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P6 THINK

DOES US HUMILIATION IN AFGHANISTAN SPELL CURTAINS ON FOREVER WARS?

THE horrific terrorist attacks outside Kabul airport will boost chaos sky high. It will take focus away from the only frame in which the epochal events of the past few days should be seen.

P7 THE PULL OF PAGES

I was in Dublin for half a decade. Unlike New York or Berlin, it is a manageable city. That is to say that you can easily walk around and explore the entire Dublin city in a day – though it rains for better part of a week which can be a damp squib. Strolling around the city...



P5 STATE

ACB ARRESTS ARTO KUPWARA, OTHER OFFICIALS IN CORRUPTION CASE

Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said that it has arrested ARTO Kupwara, Motor Vehicle Inspectors and others for corrupt practices in ARTO office...



Quote!
Take responsibility for yourself; it's very rewarding.
– Amanda Green

NEWS DIGEST

Rs 76000 Recovered From SOP Violators

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have recovered a fine of Rs 76 150 from 713 persons for violating COVID Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the valley during the past 24 hours. A police spokesman said this evening that [● More On P10](#)

Man Stabbed To Death By Elder Brother

JAMMU: A 31-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his elder brother during a scuffle over some issue in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Monday. The incident happened late Sunday night when Lehar and Chamail Singh were drinking liquor at their Sadi village [● More On P10](#)

Train Service Remains Suspended

SRINAGAR: Train service remained suspended for the fifth day on Monday in the Kashmir valley as a precautionary measure. Official sources said that train will not chug on Srinagar-Budgam and Baramulla in north Kashmir for the fifth day today. Similarly, train service will remain suspended on Badgam-Srinagar-Anantnag [● More On P10](#)

Ladakh Reports 5 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh registers five more COVID-19 cases, taking the union territory's infection tally to 20,583, while the count of active cases stands at 57, officials said on Monday. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths so far – 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil. No death due to the disease was reported on Sunday. Seven more COVID-19 patients were cured [● More On P10](#)

Mobile Internet Remains Barred In Srinagar, Budgam

Businesses Limp Back To Life After 4 Days Of Curbs



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mobile internet services continue to remain barred for the fifth consecutive day Monday in the twin districts of Srinagar and Budgam while it was restored elsewhere after reviewing the situation in the backdrop of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death on Wednesday last.

"Mobile internet will be open shortly today by 7pm in all districts except Srinagar & Budgam. Will review about Srinagar & Budgam tomorrow afternoon," a police spokesperson quoted IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar as saying.

The restoration of mobile internet services came five days after authorities snapped communication lines, including voice calling and internet services on all cellular companies on Thursday, hours after Geelani passed away at his Hyderabad residence on Wednesday night.

While voice calling and fixed broadband services were restored on Saturday, mobile internet services remained snapped across all ten districts of the Valley till Monday evening. Barring Srinagar and Budgam districts, the high speed mobile internet [● More On P10](#)

70 Union Ministers Arriving In J&K From Thursday

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a part of the government of India's focussed attention on the development of Jammu and Kashmir, as many as 70 Union Ministers are likely to visit the Union Territory from Thursday to review various developmental works, besides, interacting with stakeholders over a period of nine weeks.

This was stated during a high-level meeting chaired by J&K Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday to review the progress of district plans besides ensuing visit of Union Ministers to Jammu and Kashmir, an official



MPs panel on health & family welfare inspecting PHC Chanapora here on Monday.

spokesperson said. He said Administrative Secretaries of departments

of Finance, Health & Medical Education, Forest, Ecology & Environment, [● More On P10](#)

IT WAS FURTHER DIRECTED THAT BRIEF notes on various issues, bottlenecks, achievements and future strategies be also provided to the VIPs during the tour."

Policeman Held For Abetting Wife's Suicide

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A cop and his four relatives have been arrested in connection with the suicide of his wife in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Monday. Zewara Begum committed suicide by jumping in the Marusudra river from a bridge at Chudraman on July 23 and her body was subsequently recovered near Bata Warwan. The special investigation team (SIT), [● More On P10](#)

...Haryana Paper Leak Case

Police Announces Rs 2L Reward On Two J&K Residents

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police has announced Rs 2 lakh reward each for information regarding two residents of Jammu and Kashmir, alleged involved in paper leak case for the recruitment of male constables of the Haryana Police.

SSP Kaithal, Lokender Singh (IPS) said that that while other accused have been arrested, two residents of J&K—Mohammad Afzal

Dar of Hazratbal Srinagar and Muzaffar Ahmad of Gul Ramban are at large.

"We have announced Rs 2 lakh as reward for providing information leading to their arrest. Already a number of accused have been arrested and they are only missing link in the chain and as such reward has been announced for their arrest," he said.

The SSP said that a case (FIR No. 433) dated 7-8-21 under section 420,467, [● More On P10](#)

MPs Panel Begins 3-Day Tour Of J&K

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on Monday began a three-day study tour of Jammu and Kashmir, visiting various medical facilities and interacting with doctors, paramedics and patients, officials said. The committee would meet several stakeholders to [● More On P10](#)

MoS Singh Reviews Progress Of Highway Projects

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday reviewed the progress of several highway and road projects in Jammu and Kashmir with National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited [● More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 93 New Cases, 129 Recoveries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday recovery of 129 coronavirus infected persons while 93 new cases of virus were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 129 more Covid-19 infected patients have recovered—45 from Jammu division and 84 from the Valley during the last 24 hours. During the same time, 93 fresh cases of virus surfaced in J&K—73 from Kashmir and 20 from [● More On P10](#)

ISI Chief Meets With Taliban Leader

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban on Monday confirmed that Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has met its de-facto leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, amidst efforts by the insurgent group to finalise a government in Afghanistan.

Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt Gen Hameed dashed to Kabul on an unannounced visit last week, becoming the only high-ranking foreign official to visit Kabul since the Taliban seized the Afghan capital in mid-August.

During a press conference in Kabul on Monday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the ISI chief had met with Mullah Baradar during his visit to Kabul, BBC Urdu reported. [● More On P10](#)

Under Fire, Police Releases Nine Videos Of Geelani's Funeral



File Photo: Khalid Khan

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Facing sharp criticism over alleged mishandling of veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's last rites, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday released a series of nine videos showing

the funeral of the deceased leader being performed as per Islamic rituals.

The videos were released by police on its official Twitter handle on Monday evening showing people performing funeral bath (Ghusl) before lowering [● More On P10](#)

Hurriyat Condemns FIR Against Geelani Family

SRINAGAR: The Hurriyat Conference faction led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Monday condemned the filing of an FIR against the family members of veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani following his death last week. The police registered the FIR against unnamed people under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal [● More On P10](#)

Mehbooba Slams Govt Over Geelani's Funeral

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said denial of last rites to the family of separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani was against humanity and had saddened the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The 92-year-old was buried in a graveyard located in a mosque near his residence. "We had our differences [● More On P10](#)

Govt Departments Asked To Clear Outstanding Power Dues

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance department on Monday directed all government departments to clear all outstanding dues against electricity bills immediately.

This step has been taken by the finance department in view of the huge pendency of arrears of electricity by government departments in the union territory.

The additional chief secretary finance Atal Dulloo issued a circular in this regard on Monday.

"It has come to the notice of finance department that there are outstanding and pending electricity dues against various government departments of union territory of J&K", Dulloo said in the circular.

Each department is supposed to clear the electricity bills of their offices raised by power department [● More On P10](#)



(PDD) every month by way of contra-credit and book adjustment at respective treasuries.

"To streamline payment of electricity dues, it is impressed upon all the administrative secretaries to instruct the heads of the departments and drawing and disbursing officers under their administrative control to clear the [● More On P10](#)

How Mirza Kamil Chowk Became Bihari Chowk

Syed Burhan

Shahnawaz Khan has been running a grocery shop at the busy Mirza Kamil Chowk for more than two decades now – the epoch when Kashmir's all-weather architecture became fair-weather showpieces: cold in winter, hot in summer.

At the heart of this sweeping change was the influx of the labour class from the Ganges—the cut-rate sand-iron-cement workforce—whose identity would stay with the square known for its spiritual distinctiveness.

The changing dynamics of the locality due to the growing foothold of non-local labourers lately made Shahnawaz to designate one part of his stop to masonry and hardware items.

While he hopes his business will

eventually pick up, he has a reason to be angry.

He questions the way locals have started to call the place as Bihari Chowk.

"For us Bihari Chowk holds no significance," the grouchy grocer said.

"What does it even mean? This place is named after a spiritual personality. We'll continue to call the place as Mirza Kamil Chowk. But sadly, not only we Kashmiris are losing our economy to outsiders, but identity too!"

This anger was voiced in a hot summer morning, when Srinagar's Mirza Kamil Chowk in Hawal area was crowded by non-local labourers. It's an everyday scene at the busy junction in the heart of downtown when the non-native 'early birds' cool their heels for customers amid the din and spits—with tobacco



wrappers all over the place.

But before the 'new identity', the locality—named after Hazrat

Sheikh Akmal ud Din Mohammad Kamil Badakshi [RA]—was once visited for its spiritual and religious

significance.

Born in 1642 AD, the saint's ancestors reportedly arrived in the valley from Afghanistan's Badakshan area. His lineage can be traced to Hazrat Ali [AS].

"Before moving to Kashmir, the saint's ancestors used to work in the courts of Mughal emperors," said Maulana Khursheed Ahmad Qanungo, a chief cleric of the Mirza Kamil Shrine and the Anjumane Himayatul Islam.

"He led an apolitical and a spiritual life and was named by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, which shows the level of influence he enjoyed but he left everything for Islam."

Qanungo is aghast and sad at what he calls negative attitude of Kashmiris when it comes to protecting their legacy and identity.

While recalling the literary

contributions of the saint, he said, "This place used to be a center of faith and devotion and people used to flock the place during the lifetime of Mirza Sahib, and after his death the area came to be known as Mirza Kamil Sahib Chowk."

But sadly, he said, Kashmiris take names in a lighter sense and end up distorting the identity of places and persons.

"While our locality was named after the saint, the neighbouring locality was called Mohalla Zahid after the grandfather of Mirza Sahib. Localities were either named after the majority of people professing their profession or after a famous personality. For example, Naeyid Door used to be a locality full of barbers, while Chan Mohalla was an abode of carpenters."

But with time, education and status, the cleric [● More On P10](#)

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The study included seven patients at the UCSF Epilepsy Center and three in the Epilepsy Center at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



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Narrow Escape For Family As Houseboat Capsizes In River Jhelum

Agencies

Srinagar: A family had a narrow escape on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday after a houseboat, they were living in, sank in the river Jhelum at Bund in Sheikh Mohalla. Locals said that the houseboat namely New King Suleman, belonging to Ali Muhammad Shagoo and Abdul Khaliq Shagoo capsized on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, rendering the family homeless.

Farooq Ahmad Dharma, a local, said that the houseboat sank in the river Jhelum last night, however,

the family heads managed to rescue all their members.

He said the houseboat has suffered a damage of Rs four to five lakhs in the incident. Dharma along with other locals appealed the government especially Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Director Tourism G N Ittoo and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad to visit the affected family and provide assistance to them.

"The family should be immediately compensated so that they can renovate their houseboat, which is the sole source of income for the family," they said.

DDC Reviews Progress Of Works Of DCP Under ADF

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday chaired a meeting of concerned Officers to review the works identified and achievements made in District Capex Plan (DCP) under Area Development Fund 2021-22.

The meeting discussed detailed proposals under the District Capex Plan, 2021-22 including physical status of projects targeted for completion in the current fiscal, and progress of works under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

At the outset, the DDC highlighted the role of elected DDCs, BDCs and Panchayat members; he said that the District Development Plan has assumed immense significance after the formulation of District Development Councils, Block Development Councils thereby completing the three tier PRI system to ensure democratic decentralization.

He informed that for the first time, proportionate funding to all three tiers of PRIs is being ensured to cater to the development aspirations of the people through DDCs, BDCs and Panchayats. Funds to the tune of Rs 25 lakh per Block Development Council, Rs 10 crore to District Development Council out of the budget has been provisioned, while Rs 23.30 lakh per Panchayat has been earmarked out of ULB/ PRI grants this time to achieve development targets.

While reviewing the Action Plan prepared to carry out the developmental works in Srinagar district under Area Development Fund, the DDC asked the officers to reconcile the works nomenclature and check out any redundancy in works and submit the pending estimates by

08th September. He also directed for completing the tendering process of all developmental works by September 10, 2021 to speed up the pace of works. He directed for completing all estimations and feasibility of all for early authorization.

The DDC also constituted a District Capex Follow up Cell for monitoring and speedy completions of works. He directed the officers to work in coordinated manner with line departments and in consulta-



tion with PRIs. He also exhorted the officers to work with synergy to achieve development goals well in time keeping in view the working season. Earlier, the Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar informed that as many as 310 works have been identified by concerned District Development Committees, Block Development Committees and other Panchayat Raj Institutions in the district. He further informed that authorization for 70 percent of works has been completed while 50 percent funds have been released so far. Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Gulzar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammed Yaseen Lone, Additional Commissioner Development, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Engineer R&B and other concerned Engineers and Officers were present in the meeting.

ACB Raids SMC Complex After Complaints Of Corruption

KO News Desk

Srinagar: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday raided the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) complex in the city here to conduct a surprise check following complaints of corruption. The joint surprise check was conducted by the police and ACB officials. Reports said that a raid was conducted in the office of Joint Commissioner (Planning) and some documents were also seized during the raid.

The Anti Corruption Bureau is primarily responsible for the de-

tection and investigation of cases of corruption and bribery among public servants.

Quoting officials of ACB a report said that the raid on the SMC complex was a "surprise check" and said such raids are conducted following "complaints" received by the anti-graft organisation. The official did not divulge more details about the complaint and the raid.

In May this year SMC Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu along with some of the corporators staged a protest and launched an indefinite hunger strike demanding removal of the joint

commissioner planning for alleged "corruption".

Mattu, who is also an Apni Party leader, had also written to the government seeking Joint Commissioner's removal and his repatriation to his parent department Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD)

In September last year, the Anti-Corruption Bureau carried out raids at the residences of four SMC officials and recovered "incriminating documents" in connection with the illegal construction of a shopping plaza at Kursoo Rajbagh in Srinagar.

School Education Dept Organises Workshop On Implementation Of NEP-2020

Srinagar: The two day workshop on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 concluded today at SKICC Srinagar. The workshop was attended by School leaders from across the Kashmir Division and by the Education Reform Committees at different levels from both the divisions in online and offline mode. B.K.Singh Principal Secretary to Govt. School Education Department J&K (UT) , Prof. Veena Pandita Chairperson JKBOSE (Director SCERT J&K), Director School Education Kashmir Dr. Tassaduq Hussain, Dr. Ravi Shankar, Director School Education Jammu, Project Director Samagra Shiksha J&K Shri Deep Raj, Prof. Mr. Wahid Makhdoom Joint Secretary JKBOSE attended the workshop, besides other Sr. officers of the Department were also present.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor J&K (UT) shortly after the Culmination of teachers' day celebrations on 5th September. This workshop was aimed at training the School leaders and preparing them to practically implement the recommendations of the policy in the schools. The morning session on 06-09-2021 started with the inaugural address by Dr Tassaduq Hussain Director School Education Kashmir wherein he laid stress on making best use of time during the workshop to pave the way for better and purposeful implementation of the policy and its proper understanding. During the workshop healthy discussions took place among the different reform committees and principals of Hr. Secondary schools of UT of J&K. The principal Secretary to

Government School Education Department Shri B.K.Singh reiterated the importance of making schools enjoyable, engaging & attractive. He said that if teachers are not properly oriented and practically trained it's not going to fetch the desired results so far as the overall educational development in the UT is concerned.

He said that the teachers have an enormous responsibility in making these recommendations a reality by implementing them in letter spirit. The participants interacted with the experts on different components of NEP-2020 and the experts from School Education Department, JKBOSE, JK-SCERT and other experts present responded to the various queries raised by the participants during day long presentations.

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

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu) Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to GNM course 2021

Reference: Notification No.078-BOPEE of 2021 dated 20-08-2021.

NOTIFICATION No: 083-BOPEE of 2021

DATED: 05-09-2021.

Pursuant to Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021, read with Notification No. 078-BOPEE of 2021 dated 20-08-2021, the physical round of counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for GNM Courses 2021 was held at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar simultaneously w.e.f 25-08-2021 to 04-09-2021. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit-cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to GNM Course-2021, in various oa Govt. /Private Colleges/ Institutions of Union Territory of J&K/Ladakh as per the Annexure "A" to this notification, which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 0 06-09-2021 to 16-09-2021 (upto 03.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Mark Cards of 12th class.
2. Date of Birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate, if any.
6. Any other Certificate/ document as required by the College Authorities.

It shall be sole responsibility of the Heads of Colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines, before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (16-09-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holiday/ off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities as the delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / iakbopee@gmail.com / coeikakbopee@gmail.com on 16th of September-2021 (upto 05.00 PM).

Note:

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate (s).
2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, where a person with disability, if selected in open merit or some reserved category, the college/ institution concerned shall constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of disability /eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE.
3. For fee / documents required for admission in the College/ Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact concerned College/Institute before the last date of admission i.e. 16-09-2021.
- 4- The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard.

No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021 Dated: 05-09-2021

DIPK-NB-3181/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)

Controller of Examinations, J&K, BOPEE

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No: 66 of 2021
Dt: 04-09-2021

Subject: Date Extension Corrigendum to Notice 66 of 2021, Dated: 14-08-2021.

Due to 'Inadequate' response to the "Tender" for "Renovation/ Repair of existing Building structure for Common Incubation Centre on Item Rate basis at Achabal, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir", the Last Date of Online Bid Submission is extended by a spell of Five (05) days' time and as such the Last Date of Online Bid Submission would be up to 08-09-2021. Subsequently the Bid Opening Date would be 09-09-2021.

