



P6 THINK

WHAT CRITICS ARE GETTING WRONG ABOUT INDIA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Exactly a year back, we had predicted an imminent V-shaped recovery in GDP growth after its sharp decline. At that time, most doubted the prediction. A former Finance Minister wrote "In a

P7 THINK

WHEN WILL COVID END?

For anyone hoping to see light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel over the next three to six months, scientists have some bad news: Brace for more of what we've already been through. Outbreaks will close schools and cancel classes. Vaccinated nursing home residents



P11 SPORTS

LASITH MALINGA RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET

Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after terrorising the world's best batsmen for over a decade and a half with his



Widom Quote!

There are no traffic jams on the extra mile.
- Zig Ziglar

NEWS DIGEST

Woman Injured In Bear Attack

SRINAGAR: A woman was attacked and injured on Tuesday by a black bear in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 35-year-old Shaheena Begum was working in her fields near Power-house Bridge in Kangan when a bear appeared there and attacked her on Tuesday. **More On P10**

Man Falls From Walnut Tree, Dies

SRINAGAR: A 55-year-old man died after falling from a walnut tree in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday, officials said. Reports said that the man identified as Ghulam Mohammad Khokher son of Ghulam Qadir Khokher of Balkote Uri fell from the walnut tree and was immediately shifted to Sub-district hospital Uri where. **More On P10**

Cobra Among 3 Snakes Rescued In Jammu

JAMMU: Three different kinds of snakes, including a nearly five-feet-long Cobra, were rescued by the Jammu and Kashmir Department of Wildlife Protection from separate parts of the city on Tuesday, an official said. Wildlife warden, Jammu, Anil Kumar Atri said the snakes were rescued from Jewel chowk, Belicharana and the railway station. **More On P10**

Ladakh Reports 4 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh recorded four fresh COVID-19 cases Tuesday, taking the tally to 20,608 while the active cases in the union territory went down to 30, officials said. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. Four patients of coronavirus were cured and discharged from. **More On P10**

US Eyes Indian Bases As Staging Ground For Strikes In Afghanistan

Antony Blinken Says US Will Reassess Its Relationship With Pakistan

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The US is in touch with New Delhi on using airfields in India as staging areas for aerial strikes in Afghanistan, while it will reassess its relationship with Pakistan, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a Senate Committee on the pull-out from Afghanistan.

President Joe Biden's administration is "deeply engaged" with New Delhi, Antony Blinken said, testifying before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives – the lower house of the American Congress.

Blinken's comments come days before PM Narendra Modi will meet US President Joe Biden on September 24 at the Quad Summit, possibly followed by a bilateral interaction.

"I'm talking Northwest India as a potential because, Qatar, and Doha, are just a little bit too far," said Blinken when asked if the Biden Administration had



reached out to New Delhi for using "over-the-horizon" (OTH) capabilities from "staging areas" in north-west India for neutralising potential threats to the United States in and around Afghanistan, in view of the col-lusion between the Taliban and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan.

Blinken refused to elaborate, observing that, "let me just say

generally we're deeply engaged with India, across the board, with regard to any specifics about over the horizon capabilities and the plans that we put in place."

The Pentagon's last over-the-horizon strike had killed nine civilians instead of a suicide bomber it had thought was heading for the Kabul airport.

In revision to his Afghanistan policy, US commander-in-chief

Joe Biden had told the presser at the White House that after the military pull out, as the threat from terrorism continues in its pernicious nature, and risks spilling into other countries, US' counterterrorism strategy "has to change". He then stressed, "We will maintain the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and other countries, we just don't need to fight a ground war to do it." He further stated that his administration will opt for what's called "over-the-horizon capabilities", which means the US military forces can strike terrorists and targets "without American boots on the ground". He asserted: "ISIS-K: We are not done with you yet."

Separately, US President Biden, as well as a spokesman for his administration said that America will rely on "over-the-horizon" military capabilities to snub growing threats of terrorism in the Central Asian region. The United States will "act swiftly and **More On P10**

Bihar Resident Among 3 Hurt In Pulwama Blast

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Three people, including a non-local were injured in a grenade explosion in main town Pulwama in south Kashmir district on Tuesday, officials said.

The militants lobbed the grenade towards a vehicle of government forces at Pulwama chowk this afternoon but the grenade exploded on the roadside, resulting in injuries to three civilians. The injured persons have been rushed to a hospital while government forces have **More On P10**

Jammu Resident Held In Ex-MLC's Murder Case

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Tuesday detained a Jammu resident in connection with the murder of former Jammu and Kashmir MLC Trilochan Singh Wazir in the national capital.

According to sources in Delhi police, Jammu resident Rajendra Chaudhary has been detained because, on the day of the crime, Chaudhary's electronic location is shown to be on the

place of crime.

"The Crime Branch has detained a man person named Rajendra Chaudhary, who is a resident of Jammu. The police are questioning Chaudhary because.

During the investigation, the location of Chaudhary was tracked to the place of crime on the day Wazir was murdered," said the sources. They added that the day Wazir came to Delhi, Chaudhary was **More On P10**

LG's Advisor Calls On MoS John Barla

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Farooq Khan and Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs John Barla on Tuesday discussed a variety of issues regarding various schemes of the government of India's department of minority affairs.

Advisor Khan called on the Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs here on Tuesday and both of them discussed a variety of issues regarding various schemes of the department of minority affairs, an official spokesperson said. He said that **More On P10**

India Upset Over UNHR Chief's Remark On Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

GENEVA: India on Tuesday expressed disappointment over "unwarranted remarks" made by the UN human rights chief on Jammu and Kashmir, saying her comments do not reflect the ground reality and any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in an impartial manner and anchored in non-interference in a country's internal affairs.

"We take note of references

to India in the oral update by the High Commissioner and express our disappointment over her unwarranted remarks on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which do not reflect the ground reality," Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Reenat Sandhu said on Tuesday while delivering India's statement under the General Debate on Oral Update of the High Commissioner at the 48th Session of **More On P10**



Centre Seeks Transfer Of Mehbooba's PMLA Case To SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it will seek the transfer of Mehbooba Mufti's challenge to the Constitutional validity of a provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to the Supreme Court.

In view of the Centre's stand, a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh adjourned the hearing on the former J&K Chief Minister's petition till September 30.

Several petitions concerning

various provisions and scheme of PMLA...are pending. Matter has been assigned to a special bench and parties have exchanged questions, one of which is directly in question here, said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the Centre.

Can we say you would prefer a transfer petition?, the court questioned the Solicitor General who responded, Yes, you can.

I intend to move a transfer petition. If they agree, we can do it together, Solicitor General added. Additional Solicitor **More On P10**

Admin In Srinagar Turns Heat On 'Covidiot's'

13 Persons Detained For Not Wearing Masks, 5 Shops Sealed; 9 FIRs Lodged



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As coronavirus cases continue to show an upwards trend in this capital city, the district administration on Tuesday detained over a dozen people for violating Covid-19 related norms and guidelines.

The Magisterial flying squads constituted by the district administration conducted inspection of various checkpoints at different locations of Srinagar including Bemina, Batamalo, Lal Chowk and other adjoining areas during which 13 persons were detained for not wearing masks and violating

the Covid-19 guidelines imposed throughout Srinagar, an official spokesperson said.

Besides it, five shops were also sealed and nine FIRs lodged against the Covid-19 SOP violators in the city. The authorities also notified five more micro containment zones in Srinagar, taking the total number of containment zones in the district to 26.

The action against violators comes at a time when this capital city is witnessing steep rise in daily coronavirus cases.

According to the reports, special inspection teams of magistrates and other officials have been constituted to check on the Covid **More On P10**

THERE WILL BE A NIGHT INSPECTION on the marriage functions in the district from this evening, and wherever the Covid violations will be found, there will be fines and FIRs against the violators."

Fighter Jets To Fly Over Dal Lake On September 26



3000 Students, 700 Teachers To Watch IAF Air Show From SKICC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over three thousand college and school students will attend the live air show being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in Srinagar with an aim to motivate youth of the valley to join the Indian Air Force and to promote

tourism in the region.

The details about participation of students and teachers at SKICC to witness live Air Show to be held by the Indian Air Force on September 26 was shared in a meeting convened by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole with Principals of various educational institutions, an official spokesperson said Tuesday. The show is being held under 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations with a theme 'Give Wings to Your Dream'. "The meeting **More On P10**

Modi Govt Giving Special Attention To Kupwara: Minister

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, John Barla said on Tuesday that the time has come when benefits of development percolate down to the people in far off and border areas like Kupwara.

The Minister, made these remarks during a two-day visit to Kupwara district under union Government's public outreach programme, during which he inaugurated double lane bridge at Khumriyal, connecting Lolab Valley, with the rest of the district, an official spokesperson said. The bridge came up at a cost of Rs.614.98 lakh.

Barla, as per the official spokesperson said that Kupwara as a border district

gets special attention from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government by way of funds flowing under Aspirational District since 2018.

The Minister, he said, also flagged off the Ambulance of Chinara Charity Foundation (local NGO) devoted as free service for poor cancer patients of the area. "The Minister said that the Government of India always encourages social service and there are a number of schemes like DARPAN for the financial support of NGOs," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Barla visited the paddy fields of Kalaroos and inquired from locals about the availability of job cards and the benefits of farmer welfare schemes. **More On P10**

First Women Industrial Estate To Come Up In Udhampur

Admin Taking Ground-Breaking Steps To Transform Lives Of Women Of J&K: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday announced to establish a women industrial estate in Udhampur district to further strengthen the women entrepreneurs' ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The announcement in this regard was made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during the launch of Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One Digi-Pay Sakhi' in the UT, here at Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development



Institute (JKEDI), Pampore on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. The new Mission will promote door to door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of the UT.

Terming 'Nari Shakti's' social and economic independence

as the bedrock of any nation's progress, the LG said that the J&K government has started a mass movement for the socio-economic upliftment of women across the UT.

"These three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi, and **More On P10**

Govt To Provide Rs 8.91 Cr Aid To Militancy Victims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday approved an annual plan for 2021-22 worth Rs. 8.91 crore to provide financial assistance to 7,186 beneficiaries as a relief measure for victims of militancy.

The annual action plan for rehabilitation of victims of militancy, including widows, orphans, handicapped, and old aged people for the year 2021-22, was approved by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday while chairing a meeting of the

Executive Council, an official spokesperson said.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Finance, Home, Social Welfare, and Higher Education, besides representatives of Government of India and National Foundation for communal harmony along with concerned officers participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that in 2020-21, 6,982 beneficiaries were given financial assistance worth Rs. 8.43 crore and 1,267 motorized tricycles **More On P10**

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2

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PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for Travel Lenience .If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may contact office of the Assistant director Tourism Pahalgam Anantnag within the period of 7 days .After that no objection will be entertained.
NAME:Gawsiya Akhter
D/o :- Abdul Salam Bhat
R/o: AmadWagad
RNA

Office of the Tehsildar Khag
INCOME CERTIFICATE
As varified and reported by Naib Tehsildar Poshker vide his no 752/ntp/021 Dated 10/09/2021 THE YEARLY INCOME OF sH Mohd Ramzan Hajam S/O Ab Khaliq Hajam R/o Palapora Tehsil Khag District Budgam whose family comprising of 06 members mentioned below is Rs 48000/- rupees Fouty Eight Thousand Rupees from all source per year
Name Relation Occupation Age
Mohd Ramzan Hajam Head Labour 60
Saja Begum Wife H/Wife 55
Ajaz Ahamd Hajam Son Labor 30
Saima Ramzan Dughter Student 18
Heema Ramzan Dughter Student 17
Aaifi Ramzan Daughter Student 20
This certificate is issued under my seal signature today on 13/09/2021 and is valid Sc/S.Ship pupose only
No: 1046/mm/tic/21 Dated 13-09-2021
bmg Tehsildar Khag

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Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir
NOTICE
Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Jahanjeer Hussain S/o Altaf Hussain R/O Hawal Sgr (Transferor) of Mahindra TUV bearing registration No. JK01AC-4134 chasis No: MAINA25MXG6E 39094 Engine No: SMG6E24621 Model 2016 in favour of Mohammad Shafi Ganai S/O Wali Mohd Gani R/O Safakadal Sgr(Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.
NOJK-RTOK 6552
Dated: 14/09/2021
Regional Transport Office, pKO Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir
NOTICE
Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Irfan Mujtaba Mir S/o Nisar Ahmad Mir R/o Arbal Shalimar Sgr (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. JK01S- 3721 chasis No: 2843966 Engine No: 4446779 Model 2011 in favour of Adfar Yousuf W/O Mohd Younis Bhat R/O Frestbal Pampore (Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.
NOJK-RTOK 6230
Dated: 01/09/2021
Regional Transport Office, pKO Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE
Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Maqsood Ahmad Rather S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Rather R/o: Patwaw Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 8950 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Services B/U Srinagar.
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3334
Dated 14-09-2021
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM
The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Suhail Ayaz
S/O Ayaz Ahamd Parray R/o Chairhara Budgam
Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2403204 Session /Year Annual 2018
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam
bmg

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian
NOTICE
Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Zubair Ashraf Baba S/O Mohd Ashraf Baba R/o Sheikh Mohalla Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle BEARING Regd. No. JK22A-3944 And
Ab Rashid Wagay S/O Ali Mohd Wagay R/o Choclr Gund Shopian (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd
Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .
No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.
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Dated 14-09-2021
S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

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Contact:-9419069964/9797000252

Mobile Accessories
2nd floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar
Contact:-9622430737

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس منظور احمد پور تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو جیسیٹ دین اول لارنو درخواست منجانب: زید احمد ولد بشیر احمد راتھر سرائین آرٹھریٹھیل لارنو ضلع انت ناگ بھڑ حصول بیک وارڈ اریا / RBA مرقفیت۔
اشتہار براد گاہی بر خاض و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بھڑ حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرقفیت دفتر بھڑ پیش کیا ہے جو کہ بیکاروائی ہے۔ پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈ بڈیل افراد ہیں۔
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۳- فلوری جان دختر بشیر احمد 26 سال گھر بیکام
۴- شونی جان دختر بشیر احمد 24 سال زید تعلیم
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I have lost my Provisional & Character certificate somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the University Of Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
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RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔

ٹھیکہ داری کا رڈ نکانا مطلوب ہے
بر خاض و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈی کاں ٹھیکہ داری کا رڈ نکانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض بہر امتنڈنگ ایگزیکٹو آریٹھیل سرائین انت ناگ / کو لگا مکندیل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
المستھر
غلام حسین راتھر ولد غلام حسن راتھر سرائین کو لگوری پورہ عشمقام
RNA

ٹھیکہ داری کا رڈ نکانا مطلوب ہے
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المستھر
جاوید احمد راتھر ولد عبد احمدراتھر سرائین کو لگوری پورہ عشمقام
RNA

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENIGNEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.
B
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT NO. 96/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 09/2021
Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of L.T. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Repair/ Renovation BWO tiling, construction of wardrobes and other allied civil works in Set Nos 75G, 91H, 92H and 101I (Blocks F to J) at Govt Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.37 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	2216 Non Plan
2.	Repair/ Renovation BWO tiling, construction of wardrobes and other allied civil works in Set Nos 71F, 96H (Blocks F to J) at Govt Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.33 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
3.	Repair/ Renovation BWO tiling and other allied civil works in Set Nos 132Q, 134R, 137R and 140R (Blocks P to T) at Govt Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.30 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
4.	Repair/ Renovation BWO tiling, construction of wardrobes and other allied civil works in Set Nos 233U, 234U, 251Y & 252Y (Blocks U to Z) at Govt Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.20 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
5.	Repair/ Renovation BWO tiling, construction of wardrobes and other allied civil works in Set Nos 250Y, 257X (Blocks U to Z) at Govt Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	2.37 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	
6.	Cleaning of Deep Drains and Other Works at Govt. Quarters Bemina Srinagar.	0.86 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3.	Bid submission Start Date
4.	Bid Submission End Date
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
2. All Bidders has 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)
3. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.
4. 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 Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.
6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

DIPK-8539/21
Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Sgr.
Sd/-
Dated:- 13-09-2021
No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/3991-01/T-1

Tech World
All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.
Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:- 9149965005/9682370979

ELECTRICAL

Butt Co
Dalgate Srinagar
Contact:-9419071159

Punjoo trading Co
Nowhata Chowk Srinagar
Contact:-9796370068/7006045451

FURNITURE& FIXTURES

Gulfam Furniture
New Road Bagwaan pora Srinagar
Contact:-9419001154

Sunny Furniture
Nakashpora Barbarshah Srinagar
Contact:-9469323572

REAL-ESTATE
Closers (The Broker Network)

Commercial & Residential Plots on Sale
Contact:-+91 700 696 5635

STATIONERIES

Media Stationers
Dalgate Near CD Hospital Srinagar
Contact:-7006083439

SALONS & SPA

Creators Salon For Men
Hair/Spa/Beauty
Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9103119812

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Carpet Cleaning
QUALITY SERVICES
AFFORDABLE PRICES
Contact No:- 7780805347

Valley Associates
E-Filtering-TDS, Income Tax Returns sales
Tax, GST, and all Account related jobs
Contact:- 9419540025

Labour Jobs

Mohd Ashraf 9419480345 / 9149940701.
Idrees Bhat- 9908433040
Asif Bhat - 9084190855

Plumbing Jobs
AH Tube wells- 9419006446
Amrizz Services- 7947411032
Valley Plumbers - 7947130027
Shah Constructions - 7947130111
Electric & Plumbing - 7947130256
Ajaz Plumber- 6008402994

Carpenter Jobs
Manpreet Singh- 9988612761
Mohammad Yaseen- 9419502845
Mohammad Ishfaq - 6064850094
Wasta Aashiq- 606480982
Kuljit Singh- 9906480421
Najjar Furniture Works- 9906598910
Umaid & Company- 7889686402
Suraj Joinery Works- 9906698804

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Excellent Coaching for, 9th,10th,11th &12th classes
Contact:-7006515740

Govt Approves 5 Cr Action Plan To Improve Air Quality In City

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:- The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday chaired a meeting to finalize the Action Plan for Implementation and Monitoring of National Clean Air programme (NCAP) for improving index of air quality in Srinagar district.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Aamir Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Khurshid Ahmad, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee Kashmir, Rafi Ahmad Bhat, Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, Nazir Ahmad Baba, Consultant under NCAP, Dr Shabir, Scientist-B, Pollution Control Committee, Mohammad Sultan and other concerned were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on various aspects under Action

Plan for implementation and monitoring of National Clean Air programme (NCAP) including procurement of Dusting and Vacuum Cleaning Vehicles for regular cleaning of road dust, Jet Washer Water Spraying of roads, establishment of Water Fountains, installation of Clean Air Towers and installation of Air Quality Monitoring system for North City.

