



P6 THINK

MAKES MOSQUES INCLUSIVE AGAIN

The life and teachings of the Prophet of Islam and the Quran demonstrate the inclusive, merciful and compassionate nature of Islam. Within the holy life of the Prophet himself, we come across incidents where the Prophet embraced not only...

P7

THE MIND-HEART-BODY CONNECTION

COVID-19 pandemic has created devastations across globe by claiming millions of lives and infecting millions over the world. The current pandemic has a devastating impact in terms of case numbers and deaths, and thus the pandemic is regarded as the greatest challenge the world has



P11 SPORTS

ASHWIN HITS BACK, ASKS MORGAN TO 'STOP TAKING MORAL HIGH GROUND'

An angry Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday asked Eoin Morgan and Tim Southee to not use "derogatory" words and lecture him on 'Spirit of Cricket' by taking a moral



Quote!

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

—Yakov Smirnoff

NEWS DIGEST

Petrol And Diesel Price Hiked Again

Auto fuel petrol and diesel prices rose simultaneously after a day on Thursday while petrol prices increased by 25 paise per litre to Rs 101.64 a litre, according to Indian Oil Corporation, country's largest fuel retailer. Diesel prices have now increased for five days in the last one week taking up ● [More On P10](#)

CB Charges Man Posing As Minister

SRINAGAR: Crime Branch Kashmir has produced a charge sheet against a "notorious fraudster" for impersonating as minister(s) and bureaucrat(s) by using spoof call application to extract money from various government servants, officials said on Thursday. The Chargesheet in ● [More On P10](#)

Ammunition Recovered In Rajouri

JAMMU: Security forces have recovered ammunition during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said Thursday. During a search operation launched in Targain-Jalan area of Budhal tehsil, security forces recovered a pocket kept hidden under a boulder ● [More On P10](#)

Facebook User Booked For Abusing NT

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday lodged a formal case against a Facebook user for allegedly resorting to 'abusive language' against a middle-rung revenue official in Handwara in north-Kashmir's Kupwara. An official said that ● [More On P10](#)

3 Students Injured As Van Hits Pole

SRINAGAR: At least three students from Army Goodwill School Krasan received injuries after a private-owned vehicle ferrying them met with an accident on Thursday afternoon in Salwan Lolab in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district. Reports said that the incident occurred after the ● [More On P10](#)

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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Strife, Stress, Spirituality: Kashmir In Grip Of 'Infertility Epidemic'?

Zaid Bin Shabir

A haunting darkness wrapped the old-fashioned lawns of the Shah House in Srinagar when a dreadful knock on the door raised an alarm.

The clock was yet to turn past 6 pm, but the last night's melodrama and the vicious verbal abuse was still pounding Shahana's restless heart. Like a recluse waiting for her proportion of a peaceful life, she already forgave his sins. But one fussy accusation

simply shook her up: "You're a bloody barren!"

Deep down, she was thinking that it was her existence that had been thrown into an indictment, but it was nothing new for her.

For the past few years, Shahana's in-laws had already turned the torrent of abuse into a normalcy in her life but the latest indictment proved to be the last nail in the coffin of dreams as it came from her beloved.

There were marriages in her family that had fallen



apart quite easily, as if they had been perforated from

the very beginning but that wasn't the case with her life.

The first two years of her marriage had proved to be a "subtle art of a healthy relationship" but then, the bracing relation adopted an ugly side. The couple tried every medical solution, but to their chagrin, it proved nothing more than a debacle.

And then the childless woman became the freshly inducted sight of taunts. Her relatives asked her to sit far from their children, her in-laws called her barren—even as the test reports had proved otherwise—and her husband termed her

existence an evil in his life.

As the nerve-jerking insult of the previous night was still sinking in her, she opened the door. In a flash, a weary man with sunken eyes rushed inside. As he stepped inside home, Shahana was once again forced to bear the normalised verbal abuse. "You should be ashamed of yourself," she was greeted. "It's you who has forced me to do this!"

She was confused over how to react to her husband's words but stood there staring at him nonchalantly. ● [More On P10](#)

Grievance Of Every Kashmiri Will Be Resolved: MoS Home

Compliments Troops On Maintaining High Morale, Motivation In Difficult Terrain
Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai said on Thursday that the people of Kashmir have shown their interest in peace and development and the grievance of every Kashmiri would be resolved in a time bound manner.

Rai, who reached this border district on Wednesday for a three day visit, made these remarks while addressing Block Development Council (BDC) Chairpersons, PRIs and public deputations, an official spokesperson said. He further said that the Minister stated that the Union Government is taking all possible efforts to ensure sustainable development and peace in Kashmir.

According to the official spokesperson, the BDCs, PRIs



and the deputations projected demands of their respective areas to which the Minister assured to resolved the same on priority basis.

"The Union Minister assured them that grievance of every Kashmiri would be resolved in a time bound manner, adding that the people of Kashmir have shown their interest in peace and development," he said

He further said that later, the Minister visited Sector HQ Border Security Forces Kupwara, where ● [More On P10](#)

Kashmir Cradle of Knowledge: Sarkar
Observer News Service

Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar on Thursday said that Kashmir has always remained the cradle of education and knowledge and the youth are much talented and productive.

The Minister made these remarks during his visit to Baramulla district where he carried out several developmental activities having larger public significance, as part of Government of India's special outreach programme to the UT of J&K, an official spokesperson said.

Speaking at Government Higher Secondary School Pattan, he said, the Minister expressed delight over his interaction with the students and said that the Union government is very keen to fulfill the educational aspirations of J&K.

"He added that Kashmir had always remained the cradle of education and knowledge, besides terming the youth as much ● [More On P10](#)

...J&K BANK LOAN FRAUD CASE

ED Attaches 145 Cr Assets Of Spices Company

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth over Rs 145 crore of a Bengaluru-based spices company in a money laundering probe linked to an alleged loan fraud in the J&K Bank.

The agency said in a statement issued on Wednesday that a factory building, shops, flats and lands of the company, S A Rawther Spices Pvt Ltd, and others were provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The total value of the attached properties is Rs 145.26 crore, it said.

The ED case stems from an FIR filed by the anti-corruption bureau of the J-K Police against the company and its promoter director Syed Anish Rawther, the then



manager of J&K Bank branch located at BU Infantry Road in Bengaluru and other officials of the same bank, in August, 2019.

"In the FIR, it was alleged that S A Rawther Spices Pvt Ltd defaulted loan and was declared NPA (non performing asset) in September, 2017. Net amount of Rs 285.81 crore was outstanding with the company besides unapplied interest of Rs 66.91 crore against mortgaged collateral property of ● [More On](#)

110 New Cases, 153 Recoveries In 24 Hours

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 110 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while 153 more patients have recovered from the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Officials said that 84 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 26 from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 329430.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported a maximum of 45 cases followed by Baramulla with 15, Budgam 7, Anantnag and Bandipora 5 each Ganderbal 4, Kupwara 2, and Kulgam one new case of coronavirus. No fresh case was detected in the twin districts of Pulwama and Shopian in south Kashmir.

Moreover, the officials said that 153 more patients have recovered—26 from Jammu Division and 127 from Kashmir.

There was no ● [More On P10](#)

LG, Reddy Discuss Development Of Tourism Sector
Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Union minister for culture, tourism, development of North East region G Kishan Reddy on Thursday discussed growth and development of tourism sector in the Union Territory (UT).

Officials said Mr Reddy, who arrived here as a part of Government of India (GoI) outreach programme, met LG Sinha at Raj Bhavan here Thursday, officials said.

They discussed several issues, particularly on growth and development of tourism sector in the UT. The minister will also discuss difficulties of the valley and interact with Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI), tourism department officials and others.

Tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the valley suffered major jolt due to ● [More On P10](#)

13 Tribals Booked For Attempting Land Grab



Aaqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police have filed a case against 13 tribals for allegedly attempting to grab forest land in Raiyar village of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

According to officials, the First Information Report (FIR) was filed against 13 tribals under section 379 (Punishment for theft) /427 (Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) of Indian Penal Court (IPC). All the 13 people have been accused of

trespassing the forest land and damaging the fence erected by the forest department.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) OF Pir Panjal Division Budgam, Muhammad Ashraf Katoo told Kashmir Observer that FIR was registered on their complaint on September 17 against a group of individuals who had trespassed the forest land and sealed fencing of the department in an attempt to encroach the land.

Ravinder Singh, Station House Officer (SHO) Khanshaib, ● [More On P10](#)

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Friday | 01-10-2021

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مضمون درخواست منجانب - مذہبہ انویوہ عبدالغنی ابوساکنہ ثنائی
بہر شمول ذیل پیش سرٹفلٹ

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمیں سالنے ایک درخواست ہمارا سوشل کاسٹ سرٹفلٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالہ کا شوہر عبدالغنی ابوساکنہ ثنائی مورخہ 16-09-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اسطور متوفی کے افراد کنبہ بذیل ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ ہمارا ثنائی	پیشہ	عمر
01	مذہبہ انویوہ عبدالغنی ابوساکنہ	زویہ	گھریلو کام	55 سال
02	شیر احمد ولد عبدالغنی ابوساکنہ	پسر	زمینداری	35 سال
03	پربینہ بانو دختر عبدالغنی ابوساکنہ	دختر	گھریلو کام	33 سال

انکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنبہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ لہذا سرٹفلٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار ذکر کیے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریک اصرار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ ہندو پور)

RNA

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

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been received from owner Shri Gh Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Bhat R/o Reshipora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Syed Intiyaz Hussain S/o Syed Mohammad Abbas R/o Raies Abad Mirgund Budgam .as Transferee) for transfer of HGV Tipper Carriage route permit No.1154/ Gc/ Budgam vehicle No. JK048 -2697. Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/BUDGAM. 3448
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 23/09/2021 Budgam Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES
SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)**

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar. | www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTICE

Subject: Revised/ Final Answer Keys of the Computer based Objective Type Written Examination (CBT) for various posts of Health & Medical Education Department conducted from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021-regarding.

The revised answer key(s), pursuant to disposal of the representations/ objections submitted by the candidates in respect of Computer based Objective Type Written Examination (CBT) for various posts of Health & Medical Education Department advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2021, conducted from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021, will be available for viewing of the candidates on JKSSB's official website www.jkssb.nic.in from **30-09-2021 to 03-10-2021**. The candidates are required to login with their Roll No. and Date Birth to view the Response Sheet/Revised Answer Keys, no further claim in this regard shall be entertained.

It is further clarified for information of the candidates that;

- The candidates having marked either of the options as answering option for the questions where two Answering Options are reflected, will be awarded full marks (one Mark).
- Pursuant to Regulation XV (17) of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations 2013, the marks in nullified/deleted questions shall be allocated equally amongst rest of the valid questions on pro-rata basis so that maximum marks of the question Paper remain the same.

No. SSB/COE/2021/ 6436-43 (Ashok Kumar) KAS,
Dated:29-09-2021 Controller of Examination
DIPK-9707/21 Services Selection Board Jammu

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM, KASHMIR

KASHMIR HAAT, EXHIBITION GROUNDS SRINAGAR
Email: dir.handicraft@jk.gov.in

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir is contemplating to organize various Handicraft exhibitions at different prominent places outside the UT in forthcoming winter season. In this regard applications are invited from the interested registered Handicraft Artisans, Unit Holders, Cooperative Societies, Weavers and Exporters. The applications can be submitted in the office of concerned District Assistant Directors, Handicrafts/Handloom, Assistant Registrars, Assistant Director (Export Promotion) Kashmir Haat or in the Office of Development Section, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir Haat, Srinagar by or before 07.10.2021.

**Sd/- Joint Director
Handloom, Kashmir**

DIPK-9750/21

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MODERN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING

SHEIKHPORA

LIST OF MANAGING BODY

S.no	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
1	Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Bukhari	Syed Abdul Rashid Bukhari	Sheikhpora	B.A	Business	Chairman
2	Bashir Ahmad Sofi	Abdul Rehman Sofi	Sheikhpora	TDC	Business	Parent/Member
3	Syeda Shabeena	Syed Mohd Muzafar	Kreeri	B.A, B.Ed	Principal Of The School	Member
4	Showkat Ahmad Bhat	Habibullah Bhat	Kreeri	B.A, B.Ed	Teacher Of The School	Member
5	Irshad Ahmad Khan	Ghulam Nabi Khan	Sheikhpora	TDC	Business	Parent/Member
6	Suriya Amin	Mohd Amin Zargar	Kreeri	B.A	Teacher Of The School	Member

Note: Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the worthy Director School Education Srinagar Kashmir with in Seven days from the date of publication of list of Managing body.

FEE STRUCTURE YEAR 2021 - 21

S.NO	CLASS	MONTHLY TUITION FEE	YEARLY DUES
1	LKG	365	270
2	UKG	370	280
3	1st	375	410
4	2nd	380	420
5	3rd	390	430
6	4th	395	450
7	5th	405	450
8	6th	420	475
9	7th	450	475

Note: 1) Orphan students are free category.
2) Poor students are 50% discount of tuition fee.
3) The 3rd child of a parent is free.

Sd/- Chairman

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
E-mail:ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: Change of Registration Certificate of Paying Guest House "Himalayan Resorts" situated at Brain Pehloo, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Shalla and others S/D/o Late Mohammad Subhan Shalla R/o Nehru Park Srinagar have applied to this office for change in registration Certificate of Paying Guest House under the name and style "Himalayan Resorts" situated at Brain Pehloo Srinagar as the owner has expired as per the death certificate submitted by the applicants.

Whereas, the unit registered with this office vide Reg. No. Reg./1634/DT/L1-4 dated 26/12/2012 and renewed up to 31/03/2022 in the name of Mr. Mohammad Subhan Shalla S/o Abdul Razaq Shalla R/o Brain Nishat, Srinagar.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted following document for change in the registration certificate: -

1. Photo copy of Registration Certificate.
2. Death certificate of Mohammad Subhan Shalla
3. Legal Hire Certificate.
4. General power of Attorney.
5. Irrevocable power of Attorney
6. Police character certificate.
7. Affidavit
8. Newspaper cutting.

Whereas, in the Irrevocable power of Attorney duly registered by the Sub Registrar it is mentioned that Bashir Ahmad Shalla S/o Late Mohammad Subhan Shalla R/o Abi karpura is the Attorney Holder/caretaker of the above PGH with the conditions that the attorney is not meant for sale/alienation of the unit.

Now therefore, before the request of the applicant for change in registration certificate of said unit is considered under Tourist Trade act and Rsules. The matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc., that incase of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and the change shall be entertained under rules after submission of all documents/Formalities.

No. Reg. /PGH/135/36 /DTK
Dated: - 29/08/2021

**SD/-
Deputy Director Tourism
Registration Kashmir**

DIPK-9713/21

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'Serving Nations' Facilitate Blood Donors

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar based NGO--Serving Nations organized a felicitation program to honour blood donors in collaboration with Govt Medical College (GMC), Srinagar. The programme was to encourage & felicitate blood donors and inspire others to come forward to save lives by donating blood. Owais Mushtaq, SDM Srinagar was the Chief Guest of the programme. While appreciating the donors who come forward and donate blood, he said these are the unsung heroes of the nation.

Dr Bashir Ahmad Lone, administrative incharge of VMS appreciates all the 67 registered, unpaid blood donors of the organization who give blood regularly to save lives voluntarily.

Dr Baldev Singh Raina CEO & MD peaks group stated that he will always support such types of virtuous initiatives as responsible members of the society.

"Despite pandemic and other mobility challenges our blood donors from various districts like Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla and Bandipora etc have continued to donate blood and plasma to patients in the major government/private hospitals of the valley", Mir Bliqees Afzal General Secretary of the organization said.

Police Cracks Murder Case Of Woman; Arrests Husband

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have solved a blind murder case of woman by arresting the husband of the victim.

"On 27/09/2021, Police Station Zakura received information that Saleema, 50 years, wife of Abdul Rehman Dar resident of Khudwani Kulgam at present Gulistan Colony Gulab Bagh Zakura was strangled by some unknown persons and was shifted by locals to hospital where doctors declared her brought dead," police said in a statement.

