outbreak of WWII
- 1939 - World War II starts when Germany invades Poland by attacking the Free City of Danzig
- 1939 - Last day of 1st-class cricket in England before the declaration of war against Germany; great slow left-arm Hedley Verity finishes with amazing figures of 7 for 9 v Sussex to give Yorkshire the County Championship
- 1942 - German troops land on Taman peninsula
- 1943 - Chiang Kai-shek again becomes Chairman of the Nationalist Government of China
- 1947 - With a victory by Armed in the Washington Park Handicap, Calumet Farm becomes the first stable to surpass \$1 million in annual earnings; leads all owners with total earnings of \$1,402,436.
- 1950 - 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines
- 1956 - Indian state of Tripura becomes a territory
- 1961 - 1st conference of neutral countries held in Belgrade
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1961 - The Eritrean War of Independence officially begins with the shooting of the Ethiopian police by Hamid Idris Awate
- 1962 - 12,000 die in an earthquake in western Iran
- 1962 - United Nations announces Earth's population has hit 3 billion
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1965 - Indo-Pakistani conflict - Pakistani counter-attack (Operation Grand Slam).
- 1968 - Earthquake destroys Ferdwos Persia, 2,000 killed
- 1969 - Colonel Muammar Gaddafi deposes King Idris in the Libyan revolution
- and Authoritarian Leader
- Muammar Gaddafi
- 1970 - Failed assassination attempt on Jordanian king Hussein
- 1974 - Train accident at Zagreb Yugoslavia, 121 killed
- 1974 - The SR-71 Blackbird sets (and holds) the record for flying from New York to London: 1 hour 54 minutes and 56.4 seconds.
- 1975 - All political parties forbidden in Bangladesh

## From KO Archives

## 6 Key Kargil Posts Under Pak Control

Pak Troops Can Hit Drass Town, Close Srinagar-Leh Highway Says MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: A Rajya Sabha member, R K Anand today claimed that contrary to government's claims, Pakistani forces were still in occupation of six key Indian positions in Kargil sector including Point 5353 in Mushkoh valley.

Accusing the army authorities of indulging in cover up operations, Anand demanded a five-member all party parliamentary committee visit to Pt.5353 to ascertain the factual position.

He claimed that besides Pt.5353, five other key features Point Aftab--1, Point Saddle Ridge, Point Bunker Ridge, Shangruti and Dhalunag in Mushkoh valley and Kaksar region were still being occupied by Pakistani forces and from these posts, Pakistani troops could target the strategic Srinagar-Leh highway.

Anand claimed that reference to any grid map of the area drawn by Pakistani and Indian generals in the wake of 1972 Shimla Agreement would clearly show that contrary to claims made by Director General of military operations officers, Pt.5353 was 300 to 500 meters within Indian side of the LoC and not on no mans land as claimed. The defense erected by the Pakistani forces on the Pt.5353 means that the enemy forces can hit Drass town, its military helipad as well as paralyse movement of army and civilian convoys on Srinagar-Leh highway between Zoji-la Pass and Drass, the MP elected with JMM support told newsmen here.

The MP said while army authorities were now claiming that the peak was on the LoC and formed part of features 9 which Indian and Pakistani officials had agreed not to occupy under the 1972 agreement, Indian troops had made an unsuccessful bid on it on May 18, 1999 which was given up after suffering 18 casualties.

Anand released at the press conference army correspondence between the attacking platoon commander Major Navneet Mehta and his commanding officer on why the attack went wrong.

The MP said the Point 5353 was the most strategic and highest feature dominating the Mushkoh valley and had been occupied Kargil posts a daring helicopter borne operation overseen by then Srinagar based Corp Commander and army chief designate Lt.Gen. S Padmanabhan in 1992-93, when during the height of militancy Pakistani troops had tried to disturb convoys of Leh-Srinagar highway. Anand said Indian forces during their occupation of Point 5353 had in written reports indicated that the feature gave them total dominance of the area including means to disrupt Pakistani communication links to major Pak controlled Kashmir towns like Gultari, Shasam and even areas closer to Baltistan.

(Kashmir Observer, September 01, 2000)



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### K O V I E W

## Kashmir fallout

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday expressed concern over the evolving security situation in the region following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. He warned that the “anti-national” forces should not take advantage of the changed scenario and promote cross-border terrorism. Delivering the third Balramji Dass Tandon memorial lecture virtually, the defence minister said India was alert to the new security challenges and also mindful of the Chinese threat.

It is true that the Taliban control of Afghanistan has markedly altered the security climate of the region. All neighbouring countries fear some kind of fallout. At the same time, the Taliban has assured the world that it won't allow its soil to be used for carrying out attacks against any other countries. But the world remains chary of taking the Taliban assurances on their face value. So, the weeks and months ahead of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan would be crucial.

Pakistan has asked the world not to abandon the Taliban as this could once again throw Afghanistan into chaos. The country's national security advisor Moeed Yusuf even went to the extent of saying that the west faces another 9/11 if the Taliban were not recognized, a statement that has since generated some controversy.

Truth is that the situation remains very fluid and its future direction is difficult to predict. An Afghanistan that is stable and at peace with itself is in everyone's interest. But the chances of this happening anytime soon appear slim. In the event that Afghanistan once again becomes a battleground between its neighbours, the consequent instability in the country could have far-reaching security implications.

Kashmir is regarded as one of the places that could be most impacted by a Taliban controlled Afghanistan. Experts in South Asia predict a renewed phase of militancy in the former state, already grappling with three decades of turmoil. But would such a scenario play out again? There is no telling as yet. But as the defence minister has also indicated the Taliban victory could create a challenging security situation for the government. It very well can. Over the last two years, even though the militancy in Kashmir has been low-key, and a large number of militants have been killed, the militancy is very much alive and kicking. It is true that the militancy can receive fresh inspiration and impetus from the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Could this be pre-empted? Difficult to say. But the government shouldn't only tackle the situation arising from the Afghan fallout through the usual iron-fist approach but also urgently initiate a political outreach, something that has been absent since the last seven years.

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

## Safe at School

Almost every child got left behind for more than a year in India, as COVID-19 shuttered schools and forced pupils to study online at home, if they could. This long period of learning loss is a major setback in itself, affecting the physical and mental health of many students and depriving them of a year of vital skill development. It is understandable, therefore, that at least 14 States and Union Territories have tempered caution with calculated risk and opted to reopen campuses, mostly for secondary and higher secondary students. These governments are not alone in looking for the golden mean to manage the pandemic. In several countries, leaders are exploring ways to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection among pupils who are not yet eligible for vaccination, while getting them back on campus. At the end of the second wave, in July, Haryana and Nagaland went back to in-person teaching for higher classes, while Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and Lakshadweep are doing so this month. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha are to follow. As schools reopen, there are positive indicators available from countries experimenting with back-to-school decisions, and red flags, in the wake of the Delta variant's wildfire spread.

One study of a million students and staff members who returned to school this year in the United States, where children must be 12 years old to get a vaccine, showed that in spite of the resultant exposure to 7,000 COVID-19-positive children and adults, only 363 other children and adults acquired the infection. This is attributed to a universal mask mandate. In India, with a school student population of over 250 million, resumption of in-person schooling is advocated by some public health professionals based on the understanding that younger children are less at risk, as they do not have well-developed ACE-2 receptors in the lungs that enable the virus to enter. This must, of course, be considered along with the impact of the Delta variant on children who do get infected, sometimes severely, even though their numbers may be small. In Ludhiana, 20 students in two schools tested positive eight days after reopening on August 2, underscoring the need for strict protocols, testing and quarantining. Maharashtra has followed the textbook in setting up committees headed by Collectors and civic officials to decide on reopening, with optional student attendance. Such a decentralised effort is welcome, as it enables closures only in areas with high incidence. It is important to note that after 18 months of the pandemic, there is consensus on ventilation and distancing norms as low-cost interventions with efficacy next only to vaccination. In the Indian context, this should favour outdoor classes under natural or built shade, wherever possible. It is disappointing that teachers and staff have not been universally vaccinated yet, a lacuna that must be urgently filled.

The Hindu

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

For almost one year I have been constantly writing on Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 commonly known as Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA). I have explained different aspects of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and even highlighted how land grabbers and blue-eyed people were trying to encroach upon the forest land under the garb of FRA.

The District, SubDivision and Village forest have a huge role to play in implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA). More than 7 months have lapsed since claim's forms for Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR) were filled up by scheduled tribe members (Gujjars and Bakerwals) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD). However, till date, these forms haven't had any acknowledgements and have borne no results. The Sub Division Level Committee (SDLC) or District Level Committee (DLC) hasn't held even a single meeting to decide the fate of the claimants.

Early last year, the Supreme Court came to the rescue of about 12 lakh forest dwellers who were to be evicted in 16 States for not meeting the criteria of Forest Rights Act (FRA-2006). The way 10,000 apple trees were axed by Forest Officials in Kanidajan Budgam last year in November was a clear violation of not only the FRA but it was a clear violation of SC order as well. These affected people in Kanidajan too, have not been compensated for and the culprits too, have not been prosecuted. Government official's didn't even pay a courtesy visit to the village.

This clearly indicates how indifferent the Government is towards the disadvantaged communities particularly the Gujjar, Bakarwals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD).

The sorry state of affairs is such that the Government is bypassing the role of the Tribal Affairs department in FRA implementation. By law, it is actually the Tribal Affairs Department that has a greater role in implementing the Forest Rights Act. However, in Jammu & Kashmir the role of this department has also been bypassed.

#### FRA Implementation in Maharashtra

As explained already, more than one million forest dwellers were deprived of the forest rights across 16 Indian states. Maharashtra had a large population of such people. With an aim of studying the reasons for rejection of Forest Rights and pending claims an extensive report was compiled by Maharashtra Government through its Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI). The institute came up with fifteen major reasons for rejection or pending of claims and appeals. TRTI's report revealed that lack of awareness and training among the implementing agencies about Forest Rights Act (FRA), misinterpretation and poor understanding of this law and complete ignorance of various circulars of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) were the reasons for poor implementation of FRA in Maharashtra.