The meeting was informed that a City Action Plan of Rs 5 crore has been formulated for the current year to improve Air Quality Index (AQI) in Srinagar district.

On the occasion, the DDC said that the main objective of the NCA Programme is to adopt modern technology based mechanisms for strengthening the air quality monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, identifying major causes of air pollution and increasing public awareness.

He stressed the Officers to



put in extra efforts so that the Air Quality Index is brought down to below 50 against the present level.

The DDC said Central Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 percent to 30 percent reduction in particulate matter con-

centrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

He said improving quality of air is paramount for larger public benefit and all possible measures will be taken for the purpose. He called for collective effort to monitor quality of air to ensure desired air quality in Srinagar.

The DDC further called for increasing Green Cover in Srinagar City, besides other measures to improve air quality.

Regarding installation of Clean Air Towers, the DC directed the Officers to incorporate locations of crowded places where Clean Air Towers will be installed to augment and evolve effective and proficient ambient air quality monitoring network across the City besides, to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in a stipulated time frame.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1966 - First British nuclear ballistic missile submarine HMS Resolution launched
- 1968 - Launch of Zond 5, 1st lunar fly-around with Earth re-entry
- 1968 - Probable Test flight for a manned fly-around (scooped by Apollo 8)
- 1970 - PLO leader Arafat threatens to make a cemetery of Jordan
- 1972 - An SAS domestic flight from Gothenburg to Stockholm was hijacked and flown to Malmö-Bulltofta Airport.
- 1973 - OPEC supports price hikes and designates six Gulf countries to negotiate collectively with companies over prices; other members to negotiate individually
- 1974 - Air Vietnam flight 727 is hijacked, then crashes while attempting to land with 75 on board.
- 1976 - Soyuz 22 carries 2 cosmonauts into Earth orbit for 8 days
- 1978 - Muhammad Ali beats Leon Spinks in 15 rounds for heavyweight boxing title
- 1981 - The John Bull becomes the oldest operable steam locomotive in the world when the Smithsonian Institution operates it under its own power outside Washington, D.C.
- 1981 - Vanuatu becomes a member of the United Nations.
- 1982 - Israeli forces began pouring into west Beirut
- 1982 - Pope John Paul II receives PLO leader Yasser Arafat
- 1988 - Test Cricket debut of Ian Healy, vs Pakistan at Karachi
- 1990 - France announce it will send 4,000 troops to Persian Gulf
- 1991 - US women's gymnastics team win 1st World Championships medal (silver)
- 1996 - Bangladesh beat UAE by 104 runs to win the ACC Trophy Final
- 1998 - With the landmark merger of WorldCom and MCI Communications completed the day prior, the new MCI WorldCom opens its doors for business.
- 1998 - Google.com is registered as a domain name
- 2011 - The St. Thomas Assembly plant is closed permanently after decades of providing employing to the region of St. Thomas, Ontario and resulting in the loss of roughly 1,400 well-paid jobs
- 2012 - Japan announces that it will phase out nuclear energy by the 2030s
- 2013 - 21 people are killed in a series of bombings in Baghdad and Shia provinces, Iraq
- 2013 - 27 people are killed after a coal mine collapses in Afghanistan
- 2013 - Japan switches off its last working nuclear reactor
- 2013 - Edi Rama is elected Prime Minister of Albania
- 2014 - Ewa Kopacz becomes Prime Minister of Poland
- 2014 - President Obama announces the US will send 3,000 troops to help combat spread of the Ebola virus
- 2015 - EU Migrant Crisis: Hungary seals its border with Serbia with a razor-wire fence, stranding thousands of migrants



HIJRI
CALENDAR

07

SAFAR
-UL-
MUZAFFAR

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
4: 49
ZUHR
12: 36
ASR
4:54
MAGRIB
6:43
ISHA
8:03

DC Srinagar Chairs DLRC Meet

Rs 1186 Cr Disbursed Among 38902 Beneficiaries During The First Quarter

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) was held here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad to review the progress achieved during 1st quarter of financial year 2021-22 under Annual District Credit Plan.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations on bank wise progress in lending to the priority sector/non priority sector. Besides achievements made under other Government sponsored schemes including JKREGP, NRLM, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and enrollment under Social Security Schemes.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Joint Commissioner, SMC, General Manager DIC, DDM NABARD, LDM Srinagar, Deputy Director Employment and Officers from EDI,



UDAK, Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and other officers of concerned Departments. Besides, Senior Managers of JK bank, SBI, PNB, and other sponsoring agencies operating in Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC called for streamlining the overall process besides to ensure that cases forwarded to Banks must be processed on fast track basis so that beneficiaries are provided hassle-free and timely

financial assistance under various government sponsored schemes.

The DDC stressed on enhancement in the overall credit flow of banks in the district which is essential for financial impetus and improving income levels and thereby help in raising standard of living of people. Besides he impressed upon the banks operating in the district to improve their CD Ratio.

He called upon officers to work in unison with added vigour and zeal so that tangible results to take the Srinagar district as a role model for development are achieved. He also urged them to use technology leverage for simplifying the process of loans.

He also advised the representatives of financial institutions and sponsoring agencies to come forward and help the urban poor of the capital for eradicating poverty, unemployment and reaching out to the poorest of the poor.

DHSK Holds State Level Consultation On Health Hazards Of Tobacco

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Health Services Kashmir on Tuesday organized a State level Consultation on Health Hazards of Tobacco, Implementation of COPTA-2003 and WHO-FCTC Article 5.3 in relation to Jammu and Kashmir Government policy at Banquet Hall Srinagar.

According to a statement, the workshop was jointly inaugurated by Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed Rather and Mission Director National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Dr Yaseen Choudhary. Dr Nishat Assistant Director DHSK and in-charge tobacco control program DHS Kashmir presented a welcome address.

The workshop focused on the hazardous effects of tobacco on society and stressed on ways and means to fight this menace in society. It was held under the National Tobacco control programme.

On the occasion Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed Rather appealed youth to get rid of the menace and help in fighting the same to save the people.

He said we need have a comprehensive strategy so that we can together fight the tobacco menace in the society. The director said the aim of the workshop is tobacco control in light of WHO FCTC Article5.3. "As we all know the Tobacco is a known health hazard and is responsible for many diseases prevalent in the society particularly various cancers, cardiac diseases and many more," he said.

Dr Mushtaq said the tobacco usage not only affects health adversely but drains families and communities economically as well. "In order to save the society from the adverse effects of smoking and tobacco we need to put heads together to frame a strategy which will go a long way in curbing this menace from the society," he said.

VC LAWDA Conducts Extensive Tour To Various Catchment Areas Of Dal Lake

Reviews Works Carried Out By WMD

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Vice Chairman Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat today took an extensive tour to Khimber, Hadoora, Takya-sangrishi and Dignibal catchment area of Dal Lake to review the works carried out there by Watershed Management Division (WMD).

Gazalla Abdullah, Project Officer, Watershed Management Division accompanied the Vice Chairman along with other officers of the Division.

On the occasion, the Vice Chairman applauded the efforts of the Watershed Management Division and

directed it to restore and stabilize the catchment area of Dal Lake by planting more and more trees and to execute the structural works.

The Project Officer informed that 62,000 plants have to be planted this year and the compost pits which was earlier started as a pilot project in one catchment area with execution of 18 such pits has proved successful and now this year the Division is going to construct such 220 compost pits in whole of the catchment area of Dal Lake.

Meanwhile, the structural works which will be executed this year are restoration of lined retard, crate retards and construction of RCC weirs.

Justice Magrey Inaugurates Legal Literacy Club At Amar Singh College

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in presence of Vice Chancellor (VC) Cluster University Srinagar, Professor Qayyum Hussain today inaugurated a Legal Literacy Club (LLC), at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

The LLC was established by District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Srinagar under the aegis of J&K Legal Service Authority in collaboration with Amar Singh College Srinagar.

Among the dignitaries, Chairman DLSA, Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, Mohammad Akram Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Assad, Mem-



ber Secretary J&K Legal Service Authority, M K Sharma, Director Colleges, Yasmeen Ashai, Secretary DLSA, Sub-Judge Noor Mohammad Mir, Principal Amar Singh College B.A Rather were also present on the occasion.

Justice Magrey, who is also Executive Chairman of J&K LSA and Member NALSA in his inaugural address, said that the aim of establishing LLC

in educational institutes is to educate and empower students about their legal rights and sensitize them about their role towards educating others of their rights and duties.

He said LSA shall be conducting interactive sessions and involve legal experts, resources persons to provide legal knowledge and mass awareness generation among students as a mission to shape the future of youth of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Justice Magrey said that opening of LLC shall help in imparting legal knowledge, besides it shall also boost youth to stand up and advocate for justice and rights of the people, particularly for the weaker section of the society.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MISSION DIRECTORATE, ICDS, J&K

121-Green Avenue Hyderpora Srinagar Opp. Alfaroqq Masjid/ Haj House 3rd Floor Rail Head, Jammu

District Programme Officer,
ICDS_____ AIL.

No:-MD/ICDS/Estt/1032021

Dated 28-08-2021

Subject:- Disengagement of Helpers to Supervisors.

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed herewith the Administrative Department's letter No.SWD/ICDS/49/2021 dated.27.08.2021 regarding the captioned subject. In this connection, you are advised to immediately disengage Helpers to Supervisors w.e.f 01.09.2021 as they have been engaged beyond any competence by various officers/officials from time to time, if any officer/official continues their services beyond 31.08.2021, he/she shall be personally responsible for payment of their dues and necessary disciplinary action shall be initiated against such officers/official.

(Rubina Kousar) KAS

DIPK-8611/21

Mission Director,
ICDS J&K Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kasflori@rediffmail.com

GIST of e- Tender Notice No. 21 of 2021

Dated: -10/09/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for Outsourcing of Entry ticketing system of Ashmuqam Park of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -
The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S.No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	3,88,000.00	200/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dirflorikmr.in&www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	11.09.2021 from 12:30 PM to 30.09.2021 up to 2:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	11.09.2021 from 03:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	30.09.2021 up to 2:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	05.10.2021 at 2:00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

DIPK-8524/21

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary.

From KO Archives

Kupwara Villager Kills Wife, Absconds

Ghulam Jeelani

KUPWARA: Police have launched a manhunt to nab a Kup-wara villager accused of killing his wife. Though he has not left behind any clue, his arrest was expected by this eve-ning, reports said. The gruesome murder has taken place at Surmarg, 15 km from Handwara in the border district.

According to the senior superintendent of police (SSP), Kupwara, J B Singh, Jawahira was married to one Nazir Ahmad Bhat of the village about six years ago from whom she has a child. But their relations became strained about six months ago. The dispute between the couple had even landed in a court of law, according to reports.

Singh said Bhat had apparently mended fences with his estranged wife about five days ago. However, during the night he allegedly killed her. After that, Bhat packed the body of his slain wife in a trunk and hid it in a room of his house. He is believed to have fled from his home immedi-ately after commission of the crime.

It was only after some foul smell started emanating from the house that Bhat's neighbours became suspicious. Soon they informed the police who recovered the highly decom-posed body of the woman from the house.

(Kashmir Observer, September 15, 2000)

153 Afghan Media Outlets Stop Operations After Taliban Takeover

At least 153 Afghan media outlets have stopped operations in 20 provinces following the Taliban takeover of the war-torn nation last month, a media report citing organisations supporting free media said.

The TOLO News report on Monday said these outlets include radio, print and TV channels, and their closure was mainly due to economic problems and restrictions.

"If the organisations supporting media do not pay attention to the outlets, soon we will witness the closing of the remaining ones in the country," TOLO News quoted Hujatullah Mujadadi, deputy head of the Afghanistan Federation of Journal-

ists, as saying. soon it will be the end of press freedom and other human and civil liberties".

According to the TOLO News report, the Paktika-based Milma Radio is one of the outlets that recently stopped its activities.

It was established in 2011 and covered political, cultural, economic and sports stories.

"Due to an inappropriate working environment and economic problems, we stopped our activities," said Yaqob Khan Manzoor, editor-in-chief of Milma Radio.

According to Manzoor, Milma Radio had 35 employees with an outreach to 13 provinces.

Now all of the former employees are jobless.

The organisations supporting free media in Afghanistan say



ists, as saying.

Masroor Lutfi, representative of the Afghanistan National Journalists' Union, has "urged the international organisations to take immediate action to address this problem. Otherwise,

economic problems are serious, and operating under restrictions creates big challenges for media.

The Taliban, however, has said they will try to create safe environment for media and journalists to continue their jobs. **IANIS**

Scottish National Party Mulls 2Nd Independence Referendum

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that her party intends to hold another legal referendum on independence from Britain by the end of 2023 if the Covid-19 pandemic is under control.

In a speech delivered to the Scottish National Party (SNP)'s autumn conference on Monday, Sturgeon called for a second Scottish independence referendum, asking the British government to agree to it "in the spirit of co-operation", reports Xinhua news agency.

She said that in May people in Scotland elected a new Scottish Parliament which has a "clear and substantial majority in favour of an independence referendum".

"As we emerge from the pandemic, decisions fall to be made that will shape Scotland for decades to come. So we must decide. Who should be making those decisions: people here in Scotland or governments we don't vote for at Westminster."

"That is the choice we intend to offer the Scottish people in a legal referendum within this term of Parliament -- Covid permitting, by the end of 2023," she said in the speech.

Sturgeon added that "it is not up to a Westminster government which has just six MPs in Scotland to decide our future without the consent of the people who live here".

Speaking to Sky News on Sunday, Sturgeon said she wouldn't "set a precise level of infection"



for when a vote could happen -- "but you would want to see the COVID situation under control".

The SNP conference has backed the Scottish government's plans for the timing of another independence referendum at the "earliest" possible moment after the Covid-19 crisis.

The party said the date should be determined by "data-driven criteria" about when the public health crisis is over.

A Scottish independence referendum was held in 2014, when 55 per cent voters backed staying in Britain.

Soon after Sturgeon's party secured the fourth consecutive victory in the Scottish parliamentary election in May, she pledged to push for a second independence referendum when the pandemic crisis has passed.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has previously said he will not approve a second independence referendum. **IANIS**



PM Modi To Visit US To Attend Quad Summit, UNGA Session

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in person in the Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in Washington DC on September 24, 2021, being organised by the US.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and US President Joe Biden will also be attending the Summit to review the progress made since their first virtual Summit on March 12 this year and discuss regional issues of shared interest.

The discussion would be focusing around critical and emerging technologies, connectivity and infrastructure, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, climate change, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, combating COVID-19 pandemic and addressing climate

THEY WILL ALSO EXCHANGE VIEWS on contemporary global issues such as connectivity and infrastructure, cyber and maritime security and disaster relief, climate change and education,"

change issues.

The four QUAD member nations have always been vocal for rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region amidst Chinese military assertiveness in the region whereas Beijing observes this grouping as detrimental to its influence in the region.

As per the reports coming in, the leaders will also be discussing the Afghanistan crisis after the Taliban takeover of the country. As per the United Nations Development Programme assessment, the poverty level in the war-ravaged country would go up to 97 per cent from 72 per cent.

"They will also exchange views on contemporary glob-

al issues such as connectivity and infrastructure, cyber and maritime security and disaster relief, climate change and education," India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

On September 25, PM Modi will be addressing the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The theme for this year's General Debate is 'Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations'. (**IANIS**)

PM Modi, Biden And Over 100 World Leaders To Address UNGA In Person Next Week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden will address the UN General Debate in-person next week, as over 100 heads of state and government arrive in New York to attend the annual high-level General Assembly session, which had gone virtual in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modi will address world leaders from the iconic UN General Assembly hall on the morning of September 25, a day after he participates in the Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington DC hosted by Biden on September 24.

Modi, Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga will participate in the Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in Washington and review progress made since their first virtual Summit on 12 March 2021 and discuss regional issues of shared interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Modi will address the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September



25. The theme for this year's General Debate is Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations', the MEA statement said.

As per the second provisional list of speakers for the General Assembly, about 109 heads of state and government will address the General Debate in person and nearly 60 will deliver speeches through pre-recorded video statements.

Biden will travel to New York to deliver his first address to the 193-member General Assembly as American President. The US is traditionally the second speaker after Brazil at the General Debate, which this year will run from September 21 to 27.

Afghanistan's diplomat is listed as the last speaker on the last day of the General Debate. Currently the Afghan envoy at the UN is Ambassador Gulam Isaccai, who was appointed by former President Ashraf Ghani as Kabul's envoy to the UN in June 2021. The interim Taliban government in power has not yet made any submission challenging Isaccai's credentials.