"On this information, a case FIR No.104/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Zakura and investigation was set into motion."

"During the course of investigation, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by SDPO Zakura and SHO Zakura under the supervision of SP Hazratbal was constituted. The investigating team visited the scene of crime along with FSL team, collected circumstantial & technical evidences and examined eye witnesses. Besides, the team questioned some suspects



including the deceased lady's husband namely Abdul Rehman Dar son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar resident of Khudwani Kulgam, employed at SKAUST Shuhama. During questioning, the husband of the deceased lady confessed his involvement in the commission of crime. The team also learnt that the motive behind this murder

was matrimonial dispute,".

Further investigation into the case is in progress.

"Community members have applauded the efforts of SIT for cracking the case in professional and scientific manner to arrest the accused person involved in the commission of crime."

KIE Refutes Reports Of Coaching Center's Collaboration Announces Mega Scholarship Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar based coaching centre, Kashmir Institute of Excellence (KIE) on Thursday announced a first of its kind mega scholarship drive to help students in their studies and achieve their career goals.

In order to select 525 deserving students for scholarship, KIE will conduct a valley wide test for various classes and competitive examinations, in a phased manner on district wise basis, the management said in a press conference in Kashmir Press Club.

Among the selected candidates, 150 students will get free coaching for NEET/JEE, 175 in class 11, 150 in class 12, 25 each for Class 9 and class 10. 15% quota will be reserved for Economically Weaker Sections of the society. The full process of selection including registration, dates and venue will be made public soon.

While strongly rejecting the reports in the media regarding the collaboration of the institute, the mainsagement said the news report was carried without any validation.

"However, for the knowledge of the public, we want to clarify that two of our members chose to disassociate themselves from KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF EXCELLENCE (KIE) and joined hands with some other organization in their individual capacity," the management said.



KIE continues to exist in its old form and main Campus has now been shifted from Parraypora chowk to Chinar Colony near Axis Bank. Meanwhile, the registered office is functional in Campus - 3 Main chowk Parraypora.

Further institute on the demand of the student community has decided to expand its footprints to new areas. We are shortly coming up with a branch at Rajbagh, Srinagar. We are exploring to expand to other districts also, the Management said.

"The Institute is fully geared for disruption if any caused by another lockdown. The Institute has built a robust digital platform to help students and educational institutes to impart seamless education. All our programmes shall be in sync with new education policy," an official of the

KIE said. To further help the students and educational institutes in Kashmir, KIE is in the process of signing an MOU with the President Private School association so that Private Schools can benefit from Digital expertise of KIE and impart hassle free and disruption free education to students," the official said.

G N Var President Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) who was also present on the occasion welcomed the initiative taken by KIE to offer free coaching to students. He said KIE has taken a lead in fulfilling its social responsibility. He also appealed to other coaching institutes to follow suit and provide scholarships to deserving candidates, so that the quality education reaches the majority of students.

DDC Srinagar Listens To Public Grievances At Harwan

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: As part of a public outreach programme, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday presided over Block Diwas at Harwan Block of Srinagar.

The programme among others was attended by members of District Development Council, Block Development Council and Sarpanchs, Panchs besides a large number of local inhabitants.

While Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Development, Bilal Mukhtar, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Dr Deebea Khalid, District Social Welfare Officer, Akhoon Ashraf, Block Development Officer Harwan, besides officers of PHE, PDD and R&B, and other concerned Departments were also present.

During the Block Diwas programme cum grievance redressal camp held at Nayabat Harwan, scores of delegations and individuals apprised the District Development Commissioner about the problems faced by them in day to day life. They also submitted various developmental demands before the DC.

The people submitted memorandum and charter of demands projecting various issues including macadamization of roads, providing better supplies of drinking water and electricity facilities.

They also demanded

implementation of various Government sponsored Welfare schemes on the ground so that the local population is benefited. In addition, upgrading the education system and health-care facilities were also raised during the camp.

The DC gave patient hearing to the demands of the people and passed on spot instructions to the concerned departments for time bound resolution of all the issues.

Responding to the public demands, the DDC said that the Outreach initiative on Block level is aimed at to listen to the grievances of the public at their doorsteps and to facilitate early redress in an efficient manner on the basis of feedback obtained through such Camps.

The DDC stressed upon the officers present to be proactive and responsive towards the public grievances and asked them to assert themselves in resolving the issues of public importance. He assured the people that all their genuine demands would be processed for early redressal.

The DDC also stressed the PRI representatives and Officers of concerned departments to work in tandem to achieve desired development targets in a set timelines

While interacting with the people, the DDC said that all the developmental activities are being supervised and monitored to ensure their timely completion. He urged the local population to come forward and avail benefits from such welfare schemes.

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

- 331 BC - Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela
- 911 - During a siege in Constantinople, the Theotokos (Mary, the mother of Jesus) appeared at the church in Blachernae holding her veil over the praying faithful, among them St. Andrew of Constantinople.
- 965 - John XIII Crescentii elected to succeed Pope Leo VIII
- 1606 - Spanish troops under Spinola occupies fort Rhine birch
- 1632 - Battle at Castelnauudary: Duke Henri de Montmorency's rebel army loses
- 1653 - Russian parliament accepts annexation of Ukraine
- 1768 - British troops under General Thomas Gage land in Boston
- 1787 - Russians under Suvorov defeat the Turks at Kinburn.
- 1795 - France annexes Southern Netherlands
- 1795 - Belgium is conquered by France.
- 1800 - Spain cedes Louisiana to France in a secret treaty
- 1801 - Britain & France sign Preliminary of London
- 1864 - Cyclone strikes Calcutta: 70,000 killed
- 1867 - Karl Marx' "Das Kapital" published
- 1887 Balochistan conquered by the British Empire.
- 1904 - Netherlands and Portugal lay down boundaries splitting the island of Timor in two
- 1918 - World War I: Arab forces under T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") capture Damascus
- 1928 - USSR launches its first 5-year plan
- 1934 - Adolf Hitler expands German army and navy, violating Treaty of Versailles
- 1936 - Generalissimo Francisco Franco establishes state of Spain
- 1943 - Allied forces captured Naples during WW II
- 1943 - Germans attack Jews in Denmark
- 1947 - The F-86 Sabre flies for the first time.
- 1949 - People's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Zedong (National Day)
- 1949 - Republic of China (Taiwan) forms on island of Formosa
- 952 - Monte Bello-Island (Great Britain 1st atom bomb explosion)
- 1953 - Indian state of Andhra Pradesh partitioned from Madras
- 1958 - Britain transfers Christmas Island (south of Java) to Australia



HIJRI
CALENDAR

23

SAFAR
-UL-
MUZAFFAR

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
5:03
ZUHR
12: 22
ASR
4:37
MAGRIB
6:23
ISHA
7:43

From KO Archives

Beerwah Police, CRPF Taste RR Ire

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In an unprecedented operation, army carried out a cordon and search operation at a police station in the central Kashmir district of Budgam yesterday. Administration and police authorities have taken a strong exception to the incident which left the police station at Beerwah at reserve police force (CRPF) personnel shell shocked and gripped in fear.

Quoting police, agency reports said troops of 34 Rash-triya Rifles (RR) led by Col T Shaahidharan laid seige to the police station at Beerwah at about 6 p.m. yesterday and called out all the policemen and the CRPF personnel from its 197 battalion deployed in a portion there. Six persons lodged in the police lock up at the mo-mment were also brought out.

Accusing the police of harbouring militants in the police station, the army officer told the officials a suspect had entered the premises shortly before. That was why the operation was started, he said. The surprised policemen produced one Ghulam Rasool before him saying he had come to report the theft at his home earlier.

Denying that he was the person who had entered the prem-ises earlier, the army officer allegedly threatened the police-men of torching the police station alongwith the personnel in the event of any untoward incident there. The entire premises including the police station and the family quarters were thor-oughly searched. The operation last one and a half hours.

On learning about the incident, the deputy commis-sioner, Budgam, accompanied by the superintendent or police, visited the police station this morning, primarily to mollify the visibly agitated police officials. They assured them of investigation into the matter and 'appropriate ac-tion' against those responsible.

Reports said the RR action has generated fear not only among the police and security forces, but among the local people as poll Residents told AP the RR personnel had allegedly made their life miserable. Viewed in light of the action against the police and CRPP, they Said, one could easily guess what could be the extent of harassment they caused to the common people.

(Kashmir Observer, October 01, 2000)

660 Grievances Related To Migrant Properties Redressed In Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In order to address the grievances related to Migrant properties filed by the Kashmiri migrants in different categories, the District Administration Srinagar has resolved as many as 660 complaints till date since the launch of dedicated Online Grievance Portal for migrants.

Giving details about the grievances addressed in the district so far, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that till date 660 grievances have been received by the District Administration, out of which 390 grievances alleging alienation by fraud or distress sale were resolved.

Similarly, 129 grievances alleging encroachments on migrant properties were also verified and resolved. Out of grievances of encroachment, the necessary demarcation of 20 cases has been done and necessary eviction notices have also been issued, though 12 of them are sub-judice before the High Court.

The DC further said that 16 cases of tampering of revenue records were also verified and replied back to the complainants. Cognizance has been taken and action being initiated against officials involved in tampering of Revenue records. While 18 cases of trespassing were also verified, out of which

few were found lacking the exact details of the properties and the same have been sought for final resolution" he added.

He also said that some trespassing cases involved pending rentals with security forces and lack of compensation by the R&B (PWD) Department. In three cases of illegal trespassing the necessary follow up action has already been initiated, the DC further added.

The DC said that the district administration has taken prompt and timely steps to address the issues of migrants besides complaints filed by them through online(portal) or of-line mode.

He said that the officers of Revenue and other concerned departments have been given clear directions to address the grievances concerning the land and property of the migrants on priority with zeal and commitment.

The DC said a robust mechanism has been put in place for redressal of such complaints as per law and in a time bound manner.

Meanwhile, a senior officer of District administration said that the DC has been taking regular review meetings on the subject and is personally monitoring the progress made on the redressal of migrants' issues on a daily basis.

LAWDA Starts Cleanliness Drive In Offices, Dal Lake

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:- As part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Jammu and Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) has started the cleanliness drive from 27th of September 2021 till 3rd of October 2021.

Under this campaign, the cleanliness drives have been held in the offices of the LAWDA and also at various channels connecting Dal Lake.

For the remainder of the week, the main focus of cleaning would



be on the Dal Lake, its navigation channels and its catchment area besides awareness among masses about the importance of hygiene and cleanliness.

LAWDA has sensitised the locals about the segregation of waste and

cleaning of chuntikol has been done under the event of 'Kachra Alag Karo Diwas' and 'Saarvajnik Shauchalya Safai jan Bhagidari Utsav'.

The Vice chairman, LAWDA shall felicitate the Safaimitras with words of appreciation and certificates to value their work.

Meanwhile, the LAWDA will also organise the events for the whole October month under the campaign 'Clean India Safe India' drive under which cleanliness drives will go on in and around the Dal Lake and its catchment area.

Shaheed Gunj Traders Protest Against Diversion Of Road Say Closure Of Road Has Affected Their Business Badly

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Traders of Shaheed Gunj on Thursday held a protest against closing of Shaheed Gunj road by using barricades for diversion by the Traffic Police.

Talking to the news agency, Shaheed Gunj Traders federation president, Raja Fida Hussian Khan said they are suffering for the last two years due to closure of this road. "We are already in the loss from 2014, if customers cannot walk through our market how can we proceed our daily business," he said.

He said that this is not diversion this is simply closure of the road. "We have families to feed and our business depend on this road. How can we survive, if this road will not be opened normally. If being a shop keeper of Srinagar is



crime then we must be punished at once," he said.

He also said that Basant Rath was handling all the traffic

mess of city individually, but now the Traffic police is only using barricades and closing roads--(KNO)

Israel Foreign Minister In Bahrain For Landmark Visit

Agencies

Israel's foreign minister has arrived in Bahrain for the highest-level official Israeli visit to the Gulf state since the countries established ties last year.

An Israeli foreign ministry statement said Yair Lapid, who had been invited by his Bahraini counterpart, will inaugurate the Israeli embassy in Manama on Thursday and is "expected to sign a list of bilateral agreements".

"This will be the first official visit by an Israeli minister to (Bahrain)," the statement said.

The Israeli foreign minister touched down at Manama airport over an hour before a Gulf Air A320 took off in the opposite direction for the first commercial



flight between the two countries.

Crew members waved the flags of Bahrain and Israel from cockpit windows of the passenger jet when it landed later at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

The Bahrain flight and Israel's first bilateral ministerial visit to the Gulf country are part of a thaw in regional relations after the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Sudan also agreed last year to establish ties with Israel under agreements known as the Abraham Accords.

"We've landed in Bahrain. I'm

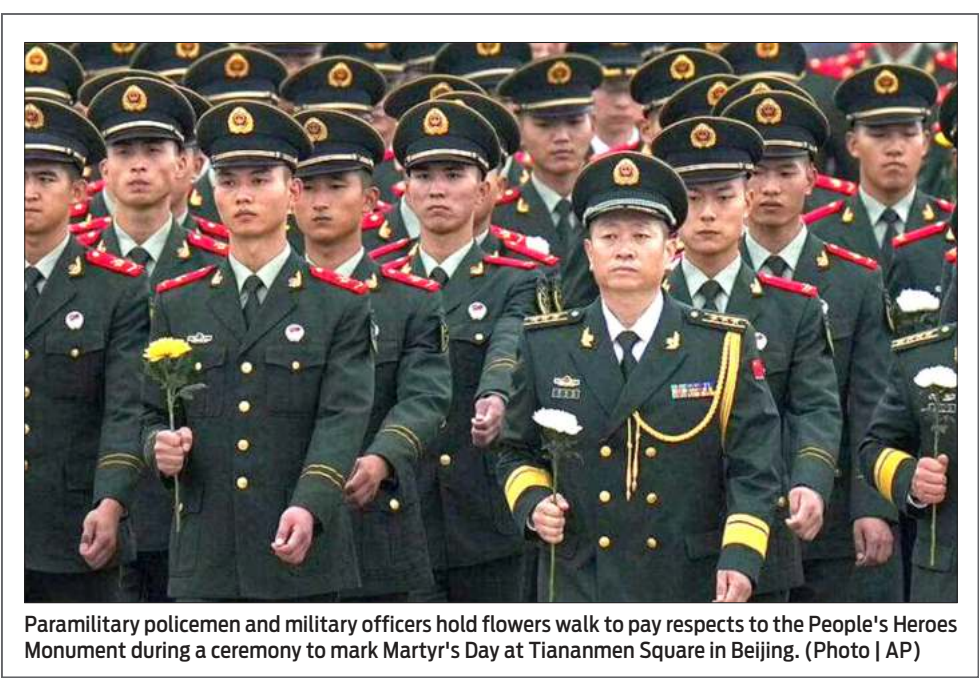
proud to represent Israel in an official and historic first in the kingdom. Thanks for the warm reception," Lapid said on Twitter.

Lapid met later with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif al-Zayani.

"We talked about the cooperation between our countries and about taking the official peace between us and turning it into an active, economic, security, political and civic friendship," he tweeted.

Following negotiations spearheaded by former US President Donald Trump, the United Arab Emirates, followed quickly by Bahrain and Morocco, last year became the first Arab states in decades to normalise relations with Israel.

The deals enraged the Palestinians, who felt a betrayal of their national cause. They saw it as an



Paramilitary policemen and military officers hold flowers walk to pay respects to the People's Heroes Monument during a ceremony to mark Martyr's Day at Tiananmen Square in Beijing. (Photo | AP)

China, US In Talks On Military Relations Amid Strained Ties

By Associated Press

BEIJING: Defense officials from China and the U.S. have held two days of talks in a small sign of progress amid a continuing sharp downturn in relations.