This is not the case with Maharashtra state only but in most of the states the authorities at helm due to ignorance and meager understanding of the various provisions of FRA 2006 have messed up the implementation of this act. It resulted in depriving the benefits of the Forest Rights Act to forest dwellers and

# J&K Govt Sits on FRA Claim Forms

Tribal Affairs Department has to play a greater role



The Tribal Affairs Department has to be given a greater role with regard to FRA and its awareness. It is still unclear whether the Govt is planning to make this department the Nodal Agency for FRA implementation or not

tribals in 16 states who were asked to evict from the forest land under their occupation. The Supreme Court had also asked these 12 lakh forest dwellers to evict in the matter of Wildlife First v/s Union of India case. The Govt of India had to come to their rescue and the court had to stay its own eviction order on 28th February 2019 after mere 2 weeks of its pronouncement.

#### Van Mitra campaign

With an aim of initiating a multi-pronged strategy to ensure better implementation of forest rights act across Maharashtra, a state-wide campaign known as Van Mitra Mohim was launched in May 2018 by the state Govt. This was then followed by a series of workshops and training programs for officers of sub-division and district level forest committees. The officers were made to understand the various aspects and stages of forest rights claims and its recognition. The Government and NGOs organised training for trainers (ToT) workshops and facilitated filing new claims, reviewing rejected claims, addressing pending claims and speeding up the process to hear the appeals at different levels. In 2018 around 30,000 farmers had marched from Nashik to Mumbai demanding Govt's attention towards agrarian and forest rights related issues. The protest march, led by the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) was called off only after the state administration promised that it will take steps to address all the demands of the protesters within six months. Farmers had been demanding time bound implementation of the Forest Rights Act. There were many other demands as well.

#### Expert Committee on FRA

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K (PCCF) early this year constituted an eight-member committee of experts to provide technical and legal support for the implementation of Forest Right Act, 2006. The eight member committee is headed by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and CEO, CAMPA, Sarvesh Rai. Other members of the committee include Chief Conservator Forests (CCF) Central T Rabi Kumar, CCF

(WPR&T), CCF S&D Shally Ranjan, Conservators of Forests Balaji, Irfan Ali Shah, ACF Rushal Garg, and law officer Paramjit Singh. This is a great development indeed but I would like to ask the Govt what is the role of Tribal Affairs Department J&K vis a vis FRA implementation? Why haven't the officials of this department been included in the 8 member committee which will act like a think tank on FRA implementation? If the Govt is not aware about the role of this department then they need to study the FRA very minutely, but if this is a deliberate attempt to sideline this department it is a matter of serious concern indeed.

#### Role of Tribal Affairs Deptt

The Tribal Development Department of Himachal Pradesh for instance plays a pivotal role with regard to FRA 2006 implementation. All the minutes of the meetings on FRA are available on the official website of this department <http://himachalservices.nic.in/tribal/en-IN/index.html>. When it comes to J&K, the work is entrusted to only the Forest Department. Why so?

Until recently the official website of J&K Tribal Affairs Department [www.tribalaffairs.jk.gov.in](http://www.tribalaffairs.jk.gov.in) was like a comedy of errors. The link on the Forest Rights Act isn't available at all. In the RTI link the website in charge hasn't uploaded details of RTI Act 2005 and instead continues to follow the J&K RTI Act 2009 which has been repealed post abrogation of article 370. I had highlighted this issue in the past also but it seems the officials of this department are in a deep slumber. I hope Secretary Tribal Affairs Dr Shahid Chowdhary will take a serious note of this issue.

If the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is the nodal agency for implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) at national level and Tribal Affairs Department having been entrusted the job of implementing this law in other states, I am unable to understand why the role of this department is ignored in J&K?

One can understand the fact that this department has no presence at district or sub division level but at least the senior officers of

the administrative department or the directorate should be given an active role in implementing Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) in J&K? If the Govt is really sincere about tribal welfare in J&K, why can't new posts of District Tribal Officers (DTO's) be created under the Tribal Affairs Department?

#### Awareness Building

On the pattern of van Mitra campaign, Govt needs to create massive awareness on FRA in J&K as well from Panchayat to Civil Secretariat. Local NGOs should be asked to do the Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities. Theater artists also need to be involved to generate awareness in remote villages. Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary in a recent press statement informed that Govt has earmarked an amount of Rs 60 Lakh for a mass awareness and capacity building programme to be launched in second week of September enabling the tribal communities and traditional forest dwellers to submit their claims as well as capacity of District Level Committees, Sub-Divisional Level Committees.

#### Conclusion

The Tribal Affairs Department has to be given a greater role with regard to FRA and its awareness. It is still unclear whether the Govt is planning to make this department the Nodal Agency for FRA implementation or not. I appreciate the role of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam for coming forward to create awareness on FRA. I hope other DLSA's will also try to reach out to the tribal population so that a massive awareness on this law is generated across nook and corner of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He is also an Anant fellow for Climate Action



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## Internet and Children

In today's age of increasing use of the Internet, childhood is being lost. Ever since the Internet came into our lives, everyone from the elderly to children is lost in a dream world. Nowadays, it is being seen that even a 4-5 year old child picks up a mobile phone in his hands as soon as he opens his eyes. In the past, adults used mobile phones only for their own use but now children are also becoming addicted to the In-

ternet. Markets have given them so much on the internet that they keep doing and watching a lot on the internet without reading. While earlier, children used to play, they are now lost in the jungle of internet data instead of creative work. The advancement of information technology over the years has not only had a profound effect on human life but has also changed the lives of ordinary people. The Internet has hampered the

physical and mental development of children. Research has shown that children at an early age cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. They get caught up in the wrong cycle on the wrong sites. Instead of devoting their time to reading and writing creatively, they are getting bogged down in obscenity and spending their precious time on mobile. In today's world our children are

getting enslaved by the internet. The rate of child abuse due to wrong sites is increasing day by day. If a law is made and strictly enacted in this regard, there is hope to get rid of it. The intoxication of holding a smartphone in the hand remains. The war that the mobile companies have waged in the field of internet data in recent times has exacerbated this problem.

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# Designed for Deul

Twitter’s design stokes hostility and controversy.  
Here’s why, and how it might change

Michael James Walsh  
| Stephanie Alice Baker

Twitter’s design promotes avoidance as the easiest solution to hostility, without offering space for the kind of restorative activity that could lead to more genuine resolution of conflict

Twitter has come under increasing public scrutiny for facilitating hostile communication online. While the micro-blogging site promotes itself as providing a “free” and “safe” space to talk, critics have highlighted the company’s inept response to repeated instances of trolling, harassment and abuse.

Our research into how people present themselves and manage their interactions with other users on Twitter suggests that case-by-case responses are inadequate. We found Twitter’s design promotes avoidance as the easiest solution to hostility, without offering space for the kind of restorative activity that could lead to more genuine resolution of conflict.

#### Who faces hostility on Twitter?

Hostility on Twitter is disproportionately directed towards women, people of colour and marginalised groups. For example, in 2016 US comedian Leslie Jones was inundated with racist tweets following the release of the film Ghostbusters.

Black and Indigenous sportspeople, such as Adam Goodes, Glen Kamara and Lewis Hamilton, have also been subjected to racist abuse on Twitter and implored the platform to do more to respond to the situation.

In 2018, Amnesty International published a report detailing the extent of abuse directed at female users, describing Twitter as “a toxic place for women”. The report criticised Twitter for failing to respect women’s rights and respond to reports of violence in a transparent manner.

#### Twitter’s response: how platform design encourages hostile interaction

Part of the reason for the degree of hostility on Twitter is because of the way the platform is designed. Sociologist Ian Hutchby called this the “affordances” of a technology: the material possibilities a technology affords its users, the type of actions it enables and constrains.

Twitter’s affordances shape how users interact on the site. This includes platform features (such as likes, retweets, and mentions), accounts being public by default and the capacity for users to be anonymous. The character limit of tweets also facilitates brief, impulsive, inimical exchange.

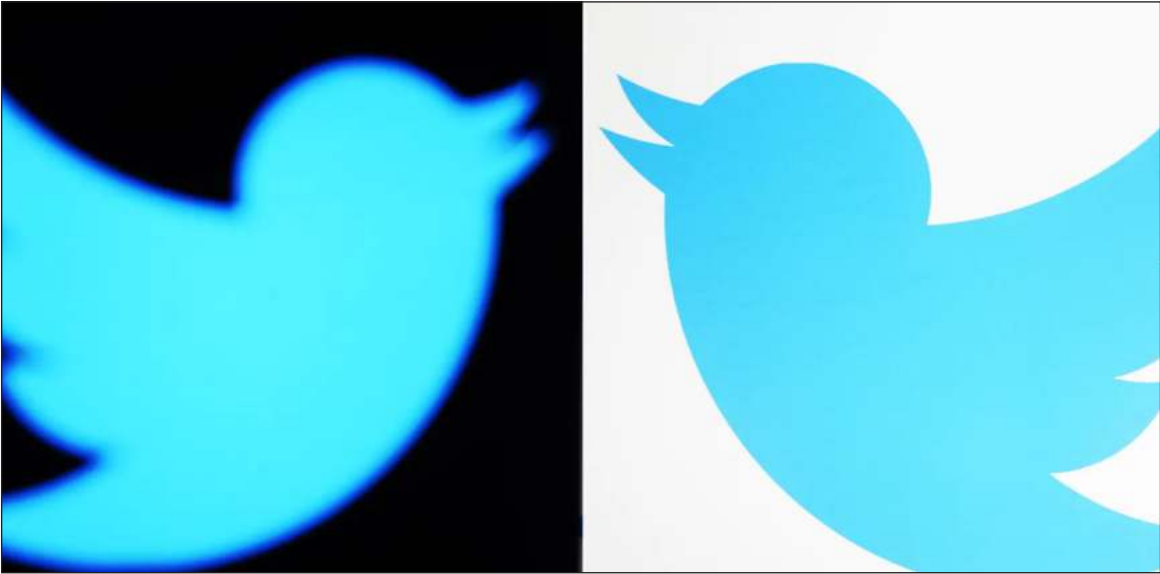
In 2017, the company introduced changes to reduce hostility on Twitter. Notable changes included doubling the length of tweets from 140 to 280 characters. Twitter also introduced “threads” to connect a series of tweets into a longer commentary and provided the option to hide replies. These changes were an attempt to “help minimise unwanted replies and improve meaningful conversations” on the platform, but hostility on Twitter persists.