The diplomats of Myanmar and Guinea are also listed to speak on behalf of their countries on the last day of the debate. However, following the coup in Myanmar, its military rulers have said the country's Ambassador at UN Kyaw Moe Tun has been dismissed and they want Aung Thurein to replace him.

In response to a question on who should represent Myanmar at the UNGA, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had said that it is a matter that is strictly in the hands of the Credentials Committee and, of course, we will abide by what member states decide in the Credentials Committee or eventually, if necessary in the General Assembly. This is an area where the Secretariat has no power whatsoever.

Data Shows Booster Shots 'Not Appropriate' For Public: Lancet

NEW YORK: Vaccine efficacy against severe Covid-19 is so high, even for the Delta variant, that booster doses for the general population are "not appropriate" at this stage in the pandemic, an international group of scientists argued in a review published in The Lancet.

The review, which includes scientists from the World Health Organization (WHO) and two from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who will leave the agency, comes even as the latter is currently reviewing evidence for booster doses for Americans; and many other countries including Israel, Italy, France and Russia who have already rolled out the third dose of Covid jabs.

It summarises the currently available evidence from randomised controlled trials and observational studies published in peer-reviewed journals and pre-print servers and asserts that the benefits of the first shots are clear.

It added that vaccination had 95 per cent efficacy against severe disease both from the Delta variant and from the Alpha variant, and over 80 per cent efficacy at protecting against any infection from these variants.

Although vaccines are less effective against asymptomatic disease or against transmission than against severe disease, the unvaccinated minority are still the major drivers of transmission, the scientists argued in the review published on Monday.

"Taken as a whole, the currently available studies do not provide credible evidence of substantially declining protection against severe disease, which is the primary goal of



vaccination. Even if some gain can ultimately be obtained from boosting, it will not outweigh the benefits of providing initial protection to the unvaccinated," said lead author Ana-Maria Henao-Restrepo from the WHO.

Last week, Pascal Soriot, CEO of AstraZeneca, also said that a third dose of vaccines against Covid-19 may not be needed for everyone.

Writing in the Telegraph, he stated that the decision to jab the entire population must be based on "real world clinical effectiveness data, not simply antibody measurements".

The WHO has, meanwhile, called for an extension of a global moratorium on Covid-19 booster doses, with an aim to enable every country to vaccinate at least 40 per cent of its population.

According to the WHO, globally 5.5 billion vaccine doses have been administered, but 80 per cent have been administered in high- and upper-middle income countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reiterated that third doses may be necessary for the most at-risk populations, but for now, "we do not want to see widespread use of boosters for healthy people who are fully vaccinated". **—IANIS**

Lebanon's Hezbollah Says Iranian Fuel Oil To Arrive This Week



AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, has said that the first ship carrying Iranian fuel oil to help Lebanon through its financial crisis had docked in Syria.

Nasrallah had announced last month that he had organised purchases of fuel from Iran, Hezbollah's main backer but subject to US economic sanctions, to ease a crippling shortage.

Nasrallah thanked Syria for receiving the shipment on Sunday and facilitating its transfer, and said it would reach Lebanon by Thursday.

"We were told that the arrival of the vessel here (in Lebanon) would harm the country and we don't want to harm the country so we went for another option," Nasrallah said in a televised speech on Monday.

The arrival of the Iranian tanker comes days after a new government was formed in Lebanon, ending a 13-month

deadlock. Lebanon's new Prime Minister Najib Mikati has not commented on the deal to import fuel from Iran.

Daily life has been almost paralysed as fuel dries up because Lebanon lacks the dollars to pay for it.

The state-owned power company is generating only minimal electricity, leaving businesses and households almost entirely dependent on small, private generators that run on fuel oil.

A financial crisis has wiped 90 percent off the value of the Lebanese pound since 2019, pushed food prices up by more than 550 percent, and propelled three-quarters of the population into poverty. The World Bank has called it one of the deepest depressions of modern history.

Nasrallah on Monday said a second ship with fuel oil would arrive in the Syrian port of Baniyas in a few days, with a third and fourth, respectively carrying gasoline and fuel oil, also due.

NEWS MAKERS

Once Inmates There, Taliban Now Run Pul-E-Charkhi Prison In Kabul

KABUL: Once, Kabul's main prison was crowded with thousands of Taliban captured and arrested by the government. On Monday, a Taliban commander strolled through its empty halls and cell blocks, showing his friends where he had once been imprisoned.

It was a sign of the sudden and startling new order in Afghanistan after the militant group swept into the capital nearly a month ago and threw out the crumbling, US-backed government it had fought for 20 years.

The Taliban now run Pul-e-Charkhi Prison, a sprawling complex on Kabul's eastern outskirts. After capturing the city, the fighters freed all the inmates there, the government guards fled, and now dozens of Taliban fighters are running the facility.

The commander, who refused to

give his name, was on a personal visit to the complex with a group of his friends. He told the Associated Press he had been arrested around a decade ago in eastern Kunar province and was brought to Pul-e-Charkhi, bound and blindfolded.

"I feel so terrible when I remember those days," he said. He said prisoners suffered abuses and torture. He was imprisoned for around 14 months before he was released. "Those days are the darkest days of my life, and now this is the happiest moment for me that I am free and come here without fear."

Many Afghans as well as governments around the world have been alarmed by the swift Taliban

seizure of power, fearing the movement will impose a similar, harsh rule as they did during their first time ruling in the 1990s. But for the Taliban fighters, it's a moment to savour a victory after years of gruelling fighting—and to see a city few of them have entered since the war began.

For some of the Taliban guards accompanying the AP, it was the first time they'd entered the abandoned cell blocks. They looked with curiosity through the cells, still littered with things the last inmates left behind—fabrics hanging from the walls and windows, small rugs, water bottles.

One fighter exchanged his sandals for a better pair he found in

a cell. Then he found yet a better pair and exchanged again. Others played with the former prisoners' makeshift weight bars.

Pul-e-Charkhi had a long, disturbing history of violence, mass executions and torture. Mass graves and torture cells were uncovered dating from the Soviet-backed governments of the late 1970s and 1980s. Under the US-backed government, it was more known for poor conditions and overcrowding—its 11 cell blocks were built to house 5,000 inmates, but were often packed with more than 10,000, including Taliban prisoners and criminals.

Taliban prisoners often complained of abuses and beatings, and there were regular riots. Still, they kept up their organisation behind bars, winning concessions like access to cell phones and longer time outside their cells. **AP**



FELINE GENEROUS: Japanese Cat Lovers Donate \$2 Million To Kidney Research

Cats may have nine lives, but their time on Earth is often cut short by kidney problems -- so people in Japan who want their feline friends to live longer have donated nearly \$2 million to the search for a cure.

As the coronavirus pandemic hit the economy last year, scientists at the University of Tokyo lost their corporate funding for a study on preventing kidney disease in cats.

But thousands of Japanese cat lovers mobilised online to donate to the researchers after an article about their plight by news agency Jiji Press went viral.

"I lost my beloved cat to kidney disease last December... I hope this research will progress and help many cats to live without this disease," one woman wrote in a mes-



sage alongside her \$20 donation.

Another donor, who gave \$90, said: "I recently got a kitten. I make a donation in the hope that it will be in time for this cat."

Domesticated cats and their bigger cousins in the wild are highly prone to kidney problems because of a genetic inability to activate a key protein discovered by the Tokyo researchers.

The protein called AIM helps clean up dead cells and other waste in the body, preventing the kidneys

from becoming clogged.

Immunology professor Toru Miyazaki and his team are working on ways to produce the protein in a stable quantity and quality.

They hope to develop a new remedy they say could double the current feline life expectancy of roughly 15 years.

"I hope that ultimately veterinarians will give (cats) jabs every year like vaccines," Miyazaki told the AFP-affiliated AFPBB News.

"It would be good to give them one or two doses every year" of AIM, he said. Around 3,000 unsolicited donations were sent to the team hours after the article was published in July.

This surged to 10,000 in just a few days -- more than the total number of donations the university usually receives in a year. **AFP**

Lt Governor Greets Engineering Fraternity On Engineers' Day

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the Engineering fraternity on the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya celebrated as Engineers' Day. Paying tributes to the Father of Indian Engineering, Bharat Ratna, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, the Lt Governor said that Engineers are the architect of modern world, who transform ideas into reality. The vision and dedication of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, continues to inspire new generation of engineers to contribute to the ever-changing world through cutting-edge innovations, which can transform lives of the people. We should always remember the contribution of pioneers of science and engineering who laid the foundation of modern India, observed the Lt Governor. "It is high time we realized the significance of modern education, the study of science and engineering, and promotion of scientific temper among students", the Lt Governor added. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his undeterred resolve is pushing for a new India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat. I call upon the Engineering fraternity to rise to the call of the Prime Minister and steer our nation to become self-reliant, the Lt Governor said.

Pedestrian Hit And Injured At Watergam Rafiabad

BARAMULLA: A Pedestrian was hit and injured by a Speedy car at Town Watergam. According to sources at around 7:15 P.m.a youth namely Aftab Ahmad, son of Ghulam Mohammed Malla, resident of Chakloo Rafiabad was hit by a speedy car 'which was on way from Handwara towards Baramulla' at Watertargam Rafiabad. The car after hitting him took advantage of darkness and fled from the spot. He was rushed to nearby hospital where from he has been shifted to GMC Baramulla for specialised treatment. Police has registered a case and investigation taken up. **(API)**

76th DLRC/DCC Meeting Held At Budgam

Improve Or Face Action: DC Budgam To Poor Performers



BUDGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza who is also Chairman of DLRC/ DCC on Tuesday presided over the 76th District Level Review Committee/ District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting here. The meeting was convened by the convener DLRC Lead District Manager (LDM) Budgam Farhat Manzoor. The meeting among others was attended by GM DIC Mohd Ashraf; Cluster Head J&K Bank Budgam, Azad Ahmad; Director RSETI Budgam; DDM NABARD besides officers of various line departments and Banks. While welcoming all the Heads of line departments and District Coordinators of Various Banks of the District, LDM presented the highlights of the performance of all the Banks of the district for Quarter ending June 30, 2021. In her deliberation, she said the district recorded a CD ratio of 94.76 percent ending June 2021, which reflects as one of the best ratios in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and resembles an increase by 3 percent compared to last year's achievements at this time. Regarding other statistics, Farhat revealed that the advances have recorded a positive year on year growth of Rs 525.93 Cr as compared to Rs 2792.23 Cr (as on June 2020) to Rs 3318.16 Cr (as on June 2021). Simultaneously regarding the deposits, the deposits stand at 3501.62 Cr (ending June 2021) compare to Rs 3049.12 Cr recorded in the previous year (June 2020) thus showing a positive increase of Rs 452.50 Cr, a growth of 18.83 percent, in advances and 13.95 percent in the deposit sector. Despite inconveniences that have arisen due to Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, she said they have been continuing their efforts to reach the genuine beneficiaries. During this period a total amount of Rs 327.76 Cr out of which Rs 189.23 Cr was disbursed under priority against the annual target of Rs 1687.01 Cr. Simultaneously Rs 138.53 Cr was disbursed under non priority sector against the annual target of Rs 349.25 Cr. While chairing the meeting, the DDC took strong note of some laxity and leniency demonstrated by some banks and sponsoring agencies/departments in ensuring time bound disposal of all pending and in hand cases, instructed that line departments shall take on board all concerned banks while accepting and sponsoring the cases for approval. He said there is a lot of scope in enhancing performances further in the interest of common beneficiary. He said credits and lending shall be focused to generate employment opportunities as well as it shall prove a pivotal aspect in increasing farmers' income. The DDC further said that COVID-19 and other circumstances shall not be made excuses and hurdles in achieving targets. There shall be strict review of performances and any tardy approach by Banks or line departments shall be viewed seriously for which action under rules shall follow, he added. Mirza further instructed that every concerned bank and line department is directed to clear all pending cases by or before October 18, and ensure strict adherence of instructions.

Kashmir's Apple Growers 'Worried' Amid Low Demand



Agencies

GANDERBAL: With very little demand for Kashmiri apples in the market, the apple traders and the orchardists in Ganderbal are waiting for the government to intervene to lift their produce and save them from incurring losses. Ganderbal district is full of apple orchards, but the growers are concerned that with the minimal demand from the markets in India, the government is silent on the Jammu and Kashmir market intervention scheme. In the last two years, the government has protected the apple orchardists from the financial reverses in district Ganderbal by introducing market intervention scheme. Apple traders and landowners have jointly appealed to the government to release them from debt by the market intervention scheme this year also. Abdul Rahman, a local resident told news agency KNO that the fruit industry has faced several challenges since 2019 due to which the industry is crumbling. "This year as per the initial demand it seems that the growers will face losses again. The growers are worried as they have spent a lot of money on pesticides and fertilizers. Government must intervene to save growers from losses," he said. Chief horticulture officer Ganderbal, Abdul Hamid said that they have already offered every help to the growers. "The market intervention scheme is already available, growers must contact us so that there won't be any losses to them," Hamid said.

THIS YEAR AS PER THE INITIAL DEMAND IT SEEMS THAT THE growers will face losses again. The growers are worried as they have spent a lot of money on pesticides and fertilizers. Government must intervene to save growers from losses,"

Div Com Kashmir Meets Principals Of Various Institutions

Discusses Students, Teachers' Participation In Air Show At SKICC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday convened a meeting of Principals of various educational institutions regarding the participation of students at SKICC to witness live Air Show to be held by the Indian Air Force on September 26. More than three thousand college and school students are participating in the programme. The participants will witness the impressive manoeuvres of IAF. Along with the students, 700 teachers will also be present at the venue. The meeting also discussed the transportation of students participating in the programme besides other arrangements for their facilitation. The Div Com directed the heads of educational institutions to ensure the participation of National Cadet Corps students. He also impressed on the participants to educate those participating students about the strict observance of CAB guidelines. "The main aim of the Air show is to motivate youth of the valley to join the Indian Air Force and to promote tourism in the region," the Div Com said. During the demonstration, students will also be familiarized with the new technological advancements achieved and incorporated by the IAF while flying aircrafts in the sky over the world famous Dal Lake.

Barla Inaugurates Rs 6.15 Cr Khumriyal Bridge Participates In Various Activities At Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, John Barla on Tuesday said that Kupwara as a border district gets special attention from the Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by way of funds flowing under Aspirational District since 2018. The Minister, who was on a two day visit to Kupwara district under union Government's public outreach programme, inaugurated Double Lane Bridge at Khumriyal in Kupwara district. The bridge costing Rs.614.98 lakh connects Lolab Valley, with the rest of the district. The Minister also flagged off the Ambulance of Chinara Charity Foundation (local NGO) devoted as free service for poor cancer patients of the area. The Minister said that the Government of India always encourages social service and there are a number of schemes like DARPAN for the financial support of NGOs. The Minister visited the paddy fields of Kalaroos and inquired from locals about the availability of job cards and the benefits of farmer welfare schemes. The Minister said that the Government of India has a number of welfare schemes for every section of the society and insisted people to get benefits from these schemes properly. Barla also visited public park Zangali Kupwara where he interacted with the senior civil and police officers of the administration. Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Imam Din, SSP Kupwara Dr.G.V Sandeep were also present at the occasion.

70 Years Of Deceitful Politics Ruined J&K: Bukhari

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday regretted the awful role of J&K's traditional political parties in effecting a huge disconnect between the people and the institutions of governance. Addressing a party convention at Thathri in district Doda, Bukhari said that for the last over 70 years the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially the youth have been duped by the deceitful politics which needs to be done away with. "It is extremely unfortunate that the political parties in J&K have been raising passions among the people just to fulfill their electoral motives. And this type of politics has hugely shadowed the socio-economic and political stability in the region," he remarked. Bukhari said that the compromises made by the J&K's political parties not only cost its people dearly but also ignited a vicious cycle of violence and insecurity for them. "Such dirty politics has not only resulted in the loss of precious lives but it has inflicted huge economic losses that have proven detrimental to the development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir," Apni Party President observed. Pledging to continue with his efforts to strengthen a truthful political atmosphere, Bukhari said that Apni Party has emerged as a credible political voice of Jammu and Kashmir that has been established on the edifice of transparency, probity and pragmatic politics. "Apni Party started a new era of politics in J&K's history by introducing a practical political approach. It ensured zero compromise on the people's rights and interests. This party continues with its unwavering political stand, not changing its stance like political chameleons who speak different languages at different places for their own vested interests," Bukhari said while appealing the people of Doda to give a chance to Apni Party and tests its deliverance on the ground. On this occasion, Party senior Vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir observed that Doda as a whole, especially Thathri town has an immense potential in the Tourism sector. This land is endowed with rich natural resources that, if explored, can change the economic landscape in the region, he added.

Commissioner Secretary Forests Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, on Tuesday visited Ganderbal and took stock of wetlands of the district.



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, on Tuesday visited Ganderbal and took stock of wetlands of the district. During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna, ACR Ganderbal, Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, ACD, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal and other concerned officials. Commissioner Secretary visited Ahan Sar, Waskura Sar and Manasbal lakes to have firsthand appraisal of management of these water bodies. These three water bodies are on the verge of being notified as wetlands under Wetland Management Rules of 2017. While inspecting the management of these wetlands, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the brief documents have already been prepared and submitted by the district administration in this regard. Commissioner Secretary directed the officers for preparation of management plan of these water bodies to undertake desilting and de-weeding works. In this regard, he sought collaboration of Revenue, Forest and Rural Development departments towards restoration of these wetlands. While ascertaining the physical condition of the water bodies, Commissioner Secretary asked for formulation of management plan for these wetlands containing all components to restore these wetlands to their pristine glory. Meanwhile, Commissioner Secretary interacted with the PRIs and locals and urged upon them to extend their cooperation to the administration in conservation of these wetlands as livelihood of people living on the edges of these wetlands depends to a large extent on the productivity of wetlands. He stressed for generating mass awareness among the people especially living along the peripheries of these water bodies regarding intrinsic natural values of wetlands. He also emphasized the need to encourage farmers for using bio fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers adding that the loss of the wetlands would be tantamount to losing their lifeline.