The secure video conference held Tuesday and Wednesday was led by Maj. Gen. Huang Xueping, deputy direct of the People's Liberation Army's Office for International Military Cooperation, and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China Michael Chase.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian on Thursday said the sides "exchanged in-depth views on relations between the two countries and the two militaries and issues of common concern."

However, he blamed "continuous provocation and containment" of China by the U.S. for the "considerable difficulties and challenges" between the two militaries.

"China's sovereignty, dignity and core interests brook no violations," Wu said at a monthly briefing. "Regarding the relationship between the two armed forces, we welcome communication, welcome cooperation, face differences and oppose coercion."

In a statement issued in Washington, Department of Defense spokesperson Lt. Col. Martin Meiners said the meeting was "an important component of the Biden-Harris administration's ongoing effort to responsibly manage the competition between the U.S. and the PRC by maintaining open lines of communication with the PRC."

During the talks, he said the two sides held "a frank, in-depth, and open discussion on a range of issues."

"Both sides reaffirmed consensus to keep communication channels open. The U.S. side also made clear our commitment to uphold shared principles with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Relations between China and the U.S. are facing the worst strain in decades over trade, technology, human rights and Chinese military activities in the South China Sea, where Beijing has built airstrips and other infrastructure atop man-made islands.

Military-to-military ties have been characterized by deep mistrust, with the U.S. accusing China of a lack of transparency as it massively upgrades the capabilities of the PLA, the military wing of the ruling Communist Party.

China has been angered by the Navy sending ships to sail close to islands it controls in what Washington calls freedom of navigation operations, along with U.S. support for Taiwan.

President Joe Biden has maintained a tough line on China, but

has sought better communication with Beijing. The talks between Huang and Chase are believed to mark the first direct high-level contact between defense officials under the Biden administration.

The talks also follow revelations that the top U.S. military officer, Army Gen. Mark Milley, made a pair of calls to his Chinese counterpart on Oct. 30 and Jan. 8 to reassure him during the waning days of the Trump administration.

Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday he was responding to a "significant degree of intelligence" that China was worried about a U.S. attack. He said that such military-to-military communications are critical to prevent war between great powers that possess nuclear weapons.

China has not commented on the calls.

Wu also reiterated China's opposition to a three-way strategic defense alliance announced by Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. that includes building nuclear-propelled submarines for Australia. Beijing views the arrangement as firmly directed at containing its development.

"China urges the three countries to abandon their Cold War mentality and zero-sum game thinking, revoke the mistaken decision to develop nuclear submarine cooperation," Wu said.

Over 100 Killed In Ecuador's Latest Prison Violence

Agence France-Presse

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR: The death count from bloody clashes between rival gangs in an Ecuador prison has surpassed 100, with 52 more wounded, the government prison authority said Wednesday, as soldiers surrounded the facility -- one of the country's many overburdened and understaffed jails.

Inmates went to war armed with guns and grenades on Tuesday at the Guayaquil prison complex: a clash between prisoners believed to be linked to Mexican drug gangs -- mainly the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels.

Soldiers and a tank guarded the complex Wednesday as police on horseback patrolling the perimeter were confronted by worried family members of the men locked up inside.

"We want information because we don't know anything about our families, our sons," said one woman, who would not

give her name. "I have my son there."

Tuesday's violence was the latest in a series of bloody prison clashes that have claimed the lives of about 180 inmates in Ecuador so far this year.

The SNAI prison authority said in a tweet that the death of "more than 100" prisoners had been confirmed, with 52 more wounded.

At least six were beheaded, the national prosecutor's office said earlier in the day, adding that two police officers were wounded in the operation to re-take control of the prison.

Officers were attacked by inmates with guns.

President Guillermo Lasso announced on Twitter that he was declaring a "state of exception," which will allow him to suspend rights and use public force to restore calm.

Lasso said that he would head a security committee in Guayaquil to control the emergency, but also guaranteed protection of "human rights for all those involved."

A police charge on the prison had prevented "more deaths," said the police chief for the city of Guayaquil, Fausto Buenano.

Ecuador's prison system has become a battleground for thousands of prisoners with ties to powerful Mexican drug gangs.

On February 23, simultaneous riots at four jails including Guayaquil left 79 inmates dead, several of them beheaded.



Top Rohingya Leader In Bangladesh Shot Dead

Agencies

COX'S BAZAR: Unidentified assailants shot dead a top Rohingya community leader in a refugee camp in the Bangladesh resort district of Cox's Bazar on Wednesday.

Mohibullah was talking with other refugee leaders outside his office after attending prayers when four assailants came to the spot and shot him dead, according to a police spokesman.

"Four to five unidentified assailants shot him from close range. He was declared dead at a hospital in the camp," he said.

He added that police and an armed police battalion tasked with ensuring security for the country's 34 Rohingya camps, had stepped up security, deploying hundreds more armed officers.

No one was arrested.

"We are conducting raids in the area," the official said, adding Mohibullah had not alerted police of any threats from any group.

Mohammad Nowkhim, a spokesman for Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights



several attacks on Myanmar security posts in recent years "It is a work of ARSA," he said.

No one like him

Mohibullah, who was 48, emerged as the main civilian leader of the persecuted Muslim minority community when more than 740,000 Rohingya took refuge in camps in Bangladesh, after a military crackdown by the Myanmar army on their villages in Rakhine province in August 2017.

He formed the ARPSH in a Bangladeshi camp months after the influx, and it helped investigate the carnage carried out by the Myanmar army and Buddhist militias during the crackdown.

In August 2019, he organised a massive rally at Kutupalong camp, the main Rohingya settlement, which some 200,000 Rohingya attended. The rally confirmed his top leadership among the refugees.

That year, he was also flown to the United States, where he attended a religious freedom meeting hosted by the US State Department and led by then-president Donald Trump.

Israeli Fire Kills Three Palestinians Including Woman

Agencies

Three Palestinians were killed Thursday by Israeli fire, including a woman who tried to stab officers in Jerusalem, an insurgent shot during West Bank clashes and a Gazan who approached the border fence.

The violence comes days after an Israeli raid on so-called insurgents in the occupied West Bank left five Palestinians dead.

At dawn in Jerusalem, the sound of gunshots rang through the Old City, with the body of a woman lying on a stone street that leads to the Al-Aqsa mosque, an AFP journalist said. She was later draped in a survival blanket.

Police said she had attempted to stab officers after being

result in any Israeli casualties.

Israeli security forces are stationed at each entrance to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam's third holiest site, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism.

The compound lies in east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognised by the international community.

West Bank clash

In a separate incident in Burqin, in the northern West Bank near Jenin, Israeli troops and border police conducted an overnight operation "to arrest suspects and locate weapons," a police statement said.

"During the operation, an armed terrorist fired at the forces who were operating in the



stopped for a check because her conduct aroused suspicion.

"During the questioning, the terrorist pulled out a knife and tried to stab the officers. They immediately responded with gunfire and neutralised her," a statement said, noting medics later pronounced her dead.

The woman was identified by Palestinian officials as Israa Khozaimieh, 30, from Qabatiya in the northern West Bank.

The attempted attack did not

village during a riot," police said.

"Border police forces responded with gunfire toward the terrorist and neutralised him," police said, with a spokesman confirming his death to AFP.

Palestinian insurgency group Islamic Jihad said the man killed was Alaa Zayoud, 22, a member of its military wing.

No Israeli forces were wounded in the incident in the West Bank, a Palestinian territory under Israeli military occupation since 1967.

A Facebook-Funded Flight Was Suddenly Packed With 155 Extra Afghans

Bloomberg

The airlift was fraught with risk from the start. Donors from Silicon Valley including LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, as well as Facebook Inc., had agreed to fund an evacuation flight for 188 journalists, aid workers and others who were suddenly in danger after the Taliban's quick capture of Kabul. They hoped to get most of those evacuees to Mexico City, via Abu Dhabi, to start a new life.

Those plans largely succeeded. But amid the chaos in Afghanistan, they also took an unexpected turn.

Shortly before their flight left on August 30, the airline -- Kam Air -- stuffed the half-empty plane with at least 155 additional passengers -- its employees, their families and more, according to US officials and organisers of the flight.

The 11th-hour surprise created agita at the State Department and in the United Arab Emirates because the extra passengers -- who weren't on the plane's manifest -- hadn't been screened for that flight and raised security and immigration concerns. It also created angst among many of the organisers and financial supporters, who say they had carefully vetted the original list of passengers and weren't aware of the extra passengers until the plane landed in Abu Dhabi.

"The 155, not on the FB manifest, were placed on the FB air-

plane by KAM airlines," according to a State Department email obtained by Bloomberg News. "FB (and everyone else) learned about these individuals when they landed in Abu Dhabi."

The circumstances surrounding their departure underscored the turmoil that followed the US withdrawal from the longest foreign war in American history and the difficulty of controlling events in a war-torn country from halfway



NEWS MAKERS

Embattled French Ex-President Sarkozy Given Second Jail Term

Agencies

A French court on Thursday handed former president Nicolas Sarkozy a one-year prison sentence for illegal financing of his 2012 re-election bid, dealing a fresh blow to the right-winger seven months after he received a jail term for corruption.

Sarkozy, 66, will not serve time behind bars under the terms of Thursday's verdict, with the court ruling that he could serve it at home by wearing an electronic bracelet.

He was not in court to hear the judge impose the maximum sentence for illegal campaign financing after finding that Sarkozy had "voluntarily neglected to exercise oversight over the spending incurred."

Sarkozy's lawyer Thierry Herzog said his client would appeal the conviction.

Sarkozy spent nearly twice the legal limit of 22.5 million euros on his



failed bid for a second term in office.

The case is one of several arising from a string of investigations into Sarkozy's affairs, which have largely failed to dent his popularity among conservative voters.

In March, he became France's first postwar president to be sentenced to jail relating to his attempts to secure favours from a judge in return for the promise of a plum retirement job.

He has accused the judiciary, with which he crossed swords during his time as president between 2007 and 2012, of hounding him.

"I never betrayed the trust of the French people," he told the TF1 channel in March.

Fake invoices

Sarkozy pulled out all the stops in 2012 as he sought to fend off his Socialist rival Francois Hollande for a second term.

A series of lavish US-style election rallies caused his costs to spiral, with the final bill coming to at least 42.8 million euros.

The public relations firm Bygma-lion, hired to organise the events, set up a system of fake invoices to mask the real cost of the events.

While the investigation failed to prove Sarkozy was aware of the fraud, the court ruled that he had "undeniably" profited from it.

At his five-week trial in May and June, the prosecution portrayed him as having a "cavalier" attitude to the public money available to candidates during campaigning.

A Home Renovation In France Yields Gold Treasure Of \$1.2 Million

Agence France-Presse

Paris: Hundreds of rare gold coins dug out of the walls of a remote French mansion fetched more than one million euros (\$1.2 million) at auction on Wednesday.

Stonemasons discovered 239 pieces of gold, minted before the French Revolution, when they began renovating the property near Quimper in the western Brittany region, auctioneers Ivoire/Deloy said.

The family kept four coins as souvenirs and put the rest up for auction in the western town of Angers, with an estimated value of 250,000-300,000 euros.

Bidding opened at 8,000 euros for a very rare double Louis d'Or, depicting Louis XIV and dating back to 1646. It went for 46,000 euros, the same price as a Louis



d'Or from Paris dated 1640 and stamped with the Templar's Cross.

"Bids were flying from everywhere -- in the room, on internet and on the telephone," said auctioneer Florian D'Oysonville.

The 2019 find was only reported now after the owners tasked the auction house with the sale.

The proceeds were to be shared between the owners and the three craftsmen who found the gold.

D'Oysonville told AFP the coins, hidden in a metal box, probably constituted the savings of a rich trader or landowner.

Former Nazi Camp Secretary In German Trial, 96, On The Run

By Associated Press

BERLIN: A former secretary for the SS commander of the Stutthof concentration camp was being sought on an arrest warrant Thursday after skipping the planned start of her trial in Germany on more than 11,000 counts of accessory to murder, officials said.

The 96-year-old woman left the home where she lives in a taxi on Thursday morning, heading for a subway station on the outskirts of Hamburg, German news agency dpa quoted Itzehoe state court spokeswoman Frederike Milhoffer as saying. Her destination wasn't known.

Presiding judge Dominik Gross said the court had issued an arrest warrant, and it remained to be seen whether she would be caught.

Prosecutors argue that the woman was part of the apparatus that helped



the Nazi camp function during World War II more than 75 years ago.

The court said in a statement before the trial that the defendant allegedly "aided and abetted those in charge of the camp in the systematic killing of those imprisoned there between June 1943 and April 1945 in her function as a stenographer and typist in the camp commandant's office."

Despite her advanced age, the German woman was to be tried in juvenile court because she was under 21 at the time of the alleged crimes. German media identified her as Irmgard Furchner.

CBMs Needed For Kashmiri Pandits Return: Khosa

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Stating that peace and tranquility has returned to Kashmir to a great extent, President Kashmiri Pandit Sabha J&K, K K Khosa on Thursday said some confidence building measures need to be taken by the J&K government to create conducive conditions for dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits.



"Most of the Kashmiri Pandits are in exile for the past 32 years and are waiting for the right environment to prevail in the valley so that they can return back with honour, dignity and a full sense of security," he said, adding, "There is no doubt peace and tranquility have returned to Kashmir to a great extent but some confidence building measures need to be taken by the UT govt to create conducive conditions for their dignified return."

In addition, he said, necessary and adequate infrastructural facilities have to be created for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits for them to resettle in their homeland. "It is common knowledge that in these 32 unfortunate years more than 70 percent properties belonging to the Kashmiri Pandits have exchanged hands and therefore such people don't have any place to settle down after their return," he said, adding, "The GOI and the UT government must frame a robust return and rehabilitation policy for the displaced community

in consultation with Kashmiri Pandit leadership."

Although the KP sabha has time and again requested the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to constitute an advisory committee for the community, he said, there has been no positive response till now inspite of the assurance given by him on the 24th of June 2021 after the all party meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

"We also request the union home minister Amit Shah and the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to arrange for a structured intercommunity dialogue between the civil societies of both the main communities of Kashmir since during past three decades a wide gulf has emerged resulting in a trust deficit which has to be simultaneously removed before any return process can begin."

The leaders of mainstream political parties also have to shun negative politics and play a pivotal role to restore the lost glory of Kashmir where syncretism has been the bedrock of its societal and cultural life, he said.

With elections in the offing as per the statement made by the prime Minister Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the red fort, he said, it is also important to create political space for the minority Kashmiri Pandits to recreate an inclusive and harmonious environment which can restore lasting peace in strife torn Kashmir.

CS Releases First Edition Of IASOWA Magazine



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday released the first edition of IAS Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA), J&K magazine titled Udaan.

The magazine was released here in a simple function organized by the Association and attended by Principal Secretary Information and PDD, Rohit Kansal besides the members of this body.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary applauded the efforts of these women and asked them to make this publication a periodical affair. He commended them for bringing out such an impressive layout with diverse contents.

Dr Mehta maintained that these women had done what their husbands would rival to achieve. He congratulated them for being one step ahead of them. He asked them that this is a good platform to promote different kinds of social activities.

He expressed jubilation on the fact that despite having pressing engagements at home these women have carved out time for this social work. He thanked them for all the social work the group has done in mitigation of corona concerns besides other initiatives.

On the occasion, Kansal also lauded the efforts of this Association. He asked them to continue all their good work besides creating awareness among public about various positive things.

He said that these women have made a good beginning that deserves appreciation. He underscored the need of recognizing good things and providing feedback for any improvements.

In her message the President, IASOWA, Amita Mehta called 'Udaan' a piece of hard work of all the active members in penning down their thoughts. She urged all the members to utilize this platform for personal and professional growth. She encouraged them to showcase their professional knowledge, experience and talents among their peers.

In her message the editor of Udaan, Shveta Kansal called it a transformation from the realm of thought to that of reality. She called it a small step towards a long journey. She said, "It is a platform through which we can pause to think about contributing back to our society and country which has blessed and nurtured us."