One reason for the degree of hostility on Twitter is that the site’s metrics can be gamed to elevate controversial and abusive content. Research also shows false and misleading news is retweeted more than authentic stories, especially among like-minded groups.

In 2018, Twitter launched a “healthy conversation strategy”. This aimed to assess the “health” of interactions on Twitter with a view to improve them.

#### User strategies to avoid hostility on Twitter

In 2019 we conducted an online questionnaire to explore how internet users respond to hostility on



Twitter. Our study found Twitter users deploy several common strategies to manage hostile interactions on the site.

These include the use of pseudonyms and multiple accounts to achieve a degree of anonymity and privacy, as well as blocking users and self-censoring to pre-emptively limit exposure to harassment and abuse.

Users know they are vulnerable on the platform and artfully manage their social interactions by anticipating hostility, managing the immediate information environment through protecting their tweets, adopting different personas via multiple accounts and limiting how they communicate online.

#### Saving face on Twitter and minimising exposure

These observations suggest users are finding ways to “save face” online. The sociologist Erving Goffman called this kind of activity “face-work”.

In Goffman’s model, we employ different “faces” to adapt to specific interactions and environments:

We have party faces, funeral faces, and various kinds of institutional faces.

The aim of face-work is to create a positive impression of ourselves to others. When we “have face”, we succeed in presenting a consistent self that others validate. In contrast, we “lose face” when information arises that undercuts our presentation of self.

Our research extends the idea of face-work to examine the strategies Twitter users employ to interact with others.

We suggest that users adopt a type of “Twitter-face”: a face-work tactic of responding to hostile interactions in a way that will protect the user’s metaphorical face.

Hostile interactions on Twitter often take specific forms, such as doxing, pile-ons and ratioling. In each of these, a user’s face is confronted by co-ordinated attacks that disrupt the positive impression they are trying to present.

#### Two kinds of face-work

Face-work generally occurs in two ways. The first is avoidance, in which people try to avoid face-threat-

ening information or prevent others from seeing it. The second is correction, where people make efforts to apologise for their own face-threatening actions.

We can see an example of corrective face-work on Twitter below, where a person’s face is threatened, they attempt to correct the threatening information, and the conflict is resolved with an apology and acceptance.

Avoidance, on the other, often takes the form of blocking other Twitter users.

Our findings show Twitter users overwhelmingly use avoidance practices as a defensive strategy to prevent hostility on the site. Specific techniques include

- blocking accounts
- protecting tweets (making them unavailable to the public)
- creating multiple accounts
- self-censoring and avoiding certain topics.

Under normal circumstances both avoidance and correction are vital aspects of face-work, but on Twitter there appears to be an overemphasis on avoidance at the expense of correction.

#### Improving Twitter’s environment

This places Twitter in a difficult situation. Users desire greater control over how they interact, but new features allowing greater control seem to privilege avoidance and may reduce attempts to engage in restorative interactions.

Beyond introducing isolated features, which place responsibility on the individual user, Twitter needs to reconsider the algorithms and metrics (such as likes and retweets) that enable the company to profit from co-ordinated harassment campaigns, controversy and abuse. This could include hiding likes or removing re-tweets and algorithms.

*The authors are Associate Professor, University of Canberra and Senior Lecturer in Sociology, City, University of London, respectively. The article is being reproduced here by arrangement with The Conversation*

## Don't Break Up Social Media, Bifurcate It

LUIGI ZINGALES

CHICAGO – After being celebrated for playing a central role in the Arab Spring, social-media platforms are now blamed for any outcome that traditional media outlets dislike – from the Brexit referendum and Donald Trump’s election to political polarization more generally. Growing disenchantment with social media has led to growing demands for regulation. The pressure is now great enough that Facebook, fearful of being shackled by the state, has sought to lead the regulatory effort itself, advertising heavily to express its own support for such policies.

But what type of regulation do we need? To answer that question, we first must appreciate the transformational nature of social media, which is arguably comparable to that of the printing press in fifteenth-century Europe.

Before the printing press, books were unaffordable, and their production had to be subsidized by the Catholic Church, which thus maintained a monopoly over knowledge. But once the printing press arrived, books become affordable for the merchant class. And because most merchants were not fluent in Latin, demand for Bibles printed in the vernacular surged.

The printing press thus changed not only the language of the books but also the style and tenor of debate. While the scholastic debates of the Middle Ages were fierce, they had always been educated and elevated in tone. But with the printing press came the Reformation, which featured theological debates full of insults and theater. Then as now, everyone understood that highly charged intellectual wrestling would produce greater sales.

The Catholic establishment’s reaction to this new age was multifaceted, but three of its decisions are worth highlighting: power was recentralized in the hands of the pope; the Index of Forbidden Books was created; and the Inquisition was ramped up to protect Catholic souls from preachers of “fake knowledge.” It is humbling today to see which books the Catholic Church forbade. Within its Index were many of the most important works of Western culture, from Niccolò Machiavelli and René Descartes



to Galileo Galilei and Immanuel Kant.

While the printing press broke a monopoly, social media infringed on a cozy oligopoly. Before social media, everybody was free to speak, but not everybody had the right to a megaphone. While printing texts was relatively cheap, distributing them was not – and broadcasting was even more expensive, when it was allowed at all.

As a result, access to megaphones was limited to those expressing ideas that advertisers found palatable. To administer this cozy oligopoly, a new class of journalists emerged. They chose the topics to discuss, the books to read, and the music to listen to. They also preselected presidential candidates, helped swing elections, and even advised governments. Elite journalists were the priests of the new order.

When social media shattered this clannish cartel, the incumbent power’s kneejerk reaction – as in the sixteenth century – was to try to regain control of information. The general process is the same: certain topics are proscribed on Facebook and other platforms, and certain users are excommunicated. And yet, we should know from history that this approach does not work. Martyrdom is

the best form of publicity; being “canceled” can be a launchpad for even greater success.

To regulate social media effectively, we should focus on separating the effects of technology, which are here to stay, from the effects of a particular business model, which regulation can alter. The problem is not that people are allowed to post crazy things online; as long as they are not committing any crime, they should be free to express themselves. The problem, rather, is social media refracted through a business model that maximizes profit by promoting the craziest, most inflammatory ideas.

This model is facilitated by social-media platforms’ immunity from legal or reputational consequences. Newspapers have long been held responsible – both legally and reputationally – for what they print. But owing to Section 230 of the US Communications Decency Act of 1996, social-media companies have avoided legal liability for what appears on their platforms. And when they draw criticism for promoting the craziest content, they routinely deflect the blame to an algorithm (even though they themselves have designed their algorithms to maxi-

mize the time users spend on a platform).

Social-media platforms play two roles: they operate networks connecting billions of users, and they decide what content those users see. Newspapers have played this kind of editorial role for centuries, but they have done so in a highly competitive environment. The same cannot be said of the social-media environment today. With around 72% of the US social-media market, Facebook is effectively a monopolist, with all of the negative consequences that monopoly entails.

This is where regulation can help: by separating the “social” from the “media.” In many countries, the electric power grid – a natural monopoly – is separated from electricity production. In the same way, we should separate social media’s networking infrastructure from the editorial role. Network externalities make the first activity a natural monopoly, while the editorial function would benefit from competition. Importantly, the company managing the virtual grid should not be allowed to enter the editorial business. That would allow it to kill off any competition by subsidizing one activity with the other – exactly the system we have today.

How would these two separate layers make money? The competitive layer offers many options: firms could advertise, sell data, or charge customers for content or for the privilege of not receiving ads and not having their data sold. The virtual grid – as with any natural monopoly – should charge a regulated price for access to the infrastructure.

These kinds of changes should be made not through litigation or technocratic rulemaking but with legislation. In a democratic society, key political decisions affecting the flow of information should be made by elected representatives. No, I am not optimistic that such a law could pass any time soon in the United States. Elected representatives who are reliant on social media to win reelection are not going to bite the hand that feeds them. But do not be fooled: this is the solution. Everything else is a palliative or, worse, a way to strengthen the current monopoly.

Project Syndicate



## Security Situation

the programme earlier, National Conference president and MP Farooq Abdullah raised the issue of security of panchayat members and said providing security to political activists was very important for them to work on the ground.

“One of the most important things that we have to look after is the security of these panchayat members because they will be the first target (of the militants). Politicians will be targeted, we are targeted anyway. (Those) who stand with the nation will have to face those (threats), Abdullah said in his speech.

Sinha said the Panchayati Raj system was a new situation for J&K and while attempts were being made to make it better, we cannot expect it to improve in a year.

I say this with responsibility that sustained efforts are being made to improve it and I assure you that. Prime Minister Narendra Modi always says that stronger PRIs in J&K will make the democracy stronger here and development will also speed up, he said.

Referring to another point raised by Abdullah about the previous governments in the erstwhile state not being able to implement the 73rd amendment which paved the way for a three-tier Panchayati Raj system due to some problems, Sinha said he was happy that people participated in large numbers in the exercise to make it happen.

“Farooq sahab raised some points quite emotionally, most of which is true. But I have not understood one thing till now, even as I know there are some difficulties, that for some reason or the other, this was not implemented here. I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whose directions, the three-tier Panchayati Raj was established in J&K.

I am happy that people participated in the exercise in large numbers and that it was conducted in a fair and violence-free manner. The poll percentage was much more than the last few assembly and parliamentary polls, he said.