DC Budgam Appeals Masses To Follow CAB, SOPs

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: In his routine briefing about COVID-19 status in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Tuesday said that new infections were reported from some pockets in district Budgam, however situation is under control. The DC said that the proactive measures enable us to effect timely disruption of spread. He once again appealed the masses to kindly follow CAB and ensure that all persons of the age group of 18 plus are vaccinated. He said that Vaccines are available, and stressed upon the target age group to get vaccinated as early as possible. The 18 to 44 years age group is getting vaccinated, efforts are on a war footing basis to get the remaining 32% vaccinated, DC added. Regarding present status, the DC said that there are 110 active positive cases in the district; the positivity rate is below 5 percent while recovery rate stands at 99%.

IUST Hosts Webinar On Drug De-Addiction Awareness

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCNMT), a constituent college of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Sunday hosted one day Webinar on Drug De-addiction Awareness under the red ribbon club. More than 300 students including faculty members from different colleges of Kashmir attended the September 12 programme. Registrar IUST, Prof. Naseer Iqbal who was chief guest on the occasion, stressed on importance of organising such awareness programmes and congratulated the Principal and faculty of the college for making these programmes successful. During the scientific session, Prof. Yasir Hassan Rather, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar and I/C De-addiction Center IMHANS, gave a brief description about the current scenario of substance abuse, with the focus on adolescents being the target population, risk factors and the consequences of drug addiction. He also highlighted about prevalence of substance use and dependence in J&K UT with special focus on opioids. While highlighting the importance of creating awareness among youth regarding drug abuse Principal of the college, Asmat Parveen deliberated on drug addiction scenario in Kashmir. She highlighted the different causes of drug addictions, prevention strategies of substance abuse and shared the data of use of substance/opioids in the country and in UT of J&K. Substance use and young minds, opioids use and role of family in rehabilitation of drug addicts were also discussed during the programme. Earlier, Andleeb Yousof from SMMCNMT welcomed all the participant during the inaugural session and Javid Ahmad Mir from GMC Baramulla presented vote of thanks.

CS, Secy MoRTH Reviews Road Sector Projects Under PMDP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta and Union Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Giridhar Aramane, Tuesday in a high-level meeting reviewed the implementation of road sector projects in Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP). During the meeting, it was observed that substantial progress has been achieved in the widening of National Highway-44, including in the completion of Chenani-Nashri and Qazigund-Banihal sections on the highway. It was further observed that the remaining works on

Udhampur-Ramban section, Ramban-Banihal section and Srinagar-Banihal section are also going on in full swing and are expected to be completed in the next year. It was informed that works on Baramullah- Gulmarg road are in full swing and are likely to be completed by April 2022. Similarly, works on Jammu semi-ring road and Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch road have been accelerated and are expected to be completed in March 2022, and March 2024, respectively. It was informed that work on Srinagar-Shopian-Qazigund road will also commence soon with the construction of 3 bypass roads for Pulwama, Kul-

gam, and Shopian towns. He also pitched for the development of parking bays and toilet facilities on the national highway to improve the travel experience of the commuters. It is expected that these facilities will come up by November end 2021. While highlighting that works may suffer in some areas in J&K in winter due to harsh weather conditions, Mehta urged the agencies to make all out efforts to expedite the construction works so that all the works are completed within the timelines. He assured the project executing agencies of all the support from the UT administration in the execution of works.

NCDC Establishes New Office At Chandigarh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the greater convenience to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) India has established a new office at Panchkula Chandigarh. NCDC is an apex Financial Institution of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India. The office was inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary Haryana, T.V.S.N Prasad and Managing Director NCDC, Sandeep Kumar Nayak. The Cooperatives of J&K, Ladakh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab will be benefited from this initiative as NCDC provides financial assistance at a very reasonable rate of interest.

Woman Injured In Bear Attack In Ganderbal's Kangan

Agencies

GANDERBAL: A woman was injured when a wild bear attacked her in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Tuesday. An official told KNO that the woman (35), identified as Shaheena Begum wife of Jan Mohammad Mir of Kangan, was injured when the bear attacked her in the fields near Power House, Kangan. He said that she was rushed to Trauma hospital Kangan for initial treatment, where from she was referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

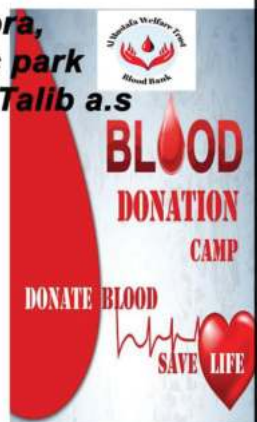
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K O V I E W

Helping Afghanistan

Changing its tone a bit towards Taliban controlled Afghanistan, India has expressed its readiness to engage with the war-torn country. Speaking at a UN meeting on Monday, External affairs minister S Jaishankar made it clear that India is ready to send humanitarian aid to Afghan people as in the past but it should have unrestricted access and the aid should be distributed to all sections of society. He said India had always stood and would stand with Afghan people but humanitarian aid should be unfettered. Over the last twenty years, India has undertaken development projects in all 34 provinces of the country. These projects are in critical areas of power, water supply, road connectivity, health-care, education, agriculture and capacity building. The country invested \$3 billion for the welfare of the people of Afghanistan. Earlier, India in a joint statement with Australia Sunday acknowledged that the group holds “positions of power and authority across Afghanistan”.

Taliban takeover has also markedly shifted the geopolitics across the Southasian region and beyond. This weekend, Saudi Arabian foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud is expected to visit India to discuss the unfolding situation in Afghanistan. Qatar, on the other hand, has taken the lead in engaging Kabul, a step towards legitimising the Taliban. Pakistan is busy creating a regional consensus about the Taliban. A few days back, Pakistan hosted a meeting of spymasters of Russia, China, Iran and some Central Asian states. in the region of the situation in Afghanistan.

At the same time, there is pressure on Pakistan to not to rush to recognize the Taliban and support international efforts to get the Taliban to honour rights of women and minorities. On Monday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that Washington wants Pakistan to deny legitimacy to the Afghan Taliban unless they meet international demands. He said the US priorities included that the Taliban allow people who want to leave Afghanistan and respect the rights of women and minorities, as well as fulfil the promises that the country not again become “a haven for outward-directed terror”.

Meanwhile, the Taliban has further strengthened hold over the country by quelling the last frontier of resistance at Panjshir. This has made the Taliban rule in Afghanistan a stark reality with which the world has to engage sooner than later, a point that foreign minister Jaishankar has stressed. The country scarred by forty years of war is in desperate need for humanitarian aid. So, the world, including India has little choice to take the Taliban on its word to act as a more moderate version of its first avatar.

OTHER OPINION

Darker Hours

India was adjudged the most dangerous nation for women by a global poll in 2018. The situation, dishearteningly, seems to have worsened. According to data released by the National Commission for Women, the country witnessed a rise of 46 per cent in complaints of crimes against women in the first eight months of this year in comparison to the corresponding period of last year. Of the total complaints received, the highest number were recorded under the ‘right to live with dignity’ clause, followed by complaints of domestic violence and, then, of harassment of married women or dowry-related coercion. The highest number of complaints were registered in states and Union territories that are laggards in this regard: Uttar Pradesh tops the list, followed by Delhi and Haryana.

The spike in registered cases can be attributed to several factors, not least of which is the versatile nature of violent crimes against women. The violence can be disproportionate though. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau show that in 2019 there were over 4,05,861 cases of assaults on women — a 7 per cent spike over the figure reported in 2018. Of these, 13,273 attacks, including 3,486 rapes, were perpetrated against Dalit women. The pandemic has exacerbated the crisis, with domestic violence — it witnessed a massive surge during the lockdown — labelled a “shadow pandemic”. Another challenge is posed by the subtler forms of violence — emotional abuse and mental cruelties — many of which are not even recognized as crime by the law. Marital rape, for one, still enjoys legal sanction. Then, there are systemic failures. The conviction rate for rape was a paltry 27.8 per cent for 2019, even though 88 cases of rape were recorded every day on an average. These systemic failures have led to a worrying demand for instant justice. Even though activists have made several arguments against the efficacy of capital punishment as a deterrent, the death penalty is still repeatedly proposed by political parties in an attempt to deflect attention from the structural and systemic challenges. India’s anti-rape laws are already stringent; putting effective deterrents in place would require more than symbolic gestures. These would involve addressing the lacunae on multiple fronts: shoddy investigation, the lack of sensitization among the police and the public about the dangers of ‘instant justice’ and, crucially, the embedded inequalities of gender and economics fuelling such crimes.

Telegraph India



What Critics Are Getting Wrong About India's Economic Recovery

Dr K V Subramanian

Even during the pandemic, quarterly growth patterns have only reflected the presence or absence of economic restrictions, thereby reflecting strong fundamentals again. While the Q1 decline last year followed the national lockdown, the recovery till Q4 reflected the easing of restrictions

Exactly a year back, we had predicted an imminent V-shaped recovery in GDP growth after its sharp decline. At that time, most doubted the prediction. A former Finance Minister wrote “In a barren desert without any sign of water, the Finance Minister and the Chief Economic Adviser saw green shoots!” His lack of nuanced understanding was of course clear from the statement “about one quarter of the gross domestic output as on June 30, 2019, has been wiped out in the last 12 months.” Unlike the level of water in a tank, GDP is not a measure that captures the level of stock. Instead, like the amount of water flowing over a period of time, GDP measures the flow of economic activities in a period of time. Only if GDP were a stock measure could one say that the stock depleted by a certain percentage. Politics as the art of pushing convenient narratives and witnessing an obsequious audience applaud can be too compelling to incentivise the hard job of acquiring a nuanced understanding of the economy.

Let us examine the evidence. After declining by 24.4% in the first quarter last year, the economy has registered growth rates of -7.5%, 0.4%, 1.6% and 20.1% in subsequent quarters. If these numbers are plotted, the graph looks like a “V” and no other letter. Incidentally, this commentary on a K-shaped recovery is focused on sectoral patterns, not the macro-economy. Like the five fingers in a hand, sectoral patterns are never identical.

Crucially, the V-shaped recovery is testimony to the strong fundamentals of the economy — an assertion that I have consistently made after assuming office. As shown carefully in the Economic Survey 2019-20, the pre-pandemic slowdown was only due to the problems in the financial sector, which originated from the crony lending and gross mis-management of the banking sector before 2014. Research across the globe shows that the economic overhang engendered by such messing around with the financial sector lasts very long. After all, bank loans given to cronies come up for repayment 5-6 years post such dubious lending. Combined with bankers’ incentives to evergreen loans by lending to zombies, messing around with the

financial sector eventually spills over to other sectors thereby creating long-lasting damage. Some commentators attribute the pre-pandemic slowdown to demonetisation and GST implementation. However, research on the economic impact during the time of demonetisation, which included the GST implementation, finds no effect on GDP growth, thereby questioning such commentary and emphasizing the strong fundamentals of the economy.

Even during the pandemic, quarterly growth patterns have only reflected the presence or absence of economic restrictions, thereby reflecting strong

In stark contrast to the double-digit inflation following the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), inflation has averaged 6.1% over the last year because of the several supply-side measures taken by the Government now. Such lower inflation in a crisis is despite the severe supply-side frictions caused by lockdowns and night curfews, which did not manifest following GFC. Also, carefully targeted and calibrated fiscal spending has ensured that India’s fiscal deficit is comparable to its peers. Because of profligate revenue expenditure, it became significantly higher compared to peers following the GFC. The sup-

Crucially, the V-shaped recovery is testimony to the strong fundamentals of the economy — an assertion that I have consistently made after assuming office. As shown carefully in the Economic Survey 2019-20, the pre-pandemic slowdown was only due to the problems in the financial sector, which originated from the crony lending and gross mis-management of the banking sector before 2014

fundamentals again. While the Q1 decline last year followed the national lockdown, the recovery till Q4 reflected the easing of restrictions. In Q1 this year, malls, shops and other establishments were closed in most states in May and June during the devastating second wave. Google’s daily indicator of retail activity was down from its 31-March level all through Q1 till mid-July. At its peak, retail activity was down 70% from the 31-March level. Despite such supply-side restrictions on consumption, from its low base last year, consumption has grown 20%. Since mid-July, easing of restrictions has enabled significant recovery in the high frequency indicators.

Following path-breaking reforms, the economy now is poised for strong growth. The corporate sector has become leaner by cutting costs and paring down its debt, thereby ready to invest. The banking sector has become profitable and has created cushion to withstand imminent bad loans in retail and SME lending. About 88% of every rupee of expected bad loans has been provisioned by the public sector banks. Further, the capital adequacy ratios are the highest in recent times as banks have raised capital from the markets. These successive lines of defence equip the banking sector to lend for corporate investment.

ply-side measures have ensured a comfortable current account as opposed to the drastic deterioration following GFC. While \$10 billion of FPI flowed out of the country following GFC, over \$36 billion came in last year. FDI inflows have been about 10 times higher at \$80 billion when compared to \$8 billion following GFC. While the currency depreciated by close to 60% following GFC, it has held steady now.

These macro-fundamentals are supported by the startup ecosystem, which was in shambles in 2014. Not only is the number of unicorns highest ever in Indian history, the number of IPOs in August is the highest in 17 years. The unicorns have grown on the quality of their idea and not due to dynastic money or connections. This meritocracy is a wonderful sign for the economy.

In sum, unlike the economic disarray following the Global Financial Crisis, nuanced understanding and clarity in thinking have enabled India to judge and implement salutary economic policy amidst this once-in-a-century crisis.

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

The author is the Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India



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Red Zoning by Barricading

In the view of a slight spike in the number of covid-19 cases in the valley, the administration has started to get all hands on deck before the situation gets out of control. This is a welcome step which needs to be applauded. However, one of the very first measures that has been taken is that the admin is iden-

tifying areas with high number of cases and is then physically sealing them through rods and barricades.

This doesn't seem like a good idea. While it may be useful in preventing people from getting inside, how does it help when a covid-19 patient in emergency needs to be rushed to the hospital?

Perhaps, a better way needs to be found. Medical staff can be engaged to ensure that the area remains sealed and insulated while also having easy access to hospitals and medical care.

The administration should also find a better way to ensure that schools do not become hotspots of covid-19. This can be done through

frequent, or to begin with weekly, rapid antigen tests of the staff as well as students.

Hope these steps, coupled with the cooperation from people will ensure that a devastating third wave is averted.

Suhail Jan
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When Will Covid End?

What Experts Predict On Next 6 Months

Michelle Cortez

For anyone hoping to see light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel over the next three to six months, scientists have some bad news: Brace for more of what we've already been through.

Outbreaks will close schools and cancel classes. Vaccinated nursing home residents will face renewed fears of infection. Workers will weigh the danger of returning to the office as hospitals are overwhelmed, once again.

Almost everyone will be either infected or vaccinated before the pandemic ends, experts agree. Maybe both. An unlucky few will contract the virus more than once. The race between the waves of transmission that lead to new variants and the battle to get the globe inoculated won't be over until the coronavirus has touched all of us.

"I see these continued surges occurring throughout the world," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and an adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden. "Then it will drop, potentially somewhat precipitously," he said. "And then I think we very easily could see another surge in the fall and winter" of this year, he added.

With billions of people around the world yet to be vaccinated and little chance now of eliminating the virus, we can expect more outbreaks in classrooms, on public transport and in workplaces over the coming months, as economies push ahead with reopening. Even as immunization rates rise, there will always be people who are vulnerable to the virus: Newborn babies, people who can't or won't get inoculated, and those who get vaccinated but suffer breakthrough infections as their protection levels ebb.

The next few months will be rough. One key danger is if a vaccine-resistant variant develops, although it is not the only risk ahead. In the coming months, Bloomberg will explore the pandemic's long-term impact on economies and markets, the pharmaceutical industry, travel and more.

"We're going to see hills and valleys, at least for the next several years as we get more vaccine out. That's going to help. But the challenge is going to be: How big will the hills and valleys be, in terms of their distance?" Osterholm said. "We don't know. But I can just tell you, this is a coronavirus forest fire that will not stop until it finds all the human wood that it can burn."

Covid Compared to Other Pandemics

The five well-documented influenza pandemics of the past 130 years offer some blueprint for how Covid might play out, according to Lone Simonsen, an epidemiologist and professor of population health sciences at Roskilde University in Denmark. She is an expert on the ebb and flow of such events.

While the longest global flu outbreak lasted five years, they mostly consisted of two to four waves of infection over an average of two or three years, she said. Covid is already shaping up to be among the more severe pandemics, as its second



With billions of people around the world yet to be vaccinated and little chance now of eliminating the virus, we can expect more outbreaks in classrooms, on public transport and in workplaces over the coming months, as economies push ahead with reopening

year concludes with the world in the middle of a third wave and no end in sight.

It's possible that the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 won't follow the path set by the pandemics of the past. After all, it is a different, novel and potentially more transmissible pathogen. And with a death count of more than 4.6 million people so far, it's already more than twice as deadly as any outbreak since the 1918 Spanish flu.

Despite brutal initial waves and relatively high vaccination rates, countries including the U.S., U.K., Russia and Israel are flirting with record numbers of cases. Immunization is helping to moderate incidences of severe cases and deaths, but surging infections mean the virus is reaching the young and others who remain unvaccinated, leading to rising rates of serious disease in those groups.