Sd/-

Managing Director
JKHPMC Ltd

DIPK-NB-3144/21

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1191- Third Crusade: Battle of Arsuf - Richard I of England defeats Saladin at Arsuf.
- 1599-Earl of Essex & Irish rebel Tyrone signs treaty
- 1701- Germany, England & Netherlands sign anti-French covenant
- 1714- Treaty of Baden: Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI & France, ends War of spanish Succession, French retain Alsace, Austria gets bank of Rhine
- 1812- Battle at Borodino: Napoleon-Kutuzov
- 1909- Eugene Lefebvre becomes first pilot to die in an airplane craft, while test piloting new French-built Wright biplane at Juvisy
- 1922- In Aydin, Turkey, independence of Aydin, from Greek occupation.
- 1936- Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) begins operation
- 1942- Transport nr 29 departs with French Jews to nazi-Germany
- 1947- Battles between Hindus & Muslims in New Delhi, India
- 1948- 1st use of synthetic rubber in asphaltic concrete, Akron
- 1950- Monasteries shut down in Hungary
- 1965- China announces that it will reinforce its troops in the Indian border.
- 1970- Fighting between Arabic guerillas and government forces in Amman, Jordan.
- 1977- Ethiopia drops diplomatic relations with Somalia
- 1995- STS 69 (Endeavour 9), launches into orbit
- 1997- The first test flight of the F-22 Raptor takes place.
- 2005- First presidential election was held in Egypt.
- 2008- The US Government takes control of the two largest largest mortgage financing companies in the US, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
- 2011- Plane crash in Russia kills 43 people, including nearly the entire roster of the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl Continental Hockey League team
- 2012- 64 people are killed and 715 injured after a series of earthquakes in south-west China
- 2012 - Canada closes its Iranian embassy and expels Iranian diplomatic staff out of Canada
- 2013- Tony Abbott becomes Prime Minister of Australia after a Liberal-National Coalitions wins the election
- 2014- Asteroid 2014 RC makes a close approach to Earth (39,900 km; 24,800 mi)
- 2015- British archaeologists announce the discovery of a Neolithic "superhenge" under 3ft of earth at Durrington Walls

From KO Archives

‘JK Muslim Population May Fall To 60%’

Move To Distort States Demographic Character: Soz

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former union minister and dissident National Conference leader, Prof Saif-ud- din Soz, today charged the government with the attempts to manipulate the ongoing census operation with a view to distorting the demographic character of the only Muslim majority state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here, Prof Soz urged the government to ensure that the census operation in Jammu and Kashmir was conducted honestly and objectively. "The only way this can be done is by introducing a special treatment to the state outside the Census Act so that no non-state subject person present here is counted", he asserted. Prof Soz said an objective census could not be held in Jammu and Kashmir because of the prevailing conditions. "By applying the Census Act to Jammu and Kashmir, under which census is being conducted in whole of India, great injustice will be done to the state", he said, adding the exercise would depict a further decline in the population of Muslims. Expressing his apprehensions about the census, Prof Soz said the 20-day exercise envisaged enumeration of all those present in the state during the operations being carried out from 11th till end of this month. "All the pars-military forces, including the border security force (BSF), the central reserve police force (CRPF), besides the migratory labour from outside the state will be counted", he said, adding that it would drastically tilt the scales against the majority community of the state. Presently, the state is host to around three lakh labourers from various states, including Bihar and Orissa.

Voicing his grave concern at the sharp 'decline' in Muslim population of the state since 1951, when the first census was conducted, Prof Soz said it was 70 per cent in 1951 and came down to 68.3 per cent in 1961. In 1971, the percentage of Muslims was shown as 65.8 which fell to 64.2 in 1981. He said he won't be surprised if the percentage in this census, which was being conducted after 20 years was about 60. "I won't buy the officially inspired argument that Muslims have accepted family planning or are professing the small family norm. How is it that their population has registered a decadal fall in Jammu and Kashmir," the former union minister asked. Against this he said the population growth in Hindu areas of Jammu had witnessed a sharp rise over the decades. "Does it mean they do not adopt birth control methods?" he questioned.

(Kashmir Observer, September 07, 2000)

Afghan Taliban say UN promises aid after meeting with officials in Kabul

Reuters

Senior Taliban officials met in Kabul on Sunday with the UN undersecretary-general for human-



Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen pictured at a news conference in Moscow, Russia on July 9. — Reuters/File

itarian affairs, who promised to maintain assistance for the Afghan people, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, head of the Taliban's political office and other officials met

Martin Griffiths as Afghanistan faces a potentially catastrophic humanitarian crisis caused by severe drought and a collapsing economy.

"The UN delegation promised the continuation of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, saying he would call for further assistance to Afghanistan during the coming meeting of donor countries," Shaheen said on Twitter.

Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries in the world, has been plunged into crisis by the abrupt end of billions of dollars in foreign aid following the collapse of the Western-backed government and the victory of the Taliban last month.

Shaheen said the Taliban assured the UN delegation of "cooperation and provision of needed facilities".

The United Nations is expected to convene an international aid conference in Geneva on September 13 to help avert what UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called a "looming humanitarian catastrophe".

6 Palestinians escape high-security Israeli prison through a tunnel

AFP

Six Palestinians broke out of an Israeli prison on Monday through a tunnel dug beneath a sink, triggering a massive manhunt for the group.

The Israel Prison Service (IPS) said an alert was sounded at roughly 3am by locals who spotted "suspicious figures" outside the Gilboa prison in the country's north. The group includes Zakaria Zubeidi — a prominent former leader of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which was a part of late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah political movement, the IPS confirmed in a statement.



Israeli security personnel search outside the Gilboa Prison in northern Israel after six Palestinians broke out. — AFP

Police, the army and agents from Israel's powerful internal security agency the Shin Bet joined the search effort, officials said. Sniffer dogs were deployed and checkpoints set up in the area surrounding Gilboa. Israeli media reports said it was possible the escapees had already returned to the West Bank, a territory occupied by Israel since 1967. The army said its forces were "prepared and deployed" in the West Bank as part of the operation. In footage that recalled the iconic 1994 prison escape film "The Shawshank Redemption," the IPS released a video that showed agents inspecting a narrow tunnel dug beneath a sink, burrowing deep into the ground.

The jailbreak occurred hours

before Israel begins its High Holiday season, starting with Jewish New Year which begins at sundown. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in a statement called the escape "a serious incident" and said he was receiving regular updates about the search.

All 400 inmates detained at Gilboa over "security offences" are being relocated in case additional tunnels have been dug beneath the facility, according to the IPS.

Gaza groups cheer Hamas, the group that controls the Gaza Strip, called the escape a "courageous and heroic act" and a "real defeat" for Israel's security system. Islamic Jihad, another

group in Gaza, lauded the jailbreak as "a powerful blow to the occupation forces".

Who is Zakaria Zubeidi? Zubeidi was the former head of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and a well known figure among Palestinians and Israelis.

He was arrested over "terror allegations" in 2019 in a West Bank village near Ramallah.

He had faced charges in the past from the Palestinian Authority for taking part in a shooting attack on the residence of Jenin governor Qaddura Musa in 2002.

Musa died after suffering a heart attack during the incident, and Palestinian security forces arrested dozens of people, including Zubeidi, shortly afterwards.

Taliban Urges Int'l Community To Reopen Embassies In Kabul

AFP

The Taliban on Monday called for recognition of Afghanistan, saying the country "has the right" to be recognised while urging the international community to reopen their embassies in Kabul.

"The war has ended, the country is getting out of the crisis. It is now time for peace and reconstruction. We need the people to support us," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a press conference in Kabul.

Addressing journalists at the press conference, Mujahid stressed that "Afghanistan has the right to be recognised".

"The international community should open their embassies in Kabul," he said.

The Taliban spokesman also called upon military personnel who served under the previous regime to join the new force. "The Afghan forces who were trained in the past 20 years will be asked to rejoin the security departments alongside Taliban members."

He said that any insurgency against their rule would be "hit hard", after earlier saying they had captured the Panjshir Valley — the last pocket of resistance.

"The Islamic Emirate is very sensitive about insurgencies. Anyone who tries to start an insurgency will be hit hard. We will not allow another," Mujahid said. "Anyone who picks up arms

and starts another resistance, without any doubts, will be our enemy.

Technical issues

Three weeks after seizing

Qatar has been working with the Taliban on getting the airport back up and running and, Mujahid said, "serious efforts" were underway to restore op-



Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid speaks during a press conference in Kabul on September 6, 2021. — AFP

power but with no government so far announced, the spokesman said an "interim" system would first be announced to allow for changes.

"Final decisions have been taken, we are now working on the technical issues," he said.

"We will announce the new government as soon as the technical issues are resolved." A key issue for the Taliban is the reopening of the airport in Kabul, which was the scene of a massive US-led evacuation plan that ended last week.

erations.

"Technical teams from Qatar, Turkey and UAE are working hard to repair the equipment," he said, adding international flights would resume "soon".

Since their sweep to power last month, the Taliban have been met with widespread condemnation from the international community, with many fearing the government will be similar to the brutal regime of 1996 to 2001 when they were first in power.

THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE IS VERY sensitive about insurgencies. Anyone who tries to start an insurgency will be hit hard. We will not allow another," Mujahid said.

Taliban Say They Took Panjshir, Last Holdout Afghan Province

Agencies

Kabul— The Taliban said on Monday they have taken control of Panjshir province north of Kabul, the last holdout of anti-Taliban forces in the country and the only province the Taliban had not seized during their blitz across Afghanistan last month.

Thousands of Taliban fighters overran eight districts of Panjshir overnight, according to witnesses from the area who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid issued a statement Monday, saying Panjshir was now under the control of Taliban fighters.

The anti-Taliban forces had been led by the former vice president, Amrullah Saleh, and also the son of the iconic anti-Taliban fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud who was killed just days before the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Meanwhile in northern Balkh province, at least four planes chartered to evacuate several hundred people seeking to escape the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan have been unable to leave the country for days, officials said Sunday, with conflicting accounts emerging about why the flights weren't able to take off as pressure ramps up on the U.S. to help those left behind to flee.

An Afghan official at the airport in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital, said that the would-be passengers were Afghans, many of whom did not have passports or visas, and thus were unable to leave the country. Speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters, he said they had left the airport while the situation was being sorted out.

The top Republican on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, however, said that the group includ-

ed Americans and they were sitting on the planes, but the Taliban were not letting them take off, effectively holding them hostage. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas told Fox News Sunday that American citizens and Afghan interpreters were being kept on six planes. McCaul did not say where that information came from and it was not immediately possible to reconcile the two accounts.

The final days of America's 20-year war in Afghanistan were marked by a harrowing airlift at Kabul's airport to evacuate tens of thousands of people Americans and their allies who feared what the future would hold, given the Taliban's history of repression, particularly of women. When the last American troops pulled out on Aug. 30, though, many were left behind.

The U.S. promised to continue working with the new Taliban rulers to get those who want to leave out, and the militants pledged to allow anyone with the proper legal documents to leave.

Experts had doubted that resistance to the Taliban in Panjshir, the last holdout province, could succeed long-term despite the area's geographical advantage. Nestled in the towering Hindu Kush mountains, the Panjshir Valley has a single narrow entrance. Local fighters held off the Soviets there in the 1980s and also the Taliban a decade later under the leadership of Massoud.

Massoud's son Ahmad had issued a statement Sunday, calling for an end to the fighting that had been blistering in recent days. The young British-schooled Massoud said his forces were ready to lay down their weapons but only if the Taliban agreed to end their assault. Late on Sunday dozens of vehicles loaded with Taliban fighters were seen swarming into Panjshir Valley.

There has been no statement from Saleh, Afghanistan's former vice president who had declared himself the acting president after President Ashraf Ghani fled the country on Aug. 15 as the Taliban reached the gates of the capital. The Taliban subsequently entered the presidency building that day.

The Taliban's lightning blitz across the country took less than a week to overrun some 300,000 Afghan government troops, most of whom surrendered or fled.

The whereabouts of Saleh and the young Massoud were not immediately known. In his statement, Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, sought to assure residents of Panjshir that they would be safe even as scores of families reportedly fled into the mountains ahead of the Taliban's arrival.

We give full confidence to the honorable people of Panjshir that they will not be subjected to any discrimination, that all are our brothers, and that we will serve a country and a common goal, Mujahid said in his statement.

The Taliban stepped up assault on Panjshir on Sunday, tweeting that their forces had overrun Rokha district, one of largest of eight districts in the province. Several Taliban delegations have attempted negotiations with the holdouts there, but talks has failed to gain traction.

Fahim Dashti, the spokesman for the anti-Taliban group, was killed in battle on Sunday, according to the group's Twitter account. Dashti was the voice of the group and a prominent media personality during previous governments.

He was also the nephew of Abdullah Abdullah, a senior official of the former government who is involved in negotiations with the Taliban on the future of Afghanistan. (AP)

Florida gunman kills 4 including baby, wounds 11-year-old girl

Reuters

A self-described survivalist in body armour shot and killed four people, including a woman and her three-month-old baby boy in her arms, before surrendering to police in central Florida on Sunday, officials said.

The shooter, identified as Bryan Riley, 33, a former US Marine, also wounded an 11-year-old girl who underwent surgery for seven gunshot injuries, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd told a news conference. Riley, who had no connection to the victims, engaged in a shootout with police before giving up, and later tried to grab a police

Judd said at a second news conference.

Riley also told sheriff's deputies he was high on methamphetamine, Judd said.

The shooter first appeared randomly at the house where the shooting occurred on Saturday night, making nonsensical statements, but left by the time police responded. He returned early on Sunday morning, killing a 40-year-old man, the 33-year-old mother and her baby boy, Judd said. In the home next door, he also killed the 62-year-old mother of the woman, Judd said.

"In addition to that, if he's not evil enough, he shot and killed the family dog," Judd said.



officer's gun while being treated in the hospital for his own gunshot wound, before being subdued again, Judd said.

A veteran of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Riley was working as a bodyguard and a security guard. His girlfriend of four years told investigators he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and occasional depression, Judd said.

About a week ago his mental health worsened and he told his girlfriend he had started speaking with God, Judd said.

"He said at one point to our detectives, 'They begged for their lives and I killed them anyway,'"

Deputies responding to reports of two volleys of automatic gunfire arrived to find the suspect unarmed outside, wearing camouflage and body armour. Riley then went back inside and "we heard another volley, and a woman scream, and a baby whimper", Judd said. A gunfight ensued before he came out unarmed and was arrested.

"It would have been nice if he would have come out with a gun ... We would have shot him up a lot. But he didn't because he was a coward," Judd said. "When someone chooses to give up, we take them into custody peacefully."

US Evacuated 1,24,000 From Afghanistan. It Doesn't Know Many Of Them

Agencies

Days after the Biden administration finished evacuating about 124,000 people from Afghanistan, it's coming to grips with the reality that it doesn't know who many of those people are.

What's emerging, according to government officials and advocates, is that a small percentage of the Afghan citizens who got out are the ones the U.S. pledged to place at the top of its priority list: the thousands who had worked for the U.S. and its allies as well as employees of nongovernmental groups and media organizations.

Instead, initial findings suggest that while some who escaped were locally employed staff, many got out because they were part of the initial crush of people who made it to Kabul's airport as the city fell to the Taliban or secured passage through airport gates thanks to luck or help from people in the U.S. or elsewhere.

The U.S. is looking into reports that older men may have been admitted along with young girls they claimed as "brides" or otherwise sexually abused, according to an official who discussed the concern on condition of anonymity. That issue was reported earlier Friday by the Associated Press.

In fact, many of the Afghans who were most vulnerable to the Taliban — applicants for the Special Immigrant Visa program intended for translators and others who aided the American war effort — didn't make it out because the U.S. told them going to the airport would be too dangerous. And they never got a call to come before the last U.S. plane departed to meet President Joe Biden's Aug. 31 departure deadline.

Those findings are provoking new anger from advocates who had taken Biden at his word when he said the U.S. would stay until Americans and the Afghans who worked for the U.S. over the course of the 20-year war were able to escape. Instead, thousands of people who wanted to leave through the SIV program were left behind.

"These are the people who followed rule of law, they were waiting for the State Department to evacuate them, and that was another promise that was broken," said James Miervaldis, of No One Left Behind, a nonprofit organization that helps with resettlement. "The numbers are very concerning."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said this week that the SIV program was "designed to be a slow process." He said "we need a different type of capability" for a mass evacuation.

Muammar Gadhafi's son freed after 7-plus years in detention

NEWS MAKER

Libyan authorities on Sunday released one of Muammar Gadhafi's sons after more than seven years of detention in the capital of Tripoli following his extradition from neighboring Niger, the country's interim leader said.

Prime Minister-designate Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said in a tweet early on Monday that al-Saadi Gadhafi had been released in compliance with a previous court order.

Mohamed Hamouda, a spokesman for the transitional government, said the son walked free from Tripoli's al-Hadaba prison, where many Gadhafi regime officials are being held pending trial, mostly in connection with the crackdown on the 2011 uprising that toppled the longtime ruler and led to his killing. Hamouda did not elaborate on the circumstances of the son's release.

Local media reported al-Saadi Gadhafi was released after he was acquitted

on charges dating back to the uprising against his father's rule. Following his release, he travelled to Turkey, according to the al-Marsad news website.



"We cannot move forward without achieving reconciliation," Dbeibah said in the tweet announcing the release. His government has been given the task of leading the war-wrecked country to elections before the end of this year.

At the time of the 2011 revolt, al-Saadi

Gadhafi headed a special forces brigade that was involved in the crackdown on protesters and rebels.

He was smuggled across the desert to Niger in 2011 just as his father's regime was crumbling. He was extradited in March 2014 after he, as well as colleagues who accompanied him, "failed to respect the conditions of his stay in Niger", the West African nation's government said at the time.

The dictator had eight children, most of whom played significant roles in his regime. His son Muatassim was killed at the same time Gadhafi was captured and slain. Two other sons, Seif al-Arab and Khamis, were killed earlier in the uprising.

Seif al-Islam, the one-time heir apparent to his father, has been in Libya since his release from detention in 2017. Another son, Hannibal, is reportedly detained in Lebanon.

UK to increase eggs, sperm, embryo freeze limit from 10 to 55 years

People across the UK will have more choice over when to start a family with plans to increase the storage limits for eggs, sperm and embryos, the UK government announced on Monday.

Following a public consultation earlier this year, proposals will be introduced in Parliament to increase the statutory storage limits for everyone from the current 10 years, to a 10-year renewable storage period up to a maximum of 55 years.

Under the new system, prospective parents will be given the option at 10-year intervals to keep or dispose frozen eggs, sperm and embryos.

UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the move marks a "huge step forwards" for giving people greater freedom over their fertility and for equality, as the same rules will apply to everyone and storage limits will not be dictated by medical need.