He said efficient and effective PRIs are a driving force of a developed, prosperous and self-reliant nation.

In J&K, funds, functions and functionaries have been made available to the PRIs.

For the first time in J&K's history, district capex budget of Rs 12,600 crore was conceived after consultation with PRIs, he said.

He expressed hope that the important role of the PRI members will surely help the administration to make a better J&K in future.

Responding to the issue of industries raised by the NC president, Sinha said a new industrial scheme has been started by the Centre for J&K and so far, the UT has received investment proposals worth Rs 25,600 crore.

So far, proposals worth Rs 25,600 crore have been received and these are the proposals for which money has been deposited for land purposes. Out of this, proposals worth Rs 4,600 crore have been approved and in the next six months, all these proposals will be approved and works will be started, he said.

Sinha said it was for the first time that the proposals to set up industries were almost equal in both the regions of the UT.

Jammu has only Rs 700 crore worth of proposals more than Kashmir division, he added.

He said the UT expected a minimum of Rs 50,000 crore worth investment in the next one-and-a-half years, which will generate employment for about 10 lakh people.

Referring to the administration's fight against corruption, Sinha said while the UT got some problems in inheritance , he cannot assure that things will improve in a year or so.

“But I want to say this that today, the people of J&K are being given the account of every rupee spent in J&K. I am saying this with full responsibility.... I want to say till I am here, I will not misuse a single penny from the government funds for myself or my family, Sinha said.

Addressing a press conference later, the LG said that Government of India is committed to hold assembly elections in J&K soon after the Delimitation Commission (DC) will complete its exercise.

“In the August 15 speech, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Delimitation Commission was working on a fast-track basis. Apart from that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already stated on the floor of the house that statehood will be granted to J&K at an appropriate time,” Sinha said.

“As far as the dates of elections, it's the prerogative of the Election Commission of India,” he added.

## Indian Envoy

at the Indian embassy in Doha at the request of the Taliban side and came two weeks after the outfit seized control of Kabul.

The MEA said the Taliban representative assured the ambassador that “these issues” would be positively addressed.

“Today, Ambassador of India to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the head of Taliban's Political Office in Doha. The meeting took place at the Embassy of India, Doha, on the request of the Taliban side,” the MEA said in a statement.

It said the discussions focused on safety, security and early return of Indian nationals stranded in Afghanistan and the travel of Afghan nationals, especially minorities, who wish to visit India also came up.

“Ambassador Mittal raised India's concern that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism in any manner.

People familiar with India's ties in Afghanistan said it was the first publicly acknowledged contact between the two sides in over at least two decades.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, replying to questions during his weekly briefing in the last few months on whether India has reached out to the Taliban, has been maintaining that New Delhi is in touch with all stakeholders.

It was learnt that India had opened a channel of communication with the Taliban but it was never acknowledged officially.

The meeting between Mittal and Stanekzai took place hours after the US completed the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, ending its 20-year-long military campaign in the country.

The last American aircraft left the Kabul airport in the early hours of Tuesday.

On Saturday, Stanekzai, in a clear overture, described India as an important country in the region and said the Taliban wants to maintain

Afghanistan's trade, economic and political relations with it.

“We attach great importance to our trade, economic and political relations with India and want to maintain that relation,” he had said.

“We also need to keep the air trade open,” the Taliban leader was quoted as saying by Pakistani media outlet Independent Urdu.

He was referring to the air corridor between India and Afghanistan that was established to boost trade between the two countries in view of Pakistan's denial to allow transit access.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on August 20 held talks with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani on the Afghan crisis during a stopover in Doha on his way back home from a four-day visit to the US.

Doha has been the venue for the intra-Afghan peace talks and the Gulf country has emerged as a crucial player in facilitating the Afghan peace process.

Political leaders of the Taliban have been residing in Qatar for years.

In September last year, an Indian delegation attended the inaugural ceremony of the intra-Afghan negotiations featuring various stakeholders including the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha. Jaishankar had joined it through a video conference.

Meanwhile, a high-level group comprising Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval and a number of other senior officials is focusing on India's immediate priorities in Afghanistan following the drawdown of American forces from the country.

Official sources said on Tuesday that the group has been meeting regularly over the last few days following a direction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India's immediate priorities include the safe return of its nationals still in Afghanistan, bringing back the Afghan nationals who stood by New Delhi and ensuring that Afghan soil is not used for “terrorism” directed at it.

“In view of the evolving situation in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Modi recently directed that a high-level group comprising of External Affairs Minister, the National Security Adviser and senior officials focus on the immediate priorities of India,” said a source.

“It is seized of issues pertaining to the safe return of stranded Indians, the travel of Afghan nationals (especially minorities) to India, and assuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used in any manner for terrorism directed against India,” it said.

India has been a key stakeholder in Afghanistan and it has invested nearly USD 3 billion in carrying out nearly 500 projects across Afghanistan.

India has been in touch with all major regional players including those in the Gulf region on the developments in Afghanistan.

The UN Security Council, under India's presidency, on Monday adopted a resolution demanding that the territory of Afghanistan not be used to threaten any country or shelter militants.

There have been mounting concerns in India over the possibility of rise in activities of various groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

## World's Highest

crossing the Kela Pass, the Lok Sabha member said.

“The road, which was inaugurated today, will be the world's highest motorable road for the general public at a height of 18,600 feet. Up till now, the Khardungla Pass was the world's highest motorable road for the general public at a height of 18,380 feet,” Namgyal said.

He said the road will play a major role in the future to boost the socio-economic status of local residents, especially of the people of the Lalok region of Ladakh, as it will facilitate tourism.

“Tourists will be able to see the world's highest motorable road, rare medicinal plants, participate in snow sport activities, see nomadic livestock, lakes and other attractions,” Namgyal said.

During the inaugural function, held at the Kela Top, at an altitude of 18,600 feet, he applauded the dedication of the Indian Army, especially the 58 Engineer Regiment, for constructing the road.

He also highlighted the seriousness of the government towards creating border infrastructure, especially roads and bridges.

The road was inaugurated in presence of Lt Gen P G K Menon, General Officer Commanding 14th Corp, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Stanzin Chosphel, Executive Councillors, Ven. Lama Konchok Tsephel, Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, among others.

## Will Sweep Polls

with the people and listen to their problems, and not behave like bureaucrats who, he said, do not come to the rescue of people.

Expressing anguish over Jammu and Kashmir administration officials not responding to calls of people, Abdullah requested Sinha to instruct them to answer phone calls.

“I have this complaint with the government officials that they do not pick up their phones as if some ghost is hanging upon them,” he said. The MP said he receives calls from anyone because as a doctor he feels that the caller may be in some kind of distress. “I do not ask him to which religion or party he belongs to. I think of him as a human in whose heart God resides,” he said.

Abdullah added that soon a government will be formed which will make officers accountable.

“They will be accountable tomorrow for what they have done. Today, they think of themselves as kings, but they are not kings, they are the servants of people who have to work for the people,” he said.

He said the Union Territory still faces militancy and “God knows what will happen in the future”.

Abdullah requested Lieutenant Governor Sinha to provide security to Panchayat leaders, saying they are being targeted by militants.

“One of the most important things that we have to look after is the security of these panchayat members because they will be the first target (of militants). Politicians will be targeted. We are targeted anyways. (Those) who stand with the nation will have to face those (threats). Do not run away, God is the only protector,” he said.

The NC leader said that it is very important to provide security to political activists as they have to work on the ground.

“Recently, members of the BJP have been killed, another one from the Apni Party. God knows what will happen in the coming days. If a panchayat member or a District Development Council

member or a political party has to work, then their security is very important. Otherwise, how will they work and reach their areas,” he said.

Pointing to Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who was in the audience, Abdullah said while he understands that security cannot be provided to everyone, “but you will have to do something about it”.

“Yesterday, a CPI leader told me that he faces a threat and there is deficiency in his security. So, before he is killed, care must be taken. If we are standing with the country, then it is also the responsibility of the country to take care of our security,” he said.

Abdullah's remarks received a huge round of applause from the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Asked whether he sees any improvement in Jammu and Kashmir after August 5, 2019 – when the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status, the NC president said the people should judge themselves.

“You should see for yourself what changes have come. Has our situation become better, has any progress been achieved, has there been any development, you have to see for yourselves. If I say something, then they will say that he is from opposition and will say what the opposition parties are saying,” he said.

To a question about the impact of the situation in Afghanistan, Abdullah said the situation was no better in any of the neighbouring countries of India. “Where in our neighbourhood is the situation better? How is the situation in Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka or Maldives? If we say the situation in any of our neighbouring country is normal, no it is not,” he said.

“The impact of the Taliban will surely be there somewhere. How much it will be I do not know and where it will be, how much its impact will be on America or Russia or China, I do not know,” Abdullah said.

## Police, Army

families whose children have picked up guns.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar told the parents that “police and security forces have been providing opportunities (to local militants) to surrender during live encounters since last year. Families are requested to convince their children (newly recruited militants) to come back”.

The army commander cautioned the families against the “white-collar” militants roaming among the general masses and said “while the children of these white-collar militants are enjoying and studying in the rest of the country, your children are targeted by these people. Beware of them.”

“I have come to you and I want to share that there are two aspects when a youth picks up guns. The first could be that he wants to impress girls or for drugs or is not good at education or even if he is good at education, he has fascination for guns.

“The second and dangerous aspect is, whom I call, white-collar terrorist. He is one among us whose children are studying or employed only to ensure that his children are not sucked into the gun culture. However, this white-collar terrorist ensures that children of other families pick up guns,” Lt Gen Pandey said at the function, “Jashn-e-Janoob” (Festival of South).

“I had requested for a one-to-one meeting with you all to appeal to you to pull out your children quietly from terror groups. And let me tell you that even during operation, if some boy is ready to surrender, I assure you that the army will do whatever possible, even at the cost of suffering injury, to get your child back,” he said drawing applause from the families.