Nations where vaccination has been sparse including Malaysia, Mexico, Iran and Australia are in the midst of their biggest outbreaks yet, fueled by the contagious delta strain. With the virus still spreading out of control in vast swathes of the planet, another novel variant could quite feasibly emerge.

History shows the commonly held belief that viruses automatically get milder over time to avoid completely wiping out their host population is wrong, according to Simonsen. Although new mutations aren't always more severe than their pre-

decessors, "pandemics can in fact get more deadly during the pandemic period, as the virus is adapting to its new host," she said.

Early in the Covid outbreak, there was good reason to hope that vaccines would provide long-term protection, much like childhood shots that stop diseases such as polio.

Coronaviruses have a "proof-reading" mechanism that fixes the in-born errors caused when the virus replicates, reducing the likelihood of variants emerging when the virus is transmitted from one person to another.

The number of global cases has been so vast, however, that mutations are occurring anyway.

"With the pandemic, we have this enormous force of infection," said Kanta Subbarao, director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne. "That has counterbalanced the ability of the virus to proof-read."

As a result, Covid could be like the flu, requiring regular vaccine top-ups to remain effective as the virus evolves.

Some researchers say SARS-CoV-2 is poised to become completely resistant to the first generation of vaccines. A study from Japan, which has yet to be published or peer-reviewed, suggests that

potentially dangerous mutations in the delta variant are already being picked up in a global database used to track such developments. Reports of current strains breaking through vaccinations or triggering higher fatality rates have not held up to rigorous scrutiny thus far.

"This is a scenario we hope won't happen," Simonsen said. "My God, we would have to do it all again."

Other even grimmer possibilities for the coming months include the emergence of a novel influenza virus or another coronavirus making the leap from animals into humans.

"As long as there are animal reservoirs of coronavirus there is still the possibility that another zoonotic coronavirus could emerge in the future," Subbarao said. "There is that in the background, the risk of still dealing with this one when another one emerges."

How Will Covid End?

What seems clear is that the pandemic will not be over in six months. Experts generally agree that the current outbreak will be tamed once most people perhaps 90% to 95% of the global population have a degree of immunity thanks to immunization or previous infection.

The key element should be vaccination, they say.

"Without vaccination, one is like a sitting duck, because the virus will spread widely and find most everybody this autumn and winter," said Simonsen.

More than 5.66 billion doses of vaccine have been administered around the world, according to Bloomberg's vaccine tracker. But the success of rollouts in some regions, such as the European Union, North America and China, masks the failure in others. Most countries in Africa have only given enough vaccine to cover less than 5% of their populations with a two-dose shot. India has administered enough to cover only about 26%.

The pandemic will end at different times in different places, just as previous outbreaks have, said Erica Charters, associate professor of the history of medicine at Oxford University and the coordinator of a project on how epidemics end. Governments will have to decide how much of the disease they are comfortable living with, she said.

Approaches vary. While some countries are still shooting for zero Covid cases, the world is unlikely to eradicate the virus completely.

Nations like Denmark and Singapore, which have managed to keep cases relatively contained, are already moving toward a post-pandemic future with fewer safety restrictions. Others, such as the U.S. and U.K., are opening up even as infection numbers near records. Meanwhile, China, Hong Kong and New Zealand have vowed to keep vigilantly working to eliminate the virus locally. As a result, they are likely to be among the last places to leave behind the disruption wrought by walling out the pandemic.

The author is the Medical Science and Tech Reporter at Bloomberg. The article was originally published by Bloomberg

How Social Media – Aided By Bots – Amplifies Islamophobia Online

Saif Shahin



In August 2021, a Facebook ad campaign criticizing Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, the United States' first Muslim congresswomen, came under intense scrutiny. Critics charged that the ads linked the congresswomen with terrorism, and some faith leaders condemned the campaign as "Islamophobic" – that is, spreading fear of Islam and hatred against Muslims.

This was hardly the first time the pair faced Islamophobic or racist abuse, especially on the internet. As a communications professor who studies the politics of race and identity online, I have seen that Omar is often a target of white nationalist attacks on Twitter.

But online attacks on Muslims are not limited to politicians. Twenty years after the 9/11 attacks, stereotypes that associate Muslims with terrorism go far beyond depictions in newspapers and television. Recent research raises the alarm about rampant Islamophobia in digital spaces, particularly far-right groups' use of disinformation and other manipulation tactics to vilify Muslims and their faith.

Amplifying hate

In July 2021, for example, a team led by media researcher Lawrence Pintak published research on tweets that mentioned Omar during her campaign for Congress. They reported that half the tweets they studied involved "overtly Islamophobic or xenophobic language or other forms of hate speech."

The majority of offensive posts came from a small number of "provocateurs" – accounts that seed Islamophobic conversations on Twitter. Many of these accounts belonged to conservatives, they found. But the researchers reported that such accounts themselves did not generate significant traffic.

Instead, the team found that "amplifiers" were primarily responsible: accounts that collect and circulate agents provocateurs' ideas through mass retweets and replies.

Their most interesting finding was that only four of the top 20 Islamophobic

amplifiers were authentic accounts. Most were either bots – algorithmically generated to mimic human accounts – or "sockpuppets," which are human accounts that use fake identities to deceive others and manipulate conversations online.

Bots and sockpuppets disseminated Islamophobic tweets originally posted by authentic accounts, creating a "megaphone effect" that scales up Islamophobia across the Twitterverse.

"Cloaked" accounts

Twitter has a little over 200 million daily active users. Facebook, meanwhile, has nearly 2 billion – and some use similar manipulation strategies on this platform to escalate Islamophobia.

Disinformation researcher Johan Farkas and his colleagues have studied "cloaked" Facebook pages in Denmark, which are run by individuals or groups who pretend to be radical Islamists in order to provoke antipathy against Muslims. The scholars' analysis of 11 such pages, identified as fakes, found that organizers posted spiteful claims about ethnic Danes and Danish society and threatened an Islamic takeover of the country.

Facebook removed the pages for violating the platform's content policy, according to the study, but they reemerged under a different guise. Although Farkas' team couldn't confirm who was creating the pages, they found patterns indicating "the same individual or group hiding behind the cloak."

These "cloaked" pages succeeded in prompting thousands of hostile and racist comments toward the radical Islamists that users believed were running the pages. But they also prompted anger

toward the wider Muslim community in Denmark, including refugees.

Such comments often fit into a wider view of Muslims as a threat to "Western values" and "whiteness," underscoring how Islamophobia goes beyond religious intolerance.

Dual threats

This is not to suggest that "real" Islamist extremists are absent from the web. The internet in general and social media in particular have long served as a means of Islamist radicalization.

But in recent years, far-right groups have been expanding their online presence much faster than Islamists. Between 2012 and 2016, white nationalists' Twitter followers grew by more than 600%, according to a study by extremism expert J.M. Berg-

er. White nationalists "outperform ISIS in nearly every social metric, from follower counts to tweets per day," he found.

A more recent study of Berger's, a 2018 analysis of alt-right content on Twitter, found "a very significant presence of automation, fake profiles and other social media manipulation tactics" among such groups.

Social media companies have emphasized their policies to identify and stamp out content from Islamic terror groups. Big Tech critics, however, argue that the companies are less willing to police right-wing groups like white supremacists, making it easier to spread Islamophobia online.

High stakes

Exposure to Islamophobic messages has grave consequences. Experiments show that portrayals of Muslims as ter-

rorists can increase support for civil restrictions on Muslim-Americans, as well as support for military action against Muslim-majority countries.

The same research indicates that being exposed to content that challenges stereotypes of Muslims – such as Muslims volunteering to help fellow Americans during the Christmas season – can have the opposite effect and reduce support for such policies, especially among political conservatives.

Violence toward Muslims, the vandalization of mosques and burnings of the Quran have been extensively reported in the U.S. over the past 20 years, and there are indications that Islamophobia continues to rise.

But studies following the 2016 election indicate Muslims now experience Islamophobia "more frequently online than face-to-face." Earlier in 2021, a Muslim advocacy group sued Facebook executives, accusing the company of failing to remove anti-Muslim hate speech. The suit claims that Facebook itself commissioned a civil rights audit that found the website "created an atmosphere where Muslims feel under siege."

In 2011, around the 10th anniversary of 9/11, a report by the Center for American Progress documented the country's extensive Islamophobia network, especially drawing attention to the role of "misinformation experts" from the far-right in spreading anti-Muslim propaganda.

Five years later, the entire country was awash in talk of "misinformation" experts using similar strategies – this time, trying to influence the presidential election. Ultimately, these evolving strategies don't just target Muslims, but may be replicated on a grander scale.

The author is Assistant Professor in School of Communication and Faculty Affiliate with Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University. The article is being reproduced here by arrangements with The Conversation

'Workplace bias suppression can be difficult to sustain'

Agencies

Decision-making that overrides one's personal views and self-interests, also known as bias suppression, is often touted as an essential institutional objective. Accountability is a common strategy for discouraging stubborn biases. However, even within the most well-intentioned organizations, efforts to counteract biases tend to wane over time.

New research from the University of Notre Dame shows when and why bias suppression is so challenging to sustain from one decision to the next.

"When and Why Bias Suppression is Difficult to Sustain: The Asymmetric Effect of Intermittent Accountability" is forthcoming in the Academy of Management Journal from Brittany Solomon and Cindy Muir (Zapata), management professors at Notre

Dame's Mendoza College of Business, along with Matthew Hall, the David A. Potenziani Memorial College Professor of Constitutional Studies, concurrent law professor and director of Notre Dame's Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy.

Accountability in the workplace happens when executives and employees are responsible for upholding values, making decisions, and accomplishing goals that deliver on expectations. But accountability can backfire.

"Across multiple studies, we found that bias suppression with high accountability induces counterfactual thinking," Solomon said. "In other words, the decision-maker questions what would, could, or should have transpired had they chosen differently. Then they regret the decision they made and ultimately -- with subsequent low accountability -- reverse their action."

However, this process does not occur

when accountability is initially low, then subsequently high.

"We found that when accountability changes from high to low, bias suppressed decisions tend to be reversed," Solomon said. "When accountability changes from low to high, biased decisions are sustained. For example, a manager with high accountability may avoid showing favoritism to a subordinate who is also a friend. If the manager no longer feels such pressure in the future, they are more likely to favor that friend over other subordinates. However, a manager who initially has little or no accountability may show favoritism to their friend and continue favoring that friend over subordinates even when they are highly accountable."

When decision-makers expect to be held accountable and suppress their biases when rendering a decision, their cognitive and emotional processing plays a substan-

tial role in undermining bias suppression the next time they have to make a similar decision.

"Even if their bias suppression efforts are initially successful, their counterfactual thinking and feelings of regret for not following their personal instincts or preferences are so strong that people tend to reverse their unbiased decisions," Solomon said. "This is surprising because people tend to strive toward consistency in their decision-making. And it means that bias suppression is not self-reinforcing."

The team examined S and P 500 firms' CEOs to establish there is a negative relationship between bias suppression and consistency. Then, in Study 1, they examined decisions by US Supreme Court justices that were later revisited in a similar case. Study 2 used recalls of actual managerial decisions and Study 3 used hypothetical scenarios. With CEOs and Supreme Court justices,

the researchers focused on suppressing political ideology -- a bias that shapes a wide array of preferences that has been shown to impact managerial decision-making. Because bias suppression can also be conceptualized broadly, they relied on a generic conceptualization of bias in studies 2 and 3.

The study suggests that increasing accountability may not be as effective if a person initially indulges their biases, and an exploratory analysis suggests that pride may be the reason.

"People often opt to indulge their biases and continue doing so, despite high accountability, because they view the biased decision as to the right decision," Solomon said. "Indeed, that is likely why they feel proud. Although people are unlikely to endorse making a biased decision, we found that they will admit to making a decision based on their self-interest or strong views."

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NO-SE-II/O&M/KPDCI/Cr-II/6553-58

Dated:/ 13 / 09/2021

(FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE)

Sub: Absent from duties of Mr. Amardeep Koul,Jr.Engineer,of ED-II Srinagar (Sub Division Street Lights) and suspension thereof.

Ref: Managing Director KPDCI Srinagar;s order no.MD/KPDCI/115 of 2021 Dated 05/08/2021.

This office letter no.Order No. SE/Adm/116 of 2021 Dated 11/08/2021.

Minutes of the meeting held in the office of the undersigned Dated 13/08/2021.

This office letter no. SE-II/O&M/KPDCI/5510-15 Dated:/ 18/09/2021

Whileas after perusal the records, it has been observed that you have been transferred from Commercial Division Srinagar and posted to Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar vide Development Commissioner (Power) J&K Srinagar;s Order No. 107-DCP of 20217 Dated 12/07/2017.

Whereas you were relieved by Commercial Division Srinagar on 11/08/2017 vide his letter no. CD./Sgr/482-88 Dated 11/08/2017

Whereas you was supposed to join in ED 2nd Srinagar on th same date or next working day which you have failed.

Whereas you have joined in Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar on 03/01/2018 FN

Whereas the concerned Division has taken up the matter with Commercial Division vide his letter no. ED-II/2143-47 Dated 5/9/2017.

Whereas the commercial Division Srinagar has in turn forwarded the Original Service Book/LPC to ED 2nd, Srinagar.

Whileas after perusal the Service Book/LPC, it has been observed that salary for the period I.e 01/08/2017 to 31/12/2017 has not been paid by the Commercial Division PDD Srinagar during you remained away/absconding which is yet to be decided.

Whereas the LPC & Service book was returned back to Commercial Division Srinagar by Executive Engineer ED 2nd, Srinagar's letter no. ED-II/2512-15 Dated 10/08/2017 regarding the issue during the intervening period I.e 01/08/2017 to 31/12/2017 during which you remained away/absconding.

Whereas the Commercial Division has return back the serviced book without updation as required.

Whereas accordingly the concerned Division has taken up the matter with higher authorities vide his letter no. ED-II/5809-12 Dated 04/02/2019.

Whereas the Chief Engineer EM&RE Wing Kashmir vide his letter no. CE/M&RE/Adm-II/44923-24/AS Dated 12/2/2019 has instructed that salary of the concerned official be disbursed from the date of joining,e 03/01/2018-FN in the Division,however as regards,drawal of salary for the intervening period I.e w.e.from 01/08/2017 to 31/12/2017(during which you remained away/absconding) ,shall be decided after ascertaining the factual position by the concerned Division.

Whereas on the basis of instruction conveyed by Chief Engineer vide his above quoted letter, salary from the date 03/01/2018 to 28/02/2019 has been released and disbursed in your favour accordingly.

Whereas the Executive Engineer ED 2nd, Srinagar has reported that after release your salary, you have immediately applied for 15 days causal leave w.e.from 15/3/2019 which has not been sanctioned by the SDO, as reported by him vide his letter no. 811/CPSD Dated 20/3/2019

Whereas the concerned SDO has reported that you have left for jammu without seeking proper permission vide his letter no. CP/SD/811 Dated 20/3/2019, followed by his letter no. CP/SD/827 Dated 27/3/2019.

Whereas on the basis of report of SDO concendred ,the Executive Engineer ED 2nd, Srinagar vide his letter no. ED-II/43-45 Dated 02/04/2019 has issued show cause notice to you directed therein you to report immediately to your duties and explain your position with a period of (05) days from the date of issuance of Notice.

Whereas as reported by the concendred Division nothing has been forthcoming from your end.

Whereas another Show cause notice has been issued to you by the concendred Division vide his letter no. ED-II/222-23 Dated 15/4/2019 directed therein you to report within (05) days and explain your position.

Whereas you have again failed to report to your duties.

Whereas the matter regarding your unauthorized absence has been taken up with this office by the concerned Division vide his letter no. ED-II/380-81 Dated 24/4/2019.

Whereas this office vide letter no. SE-II/M&RE/46467/AS Dated 17/4/2019 has issued final shown cause notice copy among others to Joint Director information for publishing the notice in two leading News papers of the valley directed therein you to explain your cause of absence with documentary evidence within a period of five days .

Whereas you have again failed to respond the notice .

Whereas the Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar vide his letter no. Ed-II/483-88 Dated 29/4/2019 has again issued Show cause notice to you on your home address directed therein you to resume your duties and explain your un-authorized absence and non compliance of show cause notices within a period of (05) days.

Whereas you have submitted the reply of explanation through Whatsapp message regarding the 15 days earned leave w.e.from 18/3/2019 to 01/04/2019,

Whereas the same stands forwarded to the concerned Division and sought the information regarding intervening period w.e.from 01/08/2017 to 31/12/2017 vide this office letter no. SE-II/M&RE/742-44/AS Dated 26/04/2019.

Whereas the Executive Engineer Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar vide his letter no. ED-II/975-78 Dated 23/05/2019 has has forwarded your joining report (Dated 20/05/2019 submitted in SDO Chanapora) to this office and intimated therein that you have not replied the show cause notices.

Whereas on the basis of letter no. SE-II/3018-22 Dated 22/6/2019 ,post facto sanction of earned leave w.e.from 18/3/2019 to 26/05/2019 (absence period) has been sanctioned by ED 2nd, Srinagar vide his order no. ED-II/22 of 2019 Dated 24/6/2019.

Whereas during the course you have submitted departure report (Dated 24th June 2019) in ED -2nd, Srinagar regarding three years leave without dues as reported by Executive Engineer Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar vide his letter no.ED-II/744-48 Dated 01/07/2019

Whereas the matter has accordingly been taken up with the higher authorities by the concendred Division for taking strict action against you as per CCA & Service Rules.

Whereas this office has accordingly taken up the matter with the higher authorities vide this office letter no. SE-II/M&RE/3533-36 Dated 8/07/2019 recommended therein that the concendred Junior Engineer be placed under suspension and requested for your termination, as you are not interested with the Government job.

Whereas you have joined in Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar on 29/7/2019.