"The current storage arrangements can be severely restrictive for those making the important decision about when to start a family, and this



new legislation will help turn off the ticking clock in the back of people's minds," said Javid.

"There are any number of reasons why someone may choose to preserve their fertility, and it is one of the most personal decisions any of us can make. Technological breakthroughs — including in egg freezing — have changed the equation in recent years and it's only right that this

progress puts more power into the hands of potential parents," he said.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said the changes follow evidence that shows frozen eggs can be stored indefinitely without deterioration, due to a new freezing technique called vitrification, and changes reflect the increasing success of using frozen embryos in routine IVF treatment. The government move follows a growing trend among people in the UK starting families later in life, in pursuit of career goals and other considerations. Raj Mathur, the Indian-origin Chair of the British Fertility Society (BFA), welcomed the changes and said it ensures that the new rules are compliant with the scientific evidence about the safety of storage, and protects the ability of all patients to make reproductive choices for themselves as individuals and couples.

NEWS MAKER

SC Refuses To Defer NEET-UG Exams

Agencies

Srinagar: The supreme court on Monday refused to defer the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG examination, scheduled for September



ber 12, saying it does not want to interfere with the process and it will be "very unfair" to reschedule it.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said if students want to appear in multiple exams, then they need to prioritise and make a choice as there may never be a situation where everyone is satisfied with the

date of exams.

The apex court said however that the petitioners will be at liberty to make a representation before the competent authorities on the issue and the same may be decided at the earliest in accordance with the law.

The apex court was hearing a petition seeking deferment of the examination on the ground that several other exams are scheduled during the period. Last year, the NEET was conducted on September 13 amid strict precautions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 13.66 lakh candidates had appeared in the exam of which 7, 71,500 qualified.

In a first, the NEET-UG exam 2021 will be conducted in 13 languages with Punjabi and Malayalam being the new additions, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had announced in July. He had also said that a new exam centre for the NEET has been opened in Kuwait to facilitate the Indian student community in the Middle East.

J&K Police Seize 300kg Banned Forest Produce In Kishtwar

KO News Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday seized 300 kg of banned forest produce locally called khakhdi in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the suspected smugglers carrying the khakhdi (medicinal herb) escaped taking advantage of the dense forest, a police spokesperson said.

He said a police team led by sub-inspector Moin Khan, acting on a reliable information regarding smuggling of forest produce having medicinal value, raided Kither forest area and effected the recovery. A case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation taken up to nab the smugglers, the spokesperson said.

On August 30, police arrested a smuggler along with 90 kg of khakhdi and khod from Know Burdhardar area of Jawlapur in the district.

ASH&F Priority Sector For J&K Govt, LGs Adv Briefs Rupala

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Parshottam Rupala Monday held a national level consultation with Animal Husbandry/Veterinary Ministers of States and UTs through virtual mode to highlight Special Livestock Sector Package and also launched the portal for National Livestock Mission (NLM).

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar along with Director Animal Husbandry, Kashmir, Purnima Mittal; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Khan and other concerned officials participated in the meeting on behalf of the J&K Government.

Addressing the ministers, Parshottam Rupala highlighted about the Special Livestock Sector Package to all State Ministers which has been recently announced by Government of India for next 5 years with an outlay of Rs. 9800 crores leveraging total investment of Rs. 54,618 crores.

The Minister apprised all State Animal Husbandry/Veterinary Ministers about various changes brought under the schemes of Government of India in this regard, their implications and role of States in implementation of the revised and realigned schemes of the Department. He underscored that States/UTs are the key stakeholders for implementation of the schemes. A healthy interaction between Centre and States will en-

hance cooperation and strengthen cooperative federalism for fruitful accomplishment of scheme goals.

The Union Minister informed that as per recent Cabinet decision, the National Livestock Mission and Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) schemes now have a component of breeder farm entrepreneurs and fodder entrepreneurs. Under RGM, for breed multiplication farms for production and supply of high genetic merit heifers to farmers, 50% capital subsidy will be made available to entrepreneurs directly.

During the meeting, the Union Minister also launched the portal for National Livestock Mission (NLM), which was developed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to increase the effectiveness and transparency in the scheme implementation. The online portal will enable a customized workflow between State Implementing Agency (SIA), Lenders and Ministry as required under the Scheme.

The Union Minister also released the report "Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics- 2020". This report contains tabulated data sets giving production estimates for major livestock products like Milk, Eggs, Meat and Wool.

Speaking during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar presented the brief report of the government of J&K and discussed the issues with respect to Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries (ASH&F) departments to the Union Minister.

KU, IUST Host Webinar On Extramural Research Opportunities

Observer News Service

Awantipora: Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) and University of Kashmir collaborated to host a webinar Monday with Directorate of Extramural Research & IPR support (ER & IPR) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to create an awareness among faculty in the two Institutions about various extramural funding schemes offered by the DRDO.

DRDO, is a Premier Research and Development Organization under Ministry of Defense caters to development of defense technologies as per the existing and futuristic requirements of the country. It also supports academic institutions in their research pursuits.

The webinar, coordinated by the IUST, was attended by Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Talat Ahmad

and Vice Chancellor, IUST Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo. During his address, Prof. Talat Ahmad spoke about the need for partnering with national research institutes like DRDO for addressing issues of societal importance and human resource development in frontier areas of science and technology. Prof. Romshoo highlighted the importance of building the technical ingenuity of the faculty in the two universities so that they are able to network with other national and international institutes to avail the funding opportunities in research and development available at the national and international level. Both the Vice Chancellors emphasized the need of collaboration amongst University of Kashmir, IUST and other Universities within the UT of J&K for promoting high quality Research on issues of scientific and societal importance.

ACB Arrests ARTO Kupwara, Other Officials In Corruption Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said that it has arrested ARTO Kupwara, Motor Vehicle Inspectors and others for corrupt practices in ARTO office Kupwara.

According to a statement, a spokesman of ACB said that a surprise check was conducted by ACB into the allegation that ARTO Kupwara has illegally planted one person namely Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of Vilgam Kupwara to run all the affairs of his office like Driving Test, Replacement of Driving License, Fitness, Learning License, Audit Approval, Registration and Print Card for minting money by illegal means.

The Surprise Check was conducted at the site of the driving test (Nagri Kupwara) on 25-08-2021 in association with Executive Magistrate 1st Class Handwara, the statement added.

It said that during a surprise check, the accused Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, son of Wali Mohammad Sheikh of Vilgam was found actively involved in conducting the driving tests with the officials of Assistant Regional Transport Office Kupwara.

"Search of his personal Car bearing registration number

JK01R-4373 on spot at the site of driving test, led to the recovery of 138 original driving licenses besides various other incriminating material like provisional appointment slips for driving tests, application reference slips, application for addition of new class of vehicle, journey sheets of vehicles, transport plans, learn-



ers licence, etc," it added.

Consequently, a case under FIR number 09/2021 was registered in P/S ACB Baramulla under section 7(c) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 & section 120-B of Indian Penal Code against

the members of Driving Testing Trial Board Kupwara and private Agent (Broker), the statement added.

"During investigation, ACB conducted searches of residential premises of Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi (ARTO Kupwara) at Nowshera Boniyar Baramulla and residential premises of Bilal Ahmad Sheikh (Broker) at Vilgam Kupwara on 01-09-2021. During searches, cash of Rs 15,03,000 and Rs 1,35,500 was recovered from the houses of Broker and ARTO respectively, besides various incriminating material," the statement said.

The ACB said that investigation revealed that there is a complete nexus among accused officers of the Transport Department and the private Agents (Brokers) to fleece the general public. "To break this unholy nexus, accused Mohammad Mukhtar Sofi (Assistant Regional Transport Officer Kupwara), Khurshed Ahmad Kanna (Motor Vehicle Inspector), Abdul Hamid Bhat (Motor Vehicle Inspector) and Bilal Ahmad Sheikh (Broker) were arrested by Anti Corruption Bureau Baramulla for custodial interrogation."

The statement added that further investigation of the case is going on.

LG's Adv Directs Officers To Accelerate Dev Works In Tosa Maidan

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Baseer Ahmad Khan, Monday directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of progress on several vital development works for timely completion in view of ensuing winter season in Tossamaidan.

Asserting that Tossamaidan has vast potential to emerge as famous tourist destination, Advisor said that the spot has already been in-

dedicated as new tourist destination and in this connection a comprehensive plan is under process to initiate development of this tourist site. He said that an ATM and other banking services shall be made available in the area soon besides creating other requisite facilities. In this regard, he instructed the officers to frame effective plans for renovation and up-gradation of existing facilities in the area to give boost to tourism.

He conducted an extensive

visit of Sitaharan, Khag, Magam, Aripanthan, Drang and adjoining areas to assess status of ongoing development works of Rural Development and Power Development Departments besides reviewing functioning of Tosamaidan Development Authority.

Advisor said that preservation of Ecology and Environment along with development has to be given paramount importance while taking up any project to develop this tourist spot.

MPs Panel Discusses Welfare Measures With SC/ST Employees Associations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The members of visiting Parliamentary Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) Monday met various delegations of SC/ST employees associations and their respective employers.

The Committee under the chairmanship of parliamentarian Dr Kirti Premjibhai Solanki held day long deliberations with the SC/ST employees welfare associations of different PSUs including National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and United India Insurance Company Limited.

The committee members enquired about different welfare programmes under execution in these bodies for these classes of the society. It also asked from

the management of these bodies about the reservation in recruitments and promotions for these Scheduled classes besides any backlog vacancies accrued therein.

Both the association members and their respective employers put forth their suggestions and measures taken by them. They also presented their performance viz a viz such categories of employees and share of posts held by them.

The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes consists of 30 members – 20 elected by Lok Sabha and 10 by Rajya Sabha from amongst their members. Out of these currently 22 are on the visit to UT of J&K to take appraisal of the working conditions, welfare measures, job reservation in recruitments and other perfor-

mances from different govt and semi-government organizations.

The mandate of the committee is to examine the measures taken by the union government to secure due representation of the SCs and STs in services and posts under its control. These includes appointments in the Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory and Semi-Government Bodies and in the Union Territories having regard to the provisions of article 335 of the Indian Constitution.

The committee also reports on the working of the welfare programmes for the SCs and STs in the Union Territories. It has so far presented to Parliament as many as 230 Original Reports and 221 Action Taken Reports since its inception in 1968 till 15 March, 2019.

Taliban Takeover...

Agencies

New Delhi: Russia and India have a "common concern" that the Afghan soil should not be a source of spreading extremism to other countries and there is a "danger" of extremism being spread to the Russian territory as well as Kashmir, Moscow's envoy to India Nikolay Kudashev said on Monday.

The Russian ambassador to India also said that there is not much difference between Russia and India's position on the overall Afghan situation and noted that Moscow's approach in according recognition to a Taliban regime would depend on its actions.

Kudashev told PTI in an interview that Russia would like to see an inclusive government in Afghanistan that can ensure security, stability and predictability.

The Russian envoy said that there is "ample scope" for co-operation between India and Russia on Afghanistan and both sides have been in regular touch with each other on the latest developments in the war-torn country.

"Both India and Russia are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan. We want an inclusive government. We want that the Afghan soil should not be a

source of terror for other countries in the region," Kudashev said.

"These are the very basic values that bring Russia and India together. I do not see much of a

There is a danger of extremism being spread to the Russian territory and the territory of Kashmir. This is a matter of common concern," Kudashev said, replying to a question on the possibil-



difference in our position on Afghanistan," he said.

Asked whether Russia is concerned about the possible export of terrorism to Russia from Afghanistan, the envoy said "definitely" and noted that any escalation of the civilian conflict would be detrimental to the regional security scenario.

"As far as the phenomena of extremism are concerned, we do share our concerns with India.

Around 4 Dozen Foreign Militants Active In North Kashmir: Report

KO News Desk

Srinagar: Taking the security agencies by surprise, foreign militants outnumber local militants in north Kashmir – comprising three districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara – in a changing trend, according to official figures.

Quoting police sources New Delhi based The Hindu reported that the sudden spike in numbers has forced the police to restrict the movement of mainstream leaders and elected grassroots representatives because of fears of an increase in attacks on them.

According to the latest data of the police, there are between 40 to 50 foreign militants active in north Kashmir compared to just 11 local militants, the report said. It is for the first time in a decade that north Kashmir is witnessing heightened militant activities compared to south Kashmir, which remained the hub of militants after the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru in 2013.

"The foreign militants' buildup was taking place for a long time and cannot be connected

with the recent situation in Afghanistan. The changing trend was visible in the past two months," a police officer said.

The presence of foreign militants in the ranks of the groups such as the Jaish-e-Muhammadiyah, Al-Badr, Lashkar-e-Taiba and The Resistance Front (TRF) had dried up in the first quarter of 2021. In fact, the first foreign militant, Hamas alias Asrar alias Saria, who was active since March 2018, was killed on May 4 in north Kashmir's Sopore, according to the police.

Against 32 foreign militants killed in 2020, only nine foreign militants have been killed this year so far, according to official figures.

A total of 102 militants, "mostly commanders", were killed, 88 youth recruited, 30 arrested and 425 over ground workers held this year, according to the police data.

"The biggest success against foreign militants in Kashmir this year was the killing of Saifullah alias Adnan alias Lamboo, an IED expert who played a role in the 2019 Pulwama attack on July 31," a police officer said.

NC Lauds Bharti Foundation For Transforming Education In Nagrota Schools

KO News Desk

NATGROTA: Hailing Bharti Foundation for successful accomplishment of the first phase of imparting quality education in 15 schools of Nagrota Assembly Constituency, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana said the initiative has caught the imagination of academia and students, who crave for expanding the outreach of the programme in the larger interest of the student community.

"I am extremely delighted for having the innovative educational outreach here and hope the effort to continue under the aegis of the Bharti Foundation and with the dedication of teachers, who have indeed put in their best to make the initiative a huge success", Mr Rana said at the concluding ceremony of the first phase of the programme.

Under the initiative, the ad-

opted 15 schools excelled in all the academic parameters like students' participation and awards, attendance, life and study skills, board results, teachers' capacity building, parent-teachers' meets, faculty enrichment and so on.

"With confidence I can say that the schools have reached the next level", Mr Rana noted with satisfaction, giving credit for it to the students, teachers and the coordinators of the Bharti Foundation. He hoped the scheme will be extended to more schools in the next phase across the constituency. He also expressed the hope that the education department will be forthcoming in extending all the required support to Bharti Foundation, which has undertaken upon itself the onerous responsibility of improving the quality of education in the educationally under-privileged areas as part of its corporate social responsibility.

JKPSC Holds Condolence Meeting

SRINAGAR: A condolence meeting was held Monday at Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) Office Complex to mourn the demise of the father of member JKPSC, Subash Gupta.

The condolence meeting was attended by the members and staff of JKPSC stationed at Srinagar. The condolence meet expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

ensure sustainable development in the war-torn country. The Afghan people deserve peace, stability, and sustainable development just as any other nation in the world," Kudashev said.

Pressed further on whether Russia will recognise a Taliban regime, the envoy did not give a direct reply but said the new dispensation should prove that it is a responsible government.

"They must ensure an inclusive government; they must look after each and every minority community, each and every region of Afghanistan. It must be a predictable dispensation. If that is the case, we will be able to revisit this question," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 24 discussed the developments in Afghanistan, nearly a week after its capital Kabul fell to the Taliban.

After the conversation, Russia said the two leaders expressed the intention to enhance cooperation to counter the dissemination of "terrorist ideology" and the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan and agreed to form a permanent bilateral channel for consultations on the issue.

Russia has been a key player in pushing for the Afghan peace process before the Taliban captured power in Kabul.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Reopening schools

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday allowed re-opening of higher educational institutions and schools for students of classes 10 and 12 with certain restrictions. The classes would be permitted with in-person attendance not exceeding 50 per cent of capacity on a given day. Schools will have to obtain consent from the parents of all students who are willing to attend school. In addition, the schools have to thoroughly sanitise their premises, do proper screening regarding vaccination on the school gate.

The order makes it clear that if any student, teacher or other school staff shows symptoms of cough, cold, or fever, they will not be allowed to enter the school. The head of the school has to ensure that the guidelines related to social distancing and Covid protocols are strictly followed.

In April, several schools across the Valley had witnessed cases of infection prompting the government to shut down all educational institutions. While taking steps to reopen schools for higher classes, the government has stayed short of doing the same for lower classes. And rightly so. At this time, reopening the schools runs the grave risk of exposing children to the infection. Schools lack the adequate infrastructure to protect the children. It would also be impossible to make the younger students follow the safety precautions. This is therefore not the conducive time to reopen schools. Government should wait for the contagion to be completely reigned in before children could go back to school. Considering the pandemic is not going to go away any time soon and we might even see a fresh spurt in the cases, the government should wait for more time before allowing the schools to reopen.

But as things stand, it is unlikely that the schools could be reopened this year. More so, with many experts predicting the third wave and which incidentally is expected to infect children. The government's priority therefore should be to expedite vaccination. It is only when there is 100 percent vaccination and the pandemic has effectively been controlled, can it be possible to reopen schools. The fact is while a large section of the population has so far been vaccinated, it would be some time before the target of complete inoculation is achieved. This would also involve making the vaccination mandatory for all.

Education has been the worst victim of the lingering political turmoil and now that of the pandemic. A virulent third wave of the Covid-19 has made education a tricky trade-off between re-opening schools and the health of children. But given the existing situation, it is important that the schools remain closed for now.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The Sure Shot

Vaccine supplies, especially that of Covishield, have gradually improved. After initial hiccups, the co-ordination mechanism between the Centre and states has begun to work well, and the vaccination strategy, based on calibrated targets, seems to be falling in place. Equally notable have been the efforts of local administrative agencies and grassroots-level healthcare personnel to persuade vaccine sceptics. In several parts of the country, health departments used their limited resources creatively and utilised the social capital enjoyed by ASHA and anganwadi workers to allay misgivings while combating, simultaneously, the demands of the second wave. The course correction in June gave an impetus to such initiatives. With prior information about vaccine supply, district authorities could fine-tune their strategies for awareness campaigns. The personal example set by the inoculator — more than 80 per cent of medical personnel and frontline workers have received both the shots — played no small role in enhancing confidence in the vaccines.