Among the families of militants present during the interaction were Abdul Hamid Najar, father of active militant Sumair Ahmad Najar; Mohammad Saleem Malik, brother of active militant Umar Ishfaq Malik; Mohammad Hussain Wani, father of active militant Naseer Ahmad Wani; Bashir Ahmad Wani, father of active militant Adil Ahmad Wani; Mohammad Khalil Wani, father of active militant Adil Hussain Wani; Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, father of active militant Abid Ramzan Sheikh; and Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, father of active militant Sameer Ahmad Sheikh.

The rest of the family members did not wish to be identified.

The function was also attended by Victor Force GOC Maj Gen Rashim Bali and Commanding Officer of 44-Rashtriya Rifles Col A K Singh.

## Birla Advises Par

grassroots level and democratic institutions have become more answerable to people.

Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards peace, prosperity and development. And I invite all panchayat leaders to visit parliament in the national capital. The Lok Sabha Secretariat will organise training and capacity-building programmes for you, Birla said.

Later at a press conference, Birla said he would advise all parliamentary committees to regularly visit remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and the northeastern states.

I would suggest all parliamentary standing committees to regularly go on study visits to far-flung areas of UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and north-eastern states. The aim of these visits would be to understand the ground realities and suggest possible solutions for mitigating grievances of the local people, Birla said.

During his visit, Birla visited remote areas of both UTs such as Pangong Tso Lake and Pahalgam and interacted with local panchayat leaders. He is scheduled to visit Gulmarg on Wednesday.

In the last few months, 13 parliamentary committees and more than 300 MPs have visited the Kashmir valley and more than 200 MPs have visited Ladakh.

## ‘Committed To Provide

“The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to provide all basic amenities of life,” he said.

During his interaction with Paani Samiti members, Patel said he took note of various issues flagged by them and these would be taken up with the central government for redressal.

Patel also inspected the functioning of Rangil Water Treatment Plant in Ganderbal.

He was informed that the water treatment plant at Rangil feed portable drinking water to a large population of Srinagar City through its 51.63-km pipeline.

A detailed briefing was given to the minister about the purification process and the source of the water from the Sindh River.

He was informed that Ganderbal was the first district in Jammu and Kashmir where the target

of providing 100 per cent tap water connections was achieved.

Earlier on his arrival, the minister paid obeisance at Mata Kheerbhawani Temple at Tulumullah and prayed for happiness, prosperity and well-being of all.

## J&K Sees 166

Reasi 3, Rajouri 2 and Poonch 1 new case of Covid-19. No fresh case of coronavirus was reported from four districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Samba and Kishtwar.

Moreover, the officials said, 99 more Covid-19 patients have recovered—36 from Jammu Division and 63 from the valley.

Also, no coronavirus related death was reported during the last 24 hours. So far 4407—2166 in Jammu and 2241 in Kashmir have succumbed as per official data.

Meanwhile, one fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) was reported today, they said. So far 45 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added.

## HM Launches Portal

a developed Union Territory,” he said.

The home minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A on August 5, 2019 that there will be a new beginning for employment and happiness in Jammu and Kashmir and this is a huge milestone in fulfilling the promise made by the prime minister to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said industrial development, a good environment for it and a policy that is competitive with the world are the hallmarks of the Modi government.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, an open environment was created, and employment opportunities were created for Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Shah said apart from tourism, education and IT in Jammu and Kashmir, this policy will also take forward many other possibilities.

The One Nation, One Ration Card scheme, Ujjwala, DBT, Saubhagya and many other schemes have been fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister has made an ambitious plan in which a target has been set for providing clean drinking water to every household in the newly created Union Territory by 15 August 2022, he said.

The home minister said Jammu and Kashmir is the only region where every person has received the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana under which one can get free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh.

He said the number of tourists visiting J&K had greatly increased after peace and security were ensured in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, speaking on the occasion, said the beginning of the online portal and roll out of central sector schemes is a historic initiative.

Goyal said this mechanism would further improve ease of doing business and bring all-round transparency.

The portal has been designed and developed for effective implementation of the scheme in a transparent manner and with the objective of ease of doing business.

The entire process under the scheme, i.e. applying for registration, submitting claims and their processing, will be through the portal and there will be no human interface.

The scheme also supports employment to about 35,000 people indirectly already working in existing units through the working capital interest subvention component of the scheme.

It is expected that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have an additional investment of about Rs 12,000 crore in the establishment of about 1,200 industrial units, a commerce ministry statement said.

The scheme is anticipated to generate direct employment opportunities for about 78,000 persons along with employment in the primary sector including agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry and dairy, inland fisheries, etc through backward linkage including gainful engagement of women at household in craft, handicraft and handlooms, it said.

## Rs 100 Crore Worth

severe wind storm on 15th and 16th June that had wreaked havoc in Raithan, Doodhganga and Sukhnaag forest ranges. The number of damaged trees is more than twenty thousand,” noted social activist, Dr Raja Muzaffar told Kashmir Observer.

“About ninety percent of this fallen timber is Kail, Budlo, Fur and Kairu that had been in the forest for more than 100 years,” he said.

He further added that out of the 20,000 fallen timber in these three forest ranges, most of the damaged wood has already started to decompose due to delay in its lifting and putting it up for sale.

“I’ve personally counted around 2500 fallen timbers that are on the verge of decomposition,” Muzaffar said.

A senior official from SFC told Kashmir Observer that they don't have enough skilled staff and required transport facilities to lift the trees from these forests.

“It won't be possible to lift this fallen timber from forests until the Forest Department and SFC provides us with the required transport and equipment. Until, the required machinery is made available, also leading to further decomposition of the dumped timber,” he said.

As per locals, Budgam district has been going through an extreme scarcity of the fallen timber wood that is used for several basic necessities including construction of houses.

“We fail to understand this absurd logic of the officials of the Forest department and the SFC. They prefer to rot the timber in forests rather than providing it to needy consumers. There's an extreme scarcity of Timber in the district but the department has no interest in reaching out to the needy people,” Shoaib Mushtaq, a resident of Budgam told Kashmir Observer.

He further added, “Several months ago sixty cubic feet of timber was sanctioned to me for construction of my house. Since then I have been running from pillar to post to get timber from the SFC. Ironically the timber is rotting in forests and people are being denied their allotted share.”

Like Shoaib scores of people have been awaiting release of timber.

“Some officials have lifted only a limited cubic feet of timber and provided that to their relatives and those who grease their palms while common people are made to suffer. I have been waiting for my turn to get timber for the past one year but to

no avail,” lamented Mukhtiyar Ahmed of Budgam town.

“Such irresponsibility of the officials coerces one to buy illicit Timber from the Timber smugglers in the region,” he added.

As per experts, if the fallen timber continues to remain dumped in the forest ranges, the ecological hazards could augment at a higher rate due to the nomadic activities to burn timber trees in order to produce charcoal.

“Such activities could lead to a massive fire in the forest that may not be possible to extinguish for days,” Muzaffar said.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division, Ashraf Kattoo said, “There are more than 10 lakh CFT in these three ranges, so how is it possible to extract such a huge amount of cft in just 2 months. There's a proper procedure to follow and we're already following that. Our work was to mark these trees and we've already done that.”

He further added, “Now, it's SFC's job to extract these trees.”

Clearing the growing confusion over the issue, DFO SFC Budgam, Parvaiz Ahmed said that the SFC has already generated a rate list of the fallen timbers soon after the Forest Department forwarded their list to the Chief Conservator of Forests.

“The extraction process may take upto a year given coming winter and the official process that finalizes the extraction of the naturally fallen trees,” he said.

“Once, the administration clarifies the extraction process, the SFC will extract these fallen timbers, put out a tender in the public domain and sell it,” he added.

Ahmed also acknowledged the public grievances and said that they too need to understand that there's a proper procedure that the department has to follow in order to maintain accountability.

## BSF, ITBP Get

Singh, from the Rajasthan cadre of the IPS, has been serving as the special DG of the country's largest border guarding force that mans over 6,300 km of Indian boundary with Pakistan and Bangladesh and has about 2.65 lakh personnel.

His father and retired IPS officer of the 1959-batch Prakash Singh also headed the BSF as its DG from June, 1993 to January, 1994.

Singh's batch-mate and IPS officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre, Arora, took charge of the ITBP that guards the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

Singh is considered an architect of police reforms in the country. He had petitioned the Supreme Court in 1996 for carrying out reforms in the police establishment following which the government started giving a fixed tenure of two years at least to the chief of the Intelligence Bureau, the CBI, foreign secretary, the RAW chief and the Union home secretary.

This is also the first time that a son stepped into the shoes of his father at the top DG rank in the central armed police forces (CAPFs).

In 2010, IPS officers from the 1973 batch and real brothers-- Vikram Srivastava and Raman Srivastava-- served as the DSG of the CRPF and the BSF respectively.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had issued the order for appointment of Singh as the new BSF DG on August 25.

The officer holds LL.B, M.Phil and MBA from the IIM Ahmedabad and his retirement is scheduled in December next year.

He has served in the Rajasthan Police as well as in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during which he cracked an infamous sex scandal that had rocked Jammu and Kashmir besides being involved in solving several cases related to corruption.

A serving minister, several high-profile bureaucrats and individuals were arrested in the politically-sensitive sex scandal in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also headed the eastern command of the BSF headquartered in Kolkata as an Additional DG and the CRPF anti-Naxal operations formation in Chhattisgarh as its Inspector General.

Arora, who was serving as the special DG in the CRPF till now, will head the about 90,000 personnel strong mountain-warfare trained ITBP.

He will retire from service in July, 2025.

He has earlier served in the ITBP as a Commandant between 1997-2002 during which he headed its battalion based in Matli and also served in the training wing of the officers' training academy located in Mussoorie.

Both the new DG took the charge from 1984-batch IPS officer S S Deswal who retired Tuesday. Deswal was holding the additional charge of BSF DG. (PTI)

## Afghan Teenager

at Lakanpur, the entry point to J&K.