The newsletter has wide range of topics including empowerment of women and children, safeguarding nature and environment, cooking tips, fashion and other activities carried out by IASOWA in the UT.

It was further elaborated during the event that other objectives of the Association comprises of welfare of society, physical and mental health, experience sharing & caring, health care counseling, celebration of festivals and Yoga.

CBI Arrests Jammu Junior Engineer In Bribery Case

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a Junior Engineer Electric Division-II, JPDCL, Jammu (J&K), for demanding & accepting bribe of Rs. 5,000/- from the complainant.

According KNO, a case was registered on a complaint against Junior Engineer, Electric Division-II, JPDCL, Jammu. It was alleged that the accused was demanding bribe from the complainant

for updating the details of newly installed electricity meter in the records, and for not charging electricity bill at flat rate.

CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding & accepting bribe of Rs. 5,000/- from the complainant. Searches are being conducted today at the premises of the accused at Jammu.

The arrested accused will be produced tomorrow before the Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu

100 Absconders Arrested Since May In Reasi: Police

Include Surrendered Militants, OGWs; 21 Arrested In 4 Weeks



REASI: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday claimed to have arrested 21 more absconders, who were evading arrests since years in Reasi district in the last four weeks, while around 100 absconders have also been arrested since May this year under Frari Girafarti drive.

In a statement, issued to KNS, a police spokesperson said that Frari Girafarti is drive against underground criminals and absconders, and Reasi Police steering ahead in its mission against outlaws who are evading arrests since years, arrested 21 more absconders evading arrests since years and executed 35 warrants in the last four week.

"Around 100 absconding criminals which include 04 OGWs, 10 surrendered militants, 05 murder and attempt to murderer accused of whom 19 were involved in kidnapping and rape, 09 were involved in drug peddling and 53

AROUND 100 ABSCONDING CRIMINALS WHICH INCLUDE 04 OGWs, 10 surrendered militants, 05 murder and attempt to murderer accused of whom 19 were involved in kidnapping and rape, 09 were involved in drug peddling and 53 were involved in other offences and were evading arrests since years have been arrested and produced in the concerned courts since May 2021, while 154 general warrants of Arrest issued by Hon'ble Courts have been executed."

It reads that out of these 100 absconders 12 have been arrested after 30 years, 18 after 20 years, 31 apprehended after 10 years and 39 were arrested after 05 years of commission

of crime. "Meanwhile, 10 absconders under pressure of being caught have opted to surrender before the concerned courts of district than being caught by Reasi Police."

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi, Shailender Singh said that Frari Girafarti is an initiative for arresting the absconders who are evading arrests since years. "Under this drive Reasi Police remained successful in nabbing hardcore, notorious and habitual criminals who were evading the due process of law since years and against whom General Warrants of Arrest were issued by Hon'ble Courts were pending."

He said that the arrests of these criminals are important police work to maintain peace and tranquility in the area and Reasi Police will leave no stone unturned to arrest and produce them in concerned trial court of law.

Doctor Suspended For Reporting False COVID Positive On 32 students

Students Test Negative On RTPCR In Rajouri

Agencies

RAJOURI: The authorities on Thursday suspended a doctor of CHC Thanamandi after 32 students at a private school were reported COVID-19 positive under the doctor's supervision and later they turned out to be negative for COVID-19 during RTPCR testing in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district.

According to KNO, an order stated that during the Testing on 27.09.2021, at one of the Private School in Thanamandi Zone, under the supervision of Dr. Shabab Ahmed (Dental Surgeon) Nodal Officer COVID-19, 32 students were detected COVID-19 Positive and as per SOPs, they were shifted to COVID Care Centre Plangarh for Isolation.

"The RTPCR Test of all the Students was conducted on 28.09.2021, wherein all have reported 'Negative'. Now therefore, in view of the lackadaisical



approach & dereliction of duties, Dr. Shabab Ahmed, Dental Surgeon CHC Thanamandi (Nodal Officer, COVID-19 Block Thanamandi) is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending further enquiry into the matter," the order reads.

It reads that during the period of the suspension he shall remain attached with the office of the Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Koteranka.

"Further, Block Medical Officer, Darhal, is hereby directed to explain her position, regarding the lapse on the part of Health Department, within 3 days, positively, so that further action under Service rules may be initiated," it reads.

Officials Rebut Reports Of Plastic Rice Distribution In Pulwama

Agencies

PULWAMA: Assistant Director, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Pulwama has rebutted the reports of alleged plastic rice distribution among the ration card holders of the district.

The AD said that this "plastic rice" is actually fortified rice meant for distribution and consumption by beneficiaries under the Integrated Child Develop-

ment Scheme (ICDS) for eradicating malnutrition among them.

"The fortified rice, meant for children, is nutrient rich and is provided to them under the ICDS and Mid Day Meal scheme. The extra nutrients including vitamins and minerals are added to broken rice and then shaped into rice like kernel using extrusion process," he informed.

Giving vital information on the process, the AD said that during milling and polishing processes

in post harvesting phase, many essential nutrients and minerals are lost which later need to be added to make the rice nutritious. He said that there is no scope for any panic since this is a well established process of fortification and has proven benefits on the health of the consumers.

The AD FCS&CA, Pulwama has urged people not to pay any heed to rumours as FCS CA Department Kashmir has time and again clarified on this "plastic rice" matter.

Awareness Campaign To Achieve Goal Of 'No Heart Attack' In JK By 2025

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Noted cardiologist Upendra Kaul on Thursday said his Gauri Heart Foundation has started a programme in Jammu and Kashmir to create awareness among people about heart ailments to achieve the goal of 'no heart attack' in the union territory by 2025.

"We want to reach out to every district and every corner of Jammu and Kashmir to make people aware about heart attack and how to avoid it," Dr Kaul said.

The cardiologist said telemedicine will play an important role in making digital healthcare a reality and that his centre is taking steps in that direction.

He said his foundation has installed a machine in Machil, a remote area of Kupwara district, for on-the-spot tests such as ECG and a medicine dispenser. Two ambu-

lances have been kept on standby to evacuate if anyone needs more medical care, he said.

Dr Kaul said the Army has agreed to airlift such patients during the winter as the area remains cut off due to heavy snowfall.

He said a similar machine will be installed at Jagti camp in Jammu.

While the service in Machil will start from October 15, the Jagti camp centre will be made functional in November.

He said cost of these medical facilities has been borne by India Oil Corporation under its corporate social responsibility.

Dr Kaul said preventive checkups and change in lifestyle can make a huge difference in avoiding heart attack.

"Regular monitoring of cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension coupled with healthy diet and regular exercise can push back the heart attack by decades," he said.

Union MoS Education Visits Baramulla, E-Inaugurates KGBV At Pattan

Unveils "Toddler Development Course Assignments"



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar visited Baramulla district on Thursday where he presided over several developmental activities having larger public significance. The visit is a part of Government of India's special outreach programme to the UT of J&K.

The Minister visited Government Higher Secondary School Pattan where he e-Inaugurates Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya that has been established at Mundji Dangerpura, Sopore under Samagra Shiksha. The project has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 113.12 lacs having the accommodation facility for 50 girl students.

The Minister unveils a booklet titled "Toddler Development Course Assignments" that has been designed and developed by Digital Resource Group, Chief Education Office Baramulla in light with pre-school curriculum of NCERT.

Later, the Minister distributed some assistive aids and appliances among the specially abled persons

at Baramulla. The aid comprising of wheel chairs, hearing aids etc. were procured by Social Welfare department Baramulla.

The minister also chaired a meeting with DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, MC presidents and PRIs among other stakeholders, and listened to their developmental aspirations and concerns.

Union Minister also lauded the PRIs for successful establishment of de-centralized System and said that government is working to strengthen the PRI mechanism with more financial autonomy. Moreover, he impressed upon them to identify their role and co-operate in taking the spectrum of development to the apex.

Principal Secretary School Education Department, B K Singh, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar, Project Director Samagra Shiksha Deep Raj, Director School Education Kashmir Tassaduq Husain, SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat, President MC Pattan, CEO, district and sectoral officers among other concerned functionaries were present on the occasion.

J&K's Backward, Weaker Sections Witnessing Darkest Era: Congress

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Backward and weaker sections living in far flung areas in Jammu and Kashmir were witnessing darkest era, while having been pushed to further backwardness due to the approach and wrong policies of the BJP Government at Centre.

This was disclosed by J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JK-PCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir, in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), on Thursday while addressing a massive public gathering at Dudi Machil, where he also interacted with Congress Party workers and various local delegations from different areas of Machil during his two day's tour to this backward area of Kupwara District.

JKPCC President was accompanied by Party Vice President Haji Abdul Rashid Dar, Gulzar Ahmad Wani (Former Legislators) and other Senior Party Leaders and District Presidents.

Addressing the massive public gathering, Ghulam Ahmad Mir reminded the people of the promises which have been made to them by BJP with regard to inclusive development of J&K especially backward areas and other weaker sections and said all the promises made by it (BJP Government) have fallen flat rather various important developmental schemes sanctioned by the previous UPA I UPA II for the welfare of the people have either been withdrawn or waiting for implementation, which was responsible

for further backwardness of backward areas, with the result, down-trodden people were witnessing darkest era under BJP rule.

There was lack of road connectivity, poor supply of electricity, lack of basic amenities, absence of adequate health facilities and other developmental issues confronting people in Machil and other similarly situated backward areas across J&K, it was ironic rather than addressing issues, Government was doing mere paper works and tall announcements, whereas no efforts were being made to reach out to people in these remote areas, JKPC President said.

Mir said there was no accountability, no response to people's grievances, unemployment has risen considerably, developmental and other issues seems not the concern of BJP Government, which rely on falsehood and political exploitation in order to remain in power, Mir added and lashed out at anti people policies adopted by the BJP Government towards the people of J&K and cautioned it (BJP) about the consequences and anger brewing among the general masses, which was undoubtedly at it's peak across J&K.

People have realized that they were being punished under the garb of so-called development which was nowhere to be seen, with the result, they have lost trust in BJP and its offshoots and urged the huge gathering of people to rise to the occasion to defeat the politics of deceit and deception, Mir told the gathering.

DG H&ME Among Four Officers Transferred

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government Thursday ordered the transfer of four officers including Director General Health and Medical Education in the interest of administration.

As per order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Satvir Kour Sudan, Director General, Health & Medical Education Department (holding the additional charge of DG PM&CE), Nodal Officer, SDG is transferred and posted as Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K.

"She shall take over the charge of Director General (Economics & Statistics), J&K w.e.f. 01-10-2021 after the superannuation of Shri Anil Kumar Gandotra, DG (E&S) on 30-9-2021," the order reads, adding that "Bilal Ahmad, Director General, Planning Development & Monitoring Department shall hold the additional charge of DG, Project Monitoring and Concurrent Evaluation Division/CSS/BADP and allied assignments of PD&MD in addition to his own duties."

The order further reads that Rajeev Bhushan, 1/C Joint Director/Chief Planning Officer, Udhampur is transferred and posted as Joint Director, Health & Medical Education. Department vice Satvir Kour Sudan. "Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, 1/c Deputy Director (P&S), Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K is transferred and posted as Chief Planning Officer, Udhampur vice Rajeev Bhushan," the order reads. **Agencies**

Chaos During Kabaddi Final As Players Brawl During Match

POONCH: Chaos erupted during the final match of Kabaddi tournament organised by Department of Youth Services and Sports after players from both competing teams entered into a brawl and scuffle in Mendhar area of Poonch district. As per news agency KNO, students of different educational institutions were playing the final match under the banner of Department of Youth Services and Sports in Mendhar.

"The Kabaddi tournament was played for different categories and final match was played between Mendhar and Harni teams during which players of both sides entered into a verbal dual first and later a scuffle broke out between the players of two teams," an official said. Police officials said that soon after the information about the scuffle was received, Mendhar police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. **Agencies**

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K O V I E W

Integrated Kashmir

In a renewed push to complete the Zojila tunnel, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the west portal of the tunnel in Baltal on Tuesday. The work on the showpiece infrastructure project had halted in 2018 after the IL&FS, the big-time infrastructure lender, went bust. Now the government is making an effort to complete the tunnel by December 2023 so that PM Modi can inaugurate the tunnel before Republic Day of 2024. The tunnel will reduce the distance from Baltal to Minamarg to 13 km from the present 40 km and the travel time will be cut by an hour and a half. Also, at 14.15 km, the Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. There is one more tunnel close to Zojila: the 6.5 km long Z-Morh which will connect Gagangir with Shetkari. The tunnels between them will ensure that Ladakh no longer will remain an inaccessible, remote region cut off from the rest of the world for six months through winter.

There are other important infrastructure projects in progress whose completion will enhance the connectivity in J&K and Ladakh. On Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for four national highway projects worth Rs 3,612 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Srinagar Ring Road project. Speaking on the occasion, Sinha said that Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari by train by next year-end. He said that 11 tunnel projects have been approved for J&K in one year alone.

And once completed, the railway line and the roads will stitch Kashmir together with concrete and asphalt and connect places and people alienated from each other by geography. In recent years, efforts have been ongoing to connect Kashmir Valley all year round with Poonch in Jammu province through a viable road. It is called Mughal road. Efforts are also on to connect district Doda with Valley through shorter all-weather routes. However, what remains a cause of worry is the long gestation period of these projects which are set back by the tough terrain and the inordinate official delay in their execution. There is thus an urgent need to expedite the work on these projects to realize the goal of a truly integrated J&K with its limitless opportunities for trade and travel. The government also needs to rethink the wisdom of closing the cross-LoC routes like Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot which promoted trade and travel between divided parts of Kashmir.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Rethink Fuel Prices — It Is A Negative Stimulus

Petrol prices were increased by 0.20 per litre in Delhi on September 28. This rise in prices comes after a more than two months of stable or falling prices. Diesel prices have risen four times, by an aggregate of 0.95 per litre since September 24. This rise has come in the backdrop of Brent – the international benchmark of crude petroleum prices – reaching \$80 per barrel after three years. Private analysts such as ones at Goldman Sachs expect petroleum prices to remain elevated.

This is not good news for the Indian economy. Fuel prices are already at a record high in India. If crude prices were to rise further, oil companies are likely to raise fuel prices, and headline inflation will start rising once again. This is bound to hurt purchasing power and mass demand. It will also generate headwinds for the ongoing economic recovery.

India's fuel inflation story is not entirely a result of external factors. Fuel prices would be much lower if the tax component were to come down to pre-pandemic levels. Higher taxes on essentials such as petrol-diesel are a negative fiscal stimulus to the economy. Recently, there have been discussions on the Centre's fiscal situation being better than expected, with higher direct tax collections. Such claims need to be seen in the context of the fiscal buffer from what are inflation-enhancing taxes on petrol-diesel. To be sure, both the Centre and the states are gaining a fiscal windfall from taxes on fuel. In the interest of a sustainable economic revival and preventing inflation and, more importantly, keeping inflation expectations from increasing further, both the Union government and the states must agree to reduce taxes. This is exactly what the Monetary Policy Committee of Reserve Bank of India had asked them to do in August.

Hindustan Times

Makes Mosques Inclusive Again



Amir Suhail Wani

The life and teachings of the Prophet of Islam and the Quran demonstrate the inclusive, merciful and compassionate nature of Islam. Within the holy life of the Prophet himself, we come across incidents where the Prophet embraced not only marginalised and oppressed but his enemies and the enemies of Islam too, with the spirit of extending the canopy of mercy to all. This tradition has lately waned away and what we see is stark and ugly growth of ideology in the guise of Islam that is interested in exclusion more than inclusion – a circle under implosion. When one talks of Islam, one is inadvertently driven to the institution of the mosque and the overt and covert manifestations of exclusion in this Islamic institution of primary social importance. Mosques in Islam, aren't simply sacred spaces devoted to worship, but importantly, they function as indispensable social institutions within Islamic society with diverse social functions attached to them. But what has been tragically happening for quite some time now is that Mosques are turning more and more exclusive, closing their doors, literally as well as symbolically to those who otherwise need these spaces the most. A halo of hollow piety and misplaced religiosity has turned spaces of inclusion into spaces of exclusion, thereby violating the very essence of Mosques and demeaning their role and importance in Muslim societies.