There's still a long distance to travel to attain the vaccination targets. The fact that the contagion continues to be rampant in Kerala despite the state being amongst the top performers of the vaccination project frames the enormity of the challenge. Only 17 per cent of the eligible population has received both the shots and things could get out of hand if the virus mutates to more infectious variants. The year-end target for two shots for all adults is, therefore, non-negotiable. At the same time, new imperatives such as vaccination for adolescents demand the policymakers' attention. Increasing the momentum built in August and enhancing the atmosphere of trust will be critical in addressing these challenges.

The Indian Express



Does US Humiliation In Afghanistan Spell Curtains On Forever Wars?

Painting Muslims in lurid colors has been a practice at least since the 70s when Muslim states surrounding Israel vigorously supported the Palestinian cause



Saeed Naqvi

Thumb through the files of the Guardian and locate the headline “US marines charged over urinating on bodies of dead Taliban.” Trump appointed Gina Haspel as the CIA chief specifically for her record in torture and rendition. He said on TV “torture works; torture works.”

THE horrific terrorist attacks outside Kabul airport will boost chaos sky high. It will take focus away from the only frame in which the epochal events of the past few days should be seen. Did the US withdrawal, however messy, bring an end to the “forever wars”? Is that outcome to be welcomed? Or is this the time to analyze the “incompetence” of the Taliban? A people who defeated a superpower in battle should be given a little more than a fortnight to find their feet.

Or, is there an urge in wounded hearts for some rearguard action in order to pick up shreds of prestige blown to smithereens? A military response to the residual imperialist yearning, pulsating beneath the ashes, may well provide Afghans with an opportunity to measure up to Vietnam's record. Vietnam defeated three permanent members of the Security Council in the battlefield: France at Dien Bien Phu, the US at Saigon, and China in Lang Son. Mujahideen Taliban have two scalps in their bag already – Soviet Union and the US. Another trophy for the Afghans, anybody?

Just the other day Sir John Chilcot in his historic report grilled the illustrious British prime minister for dissembling facts leading Britain into a bogus Iraq war. “I express more sorrow, regret and apology than you will ever imagine,” he wept.

Donald Trump asked Jimmy Carter, “What should we do, China is going ahead of us?” Carter's reply was pithy: “China has not been at war since 1978; we have never stopped being at war.” Does this withdrawal spell an end to imperial overreach?

Is there something akin to racism in the way TV images of Taliban in Kabul send shivers down our spine? How did we ever persuade ourselves that they are a ghastly lot? Who knows, they may well be but who has drilled this image so indelibly into our consciousness? Not our media, surely. Our self-sufficient media take “foreign” news from Western agencies to a point of saturation. This shapes our mind and, to some extent, South Block's too. Of course, our ambassador file

reams of copy, but spring a surprise on them at work: they are all watching the same channels.

When Nick Robertson of the CNN froths in the mouth about the “thugs” which means Taliban in his book, the froth is sprayed all over our channels. Christiane Amanpour grills former Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel on his support for Biden's decision. “Are we giving up on terrorism? Is our project of democracy, human rights being abandoned?” in acute anxiety she rolls her eyeballs virtually out of their sockets.

Not just unfiltered information but even these attitudes are passed onto our TV viewers. A truly independent current affairs show is NDTV Hindi's Prime Time, anchored by Ravish Kumar. But no sooner does this telecast end, than Ravish's “self-sufficiency” is replaced by an Indian anchor in a minidress hosting a thoroughbred BBC episode. In other words, NDTV has made available its platform to the BBC. The network where the elegant anchor gets her salary cheque from has a view of Taliban as “thugs.” She must therefore be expected to project a frightful Taliban even when her show is on an Indian channel.

Painting Muslims in lurid colors has been a practice at least since the 70s when Muslim states surrounding Israel vigorously supported the Palestinian cause. Palestinian Professor at Columbia University, Edward Said's Covering Islam has a jacket which is a collector's item. It is a metaphor for the way Muslims are portrayed in the media. An Afghan militant, headgear et al, is crouching and taking aim with his Klashnikov. In the very frame is a western cameraman, resting a knee on the ground, clicking the gun-toting Afghan. This is how the image of a “militant Islamist” is manufactured.

It was prescient of Edward Said to have spotted the beginnings of manufactured Islamic militancy. This industry was to grow after the Soviet collapse and burgeon after 9/11. In terrorism the Military Industrial Complex found a durable replacement for the Cold War enemy, the Soviet Union.

Oh, the excuses that are being

made for the debacle: we made the mistake of training the Afghan army in “our image,” like the US military. Really! Where the hell have all the soldiers gone, however wrongly trained, armed to the teeth? What were all those “Green on Blue” attacks when trainees turned upon their trainers, killing many. Did such attacks just end by divine intervention or embarrassing episodes just go away because the obedient media switches off its cameras?

Thumb through the files of the Guardian and locate the headline “US marines charged over urinating on bodies of dead Taliban.” Trump appointed Gina Haspel as the CIA chief specifically for her record in torture and rendition. He said on TV “torture works; torture works.” Afghans, the supine ones making money hand over fist with US contractors and even more with Ghani's corrupt minions, would they fall in love with the Americans who built torture chambers, multiple Abu Ghraibs, crashing down doors and stripping families, humiliating them.

Even as I write Ben Roberts-Smith, of Australia's Special Air Services regiment, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for duty in Afghanistan, was, until the other day, fighting with his back to the wall in an Australian court facing charges of atrocities on Afghan civilians. An internal investigation last year found Special Forces men “unlawfully killed” 39 Afghan civilians and prisoners. At least in Australia some limited processes were set into motion, but as for the US, let me quote George Bush the senior. “United States can do what the hell it wants.” If Biden's withdrawal puts an end to actions which do not become America, history will judge him fairly. Dealing with the Taliban is a separate matter.

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

The writer is a journalist based in India. The article originally appeared in The Citizen



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Can't Be Complacent

The government's decision to open schools for fully vaccinated students of 10th and 12th standard is quite welcome. However, whether this decision will prove to be good, only time can tell. Out of experience, one has seen many noble tasks going south due to the negligence of the stakeholders. The reopening of schools might soon get added

to the list.

The government and school administration must find out a way to mobilise all resources to have robust checks, weekly covid-19 tests of all the staff, non-staff and students to ensure that this decision is a success

.....
Roohi Mtr
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The Fickle Internet

Even as internet shutdowns by the government aren't new, they always manage to create fresh hassles for students in Kashmir. As Covid-19 has pushed school work to the digital space, the entire teaching-learning exercise has been made dependent on the internet. In this arrangement, the absence of the internet is a nightmare. While it is appreciable that broadband services have been made functional, the absence of mobile internet makes those without it feel more vulnerable. Students who do not have

broadband access are under a lot of stress as they are always uncertain about class activities. Even if they're reassured that they won't miss out on lectures, exams and announcements, they can't help but panic at this age.

We can only hope that mobile internet is restored at the earliest and this trend of shutting down communication be discouraged.

Sameena Javed
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The Pull of Pages

Before buying provisions for the week, I would often feel pulled towards Chapters, the largest independent book store in Dublin, located on Parnell Street next to a Tesco store

Muhammad Tahir

Usually, I opened the first page of the book, read the first paragraph chanting the words, tasting the sentences in their lilting sequence. If I liked the opening scene and the writing, I would tuck the book under my arms with a feeling of anticipating leisure

I was in Dublin for half a decade. Unlike New York or Berlin, it is a manageable city. That is to say that you can easily walk around and explore the entire Dublin city in a day – though it rains for better part of a week which can be a damp squib. Strolling around the city along with my friends and colleagues, I would often stop to have a coffee in a café by the Liffey River, which moves straight, silently amidst touristy bustle. If I felt hunger pangs after a long walk, then it was Biryani time either at Medina on Mary Street or Dera on Parnell Street. Such trips, which would happen once in a while, were usually planned and budgeted.

However, there were times when I would go to the city centre alone, on weekends, to buy groceries from Tesco and Lidl. Although closer to my accommodation there were stores of these super-markets, some strange force would take me to the ones located in the city centre. Before buying provisions for the week, I would often feel pulled towards Chapters, the largest independent book store in Dublin, located on Parnell Street next to a Tesco store. In the first floor of this spacious bookstore, I would move from section to section, with my head aslant, scanning titles of second-hand books at offer. A range of genres to choose from; a huge collection of cheap books, most of them at a price of a cup of coffee.

But I often lingered in the literary fiction section, looking for the authors and books I thought I must read – to catch up, to keep up with others who were better read than me. I immediately pulled books of the authors I had read about in literary journals, magazines and newspapers – because they had either recently won an award or published a book which had received rave reviews by the New York Times. I also pulled books I had meant to read for a long time, but had sat on them for some unknown reasons. Sometimes I pulled a hardcover from the shelf because its design appealed to me.

Usually, I opened the first page of the book, read the first paragraph chanting the words, tasting the sentences in their lilting sequence. If I liked the opening scene and the writing, I would tuck the book under my arms with a feeling of anticipating leisure. A couple of hours later, I would feel strain in my neck and heaviness in my arms trying to hold on to this week's pick. At the checkout as I would receive the receipt with quintessential 'see you later', I would have second thoughts about the expenditure. Was it unnecessary? Have I not already purchased too many books on previous trips which have remained unread? I justified, nevertheless, saying that this was a noble investment. Even if I didn't get to read all of these books someone else from the family would benefit from them later on. I envisaged a better-read next generation through this 'noble investment.'

Trips to Chapters were seldom planned or budgeted; they just happened, just like that. An invisible hand pulling my mind's strings. And that was a problem. Not just because I was spending needlessly on books that I hardly get time to read, but also for the reason that they had started piling up at my accommodation. And, I moved places and travelled home in summers and taking care of this huge investment was a nightmare. To parcel them to Kashmir was quite expensive. Airlines allowed only limited baggage allowance. So, I end up gifting some of them. Some I kept with my friends with a hope to retrieve them later.

The author is an independent researcher



And, I moved places and travelled home in summers and taking care of this huge investment was a nightmare. To parcel them to Kashmir was quite expensive. Airlines allowed only limited baggage allowance. So, I end up gifting some of them. Some I kept with my friends with a hope to retrieve them later

Generational thinking is a big idea that's been horribly corrupted and devalued by endless myths and stereotypes. These clichés have fuelled fake battles between "snowflake" millennials and "selfish" baby boomers, with younger generations facing a "war on woke" and older generations accused of "stealing" the future from the young.

As I argue in my book, Generations, this is a real shame. A more careful understanding of what's really different between generations is one of the best tools we have to understand change – and predict the future.

Some of the great names in sociology and philosophy saw understanding generational change as central to understanding society overall. Auguste Comte, for example, identified the generation as a key factor in "the basic speed of human development".

He argued that "we should not hide the fact that our social progress rests essentially upon death; which is to say that the successive steps of humanity necessarily require a continuous renovation ... from one generation to the next". We humans get set in our ways once we're past our formative years, and we need the constant injection of new participants to keep society moving forward.

Understanding whether, and how, generations are different is vital to understanding society. The balance between generations is constantly shifting, as older cohorts die out and are replaced by new entrants. If younger generations truly do have different attitudes or behaviours to older generations, this will reshape society, and we can, to some extent, predict how it will develop if we can identify those differences.

The changing generational balance of the UK.

But in place of this big thinking, today we get clickbait headlines and bad research on millennials "killing the napkin industry" or on how baby boomers

Phoney Generation Wars Boomers vs millennials?

Bobby Duffy

have "ruined everything". We've fallen a long way.

Myth busting

To see the true value of generational thinking, we need to identify and discard the many myths. For example, as I outline in the book, gen Z and millennials are not lazy at work or disloyal to their employers. They're also no more materialistic than previous generations of young: a focus on being rich is something we tend to grow out of.

To see the true value of generational thinking, we need to identify and discard the many myths. For example, as I outline in the book, gen Z and millennials are not lazy at work or disloyal to their employers. They're also no more materialistic than previous generations of young: a focus on being rich is something we tend to grow out of

Old people are not uncaring or unwilling to act on climate change: in fact, they are more likely than young people to boycott products for social purpose reasons.

And our current generation of young are not a particularly unusual group of "culture warriors". Young people are always at the leading edge of change in cultural norms, around race, immigration, sexuality and gender equality. The issues have changed, but the gap between young and old is not greater now

than in the past.

Meanwhile, there are real, and vitally important, generational differences hidden in this mess. To see them, we need to separate the three effects that explain all change in societies. Some patterns are simple "lifecycle effects", where attitudes and behaviours are to do with our age, not which generation we are born into. Some are "period effects" – where everyone is affected, such as in a war, economic crisis or a pandemic.

lennials are around half as likely to be a homeowner than generations born only a couple of decades earlier.

There is also a real cohort effect in experience of mental health disorders, particularly among recent generations of young women. Our relationship with alcohol and likelihood of smoking is also tied to our cohort, with huge generational declines in very regular drinking and smoking. Each of these point to different futures, from increased strain on mental health services to declining alcohol

sales.

But lifecycle and period effects are vitally important too. For example, there is truth in the idea that we grow more conservative as we age. One analysis suggests that this ageing effect is worth around 0.35% to the Conservatives each year, which may not sound like a lot, but is very valuable over the course of a political lifetime.

And, of course, the pandemic provides a very powerful example of how period effects can dramatically change

things for us all.

Reaching beyond the avocado

When there is such richness in the realities, why are there so many myths? It's partly down to bad marketing and workplace research – that is, people jumping on the generation bandwagon to get media coverage for their products or to sell consultancy to businesses on how to engage young employees.

This has become its own mini-industry. In 2015, US companies spent up to US\$70 million (£51 million) on this sort of "advice" according to the Wall Street Journal, with some experts making as much as US\$20,000 an hour. Over 400 LinkedIn users now describe themselves solely as a "millennial expert" or "millennial consultant".

Campaigners and politicians also play to these imagined differences. Our increasing focus on "culture wars" often involves picking out particular incidents in universities, such as the banning of clapping at events or the removal of a portrait of the Queen to exaggerate how culturally different young people today are.

Maybe less obviously, politicians such as former US President Barack Obama repeatedly lionise coming generations as more focused on equality, when the evidence shows they're often not that different. These assertions are not only wrong, but create false expectations and divides.

Some have had enough, calling on the Pew Research Center in the US, which has been a champion of generational groups, to stop conducting this type of analysis. I think that misses the point: it's how it's applied rather than the idea of generations that's wrong.

We should defend the big idea and call out the myths, not abandon the field to the "millennial consultants".

By arrangement with
The Conversation

Choosing personal exercise goals, tackling them immediately is key to sustaining change: Study

Agencies

A new study showed that giving patients at risk of heart disease a choice in their physical activity goal, then having them start right away, resulted in the most change.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'JAMA Cardiology'.

When people set their own exercise goals -- and then pursue them immediately -- it's more likely to result in lasting positive changes, according to the new study at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

The results of this research are especially important because they were found among an underserved population that is at particularly high risk of having or developing heart conditions.

"Most behaviour change programs involve goal-setting, but the best way to design that process is unknown," said lead author Mitesh Patel, MD, MBA, an associate professor of Medicine at Penn and vice president for Clinical Transformation at Ascension.

"Our clinical trial demonstrated that physical activity increased the most when patients chose their goals rather than being assigned them, and when the goals started immediately rather than starting lower and gradually increasing over time," explained Patel.

"These findings are particularly important because the patients were from lower-income neighbourhoods and may face a number of challenges in achieving health goals," added Patel.

This study consisted of 500 patients from low-income neighbourhoods, mainly in West Philadelphia but also elsewhere in and outside of the city.

Participants either had cardiovascular disease or were assessed to have a near-10 per cent risk of developing one within a decade. These high-risk patients stood to greatly gain from increased physical activity.

Patel's previous work at the Penn Medicine Nudge Unit often focused on the use of gamification, a concept used to create behavioural change by turning it into a game.

The work usually tested whether playing a game attached to physical activity goals could make significant increases against not playing a game, or between different versions of a game.

As with past studies, every participant was given a wearable step tracker that recorded their daily step counts through Penn's Way to Health platform.

But what set this study apart from many of its predecessors was that the main outcomes of the research were less about participation in the games themselves and more about how goals were established, as well as when participants were encouraged to pursue them.

Once every participant got their wearable step counter, they were given a week or two to get used to it.

This time period also functioned as a baseline-setting period for everyone's pre-intervention daily step count.

After that, participants were randomly assigned to the control group, which didn't have step goals

or games attached or one of the gaming groups with goals.

Those in the gamified group also went through two other sets of random assignments. One determined whether they'd have input on their step goal, or whether they'd just be assigned a standard one.

The second decided whether each participant would immediately start working toward their goals (for the entire 16-week intervention), or whether they'd ramp up to it, with minor increases in goals, until the full goals kicked in at week nine.

After analysing the results, the researchers saw that the only group of participants who achieved significant increases in activity were those who chose their own goals and started immediately.

They had the highest average increase in their steps compared to the group with no goals, roughly 1,384 steps per day. And, in addition to raw step counts, the study also measured periods of sustained, high activity, amounting to an average increase of 4.1 minutes daily.

Comparatively, those who were assigned their goals or had full goals delayed for half the intervention only increased their daily steps above the control group's average by between 500 and 600 steps.

"Individuals who select their own goals are more likely to be intrinsically motivated to follow through on them," said Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD, director of the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics.

"They feel like the goal is theirs and this likely enables greater engagement," added Volpp.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL
NIT NO 130 OF R&B/Khanabal/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/9344-54 DATED 04-09-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of Laram Link road by way of construction of CC drain and providing and laying of WBM GII	13.96	600	20 Days	District Capex Budget	Accorded Vide Order No. 299-DDCA of 2021 Dated 24.08.2021	BEE, CEE & DEE Class Only

1.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-09-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 04-09-2021 (03:00PM) To 13-09-2021 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 04-09-2021 (03:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 13-09-2021 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	14-09-2021 (10:30AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal

2.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

3.

All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4.

The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.

5.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal

6.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

(Er Qazi Javeed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-7892/21

JAMMU AND KASHMIR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f)2566530
Srinagar:0194-2312629(f) 2312631

Sub:- Deficiency of the documents of the candidates for the post of Librarian in Higher Education Department under (1st Special drive).