Whereas the matter has been taken up with the higher authorities by Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar vide his letter no. ED-II/2402-05 Dated 31/07/2019 regarding instructions.

Whereas in response to this office letter no. SE-II/M&RE/3533-36 Dated 08/07/2019 the Chief Engineer EM&RE Wing Kashmir vide his letter no.CE/M&RE/Adm-II/1821-12 Dated 18/8/2019 has instructed to issue final show cause notice to the abscondee for resuming the duties through some leading News papers of the vaeely in the first instance.

Whereas Show cause notice has been issued to you and the same has been published in the leading News papers of the valley.

Whereas you have submitted your joining report in Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar on 19/09/2019 .

Whereas you have represented through an application in the office of Chief Engineer Distribution KPDCI Srinagar regarding release of Salary, settlement of un decided period of (05 Months)

Whereas Administrative officer M&RE Wing Kashmir has forwarded the representation to this office which was duly endorsed to the concendred Division for a detailed report.

Whereas Executive Engineer Electric Division 2nd, vide his order No.ED-II/70 of 2020 Dated 05/11/2020 has accorded ex-post facto saction to the grant of (73) days earned leave in your favour w.e.from 28/6/2019 to 28/07/2019 (31-days) & 5/08/2019 to 18/09/2019 (42 days) and subsequently the period to the tune of (73 days) has been settled and treated on earned leave.

Whereas regarding the issue of intervening period I.e 01/08/2017 to 31/12/2017 during which you remained away/absconding ,the same is yet to be decided.

Whereas it has been learnt from your past practice/records that you are habitual to remain away from your legitimate duties. From time to time.

Whereas as reported by Executive Engineer Electric Division 2nd, Srinagar you have applied for grant of earned leave for the period of 15 days I.e from 29/12/2020 to 12/1/2021 which was duly sanctioned by Executive Engineer ED 2nd, Srinagar vide his order no. ED-II/120 of 2021 Dated 4/01/2021 and you were supposed to resume your duties on 13/1/2021 without fail.

Whereas inspite of the current exigency and critical fag end of the financial year and keeping in view the significance of the nature of assignment, the concerned Division has reported that you have taken callous attitude towards your legitimate duties and applied for extension of earned leave upto 29/1/2021 in a casual manner which has been out rightly rejected by the concerned Division vide his letter no. ED-II/5604-05 Dated 21/1/2021 with the directives to resume your duties immediately and explain the cause of dereliction from legitimate duties.

Whereas the concendred Division has intimated that the SDO concerned vide his letter no.SL/455 Dated 30/1/2021 has intimated about the negligence being shown by you in resuming your legitimate government duties and recommended for disciplinary action against you under rules.

Whereas another show cause notice has been issued to you and you were provided opportunity to resume your duties and explain cause of absence vide Executive Engineer Ed 2nd, Srinagar;s letter no.ED-II/Est/PP/6625-55 Dated 26/6/2021 Dated 8/2/2021 within (07) days which you have again failed to comply with till date.

Whereas the concendred DDO has intimated that the communication made above were provided to you through your mail address but you have thrown all the government protocols to air and have again casually and superciliously sent an application.

Whereas you have been given last chance to clarify your position within a period of seven days from the date of issuance of the NOTICE by the concerned Division

Whereas the show cause notice has been send to you at your Email ID and has been published in two News papers of the valley "Daily Aftab & "Daily Srinagar Observer" dated 26/3/3021 directed therein you to clarify your position within a period of (07) days from the date of issuance of the notice, as intimated by the concerned Division vide his letter no.ED-II/1230-32 Dated 26/6/2021.

Whereas the concerned Division has intimated that you have failed to resume your duties till date though ample time have been given to you

Whereas accordingly the matter regarding the issue has been taken up with Chief Engineer Distribution KPDCI Srinagar vide this office letter no. SE-II/O&M/2871-73 Dated 29/6/2021.

Whereas accordingly the Chief Engineer Distribution KPDCI Srinagar vide his letter no. CE/D/KPDCI/16527-29 Dated 26/7/2021 ,has taken up the case with the Managing Director KPDCI ,Srinagar requesting therein that action in terms of Rule-31 of J&K Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal Rules 1956, may be initiated against the absconder.

Whereas the Managing Director KPDCI Srinagar vide Order no. MD/KPDCI/115 of 2021 Dated 05/8/2021,you have been placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule-31 of J&K Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal Rules 1956) and further ordered that the Superintending Engineer O&M KPDCI Circle 2nd, Srinagar shall conduct an enquiry in to the matter and submit a detailed report alongwith concrete recommendations within a period of (15) days.

Whereas accordingly the undersigned has constituted an Enquiry Committee vide this office order no. SE-II/Adm/116 of 2021 Dated 11/08/2021 who shall submit a detailed report alongwith concrete recommendations with in (07) days.

Whereas accordingly a meeting was held in the office chamber of the undersigned on 13th of August 2021.

Whereas after perusal the aforesaid circumstances ,it has been observed (regarding your callous attitude towards your legitimate duties from time to time) that recent past, you were habitual to remain un-authorized absent from your legitimate duties.

Whereas after threadbare discussions, the committee has unanimously decided to issue show cause notice against the absconder in question directing therein you to appear in the office of the undersigned in first instane by or before 26th of August 2021 up to 4.00 PM.

Whereas show cause notice has been sent to you via mail and through post office also got published in two leading News papers of the valley "Daily Srinagar times" dated 25/8/2021 & "Precious Kashmir" Dated 25/8/2021 directed therein you to appear before office of the undersigned/committee on or before 26th of August 2021 up to 4.00 PM, in first instance vide this office letter no. SE-II/KPDCI/Cr-II/5510-15/AS Dated 18/08/2021.

Whereas you have failed to appear before the undersigned/committee till date.

In the back drop of above, final show cause notice is hereby issued to you with the directives to appear before the office of the undersigned/Committee on or before 30th of September 2021,failing which, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and are not interesting to resume your duties/serve the department and this office shall be constrained to take up the matter with the higher authorities for further course of action under relevant rules.

Sd/

Superintending Engineer
Operation & Maintt Circle IInd
KPDCI, Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-3452/21

Department of Health And Medical Education Office of the Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

E-Tender Notice

e- Tender Notice No: 07-GMCB of 2021

Dated: 13:09:2021

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e tenders are invited through Principal, Government Medical College Baramulla for Washing/ Ironing / Dry Cleaning Services for Linen, Blankets etc. as per the Annexure "A" to this tender notice from manufacturers / firms / companies / authorized dealers for Government Medical College & Associated hospital Baramulla. The tender document can be downloaded from the website www.gmcbaramulla.com and www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 13-09-2021 to 27-09-2021.

The tender details and schedules as per following.

Item Description	Tenderfee	EMD
Washing/ Ironing / Dry Cleaning Services for Linen ,Blankets etc.	Rs.500.00	Rs. 10,000
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation		17-09-2021 (9:00 AM)
Last date for submission of online bids		27-09-2021 (9:00 AM)
Opening of Technical bids		27-09-2021 (12:00 PM)

- Any query to clear can be done through email id on principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd- Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College,
Baramulla

NO:-GMC/BLA/PO/2021/1155-60

Dated: 13 -09-2021.

DIPK-8570/21

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Wildlife Warden North Kashmir Division Sopore.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT NO: - 15 OF 2021-22 DATED: - 10-09-2021

Retender of Notice No: 05, Dated: 22.06.2021

And No: 06, Dated: 02.07.2021

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir / Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document. Rs)	Time of Completion	Remarks
1.	Construction of DRSM Works at various spots of Hokana Nallah (Kazinig National Park) Baramulla Range under CAMPA	1.00	DEE	100=	15 calendar days	Tender fee to be deposited in any Govt. Treasury against Revenue Head 0406-For and Wildlife
2.	Construction of crate Bunds at various places of Wantan Nallah (Kazinig National Park) Baramulla Range CAMPA	1.00	DEE	100=	15 calendar days	
3.	Making of fire lines including ground dressing from Martin to Wasnar Co.No.08 (Lachipora Wildlife Sanctuary) Baramulla Range under CAMPA	1.00	DEE	100=	15 calendar days	
4.	Making of fire lines including ground dressing from Gamalittr to Lower vij (Kazinig National Park) Baramulla Range under CAMPA	1.00	DEE	100=	15 calendar days	
5.	Construction of DRSM Works at various spots of Chewa Nallah (Ajaz Conservation Reserve) Ajaz-Bandipora Range under CAMPA	1.00	DEE	100=	15 calendar days	

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA / TS: Accorded

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Receiving/ Opening Committee: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date: -	10-09-2021
Download Start Date:	11-09-2021 from 06:30 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	11-09-2021 from 06:30 PM
Bid submission End Date:	18-09-2021 Up to 06:30 PM
Date & time of opening of bids (online)	Technical Bids to be opened on 20-09-2021 at 11:00 AM. And Financial Bids to be opened (online) after Evaluation of Technical Bids received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest as per Formet Annexure "A" and Bid Security Declaration in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "B". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan(cost of Tender Document)and Bid Security Declaration in shape of proforma enclosed as Annexure "B" in Tender Document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:-WLW/N)/Accts/2021-22/399-405

Dated:- 10/09/2021

DIPK-8583/21

Wildlife Warden,
North Kashmir Division ,
Sopore.

WPI Inflation Rises To 11.39 Pc In Aug On Costlier Mfg Goods; Food Prices Soften



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The wholesale price-based inflation rose marginally to 11.39 per cent in August, mainly due to costlier manufactured goods, even as food prices softened.

Snapping the two-month easing trend, WPI inflation rose in August and remained in double-digit for the fifth consecutive month.

In July 2021, WPI inflation was 11.16 per cent, while in August 2020 it was 0.41 per cent.

"The high rate of inflation in August 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of non-food articles, mineral oils; crude petroleum and natural gas; manufactured products like basic metals; food products; textiles; chemicals and chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles eased for the fourth straight month, recording (-) 1.29 per cent in August, against zero per cent in July, even as onion and pulses prices spiked.

Inflation in onions was high at 62.78 per cent, while that

in pulses was 9.41 per cent. In vegetables it was (-) 13.30 per cent in August.

Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 40.03 per cent in August.

In manufactured products, inflation stood at 11.39 per cent in August, against 11.20 per cent in July. The manufactured goods inflation has remained in double digit for the fourth month in a row.

The RBI, which mainly takes into account retail inflation, in its monetary policy last month kept interest rates unchanged at record lows. It projected CPI or retail inflation at 5.7 per cent during 2021-22, up from its earlier projection of 5.1 per cent.

Data released on Monday showed that retail inflation softened to a four-month low of 5.3 per cent in August, from 5.59 per cent in the previous month, helped by subdued prices of food articles.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the core-WPI inflation has displayed an uninterrupted hardening for 15 consecutive months to a fresh all-time high of 11.1 per cent in August 2021, belying the anticipation that the July 2021 print would prove to be the peak.

GST Council May Consider Bringing Petrol, Diesel Under GST On Sept 17



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The GST Council might on Friday consider taxing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products under the single national GST regime, a move that may require huge compromises by both central and state governments on the revenues they collect from taxing these products.

The Council, which comprises central and state finance ministers, in its meeting scheduled in Lucknow on Friday, is also likely to consider extending the time for duty relief on COVID-19 essentials, according to sources in the know of the development.

GST is being thought to be a solution for the problem of near-record high petrol and diesel rates in the country, as it would end the cascading effect of tax on tax (state VAT being levied not just on the cost of production but also on the excise duty charged by the Centre on such output).

In June, the Kerala High Court, based on a writ petition, had asked the GST Council to decide on bringing petrol and diesel within the goods and services tax (GST) ambit.

The sources said bringing petrol and diesel within GST would be placed before the Council for discussion in the light of the court asking the Council to do so.

When a national GST subsumed central taxes such as excise duty and state levies like VAT on July 1, 2017, five petroleum goods petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and crude oil were kept out of its purview for the time being.

This is because both central and state government finances relied heavily on taxes on these products.

Since GST is a consumption-based tax, bringing petro prod-

WITH CENTRAL EXCISE AND STATE VAT making up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel currently, levying GST on them would mean charging a peak rate of 28 per cent plus a fixed surcharge going by the principal of the new levy being equal to the old taxes.

ucts under the regime would have mean states where these products are sold get the revenue and not ones that currently derive the most benefit out of them because of they being the production centre.

Simply put, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with their huge population and a resultant high consumption would get more revenues at the cost of states like Gujarat.

With central excise and state VAT making up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel currently, levying GST on them would mean charging a peak rate of 28 per cent plus a fixed surcharge going by the principal of the new levy being equal to the old taxes.

Tax experts said bringing petro products under GST will be a tough call for both the Centre and states as both will stand to lose. The BJP-ruled states like Gujarat will be a loser even if a product like natural gas is brought under GST as it gets a lot of revenue from taxing the local production and import of the fuel (LNG).

The Centre will also lose as the majority of the Rs 32.80 per litre excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel is made up of cesses, which it does not share with the states. Under GST, all revenues will be split 50:50 between the Centre and the states.

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in its September 17 meeting could also discuss the modalities of continuation of compensation

cess beyond June 2022.

This is the first time in 20 months that the GST Council will have a physical meeting. The last such meeting was on December 18, 2019, before the COVID-19-induced lockdowns.

When the GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, amalgamating over a dozen central and state levies, five commodities crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were kept out of its purview given the revenue dependence of the central and state governments on this sector.

This meant that the central government continued to levy excise duty on them while state governments charged value-added tax (VAT). These taxes, with excise duty, in particular, have been raised periodically.

While the taxes have not come down, a spike in global oil prices on demand recovery has pushed petrol and diesel to an all-time high, leading to demand for them to come under the GST.

Including oil products in GST will not just help companies set off tax that they paid on input but will also bring about uniformity in taxation on the fuels in the country.

The Council, in its 45th meeting on Friday, would also consider extending the duty relief available on COVID-19 essentials.

The previous Council meeting was held via videoconferencing on June 12 during which tax rates on various COVID-19 essentials were reduced till September 30.

Maruti Suzuki Swift Crosses 2.5 Million Cumulative Sales Milestone



Press Trust Of India

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Tuesday said its premium hatchback Swift has crossed 25 lakh cumulative sales milestone in over 16 years of its launch in the country.

The model, which was the country's leading model in terms of sales in the last fiscal, has transcended its records by clocking cumulative sales of 2.5 million units, MSI said in a statement.

Swift had created the premium hatchback segment in India... million Swift lovers.

The No.1 selling car of FY20-21, the sporty Swift has created a glorious legacy with its scintil-

lating looks and power-packed performance," MSI Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava noted.

Swift is not a car, it is a feeling, an emotion and a refreshing new thought process that challenged many notions around hatchbacks, he added.

"This success is a testament to the love of customers and critics for Brand Swift. With more than 52 per cent of customers below the age of 35 years, Swift has been constantly refreshed to match the changing aspirations of its evolving young customers," Srivastava stated.

Swift comes powered by a 1.2-litre petrol engine mated to both manual and Auto Gear Shift transmissions delivering fuel efficiency of 23.20 km/litre and 23.76 km/litre, respectively.

Cabinet May Approve Revised PLI Scheme For Auto Sector Today



Press Trust Of India

The Union Cabinet is likely to approve on Wednesday the revised production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile sector, which aims at promoting domestic manufacturing and create jobs, according to sources.

The government is believed to have slashed the outlay for this PLI scheme to about Rs 26,000 crore, they said.

Last year, the government had announced the scheme for the automobile and auto components sector with an outlay of Rs 57,043 crore, earmarked for five years.

"The Cabinet may take up the proposal in the meeting tomorrow (on Wednesday)," one of the sources said.

The sources did not disclose the reason for revising the scheme to Rs 25,938 crore, but stated that the focus is now

more on battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Component segments that are expected to be covered under the scheme include automatic transmission assembly, electronic power steering system, sensors, supercapacitors, sunroofs, adaptive front lighting, automatic braking, tyre pressure monitoring system, and collision warning system.

Earlier, auto industry body SIAM said the scheme announced by the government will increase competitiveness and take the growth of the sector to the next level.

The scheme for the sector is part of the overall production-linked incentives announced for 13 sectors in the Union Budget 2021-22 with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

The PLI scheme will help bring scale in key sectors and create and nurture global champions.

India, Singapore To Link UPI, Paynow For Instant Fund Transfers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India and Singapore will link their respective fast payment systems—Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow—to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis, the Reserve Bank of India said on Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank of India and the Monetary Authority of



Singapore (MAS) announced the project to link the fast payment systems. The linkage is targeted for operationalisation by July 2022, the RBI said in a statement.

"The UPI-PayNow linkage will enable users of each of the two fast payment systems to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis without a need to get onboarded onto the other payment system," it said.

RBI said the UPI-PayNow linkage is a significant milestone in the development of

infrastructure for cross-border payments between India and Singapore and closely aligns with the G20's financial inclusion priorities of driving faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border payments.

The linkage builds upon the earlier efforts of NPCI International Private Limited (NPCI) and Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS) to foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.

It will further anchor trade, travel and remittance flows between the two countries.

This initiative is also in line with RBI's vision of reviewing corridors and charges for inbound cross-border remittances outlined in the Payment Systems Vision Document 2019-21.

UPI is a mobile-based fast payment system that facilitates customers to make round-the-clock payments instantly using a virtual payment address (VPA) created by the customer.

This eliminates the risk of sharing bank account details by the remitter. UPI supports both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) payments and enables a user to send or receive money.

Exports Up 46 Pc To USD 33.28 Bn In August

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's exports rose by 45.76 per cent to USD 33.28 billion in August, as against USD 22.83 billion in the same month last year, according to commerce ministry data

released on Tuesday.