Quran described the Prophet as one who cleanses people's hearts of filth, removing the unwanted substances from their souls and teaching them the book (The Quran). This explicitly translates into the fact that the responsibility of the men of the pulpit (Maulanas) isn't only to dispense, like a machine, the subtleties of religion to people. They are expected and supposed to act as models as well as sculptures of moral sublimity and ethical perfection. But this is possible only when our preachers are ready to accept humans as humans with all their fallacies and shortcomings. It is very much antithetical to the spirit of Islam to engage in "moral profiling" and ignore those who do not fit into these profiles. The need is instead to open hearts for those who stand in need of support and guidance, those who want to turn to their creator, mend their ways and rebuild themselves but are not shown acceptance at the Mosques or by religious clerics. This has had a regressive impact on how our youth engage with religion and in

MOSQUES IN ISLAM, AREN'T SIMPLY sacred spaces devoted to worship, but importantly, they function as indispensable social institutions within Islamic society with diverse social functions attached to them. But what has been tragically happening for quite some time now is that Mosques are turning more and more exclusive, closing their doors, literally as well as symbolically to those who otherwise need these spaces the most. A halo of hollow piety and misplaced religiosity has turned spaces of inclusion into spaces of exclusion, thereby violating the very essence of Mosques and demeaning their role and importance in Muslim societies

turn with society and ultimately themselves. The exclusion and rejection they endure stiffens them in their behavioural patterns and having been deprived of their right to mercy, participation and inclusion, they end up messing their lives, the lives of people around them and the society at large. This is not merely a hypothetical construct, but a real life issue which plays out in society now and then. It is not the prerogative of fallible humans to enumerate the criteria for inclusion/exclusion and then classify people into either of these classes. The realistic and only acceptable attitude for a preacher (Da'ee) is to leave open all portals of mercy and all avenues of inclusion. The transformation that the Prophet ushered by embracing those who were otherwise apparently not eligible for the same initiated one of the greatest revolutions in human history. A historian has described the companions of

the Prophet as "nursery of heroes", but when one looks at their pre-Islamic career, they appear to be no more than ordinary tribesmen, at perpetual war with one another. Thus Islam is an alchemy of transformation, transforming the baser humans into paragons of humanity. It is not intelligible to Islam to pre-classify people into pious and wicked and prefer former over latter in an attempt of social Reformation and moral upliftment. It is an eye-opener to those religious men of our times who behave otherwise and in so doing tamper the spirit and essence of religion and scripture.

The last century has seen the sprouting of various religious movements in Islam emphasising inclusion and participation of one and all in the marathon of salvation. In the wake of these movements, the Mosques turned more inclusive, participatory and liberating, extending themselves to socially marginalised, religiously oppressed and underprivileged. In this way, the Mosques to some extent restored their social functionalism and cultural dynamism. But a crass misgiving characterising these movements was that like their predecessors, they paid little or no attention to gender inclusion and left out of the religious sentiments and issues of half of the population unaddressed. The fact was glossed over and forgotten that Islam rose to the occasion as an emancipatory and inclusive movement, including within the horizons of its messages all diversities of Cast, Creed, Gender, Geography and Ethnicity. But the passage of time blinded Muslims to these brighter of their religion and Muslim obsession with issues of little importance blinded them to the compassionate and ever embracing aspects of religion.

It is no impossibility that the religion which harbours inclusion, equality, social dynamism and the cultural compatibility will rise and reassert these liberating values again. But this path to liberating praxis is beset with ignorance of the fundamental and essential teachings of religion both on part of scholars and the youth. Our scholars, well versed in the traditional sciences as they are, are equally unaware of the challenges that modern world has thrown open at the religion. The young generation, raised up in modern academia as they are, are condescending about religion, despite their poorer understanding of the same. This bilateral ignorance has widened the gulf between the youth and the scholars, bringing them at loggerheads with one another. The way out to bridge this gap lies in revisiting the schemes – both of religious and secular education. The path to reconciliation and inclusion has to pass through the meadows of learning and understanding.

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

The author is a freelancer, R&D Engineer and comparative studies scholar



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Worrying C-Section

As proposed in the news report titled "I Feel Like Crying: C-Section Making Life Painful for Kashmiri Mothers" published by this newspaper on 15 December 2020; the report highlighted a very serious issue that needs our urgent attention. Last year, National Family Health Survey – 5 (2019-20) fact sheet was released for Jammu and Kashmir which contains some perturbing data on the increasing rate of C-Section deliveries in the UT. A total of 41.7% of deliveries are done through C-Section in both Private and Public Health facilities. Public health facilities carry out 42.7% deliveries through C-section while for private health facilities it is 82.1%, which is almost double that of public health facilities. This is up from NHFS-4 (2015-16) when 33% of total deliveries were done through C-Section-- 35.5% for public health facilities while 75.5% for private facilities.

Private clinics seem to put almost every mother under the surgical knife. This is at least true for the urban areas of J and K where C-Section delivery rate is 91% in private health facilities. Normal deliveries here are an exception. World Health Organization guidelines insist to limit the rate of "C-Section" deliveries between 10-15% in any region but we

WHEN THE RATE GOES ABOVE 10%, there is no evidence that mortality rates improve." The guidelines further advise that C-Section should only be performed if either the baby's or mother's life is in mortal peril because C-Section surgeries have some serious short and long-term consequences that affect both the child and the mother as the news report cited above mentioned some problems that the mothers in Kashmir face after going through the surgery.

have normal deliveries being limited to this rate. According to WHO statistics "when caesarean section rates rise towards 10% across a population, the number of maternal and newborn deaths decreases" but "when the rate goes above 10%, there is no evidence that mortality rates improve." The guidelines further advise that C-Section should only be performed if either the baby's or mother's life is in mortal peril because C-Section surgeries have some serious short and long-term consequences that affect both the child and the mother as the news report cited above mentioned some problems that the mothers in Kashmir face after going through the surgery.

The news report published in this newspaper states that women opt voluntarily for C-Section deliveries

out of fear of labour pain. Even the gynaecologist cited in the report is blaming women for Googling the complications associated with natural birth and then opting for the C-Section surgery to avoid those complications. Even if this is true, it is surprising that the women should not have known about the postpartum short and long-term complications that they and their babies will have to go through after the delivery. It also raises serious doubts about the consent that the hospitals take from such patients before the surgery. As far as informed consent is concerned, the patients should have been informed about these complications. If the mothers had been informed about the whole list of side effects that the C-Section surgery brings with it, they might have preferred

the labour pain over the habitual backache, the hair fall and weakening of uterus. These mothers would not have been complaining about all this if informed consent had been obtained from them. Even though there is a vast network of ASHA workers that are responsible to provide medical assistance to pregnant women but given the data of C-Section deliveries they do not seem to assist the expecting mothers in picking up a procedure for their delivery based on informed choice. ASHA workers along with doctors should be made responsible to tackle this concern. ASHA workers should especially be mandated to overlook C-Section surgeries in private hospitals where the doctors seem to encourage C-Section deliveries for financial gains as the Doctors Association Kashmir had alleged in April 2017 when it had come all out against the rising number of C-Section deliveries in Kashmir. It is not about trivializing the labour pain or prohibiting the people from choosing their preferred procedure for the delivery, but the concern is that they should be allowed to choose the option only after informing them about the benefits and drawbacks of various procedures that are available.

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Mindful Fridays

The Mind-Heart-Body Connection

Wasim Kakroo

COVID-19 pandemic has created devastations across globe by claiming millions of lives and infecting millions over the world. The current pandemic has a devastating impact in terms of case numbers and deaths, and thus the pandemic is regarded as the greatest challenge the world has faced since World War II. However, heart disease still remains to be one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide as well as in India, particularly in the former state of Jammu & Kashmir. Accord-

of a person can have an impact on the other two. Systemic body factors and illnesses, such as diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia, are widely known to have negative effects on the heart and the broader circulatory system. The development of CVD, such as myocardial infarction (MI), heart failure, stroke, or the requirement for coronary revascularization, can also lead to a decline in psychological wellbeing. Although stress-induced cardiomyopathy, is the most obvious example of how a psychological state can adversely and immediately affect the heart, a growing body of evidence suggests that a broader, long-

Hostility and anger might elicit an unfavourable fight or flight response as body might feel threatened. One study found that inducing angry rumination in individuals was associated with increases in cardiovascular reactivity as measured by heart rate, diastolic blood pressure, and systolic blood pressure. Anger may also acutely increase the risk of adverse cardiovascular events, including MI/acute coronary syndrome, stroke, and ventricular arrhythmia, in the 2 hours after an outburst of anger. Research has also found that long-term exposure to personality traits of hostility and anger characteristic of Type A personality can result in the development

have a single universal definition. Positive psychological health, entails the existence of positive psychological elements such as happiness, optimism, gratitude, a feeling of purpose, life satisfaction, eudaimonic (virtuous) well-being, and mindfulness.

Positive psychological health entails more than just the absence of negative psychological elements like despair, anxiety, and pessimism, and the absence of psychological pain does not always imply that people are actively experiencing psychological well-being.

Optimism

Optimism is defined by a sense of hopefulness and confidence that things will turn out well in the future, as well as anticipating the greatest potential outcomes. Several studies have revealed that optimism is connected with healthier behaviours such as increased physical activity, avoiding smoking, a healthy food choice, improved sleep quality, and higher cardiovascular health status. An optimistic view of life has been linked to healthy ageing and a lower risk of CVD, including stroke and heart failure. According to one study, women with higher optimism levels had slower progression of atherosclerosis in their carotid arteries.

A recent study including 220 391 participants discovered that higher levels of optimism were related with a 35% lower risk of incident CVD events. More optimistic individuals had a 10% longer life expectancy and a higher possibility of surviving to 85 years of age.

Optimism has also been associated to better cardiovascular outcomes in people who already have CVD. Higher optimism was related with a lower incidence of hospital cardiac readmissions in the GRACE research (Gratitude Research in Acute Coronary Events), which measured optimism in 164 patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) and then tracked these individuals for 6 months.

Sense of purpose

A sense of purpose can be defined in a variety of ways, but it is commonly thought of as finding meaning in one's daily life and being inspired and guided by one's values and life objectives. Adults with a greater sense of purpose, like optimistic adults, have more favorable lifestyle and cardiovascular risk factors, such as less smoking, more physical exercise, less alcohol and substance misuse, and better glucose control. A stronger sense of purpose in life has been linked to improved cardiovascular health, longevity, and a lower risk of CVD, including a lower risk of MI and stroke. A study involving over 130 000 people discovered that having a greater sense of purpose in life was related with a 17% lower risk of both CVD events.

Positive Affect and Happiness

Happiness is a type of positive affect that is defined by a sense of well-being and contentment. People that are happy tend to sleep better, exercise more, eat better, and do not smoke. Individuals who were evaluated as having a stronger positive affect by trained observers had a 22% decreased incidence of incident CHD in one study. Other research has discovered that positive affect prevents disease progression in the context of diabetes and other cardiometabolic disorders.

Gratitude:

Gratitude is the trait of being thankful for and appreciative of persons and situations in one's life. Small clinical trials examining a gratitude intervention (for example, gratitude journaling) found improvements in blood pressure, sleep, inflammatory biomarkers, and heart rate variability, thus resulting in better heart health.

What are the ways to have sound mental health in order to have healthy heart?

We can have the following interventions that might help us to improve both our mental health as well as cardiovascular outcomes.

Psychotherapy

Several trials have employed psychotherapy to treat depression in people with heart disease. The ENRICH (Enhancing Recovery in Coronary Heart Disease) experiment, the largest intervention trial for depression in heart disease patients, investigated the effects of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) after MI. When compared to the control condition, CBT alleviated depression. Cognitive behavioural treatment was also

related with significant improvements in depression and other mental health outcomes in patients with heart failure who had serious depression. When compared to standard care, cognitive behavioural therapy was also related with lower possibilities of hospitalisation after one year.

Some research looked at psychotherapies aimed primarily at lowering anxiety and stress. Three such studies investigated the efficacy of psychotherapy to alleviate stress and increase health in heart disease patients. One such experiment looked at individuals who had been hospitalised in the previous 12 months for MI, percutaneous coronary intervention, or coronary artery bypass graft surgery. They were enrolled for a group-based cognitive behavioural therapy programme for a year, and it was found that CBT intervention had reduced probability of fatal and nonfatal first recurrence of cardiovascular events by 41%. Another trial of a group-based psychosocial intervention programme focusing on relaxation training and coping skills found that the intervention group had lower mortality.

Mindfulness-Based Interventions and Meditation Training

Meditation has been shown in certain studies to reduce various forms of psychological and psychosocial distress such as perceived stress, anxiety, and negative affect; boost smoking cessation rates; and modestly lower systolic and diastolic blood pressures. A recent comprehensive analysis of 16 research studies indicated that mindfulness-based therapies improved negative psychological outcomes (e.g., decreased anxiety, sadness, and stress) and reduced systolic blood pressure. A study of meditation interventions in patients with heart failure discovered significant improvements in depression and symptom management. A 2019 study on effects of meditation trials in CVD patients demonstrated significant benefits in anxiety, perceived stress, depression, and systolic blood pressure with mindfulness-based therapies.

In conclusion, current findings of studies on psychological health and CVD can be summarised as follows:

1. CVD should not be seen as a separate entity, but rather as one component of a larger system in which the mind, heart, and body are all interconnected. Both positive and negative psychological status appears to have a direct impact on cardiovascular health and prognosis.
2. For individuals with or at risk of CVD, psychological health is an important component of wellness/well-being.
3. There is a substantial body of high-quality data showing clear associations between psychological health and CVD and risk.
4. There is growing evidence that psychological health may be causally linked to behaviours that contribute to CVD and risk.
5. The overwhelming body of evidence suggests that psychotherapies to improve psychological health such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) can have a positive influence on cardiovascular health. Simple screening tools for patients with or at risk of CVD should be utilised by health care practitioners to assess psychological health status and if any psychological disorder such as depression or anxiety or any psychosocial issue is found to be the predisposing, precipitating or perpetuating factor for cardiovascular events, such patients should be referred to a mental health professional such as a clinical psychologist to work on psychological issues.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and is currently working as a child and adolescent mental health therapist at Child Guidance and Well-Being Centre at Institute of Mental Health And Neurosciences-Kashmir (IMHANS).

Author can be reached at
wasimkkroo21@gmail.com



The painting 'The Desperate Man' by French painter Gustave Courbet can be seen at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt/Main, central Germany | Getty Images

ing to a study conducted by the Global Health Research Institute, 29.6 percent of deaths in J&K are attributable to heart-related diseases. According to the survey, 25 percent of deaths occur between the ages of 25 and 69. 32.8 percent of these deaths occur in cities, whereas 22.9 percent occur in rural regions.

Traditional cardiovascular risk factors, such as smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes, do not fully account for or explain the population's disproportionate and increasing burden of CVD. Most of the times, medical professionals concentrate their whole efforts on the patient's cardiovascular disease rather than the patient's psychosocial state as a predisposing factor, triggering factor or even as a maintaining factor in the their bad heart condition. Psychological health and how it affects physical health and disease have received less attention. In cardiovascular medicine, there has been an understandable focus on using pharmaceutical and device-based therapy to address specific heart problems. However, there is now a growing recognition that psychological health can contribute not only in a negative way to cardiovascular disease (CVD), but also in a positive way to improved cardiovascular health and lower cardiovascular risk.

To describe and capture an overall state of health, a variety of phrases have been used from time to time. The term wellbeing is one among them. The term "well-being" refers to how people value various aspects of their lives, such as their physical and mental health, their financial situation, their social supports and sense of community, their opportunities for growth and ability to achieve their goals, and a general sense of purpose and satisfaction with their life course. We must remember that a patient is more than one or more physical disease states; he or she is a human being who does not have only physical aspects but also psychological aspects of being human. Hence, we must work to reduce negative aspects of psychological health while promoting a positive and healthy overall state of being.