He has a passport and a visa and has been taken to the Lakanpur police station for questioning, they said.

Kathua Senior Superintendent



## Five Doctors Terminated For Unauthorised Absence In Bandipora

KO News Desk

Bandipora: The Bandipora administration on Tuesday ordered termination of five doctors from services for their "habitual absence" from the duty at Primary Health Centres (PHC) Ashtangoo.

The doctors at Primary Health Centres (PHC) Ashtangoo in North Kashmir's Bandipora district have been found "habitual of absence" from their duties, thus resulting in a "havoc situation and deteriorating condition" while also badly hitting the patient care, an order issued by Block Medical Officer Bandipora reads.

The order addressed to Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad Khan from the Block Medical office Bandipora states, "it is once again brought into your notice that the undersigned visited the PHC Ashtangoo today as on 27/08/2021 and found the doctors absent from their legitimate duties."

The order further reads, "They have been habitual of such actions. It has been brought to your notice from time to time but no action was initiated. It is as such requested that the absence of doctors has created havoc and has hit the patient care badly."

Stating that the PHC now is in a "deteriorating condition", the

BMO has recommended that their services be terminated.

"It is recommended that their services should be terminated and the undersigned won't be in a condition to draw their salaries."

The attached list also mentions at least five doctors absent from their duties on the day of the inspection. The PHC was established in 2008, but since then there is no up gradation and is running without proper facilities, leaving patients with no op-

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT their services should be terminated and the undersigned won't be in a condition to draw their salaries."**

rating condition" while also badly hitting the patient care, an order issued by Block Medical Officer Bandipora reads.

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Stating that the PHC now is in a "deteriorating condition", the

tion but to go out of the area for simple treatment.

Meanwhile, the locals said that whenever people come to this hospital for treatment, it is often found empty and they don't have any idea where the staff is performing their duties.

"I have been visiting this hospital for the last ten days but I have not seen any doctor here honestly doing his duty, on the contrary, I was compelled to complain to BMO Bandipora following which he visited the hospital," Naseer Ahmad a local said.

The locals have requested the concerned authorities and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally look into the matter and redress their grievances.

Despite repeated attempts, CMO Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad didn't respond to the calls.

## Several Gardens, Parks To Open From Today

Srinagar: According to Director Floriculture Department Kashmir, several gardens and parks taken over from Jammu and Kashmir Bank by the Department of Floriculture, Kashmir shall be thrown open for visitors from 1st September 2021. These parks and gardens included Hikers Park, Pahalgam; Lidder view Park, Pahalgam; Gulistan Wazir Bagh Park; Rani Bagh Park; Darashikow Park, Bijbehara; Padshahi Bagh Park, Bijbehara in Anantnag district; Shaheed Park in Pulwama District; Badamwari Park; Iqbal Park in Srinagar district and Gulnar Park in Baramulla District.

All the visitors to these Gardens & Parks are requested to follow Covid SOPs in letter and spirit.

## One Killed, Two Injured In Anantnag Accident

Anantnag: One person was killed and two others were injured in a road accident in Achabal area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday evening. Reports said that a man was killed and two others injured after a Venue vehicle (JK03K- 6600) turned turtle and fell into a deep gorge at Achabal near police station. They said that the injured was immediately rushed to nearby hospital.

A police official identified the deceased as Riyaz Ahmad Mir Son of Abdul Ahad Mir of Gopal Khurd Anantnag.

He said that a case under relevant sections of laws has been registered in concerned police station and further investigation taken up.

## BSF Personnel Found Dead In Rajouri

Jammu: A BSF soldier was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district, officials said on Tuesday.

They said the BSF constable, Rakesh Kumar son of Lt Sh Satpal of Pathankote, at present 69 Battalion, was found dead at Sunderbani at about 0930 hours under mysterious circumstances while on duty.

"An inquest has been initiated to ascertain the cause of death," they said.

The body has been shifted to SDH Sunderbani for postmortem. A police officer confirmed that body has been found in "mysterious" circumstances and that inquest proceedings have been launched into the incident.

## No Revision Of Voters In J&K For 3rd Consecutive Year

Agencies

Srinagar: For the third consecutive year, Jammu & Kashmir will not be part of the special summary revision of voters undertaken by the Election Commission of India due to ongoing delimitation exercise in the Union Territory.

An ECI communique reveals that J&K has been excluded from special summary revision-2022 by the poll-body. "I am directed to state that the commission has directed to undertake special summary revision of photo electoral rolls with reference to 01.01.2022, as the qualifying date, in all the States/UTs (except UT of Jammu and Kashmir)."

Known as special summary revision, the exercise gives an opportunity to citizens to enroll

**THE ECI DOES NOT CONDUCT** special summary revision of electoral rolls in the States and UTs where delimitation exercise is underway," a senior official of the poll-body told KNO.

themselves as voters and also verify their electoral details.

Since reorganization of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, no revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken by the poll-body in the Union Territory.

J&K was also not part of special summary revision-2020 and SSR-2021 carried out by the poll-body in states and UTs.

"The ECI does not conduct special summary revision of electoral rolls in the States and UTs where delimitation exercise is underway," a senior of-

ficial of the poll-body told KNO.

A three-member delimitation commission has been mandated to undertake delimitation of 90 assembly segments and five parliamentary segments of J&K UT.

Headed by former SC judge, Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai, the commission was set-up on March 6, 2020. Its tenure was extended to March 2022 when its one-year term expired earlier this year.

The Commission also visited J&K in the first week of July to get inputs and feedback from political parties and administration of the UT.

## ACB Books Former CAPD Officials For Misappropriation Of Funds

KO News Desk

Srinagar: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday produced a charge-sheet against the former officers/officials of CA&PD Reasi for misappropriation of huge amount on account of carriage charges of ration.

ACB Jammu produced charge-sheet in case under FIR number 19/2012 under section 5 (1)(c) (d) r/w section 5(2) of PC Act Samvat-2006 and section 120-B, 201 RPC of P/S VOJ (now ACB Jammu) against Ghar Singh, son of Saroop Singh of Patoli Gurha Brahmana, Jammu then Tehsil Supply Officer Chassana/Sungri of District Reasi (now retired), Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, son of Ghulam Muhammad of Gulabgarh A/P H. No. 19, Sector No. 2 Pamposh colony, Channi Rama, Jammu, then Storekeeper of TSO Chasana, Abdul Hamid, son of Abdul Shabha of Gulabgarh Tehsil Mahore District Reasi, then Storekeeper Sungri (now retired), Abdul Qayoom Mir, son of Abdul Majid of Village Majhoor Thanamandi District Rajouri, then Assistant Director CA&PD Reasi (now retired) and Ramesh Chander Bhagat, son of Hari Chand of Near ITI College Samba, then Assistant Director

CA&PD Reasi (now retired), in the court of Ld. Special Judge Anti-Corruption Udhampur on 31-08-2021.

"The brief facts of the case are that a verification was conducted by the Anti Corruption Bureau Jammu into the allegations pertaining to misappropriation of huge amount with respect to disbursement of payments made to different ration dealers on account of carriage charges for dispatching ration to far flung areas etc," the statement said.

"Investigation revealed that above named public servants under a conspired plan withdrawn an amount of Rs. 66 lakh (approx.) with dishonest intention by showing dispatches of below poverty line (BPL), Antyodaya Awas Yojana (AAY) ration in excess to the allotted quota to the respective dealers of far flung areas and misappropriated the carriage charges. It caused loss to the Govt. exchequer," ACB said.

"It was found that Abdul Qayoom and Ramesh Chander during their posting as Assistant Director, FCS&CA Department Reasi connived with the co-accused Ghar Singh, then TSO Sungri/Chasana and Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din then Storekeeper, Sungri,

Abdul Hamid, then Storekeeper Chasana and released carriage charges for excess quota of food grains in the name of 17 dealers, who in actual were not entitled for excess quota as shown against their name. This caused huge loss to the Government exchequer. The counterfoils of permit issue books, Utilization certificate/original distribution registers submitted by the dealers of Chasana and Sungri etc. were destroyed."

"On the strength of facts and circumstances, together with cogent and clinching evidence brought on record, the investigation has established the commission of offences U/S 5(1)(c) (d) r/w 5(2) P C Act. Svt.2006 and section 120-B, 201 RPC are made out against the said public servants. The prosecution sanction in respect of lone in-service public servant namely Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din then Storekeeper of TSO Chasana was obtained from the competent authority. No prosecution sanctioned was required against the rest of the public servants as they have already retired from Govt. services," the statement said, adding that next date of hearing is fixed on 01-10-2021.

## CUK VC Inaugurates Hindi Pakhwada

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir Tuesday inaugurated the fifteen day 'Hindi Pakhwada' organised by the Rajbhasha cell of the varsity at Green Campus here.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir said that people, cutting across all the divides, should learn different languages, particularly of the country, in addition to their mother tongue, as it would prove highly beneficial for them while travelling and communicating with indi-

viduals belonging to different States. He said the administrative staff of the university has evinced keen interest in learning Hindi and a majority of them has passed all three programmes i.e. Prabodh, Praveen and Pragma courses.

Addressing the participants, Finance Officer, Prof. Fayaz A Nikka, complimented the Raj Bhasha Cell for holding the Pakhwada, and said the language was a medium to communicate and understand each other properly. He said the Rajbhasha Cell of the university has been continuously organizing programmes

to acquaint the staff about the Hindi Language, adding that several competitions have also been organised to check the proficiency of Hindi language among the staff members.

Hindi Adhikari, Dr. Sakina Akhter conducted the programme proceedings and informed the participants about the steps taken by the Rajbhasha Cell for promotion of Hindi among the staff in the university. She said the Cell was organizing activities/ events including Translation, Hindi Noting, Dictation of Administrative Vocabulary and Essay/Letter writing during the Pakhwada.

## JKSSB Refutes News About Delay In Publication Of Shortlist

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has refuted the news circulated in a section of media, which attempts to create a false impression that the shortlist of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) category has been delayed by the JKSSB, and that the shortlist of all other categories has been notified.