NOTICE
DATED:-02-09-2021

1. Whereas, the Higher Education Department vide communication No.HE-Coll/Apptt.Librarian/2016, dated 23.08.2016 referred 67 posts (OM=38, RBA=13, SC=06, ST=07, ALC=02 & SLC=01) of Librarian in Higher Education Department, out of which 08 posts have been re-advertised under 1st Special drive, vide Notification No.13-PSC (DR-P) of 2017 dated 09.10.2019; and

2. Whereas, in response to the said Notification, the Commission received 125 application forms in the said discipline; and

3. Whereas, after scrutiny of the application forms deficiencies were observed in the application forms of following applicants:-

S.NO.	REG.NO.	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	DEFICIENCY OF DOCUMENTS OBSERVED
1	19011317000001	HARPREET KOUR	JAMARJEET SINGH	M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
2	19011317000002	SAKSHI MALHOTRA	SATISH MALHOTRA	M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
3	19011317000003	SHIV SARAN SINGH	JABAR SINGH	NIL
4	19011317000004	ROHIT GUPTA	ASHOK GUPTA	NIL
5	19011317000005	PRIYA SHARMA	ARUN SHARMA	NIL
6	19011317000006	DINESH SINGH	RAJESH KUMAR	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
7	19011317000007	VANDANA SHARMA	RAJ KUMAR SHARMA	1. MARKS CARD OF M.LIB. 2. B.LIB DEGREE.
8	19011317000008	AABID HUSSAIN	MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHARADI	NIL
9	19011317000009	ASHA RANI	KEWAL RAJ	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
10	19011317000010	SHARVANI SHARMA	UMESH CHANDER KHAJURIA	NIL
11	19011317000011	POOJA SHARMA	BEHARI LAL SHARMA	NIL
12	19011317000012	RAJNI KUMARI	MOHAN LAL	1. M.LIB DEGREE 2. B.LIB DEGREE
13	19011317000013	SAPNA DEVI	GOPAL CHAND	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
14	19011317000014	SHREEYA SHARMA	DEVI DAYAL SHARMA	NIL
15	19011317000015	ANOOPI SINGH	PRITAM SINGH	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
16	19011317000016	AAMIR REHMAN BHAT	ABDUL REHMAN BHAT	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
17	19011317000017	MANJU RANI	SUDERSHAN KUMAR	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
18	19011317000018	POOJA GUPTA	MANOHAR LAL GUPTA	MARKS CARD OF B.LIB DEGREE.
19	19011317000019	DR SALEEQ AHMAD DAR	RAFEEQ AHMAD DAR	HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM ALONGWITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS.
20	M1	JAVAID AHMAD WANI	MOHMAD YAQOUB WANI	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
21	M2	JAFER KABIR	AB KABIR NAJAR	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
22	M3	NIGHAT MAJEED	AB MAJEED SHAH	NIL
23	M4	ARSHIA AYOUB	MOHD AYOUB	NIL
24	M5	ASIFA ALI	ALI MOHAMAD AHANGER	NIL
25	M6	IMRAN ZEHR	MANZOOR HUSSAIN BEIGH	NIL
26	M7	SUMEERA NISAR	NISAR AHMAD KHAN	NIL
27	M8	UBAID ULLAH SHAH	ALI MOHAMMAD SHAH	NET CERTIFICATE
28	M9	SHOWKET AHMAD LONE	AB RAZAQ LONE	M.LIS DEGREE (CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMULA.
29	M10	HAMID AMIN MIR	MOHD AMIN MIR	NIL
30	M11	MUKHTAR AHMAD TELI	BASHIR AHMAD TALI	M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
31	M12	SYED IKHLAQ UR REHMAN	BASHIR AHMAD DAR	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
32	M13	MIDHAT MEHRAJ	SHEIK MEHRAJ UD DIN	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
33	M14	SHOHAR BANO	SYED AMJAD	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE
34	M15	MARYA JAN	LATE GHULAM NABI RAH	NIL
35	M16	JAVAID AHMAD BHAT	BASHIR AHMAD BHAT	NIL
36	M17	SHUAIB	MUSHTAQ AHMAD BABA	NIL
37	M18	MUBASHIR AHMAD WANI	BASHIR AHMAD WANI	NIL
38	M19	SABHA ALI	ALI MOHD	NIL
39	M20	IRFAN GUL	GH MOHD GANIE	M.LIS DEGREE (CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMULA
40	M21	NAHIDA NASREEN	FAYAZ AHMAD DAR	M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
41	M22	REHANA NASZIR	NAZIR AHMAD GANAI	NIL
42	M23	ANSHANA RASOOL SHAH	GHULAM RASOOL SHAH	NIL
43	M24	SABAH JAN	ABDUL WAHID KOZGER	P.HD DEGREE.
44	M24	SUHAIL SHEHJAR	GHULAM AHMAD DAR	1.NET CERTIFICATE 2.M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE. 3. GRADUATION DEGREE
45	M25	AASIF AHMAD MIR	ABDOUL RASID MIR	1. GRADUATION DEGREE 2. MLIS DEGREE 3.(CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMULA.
46	M26	UMER YOUSUF PARRAY	MOHD YOUSUF PARRAY	1.GRADUATION DEGREE 2.M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
47	M27	MASOOD SULTAN LONE	MOHD SULTAN LONE	1.GRADUATION DEGREE 2.M.LIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
48	M28	TAWFEEQ NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD	NIL
49	M29	BISMA BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD NAJAR	NIL
50	M30	RUBIYA MUSHTAQ	MUSHTAQ AHMAD RATHER	NIL
51	M31	AKIB AHMAD	GULAM NABI WANI	NIL
52	M32	SHABIR HUSSAIN	MOHD AMIN AKHOON	NIL
53	M33	MUFAZIL ALI	SHER AHMAD	NIL
54	M34	JAVAID HUSSAIN BHAT	GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT	PRC CERTIFICATE.
55	M35	SUHAIL NABI	GHULAM NABI WANI	NIL
56	M36	SHOWKET AHMAD WANI	ABDUL RASHID WANI	NIL
57	M37	FIROOZ MAQBOOL MIR	MOHD MAQBOOL MIR	NIL

58	38M	BASHARAT AHMAD MALIK	GHULAM RASOOL MALIK	NIL
59	39M	HILAL AHMAD SHIEKH	ABDUL MAJEED SHIEKH	MLIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
60	40M	SAMEER AHMAD SULTAN PORI	GH HOHD SULTANPORI	NIL
61	41M	SHABIR AHMAD	GH MOHI UDDIN NAIKOO	PHD RESULT NOTIFICATION WITH MSP CERTIFICATE.
62	42M	MOHD BASHRAT	AB REHMAN	MARKS CARD OF M.LIS DEGREE.
63	43M	REHANA RQASOOL	GULAM RASOOL RATHER	PRC CERTIFICATE.
64	44M	ROZYAN	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MALLA	NIL
65	45M	MUNAZZIM	GH MOHD BUDDO	NIL
66	46M	JAVED AHMAD LONE	ALI MOHD LONE	NIL
67	47M	FEROZE AHMAD	GH MOHDIN PARRY	NIL
68	48M	ISHRAT AYUB	MOHD AYUB SOFI	1. MLIS DEGREE WITH 2.(CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMUALA 3. NET CERTIFICATE. PRC CERTIFICATE.
69	49M	SAMINA MUSHTAQ KHAN	MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN	NIL
70	50M	RAASHIDA AMIN	OAZI MOHAMMAD AMIN	NIL
71	51M	ABDUL WAHID	MOHD SULTAN LONE	NIL
72	52M	SALMA NISSAR	NISAR HUSSAIN SHAH	1. GRADUATION DEGREE 2.MLIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE. MLIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE
73	53M	SARTAJ FAROOQ DAR	FAROOQ AHMAD DAR	NIL
74	54M	SHAIB MOHD SHAIKH	MOHD JAMAL SHAIKH	NIL
75	55M	OWAIS LATEEF SHAH	MOHAMMAD LATEEF SHAH	MLIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
76	56	AADIL NABI DAR	GHULAM NABI DAR	MLIS DEGREE CERTIFICATE
77	57M	NELOFAR JAN	AB AHAD KAR	NIL
78	58M	ISHAQ MAQBOOL WANI	MOHD MAQBOOL WANI	NIL
79	59M	SABREENA YOUSUF	MOHD YOUSUF BHAT	NIL
80	60M	SOZIA RASHID	PEERZADA AB RASHID	MLIS DEGREE
81	61M	MOHSIN RASOOL ZARGAR	GH RASOOL ZARGAR	1. NET CERTIFICATE 2.MLIS DEGREE WITH (CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMULA.
82	62M	BILAL AHMAD DAR	GH AHMAD DAR	NIL
83	63M	SOFI GH MOHIUDDIN JEELANI	GH QUADIR SOFI	-
84	64M	IRFAN UL HAQ	GHULAM JOHAMMAD AKHNOOR	NIL
85	65M	TAUFAT HUSSAIN	MOHAMMAD RAFIQ	M.PHIL DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
86	66M	TAJAMUL HASSAN MIR	GHULAM HASSAN MIR	NIL
87	67M	OBAD HAFIZ	GH MOHAMMAD HAFIZ	NET CERTIFICATE
88	68M	IRAM AMIN TIBETBAKAL	MOHD AMIN TIBETBAKAL	NIL
89	69M	JAVEED AHMAD RAH	GH MOHD RAH	-
90	70M	UFAIRA YASEEN	MOHD YASEEN SHAH	NIL
91	71M	SHIVANI	PARSHOTAM LAL	M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE.
92	72M	MOHD IRFAN	NAZIR HUSSAIN	1. NET CERTIFICATE 2.M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE
93	73M	ANJALI SHARMA	NARINDER KUMAR SHARMA	-
94	74M	SUMMET CHAUHAN	SH.MOHAN LAL CHAUHAN	-
95	75M	KISHORE LAL SHARMA	SH.AMAN NATH SHARMA	OVER-AGED (41 YEARS) NOT ELIGIBLE
96	76M	DEEPIKA GUPTA	SHASHI KUMAR GUPTA	-
97	77M	SHEETAL SHARMA	SUBHASH CHANDER SHARMA	1. NET CERTIFICATE 2.CATEGORY CERTIFICATE
98	78M	AMIT BALI	TIRAYH RTAM BALI	NIL
99	79M	SHIVANI VERMA	TARSEM LAL VERMA	NET CERTIFICATE
100	80M	SUBZAR AHMAD SHEIKH	RAROOQ AHMAD SHEIKH	1. B.LIB DEGREE & 2. M.LIB DEGREE DOES NOT POSSESS THE REQUISITE QUALIFICATION.
101	81M	USHA KUMARI SHARMA	BISHEMBER DAS SHARMA	NIL
102	82M	SHABIR HUSSAIN	MOHAMMAD ALI	NIL
103	83M	POONAM GUPTA	BHAGAT RAM GUPTA	NIL
104	84M	DAVINDER KUMAR	TERU RAM	NIL
105	85M	KAVITA DEVI	BAL KEISHAN	NIL
106	86M	SONALI ABROL	JUGAL KISHORE	1.B.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE 2.M.LIB DEGREE CERTIFICATE
107	87M	SHEIK SAMREEM NABI	SHEIK GHALIM NABI	NIL
108	88M	DR REENU ARTI THAKUR	SHAMSHER SING KARDIA	NIL
109	89M	JUNAID JEELANI MALIK	GH JEELANI MALIK	NIL
110	90M	TANZEEL ZEHRAR	GH-MOHI-UD-DIN DAR	1.MARKS CARD OF B.LIB & M.LIB DEGREE WITH 2.(CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATION FORMULLA.
111	91M	EESHA SHARMA	M.I. SHARMA	NET CERTIFICATE.
112	92M	DIKSHA SHARMA	BEHARI LAL SHARMA	1.NET CERTIFICATE 2. B.LIB DEGREE & 3. M.LIB DEGREE
113	93m	RASHI GUPTA	MANOHAR LAL GUPTA	1. B.LIB DEGREE & 2. B.LIB DEGREE
114	94M	DIKSHA SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR	1. B.LIB DEGREE & 2. M.LIB DEGREE MLIS DEGREE.
115	95M	AJRA BHAT	NOOT UF FIN BHAT	MLIS DEGREE.
116	96M	POONAM GUPTA	VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA	1. NET CERTIFICATE 2.MARKS CARD OF B.LIB DEGREE.
117	97M	SHIVALI GUPTA	PAWAN GUPTA	NIL
118	98M	NISHU BALA JASWANT LAL	JASWANT LAL	NIL
119	99M	ISHFAQ AHMAD PALLA	ABDUL GANI PALLA	MLIS DEGREE. (CGPA) PERCENTAGE CALCULATING FORMULA.
120	100M	RUCHI SHARMA	KULDEEP RAJ SHARMA	-
121	101M	SHIPPU MAHJAN	SH RAMESH CHANDER	-
122	102M	LEELA DHARI	RAM NATH	NIL
123	103M	MONIKA BHAGAT	KRISHAN LAL	NET CERTIFICATE
124	103M	MANISH SHASRMA	SH. PARSHOTAM SHARMA	NIL
125	-	HUZAIFA ULLAH MIR	ABDUL AHMAD MIR	-

The above candidates in whose case the deficiency of documents have been noticed are advised to submit their deficient documents as shown in the above table in the office of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu/Solina, Srinagar within 10 (ten) days from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that the candidate is not in possession of the said documents and further action of shortlisting of the candidates, will be taken up without consideration of the said deficient documents of these candidates.

No claim of whatsoever, kind shall be entertained after stipulated time period.

Sd/-
(R.K.Katoch)KAS,
Secretary,
J&K Public Service Commission.

No:- PSC/DR/Edu-College/Apptt/Librarian/2019
Dated:-02-09-2021

DIPK-7851/21

Telecom Tower Companies To Face 180,000 Tenancy Losses If VIL Exits: ICRA

Mumbai (PTI): Vodafone Idea's financial stress underlined by mounting losses and rising debt is likely to impact its financial lenders and have a bearing on employees and subscribers, ICRA said on Monday highlighting that government support is "critical" at this point.

The support can be by way of deferment of spectrum dues, cut in levies, reduction

by Reliance Jio Infocomm (RJIL) which manifested into decline in revenue and profit generation," ICRA said noting that Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues had added to the industry's woes.

Given the precarious position of the VIL balancesheet, material external support (primarily government) "might be necessary", it said.



in interest rates, and a combination of relief measures could aid financial profile and the structure of the industry.

"Vodafone Idea has been under financial stress as reflected by mounting losses and burgeoning debt levels, which is likely to impact its financial lenders as well as Government, apart from having a bearing on its employees, its subscribers and associated industries, most prominently towers," ICRA said in a statement.

In the event of VIL exit, the tower industry may be confronted with vacation of around 180,000 tenancies that the telco currently occupies.

Of these, only 40-50 per cent of the tenancies are expected to be regained by the tower companies over 18-24 months.

"The telecom industry had been facing headwinds since the launch of services

The support could be in the form of deferment of spectrum dues, reduction in levies, reduction in interest rates, suggested ICRA.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Group Head and Senior Vice President, ICRA, observed that as VIL owes Rs 23,400 crore to lenders and Rs 1,68,190 crore to government towards spectrum and AGR deferred dues as on June 30, 2021.

"Over the last 12 quarters starting Q2FY2019, VIL has been reporting sizeable losses. Further, with the addition of AGR liabilities, the debt has burgeoned to more than Rs 2 lakh crore as on June 30, 2021 (including lease liabilities)," Majumdar said.

This, along with churn in the subscriber base, mostly stagnant 4G user base, and pressure on ARPU levels have kept the revenue and profit generation muted, Majumdar pointed out.

Gold Declines Rs 71; Silver Jumps Rs 263

New Delhi (PTI): Gold in the national capital on Monday declined Rs 71 to Rs 46,503 per 10 gram in line with weak global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 46,574 per 10 grams. In contrast, silver gained Rs 263 to Rs 64,168 per kilogram from Rs 63,905 per kilogram in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,826 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 24.78 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded off the two months high on Monday witnessing some selling on dollar recovery," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

Biofuel: Sugar Output May Drop To 30.5 Million Tonne Next Season With More Cane Diversion To Ethanol

New Delhi (PTI): India's sugar production is likely to decline marginally to 30.5 million tonne in the next 2021-22 season as more sugarcane will be diverted for ethanol making, a senior government official said on Monday. Sugar production is estimated to have reached 31 million tonne in the 2020-21 season (October-September), he said. India is the world's second biggest sugar producer after Brazil.

"Sugarcane crop by and large is good this year. We are expecting diversion of more cane for ethanol making and as a result sugar production will be slightly lower at 30.5 million tonne during 2021-22 season," Joint Secretary in the Food Ministry Subodh Kumar Singh told PTI.

In the current season, cane meant for production of 2 million tonne sugar was diverted for ethanol making, while in the 2021-22 season cane meant for production of 3.5 million tonne of sugar will be diverted, he said.

However, sugar production will be sufficient to meet

the domestic consumption, which is expected to increase by 3,00,000-4,00,000 tonne at 26.3-26.5 million tonne in 2021-



22 season, he added.

The domestic consumption in the 2020-21 season is estimated to be 26 million tonne.

With the likely opening stock of sweetener is estimated at 9-9.5 million tonne and expected production of 30.5 million tonne, the total availability of sugar in the 2021-22 season will be 39.5 to 40 million tonne.

The domestic consumption is seen around 26.5 million tonne, while exports at 7 million tonne in the next season.

The closing stock at the end of the next season would be around 6-6.5 million tonne.

According to the official, about Rs 83,000 crore cane dues have been cleared so far against the total Rs 91,000 crore payable in the current season.

"The balance of Rs 8,000 crore is left. In the next one month, arrears may come down further," he added.

Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Up 31% At 66 Lakh In Aug On Higher Capacity Deployment: ICRA

Mumbai (PTI): Domestic air passenger traffic continued on the growth trajectory in August with volumes growing up to 31 per cent to 66 lakh over the previous month, helped by higher capacity deployment and a downward trend in the pandemic, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Monday.

The domestic passenger traffic in July 2021 was 51 lakh, ICRA said in a release.

Domestic passenger traffic on a year-on-year basis, however, spiked around 131 per cent over August 2020 traffic of 28.3 lakh, it said.

The ratings agency said despite the continued recovery in the previous month, there is continued stress on demand, driven largely by the second wave of the pandemic, limiting travel to only necessary travel.

"The air travel demand has continued to register improvement and the same grew by around 30-31 per cent at around 65-66 lakh in August, compared to around 50.1 lakh in July 2021, signifying a y-o-y growth of around 131 per cent," Kinjal Shah, Vice President

and Co-group Head for Corporate at ICRA, said.