The mind, heart, and body are all interconnected and dependent on one another. Factors, situations, and disease states (both physical and psychological) that affect one of these three aspects

term relationship exists in which a person's psychological health (mind) can positively or negatively affect cardiovascular health, cardiovascular risk factors, CVD event risk, and prognosis of various cardiovascular diseases. This interconnected pattern of relationship between heart, body, and mind can be called the mind-heart-body connection.

IMPACT OF NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING ON HEART HEALTH

According to well established research, negative psychological factors, personality traits, and mental health disorders can all have a negative impact on cardiovascular health.

Social Stressors and Chronic Stress

Life events that are stressful, persistent daily stressors, and high levels of perceived stress have all been found to have an impact on heart health. Psychological stress can be caused by a variety of factors, including work-related problems, poor-quality or insufficient relationships, financial hardships, and discrimination. Aside from these forms of stressful events, persons may be subjected to traumatic stress if they experience or witness events with a threat to their sense of safety and security. According to research, both cumulative exposure to regular stressors on daily basis and catastrophic stress can increase the risk of CVD. Work-related stress was found to be associated with a 40% increased risk of incident CVD in a study published in 2011. Social isolation and loneliness, both major sources of stress, have also been related to an increased risk of CVD, with some studies showing a 50% increased risk of incident CVD events. Childhood stressors can have far-reaching consequences on cardiovascular health. Childhood maltreatment, social isolation, and socioeconomic hardship have all been related to increased inflammation and metabolic risk factors later in life. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is another mental health condition that develops after experiencing a potentially traumatic life experience and is characterized by significant psychological discomfort. Two studies of relationship between PTSD and CVD have been published, the most recent one in 2018 151 144 individuals. In these studies, PTSD was found to be connected with a 61% increased risk of Coronary Heart Disease.

Hostility and anger

of Coronary Vascular Disease prematurely.

Anxiety

Anxiety is defined by the American Psychological Association as "an emotion marked by feelings of tension, worried thoughts, and physical changes such as elevated blood pressure," implying the possibility of a relationship between anxiety and CVD risk. Anxiety can occur as a temporary mood or as a general tendency (i.e., trait-like), or it can be a symptom of a clinical disorder such as generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) when experienced frequently or repeatedly at high intensity and in inappropriate contexts. Anxiety may be a risk factor for hypertension, excess adiposity, and smoking, all of which can increase atherosclerosis. Several studies on the relationship between anxiety and CVD have found that anxiety was related with an increased risk of CVD mortality.

Depression

Numerous studies have indicated that those who suffer from depression are more likely to develop and die from CVD. Several studies done on association between depression and CVD have been published, including one from 2014 that included 893 850 participants from North America, Western Europe, and Asia. Depression was linked to an elevated risk of Myocardial Infarction and incident CHD in this study. Based on these findings, the American Heart Association released a scientific statement in 2014 proposing that depression be considered a risk factor for recurrent cardiovascular events. The increased CVD risk seen in patients with depression may be driven partially by elevations in traditional cardiovascular risk factors such as obesity because depression can lead to sedentary life style which may increase the possibility of obesity and obesity in turn may lead to increased risk of CVD.

Pessimism

Pessimism is defined by a tendency to expect negative outcomes or to consistently explain events in a negative manner. A pessimistic explanatory style has also been associated with a sense of hopelessness. These factors have been related to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. In an 11-year long study from Finland, for example, pessimism was a found to be a significant predictor of CHD mortality.

IMPACT OF POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH ON HEART HEALTH

Positive psychological health does not

“ A pessimistic explanatory style has also been associated with a sense of hopelessness. These factors have been related to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease

“ We must remember that a patient is more than one or more physical disease states; he or she is a human being who does not have only physical aspects but also psychological aspects of being human. Hence, we must work to reduce negative aspects of psychological health while promoting a positive and healthy overall state of being

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO DEAREST AIDA ZAINAB**

HAPPIEST FIRST BIRTHDAY TO OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER. YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES HAVE GIVEN US A REASON TO SMILE BETTER AND YOU SURELY HAVE BECOME A REASON OF MAKING OUR LIVES HAPPIER. WISHING A LONG HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE TO YOU.



FROM
BABA, MAMMA, ABU, AMI JAAN, PAPA, MUMMY BADEE
MAMA, PAPA JI, AMEE JAAN, MAAMU, MAASI, MAYEE AND
ESPECIALLY FROM MYRA ZEHRRA.

از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار
مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب غلام نبی گنائی ولد غلام حسن گنائی ساکنہ کنگوال اوعلیٰ RBA سرقلیٹ
تحتیقا 37, 294, 120 SRO 26, 294, 37

استخبار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست سامو کو روٹ پر جدا میں زیر ساعت ہیں اس سلسلہ میں رپورٹ پٹاری طالب کیا گیا جس سے عیان ہوتا ہے کہ درخواست دہندہ مرد دراز سے گھجور کو میں سکونت رکھتا ہے سائیکل کے نمبر کی سالا بتا دیا 12000 سائیکل دھڑو کو کا منتقل ہا شدہ ہے

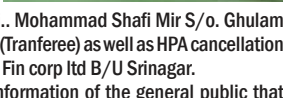
غلام نبی گنائی	60 سال	زمینداری
نسیہ بیگم	58 سال	گھر بیلا کام
تو صیف احمد گنائی	30 سال	زیر تعلیم
دلشادہ بیگم	29 سال	گھر بیلا کام
غلام حسین	3 سال	شیر خوار
سائیکل	25 سال	زیر تعلیم
ذابہ بی	23 سال	زیر تعلیم
عاصف نبی	18 سال	زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ نمبر کی سالا بتا دیا 12000 فریزر زلیق 12000 کے فریجلیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

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

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Shafi Bhat S/o: Mohammad Akbar Bhat R/o: Jawalapora Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 6951. Chasis number 16103 Engine no. 72712 Model 2018. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Shafi Mir S/o. Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Jawalapora Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S Cholamandlam investment Fin corp ltd B/U Srinagar.



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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3619 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 30-09-2021 MBC Budgam Kashmir

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
BRANCH OFFICE BARAMULLA**

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost his Marks Card of Secondary School (Class 10th) /Hr. Secondary school Part-I/Part-II (Class -11th/12th) issued by the board of school education under the following details:

Details of Secondary Examination (Class 10th)

Name: Mohd Yaseen Bhat

Parentage: Gulam Mohd Bhat

Roll No: 3104279 | Session: Annual Regular | Year: 2019

Details of Hr. Secondary School Examination (Class 12th/11th)

Name: Mohd Yaseen Bhat

Parentage: Gulam Mohd Bhat

Roll No: 2791 | Session: Annual Regular | Year: 2019

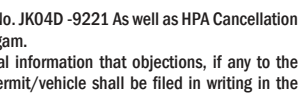
Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate marks card. Before the same is processed and provide to the said candidate, if anybody has any objection in regard may file the same before the under mentioned in writing within Seven days from the date of this notice. Besides, the Original marks card of the said candidate be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Assist Secretary
Sub office, Baramulla

AJJ

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

Where as a joint application has been received from owner. Shri : M/S Mir Construction and Suppliers Prop: Iqbal Hussain Mir R/o: Chattergam Budgam as Transferor & Shri. Mehraj Ahmad Malik S/o Mohammad Dilawar Malik R/o Taki Sultan Baramulla Km.as Transferee) for transfer of HGV Tipper Carriage route permit No.2017/Gc/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04D - 9221 As well as HPA Cancellation with J&K Bank Ltd B/u Chattergam Budgam.

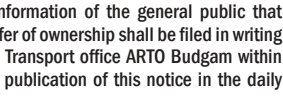


Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 3320 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 11/09/2021 MBC Budgam Kashmir

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

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one Shri : Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar S/o: Abdul Rehman Dar R/o: Chadoora Budgam (Transferor) of LMV ecosport. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04G - 0159. Chasis number 74936 Engine no. 74936 Model 2021 in favour of Mrs Shazia Bashir W/o. Bashir Ahmad Khan R/o Baba Pora Haba Kadal Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U H.R.Chadoora & HP Endorsement with J&K Bank B/U Apex Corporation Head Quarters Srinagar.



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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3612 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 30/09/2021 MBC Budgam Kashmir

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

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Nazir Ahmad Matoo S/o: Mohammad Yousuf Matoo R/o: Baghi Mehtab Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Alto . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 5178. Chasis number 789105 Engine no. 3335594 Model 2006. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Ali Khan S/o. Abdul Qayum Khan R/o Devipora Rangpora Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with J & K Bank Ltd B/U Chanapora also required. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

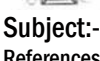


No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3622 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated 30-09-2021 MBC Budgam Kashmir

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>. Email: helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com



Subject:- Admission Notification for M.Sc. Nursing Courses, 2021.

References:- i) SRO 505 of 2019 dated 20-08-2019.

ii) SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24- 10-2019.

Notification No.098-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 28-09-2021

Applications are invited from the candidates belonging to UT's of J&K/Ladakh who are eligible and desirous for admission to M.Sc Nursing Courses 2021 through offline mode. The selection of the candidates shall be Governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, SRO 505 of 2019 dated 20-08-2019 read with SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24- 10-2019 and the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O 249 dated 23-07-2021 and subject to further amendments, if any, by the Competent Authority/Govt., issued from time to time.

Eligibility:- Any candidate applying for M.Sc. Nursing courses shall be eligible, if he/ she:

- is a Domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh,
- has passed, B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc. Hons. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing with minimum of 55% aggregate marks,
- should be a Registered Nurse and Registered midwife or equivalent with any State/UT Nursing Registration Council,
- has minimum one year of work experience after Basic B.Sc. Nursing,
- has minimum one year of work experience prior to or after Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing .

Tentative Intake

S.no	Name of the M.Sc Nursing course/Institution	Madre Meherban Institute of Nursing Srinagar	Bibi Halima College Srinagar	BEE ENN College Jammu	Rajive Gandhi College of Nursing Jammu	Stephens College of Nursing	Total
1	M.Sc Medical Surgery	5	2	5	5	10	27
2	M.Sc Obs & Gynecological	5	2	5	5	10	27
3	M.Sc Paediatrics (Child Health) Nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
4	M.Sc Community Health nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
5	M.Sc Psychiatry 5 (Mental Health) Nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
	Total	25	10	25	25	50	135

Note:- Seats in the above institutions shall be filled as & when Board receives approval from concerned Universities/Competent Authority, pending if any.

Submission of Application Forms:

The interested candidates have to submit Application form Physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar (on working days only) alongwith the following self attested certificates w.e.f. 29-09-2021 to 13-10-2021 (04.00 P.M):-

- domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (domicile Certificate , if not issued , at the time of submission of Registration cum Application Form, the candidate can submit an undertaking certifying that he /she shall submit /produce the same at the time of counselling/admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.
 - Desired qualifying marks card of B.Sc. Nursing /B.Sc. Hons. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Courses, whichever is applicable.
 - Date of Birth (10th class Marks card/Diploma issued by the Board)
 - Experience/work Certificate.
 - Registration Certificate.
 - Valid Reserved category certificate, if any &
 - Fee of Rs 1200/= to be paid through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through debit/credit card.
- The Application Form shall be available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar and also annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification which can be downloaded from official website www.jkbopee.gov.in.
- However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently. Note:- The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University/competent Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned authority/University notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

Instructions:

- No under process certificate will be accepted/entertained;
- Original Documents as mentioned above required to be submitted in the concerned Institution at the time of Admission.

Mode of selection/Admission:

The Board shall fill up these seats on the basis of entrance test or on the basis of %age of final year marks scored by the candidates in the qualifying examination as filled in by the candidates in the Application form and on the basis of preferences filled during the time of counselling. In case two or more candidates having same Marks in B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc.Hons. Nursing / Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing, then their tie shall be resolved by considering their D.O B (elder in age shall be given 1st preference) & in case of further tie, 1st alphabet of the name of candidate shall be taken into the account for selection.

Note:-

- Mere filling of application form shall not confer any right on the candidate(s) for admission.
- The Board has right to select /reject any application form at any stage, if found false/fabricated, without issuing any notice to the candidate.

E&OE

No: BOPEE/EXAM-22/2021

Dated: 28 -09-2020

DIPK-NB-3887/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)

Controller of Examinations,

J&K BOPEE

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL**

email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Short term notice inviting E-tenders

Gist of NIT NO. 37 OF 2021-22 Dated.28.09.2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from OEM or his authorized representative/ Authorized Dealers or Registered/reputed/experienced Firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works: -

S.No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)
1.	Providing and fitting of HVAC/VRV system for Disaster Management ward at SKIMS, MCH, Bemina.	15.00

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

I.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	28-09-2021 at 11:00 Hour
II.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	30-09-2021 from 10.30hours to 14:00Hours
III.	Last date & Time of Bid Uploading.	05-10-2021 upto 16:00 Hours
IV.	Date of submission of hard copies.(Original EMD / FDR & DD only) in the office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS	06-10-2021 upto 14:00 Hours
V.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	07-10-2021 at 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
VI.	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-IInd) Opening	Shall be intimated separately
VII.	Cost of e-bid Documen	Rs.1000/= (Rupees one thousand only)
VIII.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/ FDR)	Rs.30000/= (Rupees thirty thousand only)
IX.	Completion Time	30 days
X.	Budget Head	CAPEX Budget for the year 2021-22

No: SIMS 139 EX/MECH/ 565 /2021-1566-76

Dated. 25 /09/2021

DIPK-NB-3884 /21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical, SKIMS

**THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

Tele/Fax: 0194-24133760, 2433590, (Srinagar): 0191-2479J71, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: <http://www.Jkbopee.gov.in>, <http://www.jakbopee.org> Email: helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Conduct of Physical Allotment counselling for admission to MDS courses 2021

Reference:-

- Notification No. 076-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-08-2021.
- Notice No. 064-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-08-2021.
- Notice No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-08-2021.
- Notice No. 066-BOPEE of 2021 dated 06-09-2021.
- SC/NEET-MD5/6500-508 dated 14-09-2021.
- Notification No. 091-BOPEE dated 16-09-2021.
- Notification No. 094 BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 25-09-2021.

Notification No. 99-BOPEE of 2021 Dated 29 -09-2021

The Board vide notification No 094-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 25-09-2021 advised the candidates if any, desire to make the representation against the position assigned to them in the Provisional Merit List to do so upto 28-09-2021. The Board has not received any such representation and accordingly decided to conduct the physical round of counselling.

It is therefore, notified for information of all eligible candidates who have applied for admission to MDS Courses 2021 that the Board shall conduct Said Counselling on 03-10-2021 at BOPEE Office Jammu / Srinagar simultaneously as per the schedule given below:-

COUNSELLING SCHEDULE FOR MDS COURSE 2021

Date	From Rank	To Rank
03-10-2021(Sunday)	01	103

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Candidates are advised to report at BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar physically for registration/attendance & fulfillment of other formalities between 08:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Sharp along with Proof of identity.
- All the candidates who will report for physical counselling at BOPEE offices Jammu/ Srinagar are advised to adhere strictly to advisory issued by the Government of J&K from time to time for COVID-19.
- The participating candidates shall have to deposit counselling fee of Rs. 2000/- through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/ Srinagar.
- Seat matrix shall be uploaded separately in due course of time before counselling.
- The candidates shall have to keep all the documents ready to avoid any delay in the admission process including State/UT registration, the NOC in respect for in- service candidates. The candidates failing to produce any of the documents notified from time to time including the NOC from the employer shall not be eligible to join the college/course. The in-service candidates are, therefore, once again advised to attend counselling in case they are eligible under rules and obtain the NOC.
- The Reserve Category certificate including EWS of the candidates, if expired, such candidates were provided an opportunity to submit the renewed certificate in the Board Office at Jammu / Srinagar physically by or before 28-09-2021 (02.00 PM) positively, but the Board has not received any such document upto to the prescribed date, therefore, such candidate(s) have been treated as an open merit candidate(s).
- Any candidate found ineligible/ or any other consent reasons for breaching the trust of the Board at any stage of counselling/admission shall be debarred from counselling/further admission process as notified from time to time.
- Mere filling up of preferences by candidates shall not confer any right upon them to claim a seat which shall be subject to the conditions contained in the Information Brochure and the subsequent Notifications/Notices issued from time to time.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified by the Board through Information Brochure / Notification/ Notices from time to time in this regards

E&OE.