The JKSSB, in a statement has said it is a fact that the Provisional Shortlist of all categories, except Persons with Disabilities (PWD) category have been notified in June, 2021 and their document verification commenced soon thereafter and continues to be underway currently. The above fact in itself demonstrates that there might have been a valid reason for not issuing the Provisional Shortlist in respect of Person with Disabilities (PWDs) category.

In the aforesaid context, it is clarified that there was a discrepancy in the Government Order No. 49- SW of 2021 dated:15.04.2021 in respect of identical Class IV posts pertaining to different departments, insofar as eligibility of

different sub categories of PWDs is concerned, due to which the shortlist could not be finalized. Accordingly, the JKSSB took up the matter with the General Administration Department with the request to ask the Social Welfare Department to clarify the matter, enabling the JKSSB to proceed ahead.

The requisite clarification from the Social Welfare Department is still awaited, as a consequence whereof, the said Provisional Shortlist in respect of PWDs category could not be notified. The publication of the Provisional Shortlist of PWD category has not been delayed due to inaction of the JKSSB, rather factors beyond its control are responsible for the delay.

The JKSSB in recent times, despite risks and difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has set examples in efficient, transparent and timely disposal of issues/ matters pertaining to recruitment and any attempt to attribute delay, directly or otherwise, to the JKSSB in the publication of Provisional Shortlist relating to PWDs category candidates is motivated and bereft of any truth.

## Div Com Felicitates National Anthem Singing Competition Winners

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations, the Information Department Tuesday organised a day-long programme to felicitate National Anthem singing competition winners 2021 at Audi-

tional Flag was hoisted at more than 7000 places here.

He congratulated the winners and said that Kashmir is fertile in art and literature and providing a conducive atmosphere and better platform to the upcoming young artists is the need of the hour. Inculcating



torium Hall of Directorate of Information and PR Srinagar.

On the occasion, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole who presided over the function as chief guest distributed certificates and cash prizes among the winners at both divisional and district level. Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com lauded the role of DIPR for holding such a series of events successfully. He said that the competition attracted huge participation from all districts of Kashmir and both male and female students participated with great enthusiasm. He said Kashmiris are as patriotic as people in other states of India and have served the Nation on all fronts and have won gallantry awards while serving in army and police. The Div Com said that on the 75th Independence Day, the Na-

the real essence of patriotism in our young generation will definitely yield fruit in terms of national integration, peace harmony and tranquility in near future.

During the program, the students of different Educational Institutions who participated and were declared winners of the National Anthem singing competition at Divisional level and in the district Srinagar were also felicitated.

At the outset, the Artists of the Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR presented thematic songs related to Covid-19 awareness and Safety Protocols to be adopted to fight any possible third wave as predicted by health experts. The winners of the National Anthem singing Competition also showcased their talent on the occasion and enthralled the audience with their individual performances.

## IUST Hosts Seminar On Communication Research

Observer News Service

Awantipora: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Tuesday inaugurated one-week National Workshop on 'Communication Research: Tools, Methods and Approaches.' The workshop being held from August 31 to September 5 is being conducted both in online and offline form.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakeel A Romshoo, who presided over the inaugural session, lauded the Journalism department for touching the important area of Communication Research. He stressed that proper communication was imperative, "for many of the problems arise due to miscommunication."

Talking about the responsibilities of researchers, the VC said the researchers should choose areas that have at least some relevance to the society. He also spoke about the importance of using proper tools that make research more result oriented. "The research outcomes should reach common masses and that is where proper communication is very important," he said. Stressing on the outreach being

equally important as research itself, Prof Romshoo announced that the university will soon engage a Dean Outreach.

In his keynote address, Prof Shafey Kidwai, former Chair-

ous trends," he said.

Prof Kidwai said the new trend is to depict how media framing is done and 'doctored truth' is being portrayed as reality. "The job of a communication researcher



is to unlock this 'perceived reality' and a human touch has to be there in every story or research," he said.

Welcoming the guests, Dr Ruheela Hassan, Head, DJMC, expressed gratitude to the university administration for going ahead with the workshop despite a long halt to the on-campus academic activities. Deliberating upon the importance of the workshop theme,

Dr Ruheela said the workshop shall provide researchers and academicians some important insights into different dimensions of the Communication Research. Meanwhile, a short video prepared by the department was also screened during the session.

Describing Communication Research as an important aspect of academia, Dean Social Sciences, Prof Abdul Salam Bhat, said there has been a transition in media operations as well as research, and "a politically, socially and ideologically motivated nexus is operating." "The dominance of this nexus is manipulating the research outcomes. Such workshops should help in creating awareness and encouraging researchers to work against the lines of such nexuses," he said.

In his address, Dean Research, IUST, Prof Haroon Rashid Naik, said the focus of the students should be on acquiring better communication skills rather than gold medals "because how we communicate is more important than mere degrees." Seconding his views, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof A M Shah said proper communication is the main focus in teaching and research. He urged the students to take research to a next level.

## SKUAST-K Organises 'Ayush Apke Dwar'

KO News Desk

Srinagar: Regional cum Facilitation centre North II of National medicinal plants Board under the aegis of SKUAST-K organised 'AYUSH APKE DWAR' under the AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV to commemorate the 75th Independence Day at FoA, Wadura Tuesday on 31st August 2021.

In this Programme 70 farmers from different districts of Kashmir region participated. Quality planting material of important medicinal plants endemic to Kashmir region like Saussure costus, Picoreza kurroea, Prunella vulgaris, Podophyllum hexandrum, accenia, Aconitum Heterophyllum, Berberis ciliata and inula racemosa was distributed free of cost among the farmers. More than 10,000/- plant saplings packed in polybags were distributed during the event. Dr. A.H Hakeem, Dean FoA, Wadura presided over the Function. Professors and Heads of various divisions of FoA, Wadura, SKUAST-K also participated in the event. Regional Director RCF North II Prof. Sheikh Bilal Ahmad assured the Farmers about the continuous supply of Planting material of Medicinal Plants and dissemination of technical know how about the cultivation practices, processing and value addition important for cultivation of Medicinal Plants. Later farmers visited the nursery of Medicinal Plants of RCF farm established at FoA, Wadura SKUAST-K where they interacted with the staff of RCF.

## LIC Completes 65 Years Of Existence

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Life Insurance Corporation of India, a premier financial conglomerate with footprints in 14 countries, enters into 66th year of its existence on 1st September, 2021.

True to the objective of nationalization, LIC is committed to propagate the message of life.

Starting with an initial capital of Rs.5 Crore in 1956 today LIC has Asset base of Rs. 38,04,610 Crores, with Life Fund to the tune of Rs. 34,36,686 Crores. As per a survey report released by Brand Finance Insurance 100, LIC is ranked as the 3rd Strongest and 10th most valuable brand, in the world, a company statement said.

Through its 8 Zonal Offices, 113 Divisional Offices, 74 Customer Zones, 2048 Branch Offices, 1546 Satellite Offices, more than 42000 Premium Points and Life Plus Offices, over one lakh employees, 13.53 Lakh agents, Customers are assured to be provided with our best of services.

Besides this, LIC has tied up with 8 PSU Banks, 6 Private Banks, 13 Regional Rural Banks, 41 Cooperative Banks and 1 For-

eign Bank to enhance productivity. LIC has formidable distribution channel to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in business.

In 2020-21 LIC has settled 229.15 lakhs claims amounting to Rs. 1,47,754 Crores.

Apart from being a leading Life Insurance Company, LIC is an internationally recognized financial conglomerate with its presence in fourteen countries. It has also ventured into other financial services through its Subsidiaries and Associates viz LIC HFL, LIC Pension Fund Ltd,

LIC Mutual Fund and AMC Ltd, LIC Cards Services Ltd, IDBI Bank Ltd, LICHL Care Homes Limited, LICHL Financial Services Limited, and LICHL Asset Management Company Limited.

LIC has won 19 Awards in Insurance Category in the year 2020-21. Notable ones being Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance and Readers Digest Awards-Most Trusted Brand.

LIC has stood tall in challenging times of Covid -19 Pandemic and has been able to provide seamless, unhindered, hassle free services to our esteemed policyholders





Wasim Akram

**T**he legendary pacer, however, didn't confirm or deny whether he was offered the position by the patron in chief of the board, Prime Minister Imran Khan.



## J&K Cricket Team Gears Up For Domestic Season As BCCI Release Schedule

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K cricket team will have its work cut out as the BCCI announced the schedule and fixtures for the upcoming Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy.

In the Ranji Trophy, the J&K senior men's team has been placed in Elite group D alongside Saurashtra, Tamil Nadu, Railways, Jharkhand and Goa. The Group D matches will take

place in Ahmedabad. The Group Stages of the competition are scheduled to run from January 13 to February 13, 2022. While the Knockouts stage will take place from February 20 to March 20, 2022 in Kolkata.

In Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team has been placed in Elite group C alongside Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Andhra. The Group C matches will take place in

Baroda and are scheduled to be played from November 4 to 9. The Knockouts of the tournament will start from November 16 to 22 in Delhi.

In the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the J&K cricket team has been placed in Elite group A alongside the likes of Gujarat, Andhra, Vidarbha, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh. The tournament's group stage matches will be played from December 8 to 14 and the Knockouts will take

place from December 21 to 27. The venue for the tournament hasn't been decided yet.

With this release of fixtures, and a new administration at the helm of affairs at JKCA, the J&K cricket fans will hope to see a worthy performance from the team.

As the results of the recently held senior team trials in Jammu and Srinagar are yet to be made public, fans expect the team members and coaches to be announced soon.

## DC Bandipora Kick-Starts Rugby Championship At SK Stadium

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Tuesday kick-started the J&K UT Level Rugby 7C's Championship at SK Stadium here.