The airlines' capacity deployment for August 2021 was around 99 per cent higher at around 57,500 departures, as against 28,834 departures in August 2020, Shah said, adding that on a sequential basis, the number of departures in August 2021 were higher by around 22 per cent, as Covid-19 infections demonstrated a downward trajectory.

"For August 2021, the average daily departures were at around 1,900, significantly higher than the average daily departures of around 900 in August 2020, and higher than around 1,500 in July 2021, though it remains lower than around 2,000 in April 2021," Shah said.

The average number of passengers per flight during August 2021 was 114, against an average of 106 passengers per flight in July 2021, she said.

Though the recovery continued in August 2021, there is continued stress on demand, driven largely by the second wave of the pandemic, limit-

ing the demand to only necessary travel, while both leisure and business travel have been curtailed due to various state-wide restrictions, despite the decline in infections, she said.

The Civil Aviation Ministry permitted increasing the capacity deployment on domestic routes, gradually from 33 per cent, with effect from May 25, when domestic travel resumed after the first wave last year, to 80 per cent, with effect from December 3, 2020.

However, it reduced the permissible capacity deployment to 50 per cent of pre-Covid levels, with effect from June 1, 2021 due to the resurgence of the second wave of the pandemic.

It had again increased the permitted capacity to 65 per cent with effect from July 5, which has subsequently been increased to 75.2 per cent from August 12 this year, Ica said.

In addition, the ministry has also increased the minimum and maximum fare band by 10-13 per cent for domestic flights with effect from August 12, 2021 until August 31, 2021.

Attaining Excellence In Mushroom Cultivation: ITI Trained 12th Pass Out Becomes Successful Entrepreneur

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday urged unemployed youth of Srinagar to come forward and take benefits from the Government launched welfare schemes to earn their livelihood with dignity and honour.

The DC stressed upon them to become job providers rather than job seekers. He said a number of youth have set an example for others by establishing their own income generating units and have become a source of inspiration for unemployed youth desirous to become entrepreneurs.

He further said to handhold the unemployed youth of Srinagar district and to provide appropriate platform to them to earn dignified livelihood, the District Administration Srinagar in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department is working very hard to provide employment and income-oriented avenues for aspiring unemployed youth of Srinagar through various government sponsored schemes.

Citing an example of a youth namely Muzamil Shafi (26), a resident of Khonmoh, Srinagar who has got training at ITI after passing 12th standard, the Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Mohammad Younis Chowdhary said that "Mushroom cultivation is a technical process. It can become a money-making proposition with the proper use of technology and expert guidance. It requires less

manpower which is an advantage for a farmer

He said in the year 2020-21, Muzamil Shafi participated in an awareness programme organized by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department on Cultivation of Mushrooms in his area. The aim of the programme was to motivate unemployed youth of the mining affected areas toward Mushroom Cultivation for earning livelihood with dignity. He said Muzamil was one of the beneficiaries identified for the establishment of 52 Units in Block Khonmoh under PMK-KKY for the year 2020-21. The said youth was a part of the cluster unit and produced 3.75 Quintals of Mushroom from his unit got a halt during harsh winter months of December and January 2020-21. The said beneficiary again maintained temperature and humidity in the month of February 2021, and to the surprise of everybody produced 0.80 quintals of more Mushroom from the leftover compost bags. The Agriculture Department took an initiative for providing better market linkage to the growers of the scheme, and Muzamil sold his produce in Organic Vegetable Mandi established at Lalmandi and fetched good profit.

Maruti Suzuki Hikes Vehicle Prices By Up To 1.9 Per Cent

New Delhi (PTI): The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it had increased prices of its entire product range, except Celerio, by up to 1.9 per cent with immediate effect. In a regulatory filing, the company noted that it had

month said that a price hike was necessary, as it looks to protect its profitability amid a steep rise in commodity prices.

MSI Senior Executive Director (Sales and Marketing) Shankar Srivastava had said there was no other option left for the



taken the decision to hike prices due to an increase in various input costs. The weighted average price rise in ex-showroom prices (New Delhi) across select models is 1.9 per cent, it added.

This is MSI's third price hike this year. The auto major has already raised prices in January and April this year, with an overall hike of around 3.5 per cent. At present, the company sells a range of models from entry-level hatchback Alto to S-Cross, priced between Rs 2.99 lakh and Rs 12.39 (ex-showroom prices Delhi) lakh, respectively.

The carmaker had last

company but to increase prices to offset the impact of high commodity costs. He had said that steel prices had gone up from Rs 38 per kg last year to Rs 65 per kg in May-June this year.

Similarly, copper prices have doubled from USD 5,200 per tonne to USD 10,000 per tonne.

In the case of precious metals, the overall demand has gone up in various global markets and India due to the transition to stricter emission norms.

Srivastava had said that the prices of precious metals like rhodium have increased from Rs 18,000 a gram in May 2020 to almost Rs 64,300 a gram in July.

Benchmarks Climb To New Lifetime Highs; RIL, IT Stocks Lead Charge

Mumbai (PTI): Equity indices ticked higher to fresh lifetime peaks for the third straight session on Monday, riding on robust gains in Reliance Industries and IT stocks amid a firm trend overseas. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 166.96 points or 0.29 per cent to its new closing record of 58,296.91. It touched an all-time high of 58,515.85 during the session.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 54.20 points or 0.31 per cent to its fresh lifetime peak of 17,377.80. During the session, it touched a record 17,429.55.

HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 2.17 per cent, followed by Infosys, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Auto, M&M and HUL.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Titan and ITC were among the laggards, skidding up to 1.13 per cent. The market breadth was negative, with 17 out of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the red, while the remaining 13 mustered gains.

"Positive global markets and strong support from IT and realty stocks, aided domestic markets to trade modestly higher. Hopes of continued economic support by the Fed Reserve due to weak US job data and talks of more stimulus in Japan and China boosted global markets.

"Economic normalisation attracted buyers in realty stocks while safe haven IT stocks continued to lead the upbeat mar-

ket," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Milind Muchhala, Executive Director, Julius Baer, said the Indian markets continued to clock new highs, aided by contributions from a few index heavyweights. However, the broader markets seem to be witnessing some signs of exhaustion, after the healthy rally seen in the past month where India was the best performing market with gains of around 9 per cent.

"In fact, a small correction would be welcome at this juncture and help the markets to become healthier, although the trigger for that currently seems elusive and it could just be a part of the broader global correction.

"The underlying sentiment, however, remains quite constructive, well supported by steadily improving economic data, positive earnings expectation and a healthy pick up in daily inoculations, and investors would be on the lookout for intermittent corrections to add positions," he noted.

Sector-wise, the BSE realty index surged 2.97 per cent, followed by IT (1.48 per cent), consumer durables (1.43 per cent), tech (1.25 per cent) and energy (0.78 per cent).

However, oil and gas, power, utilities and bankex tumbled up to 0.66 per cent.

In the broader markets, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices rose as much as 0.59 per cent.

Rupee Drops By 8 Paise To 73.10 As US Dollar Rebounds In Global Markets

Mumbai (PTI): The rupee on Monday declined by 8 paise to close at 73.10 against the US currency mainly due to the dollar's gains in the global markets.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened flat at 73.02 but later lost ground to touch a low of 73.11 in the day trade. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 73.02 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, traded 0.28 per cent higher at 92.29. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.63 per cent to USD 72.15 per barrel. Analysts said the US Treasury yields rising to more than one-week high supported the greenback which had dropped to around month's low last week.

"RBI intervention remains a major factor supporting USDINR near 73 levels. However, upside remains capped near 73.40 as exporters remain active sellers," said Anindya Banerjee, DVP,

Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives at Kotak Securities Ltd.

According to Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the rupee traded near 73.10 compared to 73.00 previously due to gains in the dollar index which took support near 92.00 and scanned towards 92.25.

Trivedi mentioned that the rupee has moved in line with record breaking run in the stock markets and any profit booking in equity shall result in profit booking in rupee as well.

"The range for rupee can be between 72.85-73.40," Trivedi said. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 166.96 points or 0.29 per cent higher at 58,296.91, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 54.20 points or 0.31 per cent to 17,377.80. Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Friday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 768.58 crore, according to the exchange data.

‘The Man’ Ramps Up Omni Channel Presence; Plans To Open More Brand Outlet Across India

Srinagar: Following its successful omnichannel market strategy to engage with new-age gentlemen and cater to their grooming needs, The Man Company, India's first 'Men Only' premium grooming essentials brand is set to strengthen its presence across India.

As part of the expansion strategy, the brand is planning to launch new outlets in various cities. With an exclusive outlet launching in Kashmir in the first week of September 2021, the brand has ushered its strategic expansion journey and is looking forward to opening 4 more such outlets in Ghaziabad, Jammu, Amritsar, and Lucknow in the same month.

These exclusive brand outlets are designed to offer experiential feeling to the end customers by enabling them to touch, feel and learn about the products in terms of quality, ingredients, and benefits. The brand has a dedicated team of beauty advisors who are trained in-house to serve customers on the spot with the best knowledge and thus be their grooming partners throughout their lifestyle journey.

The outlets are mostly located in Tier 2 cities, comprising men who are conscious about their appearance and treat grooming as a necessity, intending to add this practice to their daily lifestyle. The new outlets will help the brand cater to this majorly untapped customer base and further build on its presence in India as

a brand aspires to become a one-stop destination for men's grooming needs.

Currently, The Man Company has more than 1200 plus modern trade outlets spread across 75 plus major cities in India. Currently has collaborations with supermarkets like Spar, Spencer's, More, reliance smart,



hypermarkets like Metro Cash and Carry, Walmart, Lulu, luxury format stores like Shopper's stop, Central, Lifestyle and lifestyle pharmacies like Apollo, Med Plus, Guardian, Wellness forever while continuing partnerships with existing markets and stores. Offering 100% natural, paraben, SLS-free, cruelty-free, and integrated with essential oils, the best-in-class products provided by the brand are already creating a significant benchmark in the hitherto men's grooming and personal care market.

Speaking about the recent development, the Co-founder of Company, Bhisham Bhateja, said "After establishing a concrete

mark on the men's grooming industry, we aspire to initiate a more personalized model of communication by launching more physical brand outlets. It will help us cater to the grooming needs of our new-age customers more seamlessly while also strengthening their connection and engagement with the brand. The Indian

men's grooming and personal care industry is estimated to grow tremendously in the future and we plan to be at the helm of it. In short, we intend to start a grooming revolution among men."

It is pertinent to note that, The Man Company has recorded a remarkable 150% growth in 2020. This includes 60% sales through direct channels and more than 1 million direct access to end-users. And this year, the company has already witnessed 20% month-on-month revenue growth in the last three months. The latest expansion strategy is likely to boost this growth trajectory and take the brand to new heights in the times to come.

Mobile internet suspended, section 144 imposed in Karnal ahead of farmers' protest

Agenceis

KARNAL: Central forces were deployed, mobile Internet services suspended and prohibitory orders banning gathering of people were imposed here on Monday, a day ahead of the gherao planned by farmers at the mini-secretariat over the August 28 lathicharge.

The Haryana government ordered suspension of mobile Internet services from 12:30 pm on Monday to Tuesday midnight to "stop the spread of misinformation and rumours" on social

media, according to an order of the Home Department.

Forty companies of security personnel, including 10 companies of central paramilitary forces, have been deployed in the district where local authorities have also imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC, officials said.

Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni said that they had given a deadline of September 6 to the administration to meet their demands.

He said a meeting with district administration officials was

held here on Monday, but after failing to get any satisfactory response about their demands they decided to hold a big panchayat on Tuesday morning before proceeding to the mini-secretariat to gherao it.

"We will hold a peaceful protest, but if the administration stops us, then we will break barricades," Chaduni told reporters here, adding that farmers have no plan to block the national highway.

The order suspending mobile Internet services stated that "to prevent any disturbance

of peace and public order" here, mobile Internet services (2G/3G/4G/CDMA/GPRS), SMS services, including bulk SMS (excluding banking and mobile recharge) and all dogle services etc, except voice calling, will remain suspended with effect from 12:30 pm on Monday till 11:59 pm on Tuesday.

Earlier, the district administration issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC, banning the assembly of five or more people, and a traffic advisory with planned route diversions, the officials said.

According to a Haryana police advisory, National Highway No 44 (Ambala-Delhi) may see some traffic disruptions in the district on Tuesday.

"Therefore, the general public using NH-44 are advised to avoid journey through Karnal town or otherwise use alternate routes to go to their destination on September 7," it said.

Karnal Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia said a total of 40 companies of security personnel, including 10 of Central Armed Police Forces, also comprising CRPF and BSF

personnel, have been deployed. With additional force from neighbouring districts in place, five SP-rank officers and 25 DSP-rank officers will oversee security arrangements here, Punia said.

Drones fitted with cameras will be mobilised as part of security measures, he said.

No one will be allowed to take law into one's hand, said Karnal Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav.

Speaking to reporters in Chandigarh, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij appealed to

farmers to ensure that the protest is peaceful and the common man is not affected.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Navdeep Singh Virk said elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the call for the gherao of mini-secretariat.

The IG Police Karnal Range and all district Superintendents of Police (Karnal Range) have been directed to take necessary preventive and precautionary measures to maintain law and order in Karnal and adjoining districts, Virk said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Businesses Limp

services were restored.

Meanwhile, businesses started resuming after days of restrictions enforced by government forces fearing law and order problem over Geelani's death.

According to reports, most of the shops, business establishments, private and government offices, banks and petrol pumps in Srinagar's major parts resumed their work. The transport that remained affected due to the curbs also returned to its normal course on almost all the roads and highways in the valley.

However, most of the shops remained shut in the Old City here for the fifth day.

Meanwhile, train service remained suspended for the fifth straight day today in the valley as a precautionary measure. According to reports, train did not chug on Srinagar-Budgam and Baramulla in north Kashmir for the fifth day today.

70 Union Ministers

Industries & Commerce, Youth Services & Sports, School Education, Tribal Affairs, Tourism, besides Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, and all Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said, it was informed that as a part of the Government of India's focussed attention on the development of Jammu and Kashmir, an outreach programme of Union Ministers will commence from 9th September 2021.

"As such, about 70 Union Ministers may be visiting the Union territory and reviewing various developmental works, besides, interacting with stakeholders over a period of 9 weeks," he said.

He said that the Deputy Commissioners were directed to make arrangements for interactions of the visiting Ministers with members of PRIs/ULBs, various associations, self-help groups, youth clubs, and general public. Besides, they were also asked to include visits to iconic heritage sites and cultural programmes under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' in the tour plan.

According to the official spokesperson, Mehta directed the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to submit district-wise progress of works identified during the 'Back to Village' programmes in addition to the achievements under district plans for appraisal of the visiting ministers.

"It was further directed that brief notes on various issues, bottlenecks, achievements and future strategies be also provided to the VIPs during the tour," he said.

"The CS also reviewed the progress under district plans and observed that the Government has recently announced various initiatives to address bottlenecks in the execution of projects," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary was apprised about the current status of district-wise tendered works.

Showing concern on the slow pace of progress in a few districts, he said, Mehta directed expeditious tendering of identified works and cautioned against any further delay keeping in consideration the limited working season in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Moreover, directions were also issued to the senior functionaries for immediate resolution of any residual issue related to tendering of works including consequential orders on delegation of powers," he said.

He further said that the Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

"District administrations were asked to process the cases for vesting of rights on Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers in a time-bound manner. They were also directed to take up conservation of water bodies for implementing directions of the National Green Tribunal," he added.

Regarding the iconic week celebration under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' from 23rd -29th October 2021, the official spokesperson said that Mehta directed the district administrations to ensure maximum participation in various cultural activities and mega-events being organized under the aegis of Culture Department.

"It was informed that in response to various representations from education institutions quoting improved COVID situation, the Government has allowed reopening of schools and resumption of classroom teaching for 10th and 12th students on half the capacity," he said.

"The Health Department was asked to regularly conduct RAT tests of school-going children. The School Education Department was asked to remain vigilant to any signs of infection and its spread in schools," he added.

MPs Panel Begins

receive feedback on the subject matters of implementation of Ayushman Bharat, mental health in contemporary times, medical devices, regulation and control, affordability of cancer treatment and vaccine development, distribution, management and mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic, an official spokesman said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee,

headed by Ram Gopal Yadav, includes members from both houses of Parliament.

The committee on Monday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar where it was briefed about the functioning of the college and its eight associated hospitals across the Kashmir division, the spokesman said.

At the outset, Principal GMC Srinagar, Prof Samia Rashid gave an elaborative presentation over the functioning of the college and its associated hospitals, he added.

The committee members were briefed about the academic activities, specialties available at the hospitals, besides work done in the past three years especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the spokesman said.

The committee was informed about the up-gradation of the hospital since the last two years which included surgical intensive care unit (SICU), operation theatres, specialised equipment, Cath Lab, ECHO facilities, kidney transplant and additional oxygen, he said.

The principal gave an overview about the beneficiaries and patients being treated under AB-PMJAY Sehat Scheme in GMC and its associated hospitals, cancer treatment and other components with respect to patient care, equipment, manpower etc, the spokesman said.

The committee members were also briefed about the ongoing up-gradation of infrastructure and equipment and they were informed that the GMC has taken the construction of 500-bedded maternity-cum-children hospital at Bemina Srinagar, Model Rural Health Research Center of GMC Srinagar at Khag Budgam, construction of a nursing college, besides construction of OPD block at Super Specialty Hospital Srinagar, he said.

While deliberating upon the healthcare facilities and patient care, the Parliamentary Standing Committee said the objective of its visit was to seek suggestions and recommendations, the spokesman said.

The committee also visited Primary Health Center in Chanapora, Srinagar and inspected the health facility there.

On the occasion, the members interacted with doctors, paramedics and patients while enquiring about the facilities being provided there, the spokesman said.

MoS Singh Reviews

(NHIDCL) Managing Director K K Pathak and asked him to expedite the work.

Pathak assured the minister that all the ongoing projects would be completed in a time-bound manner, though some work got hampered due to COVID-19 and time-line has to be increased, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi allocated the highest-ever budget of more than Rs 1,08,621 crore for Jammu and Kashmir.

He said it will help in rebuilding the economy, create jobs and will usher in all-round development in the Union Territory.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel and the Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur constituency, said that after August 5, 2019, there is a visible change in every field, whether related to unfinished projects, implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure development and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre announced abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into union territories on August 5, 2019.