Imports during the month increased by 51.72 per cent to USD 47.09 billion, the data showed.

Trade deficit in August widened to USD 13.81 billion as against USD 8.2 billion in the same month last year.

Cumulative value of exports for the period April-August 2021 expanded by 67.33 per cent to USD 164.10 billion, compared to USD 98.06 billion in the year-ago period.

Imports during April-August 2021 stood at USD 219.63 billion as against USD 121.42 billion.

Gold Prices Decline Marginally By Rs 36 To Rs 45,888 Per 10 Grams; Silver Gains Rs 73



Gold in the national capital on Tuesday fell marginally by Rs 36 to Rs 45,888 per 10 grams in line with decline in international precious metal prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 45,924 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, gained Rs 73 to Rs 61,911 per kg, from Rs 61,838 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi fell by Rs 36 in line with fall in COMEX (New York-based commodity market) gold prices and rupee appreciation," according to HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel.

The Indian rupee appreciated 7 paise to 73.61 against the US dollar in opening trade on Tuesday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at \$1,788 per ounce and silver was flat at \$23.68 per ounce, PTI

Zomato Co-Founder Gaurav Gupta Quits

Press Trust Of India

Co-founder of online food delivery platform Zomato, Gaurav Gupta, a key figure in the run-up to the company's IPO in July, has resigned.

In an email sent to staff at Zomato, Gupta -- who was the head of supply -- said he will be starting a new chapter after spending six years at the company.

"I am taking a new turn in my life and will be starting a new chapter, taking a lot from this defining chapter of my life -- the last six years at Zomato. We have a great team now to take Zomato forward, and it's time for me to take an alternate path in my journey," Gupta said.

The co-founder said he couldn't have asked for more and is so grateful for all the experiences and thankful to all the folks around him for helping him become a much better person.



"I am in love with Zomato and will always be. Came in 6 years back not knowing what this would turn out to be. And what a mind-blowing and amazing journey this has been. Feel proud of where we are today, what we have overcome to get here and feel even more proud of what we will achieve in the future," Gupta said in the mail posted on the company blog.

He also thanked the company's founder and CEO Deep-

inder Goyal for making him a part of the journey.

"Thank you Deepi for making me a part of this journey. I will always cherish the amazing times we have had together. I have learnt a lot from you all along and I know in my heart that you will take Zomato to heights that most cannot even imagine," Gupta said.

Replying to the mail, Deepinder Goyal thanked him for his efforts in helping in the company's journey in the last few years.

"Thank you, GG for everything you have helped Zomato achieve over the last few years. We have seen Zomato through great as well as terrible times together and brought it here today.

"There's so much of our journey still ahead of us, and I am thankful that you are hanging your boots at a point where we have a great team and leadership to carry us forward," Goyal said.

SKorea To Fine Google \$177M For Forcing Software On Devices

South Korea's competition watchdog plans to fine Google at least 207.4 billion won (\$177 million) for allegedly blocking smartphone makers like Samsung from using other operating systems, in what would be one of the country's biggest antitrust penalties ever.

The announcement on Tuesday came as South Korea also began enforcing a revised telecommunications law that prohibits app market operators like Google and Apple from requiring smartphone users to pay with their in-app purchasing systems. It is the first nation to adopt such regulations.

South Korea has always closely scrutinized how foreign technology companies behave in its market. Much of the focus in recent years has been on Google and Apple as officials vowed to prevent them from abusing their dominant market positions in mobile internet.

Joh Sung-wook, chairwoman of South

Korea's Fair Trade Commission, said Google has hampered competition since 2011 by obligating its electronics partners to sign "anti-fragmentation" agreements. This has prevented the companies from installing modified versions of Google's operating systems on devices like smartphones and smartwatches. That gave Google an easy way to cement its leadership in mobile software and app markets, she said.

Joh said manufacturers like Samsung and LG had to agree to the terms when signing contracts with Google for app store licensing or early access to computer codes so that they could build devices in advance before Google released new versions of its Android and other operating systems.

Samsung, the maker of the globally popular Galaxy Android phones, suffered a huge setback in 2013 when Google forced it to abort its plans to use a customized version of Google software on its Galaxy Gear smartwatches. PTI



SHORT TAKES

Taliban Is In Afghanistan, Let Us Talk About Farmers, Issues Of Our Country: Mehbooba

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Lets talk about problems faced by people in this country rather than Afghanistan, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said on Tuesday, having faced flak over her recent statement referring to the Taliban.

She alleged that the BJP government has made the lives of the people miserable. The government is not listening to anyone, including the farmers who are on the roads for the past nine months, Mufti added.

"Taliban are in Afghanistan and why talk about them? We have a lot of issues, the biggest being the farmers' protest and the issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir which was bifurcated, rampant corruption and the lack of development. "They are claiming that Article



370 was removed for parity but even tenders for our minor minerals and jobs are given to outsiders. Taliban is there but let's talk about our issues as the BJP has made the condition of the people of our country so miserable that they are not even able to buy ration," she told reporters in Poonch, where she reached on the first leg of her over a week-long tour of Jammu region.

Reacting to a question about the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mufti

said farmers provide food for the people of the country but the BJP government has left them on the roads.

"This government is unmoved, which is very unfortunate. They are talking a lot but the fact of the matter is that they do not respect anyone," she claimed.

Last week, the PDP chief had said the Taliban had come to the fore as a reality and advised them to follow the true Sharia law that guarantees rights of

women, children, and the elderly if they want to govern Afghanistan.

The comment led to criticism by sections of the media as well as on social media platforms.

A day later, she said she was not surprised her statement on Sharia was deliberately distorted and used as 'click bait' because Muslims are always expected to prove they don't stand for violence.

Responding to a question on the upcoming Assembly elections in the union territory, Mufti said, "Election is not my objective. My stand is clear that I will continue my struggle for restoration of the prestige, identity and rights of our people which were snatched from us unconstitutionally. I will continue to work to seek a solution to the Kashmir problem so that bloodshed is stopped."

Delhi Riots: HC Denies Bail To Two In Murder Case In View Of Egregious Crime Scene Footage

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Tuesday refused bail to two persons in a case concerning the alleged murder of Delhi Police head constable Ratan Lal during the north-east Delhi riots in 2020, saying that the footage of the crime scene was quite egregious and sufficient to keep them in further custody.

However, Justice Subramoniam Prasad, in two other orders, granted bail to two persons in the same case, saying their presence at the crime scene and participation in the unlawful assembly would be tested during the trial.

The court said the bail is subject to them furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs 35,000 with one surety of the like amount and other conditions including the accused not leaving the city and periodically reporting to the concerned police station.

While rejecting bail of other two, the court stated that there was clinching evidence to show the presence of the accused persons, Sadiq and Irshad, who were in custody since April 2020 and December 2020, respectively, at the scene of crime.

The clinching evidence that tilts this Court to prolong the incarceration of the Petitioner is his presence in the video where in he is clearly identified at the Scene of Crime, holding a danda in one hand and pelting stones with his other hand at uniformed officials who at present around him, and are heavily and hopelessly outnumbered..The accused is not merely a curious onlooker, the court stated in one of the order while denying bail.

The fact that he actively participated and pelted stones at the Police Officials at the Scene of Crime justifies the invocation of Section 149 IPC read with Section 302 IPC in the

instant case, it added.

On the other hand, for the accused, Mohd Ayub and Shahnawaz, both in custody since March 2020, who were granted bail in the FIR, the court observed that there was no electronic evidence to place them at the scene of crime as a part of the unlawful mob and there cannot be an umbrella assumption of guilt.

When there is a crowd involved, at the juncture of grant or denial of bail, the Court must hesitate before arriving at the conclusion that every member of the unlawful assembly inhabits a common intention to accomplish the unlawful common object, it said.

Stating that bail is the rule and jail is the exception, the court asserted that it was its constitutional duty to ensure that there is no arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty in the face of excess of state power.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

US Eyes Indian

decisively as needed," they stressed, according to the White House.

Though terrorism continued to remain a threat and spread around the world, the US no longer required to deploy a large number of soldiers overseas to combat the menace as it had now developed the "over-the-horizon" capabilities of carrying out aerial surveillance and launch drones to eliminate such threats, they argued, justifying the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. But what may limit the US' capabilities of launching drone attacks on the intended targets in the region is the fact that some of the airbases it had earlier used for the purpose are no longer available to it after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. The nearest air bases the US can use are in Qatar, Kuwait and other countries in the Gulf far away from the Afghanistan-Pakistan region where the targets may be located – a fact Green pointed out while asking Blinken about the Biden Administration's discussion with New Delhi. New Delhi did not officially make any comment on Green's query or the reply given by Blinken.

PM Modi to visit US

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to the US later this month to meet US President Joe Biden, and participate in the first in-person Quad Summit-level meeting on 24 September, sources in New Delhi revealed.

Admin In Srinagar

violations as the district is contributing half of the total Covid-19 positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There will be a night inspection on the marriage functions in the district from this evening, and wherever the Covid violations will be found, there will be fines and FIRs against the violators," an official said.

The official said that as per the State Executive Committee (SEC), for the marriage parties, gathering of more than 25 people is prohibited, but there are reports of gross violations at marriage functions, as large gatherings are being invited, which is against the Covid-19 Sops and guidelines.

On Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir reported 150 new Covid-19 cases, half of them detected in Srinagar.

According to officials, out of 150 new cases detected on Tuesday, Kashmir Valley reported 112 cases and the remaining 38 were reported from Jammu division.

In Valley, Srinagar reported 75, Budgam 11, Baramulla 10, Pulwama 4, Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal 3 each, Anantnag 2 and Kulgam 1 new case of Covid-19. Shopian in south Kashmir reported no new case of coronavirus, the officials said.

Similarly, Reasi reported 10, Jammu 8, Doda 7, Rajouri 5, Poonch 4, Kishtwar 2, Kathua and Ramban 1 each new case of virus. No fresh case of virus was reported from Udhampur and Samba districts.

Also, officials said that 72 more Covid -19 patients have recovered—25 from Jammu and 47 from Kashmir.

They further said that the death toll remained at 4414 in J&K – 2168 in Jammu division and 2246 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported from the UT during the last 24 hours. However, one fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) was reported today, officials said.

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday said that anybody found without a mask in public places shall have to face strict action besides depositing fine as prescribed under Rules.

He said Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over and we are at the stage where adopting Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour is paramount to avoid the expected danger of 3rd wave of Covid -19 pandemic as predicted by health experts.

He also urged people of Srinagar to exhibit strict compliance to the government directions for larger public safety and health and follow COVID-19 related advisories and guidelines including use of Face Masks, maintaining Social Distancing.

He also appealed to traders and transporters to cooperate with district administration and strictly follow Covid-19 SOPs and precautions to control the Covid-19 infection.

Bihar Resident

cordoned off the area, the officials added.

According to the reports, two of the injured have been identified as Jitendar Kumar son of Mahesh Kumar, a resident of Bihar, Azhar Khurshid of Dalipora, Pulwama. They both were removed to district hospital Pulwama for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

Jammu Resident

the one who brought his luggage from Jammu.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Crime Branch started the verification of a viral handwritten note, a photo of which was posted on the Facebook account of Harmeet Singh, an accused in the murder of Wazir. According to the police, Singh has allegedly confessed to the crime in the post which went viral on social media.

Delhi Police Crime Branch said that it is verifying that whether the note was uploaded from Singh's Facebook account or a new account was created for this in his name. Delhi Police also interrogated the family of another accused in the case, Harpreet Singh, in Jammu.

On Friday, the FIR registered by Delhi Police in connection with Wazir's murder was transferred to the crime branch. As per the neighbours of the absconding accused Harpreet Singh, he was operating a new channel named 'Sadda Haq' from the apartment.

Earlier, on Friday, the Delhi Police had launched a search operation to nab suspects--Harpreet and Harmeet--in the murder case. As per the police, the murder was pre-planned and the flat in Moti Nagar where Wazir was murdered was rented in January. The accused had also informed the landlord beforehand that the flat would be vacated by September 10.

The police investigation also revealed that the murder was initially planned in July but could not be executed then. The motive of the murder is expected to be clear when both suspects are arrested.

LG's Advisor

Advisor Khan called for full support of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to UT of J&K under various schemes being implemented by the social welfare department through Women Development Corporation, SC/ST/OBC Corporation and other concerned agencies.

"They also deliberated on various issues of development, welfare schemes and overall development of union territory," the official spokesperson said.

Barla, he said, assured all possible help and support to the J&K in implementing various schemes.

India Upset Over

the Human Rights Council.

Sandhu said India's approach to global promotion and protection of human rights is based on "our own experience as a pluralistic and inclusive society and vibrant democracy."

She said India believes that promotion and protection of human rights are best pursued through dialogue, consultation and cooperation among States and through provision of technical assistance and capacity building.

"Any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in a transparent and impartial manner, anchored in respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of States," she said.

UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet on Monday described as "worrying" India's use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as well as "frequent" temporary communication blackouts in Jammu and Kashmir.

In her opening statement at the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Bachelet acknowledged the Indian government's efforts to "counter terrorism" and promote development in Jammu and Kashmir but said such "restrictive measures can result in human rights violations and foster further tensions and discontent".

Sandhu said that India's Constitution enshrines basic human rights as fundamental rights. Our Parliament, independent judiciary, vibrant media and civil society ensure full enjoyment of human rights by our people, she added.

On Afghanistan, Sandhu said the situation in the country continues to be of grave concern and added that the UN Security resolution 2593 should guide the international community's approach to Afghanistan.

The resolution, adopted under India's presidency of the Security Council in August, reaffirms the importance of upholding human rights incising those of women, children and minorities, allowing safe passage for those wanting to leave Afghanistan and ensuring unhindered access for humanitarian assistance, she said, adding that the international community must stand with the people of Afghanistan in their desire to live in peace and dignity.

Centre Seeks

General SV Raju added that the questions before the Supreme Court included issues concerning the commencement of investigation under PMLA.

Senior counsel Nitya Ramakrishnan, representing Mufti, said that the matter was ripe for hearing before the high court.

I'm happy if we can move (Supreme Court) together, she added.

On September 9, the court had listed Mufti's plea for final disposal on September 14.

Mufti, in her plea filed in March, has sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3) of the Constitution.

Section 50 of the Act empowers the authority, that is, officers of ED, to summon any person to give evidence or produce records. All persons summoned are bound to answer the questions put to them and to produce the documents as required by the ED officers, failing which they can be penalized under the Act.

She has also challenged issuance of summons to her by the ED in a money laundering case and sought a stay which was refused by the court earlier.

The 61-year-old leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, was served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

Initially, the ED had summoned Mufti for March 15 but it did not insist for her personal appearance at that time. Thereafter, she was summoned for March 22.

Mufti, in her petition, said she has received summons from the ED under the provisions of the PMLA, purporting to call for 'evidence' on pain of punishment, whereas she is, to all intents and purposes, a subject of investigation.

"She has not been informed if she is being summoned as an accused or as a witness. She has also not been informed of what she is being summoned in connection with and the scheduled offence under the PMLA which gave rise to the proceedings in respect of which impugned summons has been issued to her. The petitioner is not the subject of investigation, nor is she an accused, in any of the scheduled offences to the best of her knowledge, the plea said.

The plea claimed that ever since Mufti was released from the preventive detention following the formal abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there have been a series of hostile acts by the State, against her, acquaintances and old family friends, who have all been summoned by the ED and a roving inquiry about her personal, political and financial affairs was made, in the course of which their personal devices have been seized.

Earlier, Solicitor General and advocate Amit Mahajan, representing the ED, had said there was no need to issue a formal notice to them as they are already appearing before the court and said they will file a short note on the issue of question of law.

Fighter Jets

was informed that more than three thousand college and school students are participating in the programme to witness the impressive maneuvers of IAF which will motivate them to dream about a career in IAF and in the aviation sector," he said.

The show being attended by 700 teachers, he said, will also develop passion among the students to give wings to their dreams

"On the occasion, the Div Com said that the main aim of the Air show is to motivate youth of the valley to join the Indian Air Force and to promote tourism in the region," the official spokesperson said.

During the demonstration, he said, the students will also be familiarized with the new technological advancements achieved and incorporated by the IAF while flying aircrafts in the sky over the world famous Dal Lake.

"He said that the meeting also discussed the transportation of students participating in the programme besides other arrangements for their facilitation," the official spokesperson said, adding "The Div Com directed the heads of educational institutions to ensure the participation of National Cadet Corps students."

He further said that Pole also impressed on the participants to educate those participating students about the strict observance of CAB guidelines.

"Furthermore, students will visit the stalls established at SKICC where they will be familiarized with the achievements of the Air Force, employment opportunities in IAF, recruitment rules, eligibility criteria etc," he added.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Director Colleges, Principals of Womens' and SP colleges, General Manager SRTC, other officers and Principals of various Private and Government schools.

Modi Govt

"The Minister said that the Government of India has a number of welfare schemes for every section of the society and insisted people to get benefits from these schemes properly," he said, adding that Barla also visited public park Zangali Kupwara where he interacted with the senior civil and police officers of the administration.

In the afternoon, he said, the Minister inspected stalls of ICDS, Rurban Mission, Social Welfare, Handicrafts and inspected the quality of different items of skill development including Kani Shawls, Crewl and knitting items at Government Degree College Kupwara. He said that Barla also participated in the Poshan Abhiyaan activities, the PMS' overarching scheme for Holistic Nourishment at the auditorium of the college, organized by ICDS department.

"Addressing the function, the Minister complimented the ICDS workers for their commendable job during the challenging times of COVID-19. He said that he was impressed by the work culture of ICDS in Kupwara and wished that the same should be replicated in other parts of India," he added.