The championship is being organized by Bandipora Rugby Association under the aegis of J&K Sports Council and Ali Sports Academy Bandipora. About 600 players from about 16 districts of the J&K UT are participating in the tournament that will conclude on Wednesday.

ture and assured every possible support from the district administration. Dr. Owais while interacting with the players, expressed satisfaction about the youth of Bandipora excelling in sports and said the youth have showcased their talent in several UT, national and even international platforms. He said the youth have potential and talent and there is a need to expose and polish this talent.

The Admin lauded the efforts of the local academies for working hard to train local youth in dif-



Senior Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zahid, Vice-Chairman JK Rugby Association Gh Nabi Tantray, Manager Ali Sports Academy Faisal Ali, Officers of JK Sports Academy, Civil and military officers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said it is a matter of great pleasure that the sports infrastructure has been developed to the level that Bandipora district is able to host the UT level championship. He said more needs to be done with regard to the development of infrastruc-

ture and assured every possible support from the district administration. Dr. Owais while interacting with the players, expressed satisfaction about the youth of Bandipora excelling in sports and said the youth have showcased their talent in several UT, national and even international platforms. He said the youth have potential and talent and there is a need to expose and polish this talent.

Dr. Owais said Bandipora is becoming more familiar because of sports and efforts made by Ali's sports academy and the same are acknowledged by district and (UT) administration. Dr. Owais Ahmed said Rugby is a unique and popular sport and assured for every support to promote rugby in Bandipora.

## Wasim Akram Denies Reports That He Is Interested In Becoming PCB Chief

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's former captain and fast bowling great Wasim Akram has denied reports that he is interested in becoming the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Akram, who is in Australia, tweeted that the PCB chairman's job was a specialised one and he was not up for it.

The legendary pacer, however, didn't confirm or deny whether he was offered the position by the patron in chief of the board, Prime Minister Imran Khan. A source aware of the developments leading to the nomination of former captain Ramiz Raja as PCB chief had claimed that the PM had also considered Akram for the post.

Ramiz was nominated by the premier to the PCB's Board of Governors which will elect the new chairman on September 13 for a three-year term. Akram, who is an influential member of the PCB's Cricket Committee and also director cricket/coach with the Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League, is presently in Australia with his wife and daughter.



## Two Matches Played In DFA Srinagar Super Division



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Super Division matches were played on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf TRC Srinagar.

First match of the day was played between Jehlum Sports FC and Musuuda Foundation FC. Jehlum FC took the lead through Abid Ahmad in 36th minute of the first

half. At half time Jehlum FC was leading by one goal. In the second of game Jehlum FC consolidated their lead by scoring another goal through Arman. Musuuda Foundation FC tried their utmost to find the net but could not penetrate the solid defence of Jehlum FC. The match ended with Jehlum FC defeating Musuuda Foundation

FC by two goal to nil.

The second match was played between Towheed FC and Hamdaniya FC. Both teams played aggressively and tried hard to take lead, but both the teams failed find the net. In the dying moments of the game Towheed FC scored back to back goals and defeated Hamdaniya FC by 2 goals to 0.

## South Africa Pace Great Dale Steyn Announces Retirement

Press Trust of India

JOHANNESBURG: Resembling a work of art when in full flight with his wicked swing and toe-crushing yorkers, all-time pace great Dale Steyn on Tuesday announced retirement from cricket with an impeccable record and a legacy to boot.

Cricket will be poorer without the

and there's reason to believe. Maybe this year will be better than the last I can't remember all the times I tried to tell myself to hold on to these moments as they pass," Steyn wrote in his retirement letter, quoting a song from American rock band Counting Crows to convey his emotions.

"It's been 20 years of training, matches, travel, wins, losses,

in South Africa's squad for the 2019 World Cup but had to pull out without playing a match due to a shoulder problem.

He still had an eye on the ICC T20 World Cup last year, before that tournament was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He played in T20 franchise leagues thereafter, including in the Pakistan Super League in March this year. He also pulled out of the IPL, but insisted he wasn't retiring.

However, on Tuesday, he brought his career to a close, quoting lines from 'A Long December'.

After starting his representative cricket career in 2003 in a first-class match for Northerns, Steyn got his South Africa cap the following year, in a Test against England in Port Elizabeth. Steyn made his ODI debut for Africa XI against Asia XI in 2005 at Centurion. His best figures -- 6 for 39 -- came in Port Elizabeth against Pakistan in 2013. In 2007, Steyn made his T20I debut against New Zealand and in his second game -- against West Indies -- he recorded career-best figures of 3-0-9-4.

His last ODI was against Sri Lanka in 2019 while the T20I against Australia in February last year turned out to be his last international fixture. Steyn's career was a story of battle with injuries.

In December 2015, he injured his shoulder in the Durban Test against England and was ruled out of the rest of the rubber.

Having gone under the knife to fix his coracoid (a shoulder bone), he again injured it during the Perth Test against Australia in 2016.

Steyn returned for the Test series against India in 2018, only to sustain a "freakish" heel injury in Cape Town.



rhythmic run-up and an action that was all about grace, for there was no better sight in cricket than watching Steyn striding in and attacking the batsmen. The 38-year-old South African made the announcement on Twitter, ending a 17-year career, which saw him play in 93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20Is and pick 439, 196 and 64 wickets respectively for the Proteas.

"Today I officially retire from the game I love the most. Bitter sweet but grateful. Thank you to everyone, from family to teammates, journalists to fans, its been an incredible journey together," he wrote.

"And it's been a long December

strapped feat, jet lag, joy, and brotherhood. There are too many memories to tell. To many faces to thank. So I left it to the experts to sum up, my favourite band, the Counting Crows," he added.

Steyn, who retired from Test cricket in 2019 with an eye on limited-overs formats, last played an international in February 2020 a T20I against Australia but has had constant run-ins with injuries over the last few years, especially after a career-threatening shoulder breakdown during South Africa's tour of Australia in November 2016.

The pacer was initially included

## YSS Organises Sports Competition For Orphanage Students In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the history of the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), sports competitions were organised for the students of an orphanage here.

Director Youth Services & Sports, Jammu and Kashmir, Gazanfar Ali kick-started these competitions on Tuesday at Welfare Educational Institute (Yateem Khana). He was accompanied by Joint Director (Kashmir) Bashir Ahmad, DYSSO Srinagar Balbir Singh and other officials of the Department. On this occasion, Director YSS Gazanfar Ali said that the department has been conducting sports competitions in Schools and other institutions but still there were certain institutions which usually get left out.

"The Department has taken up this initiative to reach out to such institutions and to begin the journey, we have started from an Orphanage," he said.

He further added that the Department has provided these chil-



**These are brave kids.** We have provided them sports kits and also directed the District Officer Srinagar to provide them all the necessary sports equipments as well." .....said Gazanfar Ali.

dren with sports kits and other equipment in order to uplift their morale and to develop their interest in sports activities.

"These are brave kids. We have provided them sports kits and also directed the District Officer Srinagar to provide them all the necessary sports equipments as well," said Gazanfar Ali.

Sports competition in four disciplines are being conducted at the educational institution which included Volleyball, Chess, Kabadi and Carom. Moreover, with Government aiming to enable people of J&K who are not part of institutions to explore their talent; Director YSS, J&K, said, "We have planned to

cover all areas & enable the people from any age group who are not part of Institutions or Schools to explore their talent by providing them a platform and help them to make it to the bigger platform."

"We want people from any age group or gender to take part in their sport of choice and then they can accordingly take part in the tournaments conducted at Ward/Panchayat/Block/District/Division and UT levels," he said and added that so far 8000 teams have been created at Panchayat and Ward levels, in which around 1.5 Lakh people have registered.

Moreover, there are around 651 playgrounds under Rural Devel-

opment Department, where the games will be played, apart from the other convenient play fields in every district/Panchayats of the regions. Director YSS, J&K, appealed to people, especially the youth, who are not part of institutions/schools, to register themselves for the competition and become a part of the sporting world.

"The department is presently forming clubs and all those who are not affiliated with schools/institutions should join us. Sports kits, refreshments, etc. everything will be provided for the participants and we have high hopes that the talented youth will emerge," emphasized Gazanfar Ali.

**WE WANT PEOPLE FROM ANY AGE** group or gender to take part in their sport of choice and then they can accordingly take part in the tournaments conducted at Ward/Panchayat/Block/District/Division and UT levels."

## IPL To Get Richer, BCCI Expects Rs 5000 Cr Windfall As Base Price For New Teams Kept At Rs 2000 Cr Each

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian cricket board could soon get richer by at least Rs 5000 crore with the addition of two new franchises during the 2022 edition of Indian Premier League.

The IPL, which is currently an eight-team tournament, will become a 10-team affair from the next edition and during a recent governing council meeting, the modalities of the bidding process were chalked out.

The BCCI on Tuesday also invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5.

"Any company can buy the bid document paying Rs 10 lakh. Earlier top brass was thinking about keeping

the base price for two new teams at Rs 1700 crore but later it was decided to keep the base price at Rs 2000 crore," a senior BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The source, who has dealt with the financial side of IPL in the past, said that the BCCI stands to gain at least Rs 5000 crore if the bids go as per plan with plenty of large business conglomerates showing active interest in bidding.

"The BCCI is expecting anything in the range of 5000 crore if not more. There will be 74 IPL games next season and it's a win-win situation for everyone."

The BCCI statement added: "The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids to acquire the right to own and



operate 1 (one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle

any person to bid," it added.

It is learnt that only companies with an annual turnover of Rs 3000 crore will be allowed to bid for the teams. In a welcome news, the BCCI is planning to allow a consortium to bid for teams as it makes the bidding process more vibrant.

"I think more than three business entities won't be allowed to form a consortium but if three business come together and wants to jointly bid for a team, they are welcome to do so," he said.

Among the venues where the teams could be based include Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Pune.

The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad and Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, with bigger capacities, could be the choice for franchises.

Some of the names that are doing the rounds include the Adani group, RPG Sanjeev Goenka group, noted pharma company Torrent and a prominent banker who has shown active interest in buying teams.

**ANY INTERESTED PARTY WISHING** to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," it added.