No. BOPEE/Exam-18/2021

Dated: 29-09-2020

DIPK-NB-3902 -60

Dr. Sunil Gupta

Controller of Examinations

J&KBOPEE

Govt Keeps Interest Rates On Small Savings Schemes Unchanged For 3rd Quarter Of FY'22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, unchanged for the third quarter of 2021-22 amid the COVID-19 pandemic and elevated level of inflation.

Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

"The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22 starting from October 1, 2021, and ending on December 31, 2021, shall remain unchanged from the current rates applicable for the second quarter (June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021) for FY 2021-22," the finance ministry said in a notification.

According to analysts, the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly elections may also have been a factor behind the government's decision to keep rates unchanged.

Uttar Pradesh is the second highest contributor to the small savings schemes after West Bengal.

During the West Bengal assembly elections earlier this year, the Centre decided to reduce the interest rate on these schemes. However, the very next day on April 1, the finance ministry revoked the steep interest rate cut of up to 1.1 per



cent, citing an oversight.

As a result, the first quarter rates were retained at the level of the fourth quarter of the last financial year. The cut was touted as the steepest in many decades.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

One-year term deposit scheme will continue to earn an interest rate of 5.5 per cent, while the girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account will earn 7.6 per cent.

The interest rate on the five-year senior citizens savings scheme would be retained at 7.4 per cent. The interest on the senior citizens' scheme is paid quarterly.

Interest rate on savings deposits will continue to be 4 per cent per annum.

Term deposits of one to five years will fetch interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7 per cent, to be paid quarterly, while the interest rate on five-year recurring deposits will earn a higher interest of 5.8 per cent.

Gol Committed To Promote J&K Tourism Worldwide: Tourism Minister



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Tourism and Culture and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), G. Kishan Reddy Thursday reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of India towards the promotion Jammu and Kashmir Tourism and rich cultural heritage worldwide.

The Minister stated this while holding an interactive session with tour operators and various stakeholders associated with the tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir along with the Department of Tourism at SKICC here.

Earlier on Thursday morning, Reddy arrived here as part of Gol's public outreach programme to J&K. On his arrival, the Minister visited the Tourist Facilitation Centre and J&K Tourism Information Centre.

During his interaction with different tourism players from Kashmir, Reddy discussed various avenues pertinent to tourism in the region of J&K and highlighted the importance of promotion and campaigning of J&K as a tourism destination in India and across the globe, and said that the Central Government will do everything in their domain to brand the region as

an international tourist destination.

During the session, different stakeholders including tourist trade and travel, houseboat association, shikarawalas, hoteliers among others put forth their demands and issues before the Minister.

Among other issues, the tourism stakeholders sought direct flights from different cities of the country including Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai to Srinagar. They also demanded insurance cover in case of losses, development of new and virgin tourist destinations, better mobile connectivity at tourism places, renovation of old hotels at tourism destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg among others.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the tourism stakeholders and assured them that all their genuine issues would be taken up at the Central Government level for early resolution.

While speaking on the occasion, Mr Reddy said that the Central Government is doing every bit to bring J&K back on the tourism map and make it the number one tourist destination among travelers, tourists, visitors once again.

He informed the meeting that the Government of India along with UT government is putting in serious

efforts to bring Mughal Gardens of J&K on UNESCO Heritage map so that these places would get international recognition to help in increasing tourist footfall from other countries.

He said that J&K being a tourism state remains top priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who always pushes his Cabinet for the development of J&K.

Earlier, the Minister presided over a meeting with the Department of Tourism J&K, J&K Academy of Arts, Culture & Languages, Department of Archives, Archeology & Museums, Archeological Survey of India, heads of different development authorities and other concerned.

The Minister reviewed the progress of tourism development projects supported by the Union Government for the UT.

While appreciating the J&K tourism for their work done during Covid-19 pandemic, the Minister said that the UT has done a lot better than other States and UTs during the pandemic. He said J&K is progressing and moving in the right direction and Union Government is supporting the UT in every respect to take the region on uniform prosperity with rest of India.

RBI's New Auto Debit Rules To Set In From Today; Know How It Will Affect You



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: With the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) extended deadline coming to an end, there will be no automatic recurring payment for various services, including recharge and utility bill, as the additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory from Friday.

On December 4, RBI had directed all banks, including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface (UPI) under arrangements/practices not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond March 31, 2021.

As part of risk mitigation measures, RBI announced this step to bolster safety and security of card transactions.

However, non-readiness of some of the players forced the RBI to extend the deadline on recurring payment such as utility bills, recharge of phone, DTH and OTT, among others, till September 30.

Under the new norms, banks will be required to inform customers in advance about recurring payment due and transaction would be carried following nod from the customer. So the transaction would not be automatic but would be done after authentication from the cus-

tomers.

For recurring payments above Rs 5,000, banks are required to send a one-time password to customers as per the new guidelines.

Most of the banks, including State Bank of India (SBI) have informed their customers about the new rules.

HDFC Bank in a bulk message to customers said as per RBI guidelines on e-Mandate on cards, the bank will decline non-compliant recurring transaction at merchant web or app on your Credit/Debit Card from October 1, 2021.

"Alternate Solution - Retry regular payment on Merchant Web/App authenticated via OTP or Pay via AutoPay in Bill-Pay on our NetBanking for your Electricity /Water/Gas/ Landline/Postpaid mobile/Broadband/Insurance billers," it said.

In August 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued a framework for processing of e-mandates on recurring online transactions.

Initially applicable to cards and wallets, the framework was extended in January 2020 to cover Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions as well.

RBI had said the requirement of AFA has made digital payments in India safe and secure and the primary objective of the framework was to protect customers from fraudulent transactions and enhance customer convenience.

How Global Supply Chains Are Falling Out Of Fashion



AGENCIES

MILAN: Fashion brands like Benetton are increasingly turning away from globe-spanning supply chains and low-cost manufacturing hubs in Asia, in a shift that could prove a lasting legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Italy's Benetton is bringing production closer to home, boosting manufacturing in Serbia, Croatia, Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt, with the aim of halving production in Asia from the end of 2022, Chief Executive Massimo Renon told Reuters. Renon gave an insight into the economics driving a trend affecting much of the industry as strained supply lines have driven up shipping costs and times, undermining a business model that's proved popular for the past 30 years.

"It's a strategic decision to have more control on the production process and also on transport costs," he said, adding

the group had already shifted more than 10% of output out of countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, China and India this year.

"Today a shipping container that used to cost \$1,200-1,500 can cost \$10,000-15,000, with no certainty of a delivery date."

The tenfold jump in sea freight costs has been driven by a scarcity of available vessels, as many were idled during the pandemic, coupled with rebounding consumer demand, said Renon, whose company makes most of its sales in Europe but has shifted production to lower-wage countries since the early 2000s.

This shipping quandary is roiling several companies in the clothes, and wider consumer, industry. Hugo Boss is also looking to bring manufacturing operations closer to its markets, for example, while more immediately Lululemon, Gap and Kohl's say they'll rely more heavily on far costlier air freight to avoid running out of stock during the holiday season.

Load Penalty At Jammu Airport Scrapped, Airlines Can Fly Full Capacity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: In a move that may lead to lower airfares to Jammu, the load penalty for its airport was scrapped on Thursday, allowing airlines to fly full capacity, officials said.

Till now, there was a 30 per cent load penalty, which meant that airlines could book only 70 per cent of the seats available on a flight.

The Indian Air Force, which controls the Jammu airport, on Thursday issued a NOTAM (notice to airmen) which will lead to the removal of the 30 per cent load penalty on the airport, officials aware of the matter said.

This would mean airlines can fly full loads or at 100 per cent capacity, they said, adding this would lead to lower fares and longer destinations.

Currently, Jammu airport handles 35 flights from different cities on a daily basis.

The load restriction meant that

airlines either incur a loss on flying to Jammu or jack up fares to make up for the cost of keeping 30 per cent of seats empty.

The load restriction on airports is placed keeping in mind the length of the runway, its quality and heat factor.

Considering the importance of the airport, the administration under Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha proactively took up the issue with the DGCA, Airport Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Air Force, leading to the issuance of the NOTAM on Thursday.

"The governance mindset has changed from lackadaisical to moving the needle," an official said. "The runway was extended and strengthened which allowed for night landings a couple of months back."

Also, the issue involved market dynamics as well as traveller perception about the safety of Jammu and Kashmir.

There has been a steady rise in passenger footfall at the Jammu airport situated at Satwari, officials said, adding besides religious tourism, the scrapping of Article 370 has led to more trade and business visits.

Jammu connects to the sacred and highly revered Vaishno Devi Shrine and Amarnath cave.

The removal of load penalty will result in the cost of operations to Jammu for an airline reducing immediately, resulting in ticket prices coming down. "On the same variable cost, they can now fly more passengers and so their cost of operations will come down," an official explained.

While the NOTAM was issued by IAF, it involved coordination with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and AAI and the trigger for change came from the government of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHORT TAKES

Gas Price Hiked 62 Pc



NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday hiked the price of natural gas -- which is used to make fertilisers, produce electricity and is turned into CNG for automobiles -- by 62 per cent, an official order said. The price of natural gas produced by state-owned firms such as ONGC from fields given to them on nomination basis will be USD 2.90 per million British thermal unit for the six month period beginning October 1, it said. The rate for gas produced from difficult fields such as deepsea would be USD 6.13 per mmBtu, it added. (PTI)

Webinar On Awas Par Samvaad Held

JAMMU: A webinar on the topic 'Awas Par Samvaad' - 'Financial Inclusion' was organized by J&K Bank in collaboration with J&K Housing Board under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Asgar Hussain Khan, Aftab Ahmed Shalla, Incharge Govt Subsidy and Guarantee Dept; Corporate Headquarter J&K Bank, Dr. Manoj Bhatt; Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Jammu University, Suhail Ahmad Lone; Incharge Policy Planning Corporate Headquarter J&K Bank were key speakers.

The main topics for discussion were - Role of Banks, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) in facilitating access to finance for urban poor in all verticals of PMAY(U); Creating conducive housing ecosystem to facilitate stakeholder participation such as builders-bankers-beneficiaries (BBB) at city level, Mainstreaming Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) into the formal banking sector; Contribution of CLSS in reaching out to all sections of society for achieving the goal

of Housing for All.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board advocated the importance of Banks/Financial Institutions, Housing Finance Companies and Micro Finance Institutions in facilitating access to finances for urban poor in the three verticals of PMAY(U) under implementation in the U.T. of J&K. He further elaborated that the Financial Institutions while playing a key role in emancipating urban poor through financial interventions, the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme of PMAY(U) is a direct intervention for providing shelter to urban poor. Not only this, the Financial Institutions are duty bound to lend economic support for construction of houses under BLC and AHP Component of the Scheme as well. It was further intimated that the U.T. Government has taken a leap ahead and issued policy guidelines for granting Rs. 2.00 lacs interest free loan to PMAY(U) beneficiaries by the J&K Bank Ltd; for a period of 10 years, which in itself is a much needed and most appropriate financial intervention to address the problem of affordable shelter to urban poor.

Core Sectors' Output Grows 11.6 Pc In August

NEW DELHI: Eight core industries, including coal, crude oil, and steel, posted a growth of 11.6 per cent in August on a yearly basis, as per government data released on Thursday.

The eight core industries -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity -- comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The industries had contracted by 6.9 per cent in August 2020.

It is for the third month in a row that the core sectors have posted growth.

As per the data, the production of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity increased in August 2021 over the corresponding period of last year.

On the other hand, output of crude oil and fertiliser industries declined. (PTI)

Gold declines Rs 154; silver cracks Rs 1,337



NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Thursday declined by Rs 154 to Rs 44,976 per 10 gram reflecting an overnight decline in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, it had settled at Rs 45,130 per 10 gram. Silver also dipped Rs 1,337 to Rs 57,355 per kilogram from Rs 58,692 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading with marginal gains at USD 1,733 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.64 per ounce.

"Gold prices have kept lower trading range hovering near USD 1,730 per ounce on US FED tapering expectations," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

Sahitya Akademi Remembers Dr.Aziz Hajini

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Sahitya Akademy organised an online session in the memory of renowned Kashmiri writer, scholar, critic, former Secretary of J&K Academy Of Art, Culture and Languages and twice elected convener (Kashmiri) of National Academy Of Letters, Sahitya Akademi New Delhi, Dr.Aziz Hajini who recently left for the heavenly abode on Sep 11, 2021, a tributary programme was organised through virtual mode by Sahitya Akademi. Dozens of literary

stalwarts from across India participated in the National Level programme and payed glowing tributes to Dr Aziz Hajini. "On March 27, 2021, i.e., six months ago, Aziz Hajini told me to write a few lines for his forthcoming book 'Aziz Hajini: Man & the Mission' compiled by his son and son-in-law; I used the present tense to refer to him in those lines but who knew just after six months of that incident I will be using past tense for him, such is the unpredictability of human life", says Sanjakta Das Gupta, Convener English Advisory Board

of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Secretary Sahitya Akademi, K. Sreenivasarao states, "He was such a man who made deep impact in everyone's life." He while paying glowing tributes to late Dr.Hajini assured that the National Akademi of Letters will ascertain that the literary works of Aziz Hajini and other works in Kashmiri are translated into other Indian languages so that the readers of other regions and parts of the country also get benefited from the great ideas and philosophy of the great author/s. He further added.

G N Atish convener Sahitya Akademi's Kashmiri Advisory Board stated that the deceased author and poet was not only limited to boundaries of Kashmir but was a national figure. In his speech, Professor Zaman Azurdah shared some great memories of the deceased poet. He also said that it is our primary responsibility to remember our great literary and cultural icons and carry forward their great mission. Furthermore, Professor Farooq Fayaz while recollecting the memories of thirty seven

years of friendship with Aziz Hajini stated that the most striking feature of his personality was that he never compromised on talent. He added by commenting that even though he was a close friend of Hajini but, the late author would only invite him on occasions where he could offer his expertise. "I salute my friend for leaving a legacy behind," he added. Hajini's elder son, Azhar Hajini was also present in the meet who while getting emotional recollected his father's literary and personal personage.

Commemorating the Hindi Divas HDFC Ergo Launches its Website in Hindi Language

SRINAGAR: HDFC ERGO General Insurance, India's leading non-life insurance company in the private sector, announced the launch its full-fledged Hindi website on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 to commemorate the Hindi Day 2021 (Hindi Bhasha Divas). With this, HDFC ERGO General Insurance has entered the league of a few brands offering a bi-lingual website (English & Hindi). A digital-first Company, HDFC ERGO has always focused on digitally

enabling consumers across the country and ensuring their services are made easily available & understandable. According to a report published by KPMG, 521 million speakers use Hindi as their primary language and 39% use the language while accessing the internet. Therefore, the content of the website has been made available in Hindi, to ensure the majority of the country's population can understand and access their products and services with ease.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Strife, Stress,

Even before she could sense a storm that was about to be unleashed, her husband declared: "I've married someone else!"

Behind the pomp and show with which people are performing weddings in Kashmir, an elephant in the room is devouring the same sacred institutions in the name of infertility.

The doctors are aghast over the various reasons of the growing crisis raised by the new boogeyman and some have also pointed fingers at the lifestyle changes but, above all, the cases and statistics reveal a different cinema of the augmenting crisis in the valley.

As per the data available in the latest yearly Census of India report—which many refer to as “canary in the coal mine”—the total fertility rate in Jammu & Kashmir has collapsed from an all-time high of 2,400 in 2005 to a record low of 1,600 in 2018, raising the strong apprehensions of an existential crisis for the Kashmir lineage.