Pathak informed Singh that the work on most of the 17 highway projects with a sanctioned cost of over Rs 15,385 crore is going on smoothly, it said.

Out of 17 approved projects, 12 are in Jammu region and five in Kashmir region.

Singh noted that out of 12 such projects, six major ones are in his Lok Sabha constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, the statement said.

These include Chenani-Sudhmahadev road, Goha-Khellani package 1 and 2, Goha-Khellani package 3 that is Khellani tunnel and Khillani-Khanabal package-2, it said.

The minister said that out of six prospective projects to be awarded in near future, five are in the Jammu region and here also Sudhmahadev-Daranga tunnel package 1 and 2 fall in his parliamentary constituency, the statement said.

In March this year, Singh had met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for allocation of funds to enable timely completion of the proposed Chattergala tunnel which will connect Kathua with Doda, it said.

This is going to be a historic project providing an all-weather alternative road connectivity between the two distant regions and reducing the travel time from Doda to Lakhampur to just around four hours, the statement said. PTI

Policeman Held

constituted by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shafiqat Hussain Batt, following the incident, collected evidence and picked some suspects for questioning, a police spokesman said.

On the basis of the statement of the witnesses and other evidences, the SIT established that the woman was tortured physically and mentally by her husband Mohammad

Ashraf, a policeman posted in Doda district, and other members of his family for a long time over their suspicion on her character.

Ashraf, his brother Fayaz Ahmad and sisters Sharifa, Sara and Rafiqah were arrested and booked under Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), he said, adding a chargesheet was filed in connection with the case.

Police Announces

468,471,120B, 201 IPC & 66 IT ACT has been registered in police station City Kaithal.

So far, over 20 people have been arrested in the case, including J&K resident Nazir Ahmad Khanday.

Some of the accused arrested in connection with the case include Baljit Singh of Hisar; Aman Kumar of Hisar; and Naresh Kumar and Sushil Kumar of Kaithal.

As per the police, the accused had taken the answer keys from the main accused, Narender of Hisar. Police has also recovered a soft copy of the answer keys from their mobile phones. (GNS)

J&K Logs 93

the winter capital, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 326033.

According to officials, Srinagar recorded the highest number of 41 cases on Monday followed by Doda district in Jammu division with 12 cases.

Also, officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained 4410 as no coronavirus related fatality was reported in J&K during the last 24 hours

The officials also said that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 45 in the UT.

ISI Chief Meets

The Taliban has assured Islamabad that Afghan territory will not be used against Pakistan, it said.

Earlier, Pakistani media reported that a delegation of senior officials led by Lt Gen Hameed was in Kabul at the invitation of the Taliban, but the insurgent group said that Islamabad had proposed his visit to Kabul.

On Sunday, the Taliban said that the top Pakistani spy was in Afghanistan to improve bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

Ahmadullah Wasiq, deputy head of the Taliban's Cultural Commission, said that the Taliban leaders talked with Lt Gen Hameed about bilateral relations and the problems of Afghan passengers at the Torkham and Spin Boldak passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"This Pakistani official has come to solve Afghan passengers' problems at the border areas, especially in Torkham and Spin Boldak. They wanted (his visit to Kabul) and we accepted, Wasiq was quoted as saying by TOLO news.

Pakistan on Thursday temporarily closed the Chaman border crossing - the second-largest commercial border point with Afghanistan after the Torkham commercial town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to security threats.

At his press conference, Mujahid noted that the recent delegation to Kabul said the crossings had been closed due to security concerns linked to release of prisoners inside Afghanistan, and requested checks for those seeking to enter or leave the country.

Citing sources close to Hizb-e-Islami party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the channel said that Pakistan's intelligence chief also met him and discussed the current situation in the country.

In a short video clip circulated in the media last week, Lt Gen Hameed was seen trying to respond to questions by a journalist who first asked: Will you be meeting senior people in the Taliban?"

"No, I'm not clear " the ISI chief said and looked towards Pakistan ambassador to Kabul Mansour Ahmad Khan, who was standing by his side, to respond to the question.

In response to another question, Hameed smiled and said: "Don't worry, everything will be okay."

Hameed's visit to Afghanistan came amidst mounting pressure on the Taliban to form an inclusive government acceptable to the international community. The insurgent group is struggling to give shape to a broad-based and inclusive administration acceptable to the international community.

It was the first high-level visit of any Pakistani official to Afghanistan since the Taliban took over Kabul on August 15, in a move that surprised both their foes and friends.

Since then, the Taliban have been trying to form a government but so far have held back the announcement.

Pakistan was often accused by the Afghanistan government of giving the Taliban military aid, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Under Fire, Police

the body into a grave. Out of the nine, Six videos are of Geelani's ablation, one video is of Geelani's body being wrapped in a shroud,

another video is of his funeral prayers and the last visual shows Geelani's burial.

The 2 minute long video, titled as "Video of Ghusul (ablation) of late SAS Geelani " was uploaded on the official twitter account of the Kashmir zone police. The video clearly shows Geelani's body---wrapped under a black cloth---been given ablation by several civilians. In the video, two mask-wearing civilians can be seen pouring water over Geelani's body while the rest of the bystanders recited Quranic verses near his body.

In another video, several voices can be clearly heard shouting "Shut your camera", to which another voice---purportedly of the person filming Geelani's ablation--- replies, "This is to throw light."

In the video titled as "Visuals from the funeral prayers (janaza) of SAS Geelani" several civilians can be seen listening to a cleric's speech near Geelani's coffin.

"Family members are requested to step forward." An obscure voice can be heard in one of the videos calling out for Geelani's family members. "There are only a few here." a person replies.

The videos were released by police, hours after Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq led Hurriyat Chairman accused the J&K administration of desecrating and maltreating Syed Ali Geelani's body.

"It's unfortunate that his (Syed Ali Geelani's) body was maltreated and desecrated. It's sad that a person who is dead was not treated with dignity. We cannot do revenge politics on a dead man's body." Mehbooba Mufti had said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Geelani's family had accused the police of forcefully lifting his body without ablation and burying him in haste, with no close family member attending his funeral. However, the police had denied such allegations.

Soon after Geelani's death, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) issued a statement and condemned the Indian government for allegedly denying the separatist leader's family the right to give him a proper Islamic burial.

Meanwhile, police in a statement issued here this evening said that after Geelani's death, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and other senior police officers met both of his sons at their residence at 11pm and requested for burial in the night for larger interest of general public due to potential major law and order situations.

"Both agreed and asked to wait for two hours until relatives reach. IGP Kashmir personally spoke to a few relatives and ensured them of safe passage. However, 3hrs later probably under the pressure from Pakistan & miscreants they behaved differently & started resorting to anti-national activities including wrapping dead body in Pakistani flag, making loud sloganeering in favour of Pakistan and instigating neighbours to come out," a police spokesperson said.

After persuasion, he said, the relatives brought the body to the graveyard and performed last rites with due respect in presence of members of Intizamia Committee and local Imam.

"The refusal of both his sons to come to graveyard indicated their loyalty to Pakistani agenda rather than their love & respect for their departed father," he added.

Hurriyat Condemns

Code over the draping of Geelani's body in a Pakistani flag and the alleged raising of "anti-national" slogans after his death.

However, as the police moved in to take over the body, the late leader's aides removed the flag, officials had said earlier.

Geelani died on Wednesday night at his residence here after a prolonged illness. The body was laid to rest at a graveyard in Hyderpora locality of Srinagar.

In a statement, the Hurriyat said it denounced the filing of the FIR against Geelani's family.

"The details shared by Geelani's son in media that the authorities took the body of the 92-year-old leader into their custody, and buried it on their own without the knowledge and participation of the family is appalling and painful to hear," the amalgam said.

"It is so tragically inhuman when a family is denied the basic right of burial of their loved one and one can only imagine what the family must have gone through. After such harshness the authorities are now harassing the family with FIRs and threats of arrests," it claimed.

The Hurriyat said the people of Kashmir stand with Geelani's family "in this hour of grief and injustice".

Mehbooba Slams

with Geelani ... A fight is with a living person but once a person dies, the differences should end. The deceased is entitled to dignified last rites," Mehbooba said after a party meeting here.

The former chief minister said the news reports about the denial to Geelani's family to perform his last rites had saddened the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The family has a right to perform the last rites of a dead person. What we heard and came to know through media reports about

disrespect to the deceased, is against humanity. You have to respect your opponent after death like you would respect anyone," she said.

She said Geelani's wish to be buried at Eidgah graveyard should have been granted.

"Even a convict sentenced to death is granted one last wish before execution," Mehbooba said, referring to Geelani's wish.

The PDP president condemned the alleged misbehaviour with womenfolk of Geelani's family at the time of his death.

"India is held in high esteem globally for its civilisation and culture... But what has happened does not fit the image of the country," she added.

Mehbooba said people cannot be forced to like or dislike a leader at gunpoint.

"What happened with the dead body of Geelani has probably generated sympathy among even those who might have had differences with his politics. There was no call, yet the markets were shut down after people came to know about what had happened (on Wednesday night)," she added.

Govt Departments

electricity dues immediately", Dulloo said.

He further directed them that the properly assessed bills shall be cleared by each department on monthly basis and shortfall in budget allocation with proper justification shall be projected in the revised estimates 2021-22.

How Mirza Kamil

said, the new generation made their elders give up their professions which led to the dearth of manpower in Kashmir. And the void was ably capitalised by the non-locals.

Massive constructions and least local manpower, many say, led to the massive migration of non-local labourers to Kashmir by early 2000.

While many of them came from Bihar, a considerable number also arrived from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Upon their arrival, locals rented their places to them. Most of them took shelter in Manzoor Building, located in the nearby Zahidpora area. Scores of bicycles can be seen parked to the opposite of the unusually long structure.

"Since several adjoining localities of Hawal are poor, they started to rent their places to these labourers and it eventually became a hub of non-locals," the cleric said.

"They started gathering at Mirza Kamil Chowk which came to be known as Bihari Chowk."

Erosion of names, many believe, started the day when Kashmiris left their ancestral jobs.

"Carpenters hate carpentry to the extent that they have built joinery mills so that no one calls them carpenters," said Qanungo.

"People associated with traditional bread-making are ashamed to call themselves bakers and instead run confectionary shops. If bakers from towns would not have moved to Srinagar, we would be left without bread."

Amid this anguish, the cleric said, a collective effort is needed to protect the ancestral legacy and identity.

"We should launch a spiritual movement," he said, "to safeguard our cultural and religious identity."

Rs 76000 Recovered

continuing its efforts to curb the outbreak of 2nd wave of Coronavirus, during the last 24 hours Police have realized fine to the tune of Rs 76,150 from 713 people throughout the Kashmir valley for violating the various guidelines, rules, SOPs regarding Covid-19.

The special drive against the violators of Covid-19 guidelines/rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs and guidelines envisaged by the government to curb Covid-19 pandemic.

Man Stabbed To

residence, a police official said.

A quarrel broke out between them which took an ugly turn when Lehar took out a knife and stabbed his brother to death before fleeing the scene, the official said.

The body was handed over to the family for last rites after the completion of legal formalities late Monday afternoon, he said.

A hunt has been launched to nab the accused who has earlier served a jail term in connection with another murder case sometimes back.

Train Service

-Qazigund route in south Kashmir to Banihal in Jammu region, they added.

Train service was suspended on Thursday following direction from the administration and police as a precautionary measure after the death of separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani who breathed his last at his Hyderpora residence on Wednesday night.

They said in the past railway property worth crores of rupees was damaged in violence in the valley. (Agencies)

Ladakh Reports

and discharged from hospitals on Sunday, taking the tally of recoveries to 20,298, the officials said.

All new cases were reported in Leh, they added.

India Win 4th Test Against England, Lead Series 2-1



Agenceis

Shardul Thakur and Rishabh Pant's half-centuries frustrated England and left them needing to complete their highest-ever run chase to take a 2-1 lead in the series, but an unbroken 77-run opening stand between Rory Burns and Haseeb Hameed kept them in with a chance of pulling it off.

India resumed three wickets down with a lead of 171 on the fourth morning, and pressed on towards a significant third-innings total thanks primarily to Thakur and Pant's 100-run stand for the seventh wicket. They lost wickets in clusters but England's bowlers struggled to create regular chances on a flat Oval pitch and India's total of 466 was their highest in the second innings of a Test since 2009.

England's openers were tasked with seeing out 32 overs in the evening session and managed to do so with few concerns. Virat Kohli quickly turned to Ravindra Jadeja, who bowled 13 overs on the trot as he searched for the rough created by the seamers' footholes, but he struggled for consistency in his length. Burns was gritty and defensive but Hameed found some fluency, clipping boundaries off his pads and driving forcefully through the covers to leave England eyeing an improbable win.

Kohli and Jadeja - retaining his new role at No. 5 - resumed after seeing off the second new ball on the third evening and saw off James Anderson and Ollie Robinson's first spells with

ease, Kohli pounding Anderson for four through the covers and punching Robinson through mid-off with a strong bottom hand to move into the 40s.

But Chris Woakes' first spell of the day brought two breakthroughs. His second ball was angled across Jadeja and defended into the off side, but both England and umpire Alex Wharf recognised that it had hit the knee roll of his pad first. Jadeja reviewed the decision, but the on-field call was upheld.

Three balls later, the out-of-form Ajinkya Rahane was pinned on the pad while shouldering arms to a nip-backer, but successfully reviewed Wharf's decision, with the DRS showing that it would have bounced over the top of the stumps.

Rahane had no such luck in Woakes' following over: he was set up perfectly, with Woakes gradually pushing his release point wider until Rahane played around another nip-backer that would have crashed into the top of his leg stump. His duck meant his Test average dipped below 40 for the first time in six years and his place will be under severe pressure in Manchester.

Kohli struggled to score as fluently in the second hour of the morning session, tied down by Woakes in particularly, and fell six runs short of his half-century as another England bowling change worked perfectly: Moeen Ali's sixth ball of the day drifted away, spun in and took the outside edge to give Craig Overton a straightforward catch at slip.

India Coach Ravi Shastri, Two Others, Test COVID Positive

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India head coach Ravi Shastri has tested positive for COVID-19 along with two members of the support staff in the confirmatory RT-PCR tests, ruling them out of the team's fifth and final Test against England in Manchester this week.

The 59-year-old Shastri returned positive in a lateral flow test (Rapid Antigen Test) on Sunday and on Monday, his RT-PCR test report confirmed the infection.

Three support staff members -- Bharath Arun, fielding coach R Sridhar and physiotherapist Nitin Patel -- were also isolated after being deemed his close contacts.

It is learnt that Arun and Sridhar have tested positive among the three and will remain in isolation for at least the next 10 days. The fifth and final Test is scheduled to start on September 10.

"After testing positive in two lateral flow test, Shastri has also returned a positive result in RT-PCR test. He has mild symptoms like sore throat. He will undergo 10 days of isolation," a BCCI source informed PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Since the Test match starts on September 10, Shastri will not be accompanying the team as his isolation period will only get over after the last Test gets

over," the source said.

Even Patel won't be travelling to Manchester for the final game but that was pre-decided.

"Look, being close contacts, Arun, Sri and Nitin will have to undergo five-day isolation. But in any case, they were not travelling to Manchester for the final Test."

"In Manchester, the BCCI is creating a separate IPL bubble for the cricketers as there will be bubble to bubble transfer on September 15. It was pre-decided," a senior BCCI source added.

It is expected that all the three coaches will be in touch with captain Virat Kohli and batting coach Vikram Rathour, who will be in charge of the team during this period.

"As far as physio is concerned, the team has back-up in Yogesh Parmar with the two trainers Nick (Webb) and Soham (Desai). Three masseurs (Negi, Kanade, Dayanand, also a throwdown specialist) are there for recovery," he informed.

"There is Raghu and Nuwan and also Vikram doubles up as a throwdown specialist," he added.

It is understood that Shastri may have developed the symptoms either during his book release function few evenings back or while using a common lift that players use at the stadium along with the VIP guests which has a minimum traffic of 5000 people.

Resignations Rock Pakistan Cricket As Misbah, Waqar Quit Coaching Roles



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: In a shocking decision, Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling coach Waqar Younis have stepped down from their respective roles one month before the T20 World Cup.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday announced that Misbah and Waqar have resigned and that former Pakistan Test players, Saqlain Mushtaq and Abdul Razzaq would be interim coaches for the time being.

The sudden changes coincide with the induction of former Test captain Ramiz Raja as the new Chairman of the board on September 13.

Ramiz on his YouTube channel and as a commentator and analyst has maintained that he does not believe Misbah and Waqar are the best coaches for the Pakistan team. Even the World Cup squad

announced on Monday bears the influence of Ramiz in the selection process as he has been inclined towards younger players and power hitters in the T20 format.

"Considering that I would have had to continue to spend considerable time away from my family in a bio-secure environment, I have decided to step down from the role," Misbah said in a statement.

Waqar said that after Misbah shared with him his decision and future plans, it was a straightforward decision for him to resign as they had walked into the roles together, had worked as a pair and now also stepped down together.

The PCB said that Saqlain and Razzaq will join team management as interim coaches for the New Zealand series.

Misbah and Waqar were appointed in September 2019 and still had a year each left in their contracts.

The changes come with the

New Zealand side due to arrive on September 11 for three ODIs and five T20Is and the Pakistan side to assemble in Islamabad on September 8.

The PCB said that the team management for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be appointed in due course.

PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan said the PCB understands and respects Misbah's decision.

He added that Saqlain and Razzaq have been appointed as interim coaches for the New Zealand series.

Saqlain is the Head of International Player Development at the National High Performance Centre, while Razzaq's domestic side won three titles in the 2020-21 season.

"Both Saqlain and Razzaq are ready to step-up and are very much looking forward to making important contributions in their coaching roles against New Zealand."

Super Division League: RKFC, Galaxy FC Win Matches



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: DFA Srinagar organised Annual Football League Nirmal (Webb) and Soham (Desai). Three masseurs (Negi, Kanade, Dayanand, also a throwdown specialist) are there for recovery," he informed.

The first match was played between Real Kashmir U-18 and Kashmir United FC.

Both the teams played offensive football but Mufaid of Real Kashmir U-18 team opened the score in the 12th minute and helped his team take the lead.