First Women Industrial

Pashu Sakhi, besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further accelerate efforts of J&K government in Empowering Women and making them key partner in UT's development journey," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, outlined that DIGI-Pay Sakhi has introduced financial inclusion with in the UT's Self Help Group (SHG) ecosystem, creating much needed financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.

"Apart from depositing money, the village population can also avail the benefits of the additional banking and financial services such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana, registration of Kisan Credit Card etc," the LG said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG underscored that it was due to the visionary efforts of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi that the vast marginalized section of our country's population got connected to the formal financial system through the Trinity of JAM- Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile.

"We are following the ideals of the Prime Minister and creating new mediums to take the banking services to the doorsteps of the people. Sustained efforts to achieve financial inclusion have empowered the deprived sections by giving financial assistance, benefits of PM-Kisan, increased wages under MNRREGA during the Corona pandemic," Sinha said.

While highlighting the contribution of women in the rural informal sector, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said the initiatives like Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi will go a long way in empowering our women in agriculture and the allied sector.

The LG, he said, asserted that the development of a family, society, region, country, world and humanity is incomplete without women empowerment and said that the UT the administration is taking several ground-breaking steps to transform the lives of women of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those living in rural areas by engaging them into gainful livelihood interventions.

He said that the LG also announced that a first of its kind, Women Industrial Estate will come up at Udhampur Industrial Estate, further strengthening the Women Entrepreneurs Ecosystem in J&K.

"With increasing female literacy rate; providing access to quality education; encouraging more and more women to become entrepreneurs, and providing financial support for the upliftment of women, J&K is leading by an example in terms of women empowerment, Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

He said that the LG also made a special mention of women folks from across the UT who are inspiring others and lauded their contribution for building a developed and prosperous Jammu Kashmir.

On the occasion, Sinha, he said, directed the Rural Livelihoods Mission, J&K to train DIGI-Pay Sakhis in 360° financial services training courses run by BSE in J&K.

"On August 15, the country celebrated its 75th Independence Day with great festivity. Now, the golden opportunity of the next 25 years is before us for the centenary celebrations of Independence and we must strengthen our resolve to establish an egalitarian society without gender discrimination; giving women their due rights in the society," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

"The way the new consciousness has come in the society, the goal of socio-economic independence of women can be achieved," he added.

The official spokesperson said that Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on occasion highlighted the Government's vision for women empowerment in J&K.

"He urged the DIGI-Pay Sakhis to spread awareness among rural women to avail maximum benefits of various central and UT schemes. He said that the Digi-Pay Sakhis will have a key role in giving wings to the dreams of rural women in becoming independent and progressive women," he added.

The official spokesperson said that earlier Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, Mission Director, JKRLM gave a detailed presentation on the targets and plan for empowering Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis, and DIGI-Pay Sakhis. She said that under UMEED scheme, rural women are being empowered and are becoming entrepreneurs, showing the path to many other women.

Initially, the DIGI-Pay facility will be provided in 2000 remote villages of the UT and in the first phase, 80 women from Self Help Groups from across the Jammu and Kashmir Division have been selected as DIGI-Pay Sakhis.

"On the occasion, the Lt Governor distributed 80 Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs) among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under JKRLM. He also inaugurated a week-long training program for Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis on sustainable agriculture and livestock management," the official spokesperson added.

Govt To Provide

were provided to specially-abled persons across the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Chief Secretary approved annual plan for 2021-22 worth Rs. 8.91 crore to provide financial assistance to 7,186 beneficiaries as a relief measure for victims of militancy. The financial assistance will be provided through direct benefit transfer (DBT) in the aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of the beneficiaries," the official spokesperson said.

Further, he said, under the approved annual plan, 683 orphans will also be covered under a scholarship scheme to extend financial assistance amounting to Rs. 61.47 lakh.

"Additionally, keeping in consideration the special needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs), the Chief Secretary asked the Department to expeditiously conduct survey for providing prosthetic aid to the beneficiaries and saturate the demand within 4 months," he added.

Woman Injured

afternoon, reports said. The woman sustained injuries in the bear attack. She was immediately removed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

However, the doctors there referred her to SKIMS for advanced treatment, reports said.

Man Falls From

doctors declared him brought dead on arrival, according to news agency GNS.

A police officer confirmed the incident.

Cobra Among

The cobra was rescued from a sheep farm in Belicharana area, while six-foot Royal snake and five-foot water snake were saved from Jewel chowk and the Jammu Railway station, respectively, he said.

He said the wildlife team acted swiftly after getting information about the presence of these snakes, which were later released in the wild.

"Our snake rescue teams are working round-the-clock and are rescuing six snakes daily on an average from the city and its peripheral areas," the official said, requesting the people to cooperate with the department in rescuing such reptiles.

He said majority of the snake species in Jammu are non-venomous and there is no need to panic after spotting a snake.

"Barring Cobra, Russel Viper and Krait, the rest of the snake species found in Jammu and adjoining areas are non-poisonous. Our expert team is just a call away to get into action if a snake is found," the officer said.

Ladakh Reports

hospitals on Sunday, thereby taking the number of recoveries to 20,371, which accounts for 98.8 percent, officials said.

All the four fresh cases Tuesday were reported in Leh, they said.

A total of 1,894 sample reports in Ladakh, including 546 in Leh and 1,348 in Kargil, were found negative, they said.

There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh Monday.

Maqsood Sports XII Wins WPL Final



Agencies

WATHOORA: Maqsood Sports XII defeated KCC Panzipora on Tuesday in the final match of Wathoora Premier League (WPL) played at Shah Qalandar Sports Stadium in Wathoora Budgam.

After winning the toss Maqsood Sports XII chose to bat first. They made 190 runs in 20 overs for the loss of eight wickets. In reply, KCC Panzipora could not chase such a huge target and most of its players were

lost their wickets while chasing the 190 run score.

Maqsood Sports managed to bowl out KCC Panzipora for a partly score of 120 runs. Maqsood Dar was declared man of the match for his all-round performance of 74 runs and 3 wickets. Lateef Dar was declared man of the tournament.

Social activist and Chairman, RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat was guest of honour during the final match and distributed trophies among the winners and runner up teams.

DC Rajouri Flags Off 5-Day Trekking Expedition



Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajesh K Shavan on Tuesday flagged off a group of 250 youth for a 5-day trekking expedition to Dokhs of Peer Panjal from the base camp Darhal.

ADDC, Pawan Kumar, ARTO, Shami Kumar and DIO, Narinder Kumar and other officers and officials were also present on the occasion.

"The objective of the trekking expedition is to promote national integration and imbibe a spirit of adventure in the youth, build self-confidence and enhance their awareness about the environment, local flora and

fauna," the DC said.

"Exchange of ideas in the lap of nature and experiencing adventure will help you in overall character development and see the world more vividly," the DC told the trekking group.

He informed them that adequate arrangements have been put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of the trekking expedition and more such expeditions will be organised on regular intervals.

The DC said that this is for the first time that the trekkers from within and outside the district are going on an expedition to the Dokhs of the Peer Panjal.

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IN THE LAP of nature and experiencing adventure will help you in overall character development and see the world more vividly."

4 Matches Played In DFA Srinagar Annual League 2021



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four matches were played on Tuesday in the ongoing DFA Srinagar Annual League Football Tournament 2021 here.

Two matches were played in the Super Division League at Synthetic Turf ground, TRC.

The first match between Real Kashmir U-18 and Galaxy FC ended as a 2-2 draw. Galaxy FC scored the first goal in the 12th minute via Faheem Ahmad. The Galaxy team held on to its solitary goal till the end of the first.

The young Snow Leopards, however, came out flying in the second half and scored the

equaliser through Faizan. Galaxy players kept pushing and were rewarded with a goal in the 45th minute of the match.

Real Kashmir boys managed to find another equaliser in the 53rd minute. With the score at 2-2 both teams had chances to win the game. Ultimately the match ended as a 2-2 draw.

Both teams qualified for the 2nd round of the Super Division league with 5 points each from their respective pool.

In Super Division second match, Hamdaniya FC took Young Iqbal FC. The match was equally balanced and saw the first half end with a 0-0 scoreline. Hamdaniya FC,

however, took the lead in the 50th minute through Firdous Ahmad. The Young Iqbal team tried to equalise but failed. The match ended 1-0 in favour of Hamdaniya FC.

Over in the 'A' Division League two matches were played on Tuesday at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match between Al Hilal FC, Padshahi Bagh and Blossom FC, Soura ended in a goalless draw.

The second match of the 'A' Division saw Towheed FC, Anchar defeat Majeed Bagh FC, Sanat Nagar by a 1-0 margin.

Both the Super Division League and the 'A' Division League are being organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

ARCO FC Lifts Hajin Soccer Cup, Defeats Wahab Sports In Final

Observer News Service

HAJIN: ARCO FC won the 1st Hajin Soccer Cup by defeating the Wahab Sports Hajin 3-1 in the final played at Sports Ground, Hajin.

Strong favourites, ARCO FC displayed brilliant play of football, keeping possession of the ball for maximum time in the field.

ARCO's first goal came in the 15th minute of the match when Danish put the ball in the net. ARCO FC doubled their lead in the 30th minute via a goal from midfielder Mehraj-ud-Din.

Two goals down, Wahab Sports players created a few goal scoring opportunities and managed to pull one back through Shafat in the 35th minute to make it 2-1 at the end of the first half of the match.

In the second half, the ARCO FC tried to keep possession of



the ball and waited to hit Wahab Sports Hajin on the counter.

In the 55th minute of the game, Kamran scored the third goal for ARCO to effectively put the tie to bed. ARCO FC lifted the first edition

Hajin Soccer Cup, much to the delight of its players and coaching staff.

"A lot of efforts went into this win. With your support and love ARCO FC beat Wahab Hajin by 3-1 scoreline," a statement from the club said.

446 Students Participate In Selection Trial In Ramban



Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Inter -School Zonal Level tournament and selection trials in different disciplines including Kho-Kho, Volleyball and Kabaddi were organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Ramban.

The tournament and the selection trials were held under the overall supervision of District Youth Service and

Sports Officer, Dharamvir Singh. ZEPOs of all participating zones including Banihal, Khari and Gool also conducted the selection trial at their respective headquarters with the efforts of field staff.

It was informed that a total 446 students and players from different Zones participated in the tournament/selection trial which included 181 boys in Banihal, 66 boys in Khari and 199 both boys and girls in Gool zone.

Lasith Malinga Retires From All Forms Of Cricket

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after terrorising the world's best batsmen for over a decade and a half with his toe-crushing yorkers delivered from a low and distinct sling-arm action.

A white ball legend in his own right and one of the greatest T20 bowlers, the 38-year-old was captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup winning team. He posted a message on his social media account announcing his decision.

"Hanging up my T20 shoes and retiring from all forms of cricket! Thankful to all those who supported me in my journey, and looking forward to sharing my experience with young cricketers in the years to come," Malinga tweeted.

Malinga last played a T20I match for Sri Lanka in March 2020 against West Indies in Palallekele.

Malinga, who took a total of 546 wickets across all formats for Sri Lanka, had already retired from Test cricket in 2011 and after that from ODIs as well but continued to play T20Is for the national side.

He wasn't named in Sri Lanka's squad for upcoming World Cup.

Last year, he had expressed his desire to lead Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, which was originally scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November 2020 but will be held next month after a COVID-forced postponement.

"I am looking forward to help youngsters and guide them in the coming years," he said as he thanked his national team and all the franchises that he has played for, including IPL team Mumbai Indians.

Malinga, who has played a staggering 122 IPL matches, has 170 wickets to his credit, the highest in the cash-rich league, with the best bowling figures of 5/13.

He picked up 107 wickets in 84 T20 Internationals, 338 scalps in 226 ODIs and 101 wickets in 30 Tests.

Malinga, one of the best T20 bowlers of all time, was a key figure in the teams he played for in the Indian Premier League, the Big Bash League, the Caribbean Premier League and other franchise tournaments.

A fearsome pacer known for his menacing yorkers, the leading wicket-taker in T20I also has two T20I hat-tricks to his name.

Malinga also picked up three hat-tricks in ODI cricket, with his performance against South Africa in the 2007 World Cup in West Indies etched in history.

J&K Open 2021 Golf Tournament From September 15

Olympian Golfer Udayan Mane To Participate

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Tourism and, India's official golf sanctioning body, Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), on Tuesday announced 'J&K Open 2021 Presented by J&K Tourism', all set to be held at Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) from September 15 to 18 here.

The event will witness the participation of 125 golfers (119 professionals and six amateurs) and will carry a prize money of INR 40 lakh. The Pro-Am event will be held on September 19.

The announcement was made in a press conference attended by Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, Director Tourism, Kashmir, GN Ittoo, Director, SKICC and Secretary RSGC, Bakshi Humayun Javid and representatives of PGTI and other national golfers.

"The tournament is part of J&K Tourism's great initiative of promoting golf tourism in the region. J&K is blessed with some spectacular golf courses such as Royal Springs Golf Course (Srinagar), Pahalgam Golf Course (Lidder Valley), Gulmarg Golf Club and Jammu Tawi Golf Course. These courses provide a mesmerizing experience to golfers," an announcement said.

Famous golfer and Olympian, Udayan Mane will participate in the J&K Open 2021. The tournament will feature some of the popular players including Jyoti Randhawa and PGTI Order of Merit leader Karandeep Kochhar. International winners such as



Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi, Viraj Madappa and Chikkarangappa S (former winner at Adyal Springs Golf Course) and other leading Indian players such as Aman Raj, Kshitij Naveed Kaul and Manu Gandas will also participate in the tournament.

"The foreign challenge will be led by the Bangladeshi duo of Md Zamal Hossain Mollah and Badal Hossain," the announcement said.

"The local challenge will be led by J&K professionals such as Bhawani Singh Parmar, Pawan Parihar, Fayaz Ahmed Langoo and Raghav Wahi as well as amateurs such as Sanjeev Dugra, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Zubair Hasan Zargar, Arsalan Rah, Adnan Rah and Umar Yaqoob Mir."

"The tournament is supported by Presenting Partner J&K Tourism, Principal Partner J&K Golf Development & Management Authority, Hos Venue Royal Springs Golf Course and Associate

Partner Incredible India," the announcement added.

The professional golfing body, PGTI will organise only its 3rd tournament of the season after a 5 month COVID break.

Speaking on the announcement, CEO PGTI, Uttam Singh Mundy said that staging of the J&K Open 2021 is another positive trend for the PGTI.

"The tournament is in line with our long-term objective of promoting professional golf in different parts of the country in order to grow the sport further. We appreciate the support of J&K Tourism, J&K Golf Development & Management Authority and the Royal Springs Golf Course in helping us stage this event. We are confident the professional golfers will have a delightful experience while competing in the divine setting of the Royal Springs Golf Course," he added.

E-Bidding For New IPL Teams On October 17

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The BCCI is planning to have an e-bidding for the two new IPL teams on October 17 and the bids to buy the sides can be made till October 5.

"The Board is planning to have the bidding on 17th October and it will be an e-bidding," sources in the know of things told PTI on Tuesday. The BCCI had on August 31 invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5.

"The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids to acquire the right to own and operate 1 (one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process," the BCCI had said in a statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT."

"However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the cricket body had said.

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

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

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

Chelsea Open Title Defense In Champions League, Barca Face Bayern

Manchester United Face Young Boys While Juventus Prepare For A Visit To Malmö

Agencies

LONDON: Barcelona's ability to compete in Europe without Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann will be put to the test when it hosts the team that dealt the Spanish side its most humiliating defeat in recent memory.

The 8-2 shellacking Bayern Munich handed Barcelona in the 2020 Champions League quarterfinals marked the beginning of the end of the Messi era. The financial troubles that kept Barcelona from re-signing Messi also forced it to loan Griezmann back to Atletico Madrid.

Ronald Koeman has to find a way to account for the 58 goals the two forwards scored last season. That task falls to Memphis Depay, who has made a promising start at Camp Nou with two goals in three Spanish league matches. Koeman should also have Spain stand-out Pedri Gonzalez back in his lineup after the young midfielder rested for two weeks after playing both the European Championship and the Tokyo Olympics. Robert Lewandowski travels after recovering from a groin problem sustained in Saturday's 4-1 win over Leipzig.

Serge Gnabry has traveled with the squad but is an injury doubt after hurting his back in the same game. Benfica is back in the group stage after a year away and visits Dynamo Kyiv.



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Cristiano Ronaldo's first Champions League game for Manchester United since losing the 2009 final to Barcelona will be on the only plastic pitch in the competition. Swiss champion Young Boys uses an artificial surface at Wankdorf Stadium that then-United boss Jose Mourinho complained about to UEFA ahead of the teams' opening group game three years ago. United won that evening 3-0, with Paul Pogba scoring twice, ahead of finishing runner-up in a group won by Ronaldo and Juventus.

Ronaldo was on the losing side the last time he played at Wankdorf Stadium in December 2018, though Juventus had already advanced. Unai Emery's Villarreal hosts Atalanta in its return to the Champions League after 10 years. The Spanish club made it back by

defeating Manchester United in the Europa League final last season. Atalanta is making its third consecutive appearance.

It's been six years since Wolfsburg last played in the Champions League group stage. The key to its success has been a solid defense. In the Bundesliga last season, Wolfsburg's 37 goals conceded was fewer than every other team except Leipzig, and it has started this season with four wins and only one goal conceded.










It plays defending French champion Lille, which has won only once in five games so far in its new domestic campaign and conceded 11 goals. Lille coach Jocelyn Gourvennec will be without former Bayern Munich player Renato Sanches, who is out injured alongside Jonathan Bamba and Timothy Weah. Sevilla hosts Salzburg to begin what will be its fifth Champions League campaign in the last seven seasons.



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