Kashmir United FC tried hard to equalize but failed and at half time RKFC U-18 was leading 1-0.

In the second half, Real Kashmir U-18 started on an aggressive note and increased their lead by scoring another goal through Faisal in 50th minute.

Kashmir United FC tried their utmost to find the net but could not penetrate the solid defence of young Snow Leopards.

Thus, Real Kashmir FC defeated Kashmir United FC by 2 goals to nil. The second match was played between Etihad FC and Galaxy FC.

In the 7th minute of the first half, Syed Fahkar of Galaxy FC scored the opening goal. Immediately after Etihad FC players put a lot of pressure on

opponents to find the equalizer but failed. The first half score was 1-0 in favour of Galaxy FC.

The second half of the match saw beautiful moves with both sides trying to find an opening.

In the 55th minute, Galaxy FC were awarded a penalty kick for an offence and Syed Fahkar of Galaxy FC made no mistake from the penalty spot. Etihad FC on their part, missed two to three open net chances.

Galaxy FC held on till the final whistle and defeated Etihad FC by 2 goals to nil.

The Tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with JKSC.

Pakistan Announce T20 World Cup Squad, Fakhar, Sarfaraz Left Out

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Middle-order batsmen Asif Ali and Khushdil Shah were picked despite not having "impressive numbers" in Pakistan's 15-strong squad for next month's T20 World Cup even as the experienced duo of Fakhar Zaman and wicket-keeper Sarfaraz Ahmed were left out.

The Babar Azam-led squad will also play in upcoming T20Is against New Zealand and England before the World Cup.

The seven home T20Is in Lahore and Rawalpindi will be played from September 25 to October 14 before Pakistan takes on arch-rivals India in their T20 World Cup opener in Dubai on October 24. The T20 World Cup gets underway from October 17 in the UAE and Oman.

Asif played his last T20I against Zimbabwe in April and averages 16.38 in 29 matches with a strike-rate of 123.74, while left-handed batsman Khushdil averages 21.6 in 9 matches. He last played a T20I against South Africa in Lahore.

"Asif Ali and Khushdil Shah may not have impressive numbers against their names but hardly anyone can doubt their tremendous talent and prowess," Chief selector Muhammad Wasim said in a release.

"They are the best in the available pool of middle-order batsmen and we remain confident that they will provide us solutions to our middle-order difficulties through solid performances."

Arshad Iqbal, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Sharjeel Khan and Usman Qadir, who were a part of the Pakistan squad for the T20I series in England and West Indies, have also been left out.

Zaman, Qadir and Shahnawaz Dahani have been named as travelling reserves. However, Sarfaraz has been completely omitted.

"Azam Khan is an aggressive and attacking batter who also keeps wickets, a combination that has earned him the selectors' nod ahead of Sarfaraz Ahmed," Wasim said.

Wasim also said that Zaman, Dahani and Qadir were unlucky to miss out on the selections.

"Like Faheem, an uncapped Shahnawaz was tied with Mohammad Wasim Junior, but we opted for the latter due to his pace and batting abilities."

The chief selector said the experience of playing in the UAE will hold the players in good stead and Pakistan will look to do well in the home T20 series to carry the momentum into the showpiece event.

Pakistan Squad: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan (vc), Asif Ali, Azam Khan, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sohail Maqsood.

Travelling reserves: Fakhar Zaman, Shahnawaz Dahani and Usman Qadir.

India's T20 WC Team Selection A Toss-Up Between Spinners & Keepers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Mystery spinner Varun Chakravathy and Rahul Chahar, with his fast leg-breaks, will fight it out for the additional tweaker's slot when the selectors pick the Indian squad for next month's ICC T20 World Cup in the coming couple of days.

It is expected that the Chetan Sharma-led selection committee will meet at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai and link up with skipper Virat Kohli in Manchester and coach Ravi Shastri in London either on Tuesday or more likely on Wednesday. BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah (convenor of selection committee) are also expected to be a part of the most important selection by the committee.

While most of the teams are announcing 15-member squads, the BCCI is expected to announce either an 18 or 20 member squad as the ICC will allow a squad strength of 30, instead of 23 in earlier editions, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The number is inclusive of the support staff.

Any team can have more than 30-member squads but the extra cost is supposed to be borne by the country's cricket board.

The Indian white ball team will have at least 13 to 15 members, who are automatic selections but there are a few spots for which there would be some discussions.

Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravindra Jadeja are two spinners who are all but sure of their slots and it could well be a toss up between Chakravathy, who has had good IPL runs and Rahul, who impressed in the recent tour of Sri Lanka.

With Rishabh Pant and KL

Rahul both capable of donning the big gloves, Ishan Kishan, with some good performances for India in the recent tour of Sri Lanka, is expected to pip the highly-rated-but-under-performing Sanju Samson.

With Hardik Pandya not bowling his full quota of four overs, Shardul Thakur might be required after his new-found batting prowess.

Suryakumar Yadav can be called a certainty while Shreyas Iyer will get his rightful place back in the squad. For the extra opener's slot after Rohit Sharma and Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, with good back-to-back IPLs, and an in-form Prithvi Shaw will be locking horns. But in case of a 20 member squad, both might get a look-in.

In the fast bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami (if fully fit) are automatic selections but Deepak Chahar and the red-hot Mohammed Siraj are also in contention. Washington Sundar's injury, which has ruled him out of IPL, also means that if he is picked, it will be without any match practice.

Among left-arm pacers, Chetan Sakariya and T Natarajan are there but the latter has hardly played anything while the former may accompany the team as a net bowler.

The Likely Squad:

Certainties (14): Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur

Bumrah, Root, Afridi Nominated For ICC Monthly Award

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Monday nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for August following his brilliant performances with both the bat and ball in the ongoing Test series against England.

Bumrah, the others in the men's category included England Test skipper Joe Root and Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi, the ICC announced. Bumrah, who has been exceptional with his fast bowling against England, took nine wickets in the first Test.

He received just as many plaudits for his role with the bat in the second Test at Lord's, when he contributed to an 89-run ninth-wicket partnership with Mohammad Shami that

proved pivotal to India's win.

England went on to level the series in the third Test, mostly thanks to captain Root, who has plundered runs at will. He scored centuries in each of the three Tests against India in August, a purple patch that led him to the top of the Test batting rankings. On the other hand, Afridi, in two Tests against West Indies in August, promised wickets every time he was thrown the ball.

He ended the series with 18 wickets, taking 10 wickets in the second Test and helped Pakistan secure a series-levelling 109-run victory.

In taking 10 wickets in the Test, Afridi became the fourth-youngest paceman from Pakistan to achieve the feat, after Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Mohammad Zahid.

Brazil-Argentina Qualifier Suspended In Coronavirus Dispute

Agencies

SAO PAULO: A World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Argentina was suspended amid chaotic scenes after local health officials walked onto the pitch in a bid to remove three players who didn't comply with coronavirus restrictions.

The match featuring Argentina's Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar was stopped in the 7th minute because of the extraordinary interruption on Sunday. The referee eventually suspended the game with the score at 0-0 after players, coaches, football officials and local authorities argued for several minutes on the field at NeoQuimica Arena.

Brazil's health agency said three of Argentina's

England-based players should have been in quarantine instead of playing in the match. FIFA will have to determine what happens next with the qualifier.

Antonio Barra Torres, the president of Brazil's health agency, Anvisa, said four Argentina players would be fined and deported for breaching Brazil's COVID-19 protocols.

The four had been ordered to quarantine by Brazil's health agency ahead of the match. Despite that order, three of the four started for Argentina.

Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia and Tottenham's Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero joined the Argentina squad despite the Premier League not wanting players to be released for international duty because of the

need to quarantine for 10 days in a hotel on their return. Brazil's quarantine restrictions have added another complicating factor.

The Argentina football federation on Sunday night tweeted the message "We are going home!" along with a picture of the squad, including Emiliano Martinez and Buendia, boarding a flight for Buenos Aires.

TV Globo reported that the four England-based players told Brazilian police at the airport they did not fill their entry forms upon arrival. The report said the footballers were not deported and received permission to fly back with their team.

Brazil's health agency said all four allegedly told immigration officers that in the previous 14 days they hadn't been to Britain

or anywhere else that Brazil puts in its own red list for Covid-19 risks. Those who have been in countries on the so-called red list face a 14-day quarantine in Brazil.

Martinez, Romero and Lo Celso started the match.

Anvisa there'd been a meeting Saturday involving regional and national football representatives to discuss the quarantine situation.

"At that meeting, Anvisa and local health authorities determined the players should quarantine," Anvisa said.

"However, even after the meeting and the report to authorities, the players took part of Saturday evening's training session."

The agency added that attempts earlier Sunday to remove the players and take them to the

airport were frustrated.

"The decision to interrupt the match was never within Anvisa's reach. However, fielding players who did not comply with Brazilian laws and health norms, and also offered false information to authorities did require the agency to act, at its time and its way," the Brazilian agency said.

Brazilian TV showed several exchanges between players and coaches during the chaos. Brazil coach Tite seemed to be the most upset.

"They had 72 hours before the match. They had to do it at the time of the match!" Tite shouted to the Anvisa agents.

Lionel Messi also sounded irritated. "They did not talk to us before this," the Argentine captain repeated.

There's No Respect For Supreme Court Judgments, CJI Tells Centre

Agenceis

New Delhi: Taking a strong exception to the enactment of the Tribunals Reforms Act that reduced the tenure of chairmen and members of various tribunals, the Supreme Court on Monday said its judgments were not being respected by the government.

"The Centre appears hell-bent on not respecting the Supreme Court's orders," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said commenting on the recently enacted Tribunals Reforms Act, which has provisions identical to the earlier law struck down by the top court.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh challenging the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, on the grounds that its provisions were inconsistent with the top court's decision in the Madras Bar Association's case. The petition specifically challenges Sections 3(1), 3(7), 5 and 7(1) of the Act.

"It is clear that you don't want

to respect the judgments of this court. Now we have the option to stay the Tribunal Reforms Act or close down tribunals or we ourselves appoint the people, or the next option is initiate contempt of courts act. These are three options," the Bench said posting it for further hearing on Monday.

The CJI, however, said, "We don't want confrontation with the government and we are happy with the way Supreme Court judges were appointed. These tribunals are collapsing with no members or chairperson."

"You are emasculating tribunals by not filling vacancies," Justice LN Rao commented.

Describing NCLT and NCLAT as cornerstones of lots of decisions taken by the government with regard to the economy and very important for rehabilitation of corporate entities, Justice DY Chandrachud said, "Important cases are not being heard because of vacancies. Not appointing judges at NCLT and NCLAT creates a very critical position."

Supreme Court Refuses To Defer NEET-UG Exam Scheduled For September 12

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to defer the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG examination, scheduled for September 12, saying it does not want to interfere with the process and it will be "very unfair" to reschedule it.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said if students wanted to appear in multiple exams, then they needed to prioritise and make a choice as there might never be a situation where everyone is satisfied with the date of exams.

The apex court, however, said the petitioners would be at liberty to make a representation before the competent authorities on the issue and the same might be decided at the earliest in accordance with the law.

"The arguments which you (counsel for petitioners) are canvassing may not be relevant for 99 per cent candidates. For one per cent candidates, the entire system cannot be put on hold," the bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, told advocate Shueb Alam who was appearing for the petitioners.

When Alam said that around

25,000 students would be appearing in either improvement or supplementary examinations for Class 12, the bench observed that only around one per cent candidates go for that.

Alam argued that medical entrance exam NEET-UG 2021 be deferred as many other examinations are scheduled around September 12.

"If you are to appear in multiple examinations, then you need to make choice," the bench said, adding, "You have to prioritise. You must also be conscious that any deferment is likely to clash with some other examination."

The bench said the respective boards would do their job and the court would not interfere with examinations in such a situation.

It said deferment of exams might affect the next course and whole thing would be prolonged.

"It will be very unfair to reschedule the examination. NEET is a very large examination. It is not state-wise, it is a nationwide exam," the bench said.

Alam told the court that around 16 lakh candidates are likely to appear in the NEET exam. PTI

Climate Action Cannot Wait For Covid Pandemic To End, 220 Journals Warn



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The world leaders need to take immediate action to limit climate change, restore biodiversity, and protect health, according to an editorial published in over 220 leading journals, including The Lancet and the National Medical Journal of India.

The editorial is being published ahead of the UN General Assembly, one of the last international meetings taking place before the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, UK in November.

It warns that the greatest threat to global public health into the future is the continued failure of world leaders to take adequate action to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius and to restore nature.

"The recent examples of extreme weather all over the globe have brought into focus the reality that climate change is," said Peush Sahni, Editor-in-Chief of the National Medical Journal of India, and one of the co-authors of the editorial.

"We must act now lest it is too late. We owe it to the future generations," Sahni said.

The authors warn that while recent targets to reduce emissions and conserve nature are welcome, they are not enough and are yet to be matched with credible short and longer term plans.

They urge governments to intervene to transform societies and economies, for example, by supporting the redesign of transport systems, cities, production

and distribution of food, markets for financial investments, and health systems.

Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet, said urgently addressing the climate crisis is one of the greatest opportunities for advancing the wellbeing of people worldwide.

"The health community must do more to raise its critical voice in holding political leaders accountable for their actions to keep global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees Celsius," Horton explained.

The editorial argues that sufficient global action can only be achieved if high-income countries do far more to support the rest of the world and to reduce their own consumption.

Developed countries must commit to increasing climate finance: fulfilling their outstanding commitment to provide USD 100 billion a year, have a dual focus on mitigation and adaptation, including improving the resilience of health systems, it said.

The editorial argues that this money should be provided in the form of grants, rather than loans, and should come alongside forgiving large debts, which constrain the agency of so many low-income countries.

Additional funding must be marshalled to compensate for inevitable loss and damage caused by the consequences of the environmental crisis, the authors noted.

"While low and middle income countries have historically contributed less to climate change,

they bear an inordinate burden of the adverse effects, including on health," said Professor Lukoye Atwoli, Editor-in-Chief of the East Africa Medical Journal, and one of the co-authors of the editorial.

"We therefore call for equitable contributions whereby the world's wealthier countries do more to offset the impact of their actions on the climate, beginning now, and continuing into the future," Atwoli said.

Fiona Godlee, Editor-in-Chief of The BMJ, and one of the co-authors of the editorial noted that going above mean temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius and allowing the continued destruction of nature will bring far deadlier crisis than COVID-19.

"Wealthier nations must act faster and do more to support those countries already suffering under higher temperatures. 2021 has to be the year the world changes course — our health depends on it," said Godlee.

According to Eric J. Rubin, Editor-in-Chief of The New England Journal of Medicine, and one of the co-authors of the editorial, the environment and health are inextricably intertwined.

"The changing climate is endangering us in many ways, including its critical impacts on health and health care delivery," said Rubin.

"As medical and public health practitioners, we have an obligation not only to anticipate new health care needs but also to be active participants in limiting the causes of the climate crisis," the added.

Javed Akhtar's Taliban-RSS Remarks Aimed At Creating Confusion In Society: VHP

Agenceis

NAGPUR: The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday condemned the statement of Javed Akhtar on the Taliban and RSS calling it a "conspiracy" to confuse society and demanded strict action against the Bollywood lyricist.

"The Taliban is a terrorist organisation which believes in violence and is anti-women. Comparing such organisations with the RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal....I condemn his statement. All these three organisations do not believe in violence and do not work against anyone. They do social service. It seems like a conspiracy when such big people give such statements and society gets confused. His statement was aimed at confusing society by telling lies. Strict action should be taken against him," VHP national general secretary Milind Parande told reporters when asked about Akhtar's statement.

Parande demanded that the web series "Empire" be restricted as it is "very systematically channelising the violent and aggressive Muslim invaders".

To a query on Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's meeting with some Muslim intellectuals in Mumbai, Parande said, "organisations that work in society for the national cause can meet anybody. This meeting is part of that normal discourse".

Queried on VHP's stand in the next year's assembly polls in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, Parande said the VHP is not a political party.

"The VHP works in the interest of Hindus. We believe that the interest of Hindus and the country is the same. We would like to have the Central and state governments that think of the interest of Hindus. We will spread awareness in society about the Hindu interest and the importance of voting," he said.

Parande termed as "appeasement policy" the allotment of a room for offering namaz in the Jharkhand Assembly.

"This appeasement is going on even now. India was divided due to such an appeasement policy. Any dialogue with Muslims or anyone should be on the principles of nationalism as they are citizens of this country. The dialogue should not be based on appeasement as it is not good for the country. What happened in Jharkhand is an example of appeasement," he said.

Parande also demanded action against the persons involved in the Hijab incident in Nagpur.

A complaint was filed at a police station on Saturday after some local residents took exception to the alleged distribution of pamphlets advocating 'hijab' (Islamic head covering) in the Civil Lines area. Some morning walkers saw three women allegedly distributing pamphlets and urging young women to wear the hijab, and questioned them, a police release had said.

Parande refused to speak on the agenda of recently held coordination meetings held between the RSS and its affiliated organisations like VHP, BMS and others in Nagpur. PTI

Robots To Patrol Singapore Streets To Detect Bad Social Behaviour

Agenceis

SINGAPORE: Singapore has started trials of robots to patrol public areas and deter poor social behaviour, in its latest effort to further augment its strong portfolio of surveillance tools.

Ranked one of the safest countries in the world, Singapore has put two autonomous robots on trial to detect bad behaviour such as flouting of COVID-19 safety measures, smoking in prohibited areas and the improper parking of bicycles, Singapore's Home Team Science and Technology Agency said in a statement on Sunday.

It said the two patrol robots, named Xavier, are equipped with cameras that can detect bad social behaviour and trigger real-time alerts to the command and control centre.

The trial is taking place at an area with high foot traffic in central Singapore. The agency said that during the three-week trial, the robots would be used for surveillance and displaying messages to educate the public on proper behaviour.

A spokesperson from the agency said on Monday that the robots would not be used for law enforcement during the trial. "The deployment of Xavier will support the work of public officers as it will reduce the manpower required for foot patrols and improve operation efficiency," the agency said.

Singapore's Home Affairs Minister, K Shanmugam, said in August the city-state aimed to have more than 200,000 police cameras by 2030, more than double the current number of cameras deployed across the island state in Southeast Asia.

FULL CIRCLE

Lamentable State of Academia in Kashmir



Watch to know more in this episode of **Full Circle** on **KASHMIR OBSERVER** YouTube Channel
<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

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