The infertility rate has soared in Kashmir, especially over the past two decades where it was first recorded at 12 per cent, and has now gone up to 18 per cent.

I called Dr. Bilquees Jameel, one of the leading gynaecologists of Kashmir who has an experience of more than five decades, to ask if there was any good news hiding behind those brutal numbers.

Is Kashmir's lineage really at risk of extinction? She failed to comfort me.

“The what does it mean question means extrapolating beyond your data,” Dr. Bilquees told me, “which is always a tricky thing. But you can ask, what does it take when a lineage is in danger? When is our existence threatened? And we are definitely heading towards that path.”

That path in its darkest leads to no more naturally conceived babies and potentially to no babies at all, the matron medic said.

“And maybe,” she added, “the final generation of Kashmir will roam the valley knowing they will be the last of their tribe. There is a clear and present alarm now.”

Out of every 10 cases that Dr. Bilquees receives, five are related to infertility with the higher side depicting female infertility. This is because, she explained, numerous women are suffering from polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), anovulation, endometriosis and fibroids.

“If we are half as fertile as the generation before us, why haven't we noticed? One answer is that there's a lot of redundancy built into reproduction: You don't need 200 million sperm to fertilize an egg, but that's how many Kashmiri men might devote to the job. Most Kashmiri men can still conceive a child naturally with a depressed sperm count, and those who can't have a booming fertility-treatment industry ready to help them,” the noted gynaecologist informed.

“And though lower sperm counts probably have led to a small decrease in the number of children being conceived, that decline has been masked by sociological changes driving birth rates down even faster. Our people in this concurrently developed Kashmir are choosing to have fewer children, and they are having them later. The obscure crisis is an astonishing and terrifying claim that, were it to be true, would justify the apocalyptic tenor of some of the false claims.”

Apparently, this “apocalyptic tenor” that Kashmiris have been ignoring for the past one decade has silently swept its roots into the families and distraught the relations within the blink of an eye.

One pacific floor of the Lal-Ded hospital in Srinagar houses the Assisted Reproductive Centre. The unit is populated not with doctors and researchers hunched over mass spectrometers and gel imagers and the like, but with new parents. I was there to talk to one of the leading gynaecologists in Kashmir.

After talking me through the crisis, she mentioned the growing infertility among males and females, and reproductive health. “The fertility in Kashmir is in full-blown crisis,” she began on an alarming note.

“Here in Kashmir, there's an epidemic of infertility. Out of 100 male infertility cases, 25 cannot father children, even In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) [where the egg is fertilised outside the womb] treatment won't help.”

In an attempt to understand more about the infertility in Kashmir through documented data, I approached the Medical Superintendent of Lal Ded hospital, Shabir Siddique, but five minutes down in the conversation suggested that even the doctors are less cautious about embracing any proper explanation on the crisis than expected.

“There's no data on infertility available,” his reply created a sense of shock in the room. “But, one thing is quite sure, infertility is a new destructive force in Kashmir.”

Perhaps, the same destructive force had played a dominant part in a quadragenarian's life who had come to a clinic to collect her latest “Fertility” test report.

As a wooden door opened into an archaic clinic, a young woman whispering some prayers stepped in. She walked towards the centre-placed reception inside the wooden grilled square. In that sad beige waiting room there were no normal persons but only the deflated faces. She stopped her stride, took a good luck of the sad settings around and started

praying relentlessly as if the world would have ceased to exist if her lips would've stopped uttering those prayers.

Her face had a stark resemblance with the weathered appearance of that clinic. Her voice was trembling like well-water in a goat-skin bucket and her eyes had been apparently pushed into the desolation of an unlit lamp. Among the gallery of test reports lying near the foot of that wooden reception, one thin sheet embraced her name. “Do I've something to cherish upon?” the young woman tremblingly asked the receptionists. “Yes!” pat came the reply.

Clad in a cream Shalwar-Kameez, she looked like any other frown face but the moment she received her wished reply, a shriek of cry broke the barriers of her parched lips. She was no longer a doomed mother waiting to birth a child.

“It's been more than six years since my husband and I tried to conceive a baby but to our shock, I was found infertile to conceive,” Ruksana Zargar, the woman in the clinic, said with a dejected tone. “Since then, we've tried almost every doctor's cure but nothing worked.”

Almost half a decade back, Ruksana was diagnosed with PCOS—a condition where a woman skips ovulation known as anovulation leading to infertility—and obesity, but she totally sidelined the urgency to get married as had been recommended by a doctor, when the extremely painful periods and continuous breast discharge had become a new monthly compulsion.

But, at 35, she was married to Javid who was five years younger than her, and thus began their struggle to conceive a child.

“Javid has accepted the fact that we'll always remain a childless couple but I cannot,” said Ruksana. “I always wanted to have a child and my last resort was IVF treatment. So, perhaps, Javid was wrong... We're no longer the childless couple!”

The late marriage menace that doctors believe is a major reason for growing infertility issues in the region, has become extremely common in Kashmir and perhaps adding a considerable share of trouble in the making of the crisis.

“Late marriage is the biggest contributor to the infertility crisis in Kashmir,” Dr. Bilquees Jameela continued, a bit defensively.

Bilquees, who had been so gracious and engaged with managing the crisis at her clinic, began to sound a little tired. She rallied that families even after knowing about their daughter's PCOS problem, still sideline the urgency of her early marriage and then blame her for failing to conceive a child.

“Kashmiris acknowledge that male reproductive health is essential for the survival of the species, but at the same time, the taboo regarding female reproductive health should end, given the alarming rise of fertility decline,” the veteran doctor said.

Many of these are attributable in part to the conflict, which as per Dr. Bilquees acts as a silent killer.

“Undoubtedly,” she said, “conflict creates an impact on the reproductive health of women. In fact, the data has shown that the impact of conflict in any given region is mostly on women because they are more concerned about the safety of their families.”

Perhaps, similar kinds of apprehensions were found to be factual, when in 2015 National Family Health Survey showed around 61 per cent of married women in Kashmir reporting one or more reproductive health problems — remarkably higher than the national average which stood at 39 per cent.

The study further suggested that 73 per cent of Kashmiri women tend to have reported one reproductive health problem.

When I caught up with Dr.Bilquees later, she wasn't nearly as dismissive as she had sounded earlier. She agreed that there was a big question that infertility was rising but even embraced some of the direst predictions of doctors on IVF treatment.

“The IVF treatment may be one of the only cures available against this problem,” she told me, “but that isn't a full-time cure for infertility. Globally, its success rate stands at around 40 per cent and when we talk about a region like Kashmir, one can only imagine the meager success rate of IVF treatment here.”

When even the skeptics are scared, it's probably time to pay attention to a natural way of conceiving—early marriages, PCOS awareness and reproductive inbound healthy lifestyle—rather than waiting for late marriages to destroy everything, the doctor suggested.

However, the fact that Dr. Bilquees didn't mention was how Kashmir's barren couples who've surfaced almost every nook and corner of the valley in a bid to be able to cherish the sentimental journey of conceiving a child, have apparently found a new door to knock on.

In the bustling urban pocket of Srinagar, Majid and Nida are among the dozens of other couples sitting on the perch of a godman's abode.

The young couple endearingly looks at the wall of delighted faces of those holding them inside that five decade old monument in Saida Kadal area of the city. The waiting space in the holy man's dwelling gradually fills in with apparently tired strangers connected by their physiological conditions, befriending each other and within no time, a bond of friendship is

forged.

The tranquil space that is bustling with hope and expectations for a joyous future is conspicuously avoided by a visibly older couple. Majid and Nida have been sitting secluded with an air of a steady resolve around them, evidently, both softened with hope and prospect of their wish being granted.

After seventeen years of childless marriage with one failed IVF attempt, the couple had travelled about fifteen kilometres to meet the godman, whose ‘dast-e-shifa’ (prayers)—as per the word of mouth—had apparently helped several infertile cases.

When the couple's turn came, the godman's buoyant words paved a way towards a cheerful future. “So, what if science has failed,” he defensively told the couple. “Almighty won't let you down! He's ghafoor ur raheem!”

Hearing these words, Nida could no longer control her emotions and broke into tears. For her, it felt as if the man sitting in front of her knew exactly what was going wrong.

“Medical science is there to help us but what if that too fails,” the godman who called himself Sajad Sa'eb, comforted the crowd. “When everything fails, then the only support we have is our creator.”

Couples need to be psychologically, physically as well as emotionally patient, godman Sajad with a sound academic background would tell me.

“Once they get psychologically and emotionally affected, they may go into a prolonged phase of anovulation, which can lead to infertility,” he said.

Sometimes, a couple is fertile enough to produce a child but they can't and even the medical explanations fail, he said. “But, one needs to understand, there're certain limitations of science beyond that only our creator can help.”

Apparently, with the same belief and in lieu of relief, Majid and Nida often hire a local traveller to visit Makhdoom Sahib shrine in Old Srinagar.

Climbing the long winded stairs, she buys corn kernels to feed the pigeons. As she enters the door of the saint, tears start falling off her face. She sits beside a pillar and her words give life to her agony. A visit to the shrine gives her momentary relief.

When science fails, as godman Sajad said, it's in this spiritual hope that most of the childless couples finally seek some solace.

Grievance Of Every

he addressed troops in a Sainik Sammelan. “On the occasion the Rai was briefed about the present security scenario and duties being performed by the BSF troops on the LoC as well as in hinterland to assist civil administration and to maintain law and order in district Kupwara,” the official spokesperson said.

ED Attaches 145 Cr

Rs 171 crore,” the ED said in a statement. During the same period, it said, the firm “also borrowed Rs 16.5 crore from HDFC Bank and Rs 25 crore from RBL Bank and mortgaged the same property, which was already mortgaged with J&K Bank Ltd.”

“The then branch manager (of J&K Bank) in connivance with promoter/director of the company caused loss to the state exchequer to the tune of Rs 352.72 crore,” the agency claimed.

The company obtained multiple loans, and used them to export goods mostly to related parties and the export proceeds were never realised in India, it claimed.

“The company also diverted the funds to sister/group concerns by adjustment of their overdue export bills by releasing fresh packing credit, Inland Letters of Credit (ILC) towards dealings with sister concerns by way of accommodation of bills under garb of ILC.”

“It was found that S A Rawther Spices Pvt Ltd has availed packing credit loans from J&K Bank and used the same for servicing instalments towards term loan account of Central Trade Agency Pvt Ltd., which is a sister concern of the former company,” it said.

110 New Cases

death due to the virus for the third day in a row. So far 4422–2173 in Jammu and 2249 in Kashmir have succumbed to the virus.

RSS Chief In

scheduled to meet intellectual think tanks and several politicians from BJP. RSS chief had last visited Jammu in the year 2016.

The RSS official statement said that Dr Bhagwat will review the ongoing projects initiated by the RSS in Jammu and Kashmir in various fields including Sewa, education, public awareness, health, rural development, ecology, water conservation, social equality, etc.

He will also interact with Pracharaks of the Union Territory as well as with selected dignitaries.

He will participate in many programmes including attending a function at Jammu University on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary.

ATS Gujarat

he addressed troops in a Sainik Sammelan. “On the occasion the Rai was briefed about the present security scenario and duties being

performed by the BSF troops on the LoC as well as in hinterland to assist civil administration and to maintain law and order in district Kupwara,” the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the Minister complimented troops on maintaining high morale and motivation even in the difficult terrain.

LG, Reddy Discuss

political situation followed by COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, tourists had to leave the valley following directions from the Centre when Article 370 and 35 A were abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two Union Territories on August 5.

As tourism sector was making some recovery, lockdown was imposed in the entire country in March 2020 following outbreak of COVID-19. Though this year tourists were missed during Tulip season again due to COVID, guests have now started to arrive in the valley, where only those who are vaccinated are being allowed to visit tourist places and gardens.

The tourist department Kashmir has also organized road shows and other functions in different parts of the country to attract more tourists this season.

13 Tribals Booked

Budgam confirmed to Kashmir Observer that an FIR has been registered on the request of DFO Budgam.

However, rejecting the claims of DFO, the accused said that all the charges pressed against them were baseless and unfounded.

“We were just demanding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and went to the DFO office for the same,” Abdul Majid Deenda, a resident of Riyar village, told Kashmir Observer.

However, he said, that over 13 people booked in the FIR were bailed out recently.

The incident happened a day after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over the Individual and Community Forest Rights certificates to members of Tribal Communities of Jammu division.

He congratulated the tribal communities and said that within a week of its beginning in Kashmir division, the process of handing over of Forest Rights Certificates had been started in Jammu. He termed their participation significant in the complete implementation of Forest Rights Act.

However, the tribals of Budgam allege that the LC's orders aren't being implemented in the district and instead they were being threatened with an FIR.

Jehangir Ahmad Deenda, Vice Chairman of Forest Rights Act committee accused forest officials of dodging them for months before demanding a bribe for verifying their documents for the implementation of FRA.

“We refused to do so and they lodged an FIR against us saying that we stole the fencing of the forest department,” he said.

However, Syed Ahmad Kataria, SDM told Kashmir Observer that it was a “small case” of trespassing and some fencing was damaged—thus an FIR.

“Actually, the FRA is a new concept and the people aren't fully aware about it. I cleared their misconceptions and all their grievances will be addressed through a proper channel,” he said.

However, DFO Budgam maintained that the Deenda family allegedly tried to encroach the forest land under the garb of FRA.

“On the night of 7 September, they sealed over 185 fencing poles of forest department to grab the land,”

About the allegations of demanding the bribe, he said the accused are lying to cover-up their crime.

“The forest land is worth crores and is under the control of the forest department, they illegally tried to occupy it by demolishing the fence,” he said.

Petrol And Diesel

its retail price by Rs 1.25 paise per litre in Delhi. Diesel prices were raised on Friday by 20 paise per litre and again 25 paise per litre each on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Petrol prices had maintained stability since September 5 but oil companies finally raised its pump prices this week given a spurt in the product prices lately.

The OMCs had preferred to maintain wait and watch policy on global oil situation before making any revision in prices. This is the reason why petrol prices were not revised for the last three weeks. But extreme volatility in global oil price movement has now pushed OMCs to effect the increase.

The wait and watch plan of OMCs had come to the relief of consumers earlier as no revision came during a period when crude prices were on the rise over shortfall in US production and inventories and a pick up in demand. This would have necessitated an increase of Rs 1 in price of petrol and diesel.

In Mumbai, the petrol price increased by 21 paise per litre to Rs 107.73 per litre while diesel rates increased to about Rs 97.50 a litre.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased between 20-30 paise per litre but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in the state.

Fuel prices in the country have been hovering

at record levels on account of 41 increases in its retail rates since April this year. It fell on few occasions but largely remained stable.

After rising over three year high level of \$80 a barrel earlier this week, global benchmark has now come down to \$78 a barrel. Oil rates are up two per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain. Since September 5, when both petrol and diesel prices were revised, the price of petrol and diesel in the international market is higher by around \$6-7 per barrel as compared to average prices during August.

Under the pricing formula adopted by oil companies, rates of petrol and diesel are to be reviewed and revised by them on a daily basis. The new prices become effective from morning at 6 a.m.

The daily review and revision of prices is based on the average price of benchmark fuel in the international market in the preceding 15-days, and foreign exchange rates.

But, the fluctuations in global oil prices have prevented OMCs to follow this formula in totality and revisions are now being made with longer gaps. This has also prevented companies from increasing fuel prices whenever there is a mismatch between globally arrived price and pump price of fuel.

CB Charges Man

Case (FIR No: 46 of 2018) under section 419, 420, RPC and 66-D IT Act of police station CBK was produced before Court of 13th Finance Srinagar against the “notorious fraudster Firdous Ahmad son of Abdul Rehman Ahangar of Nund Resh Colony Bemina Srinagar, the Crime Branch Kashmir said.

Giving details of the case, it said the CBK received a communication that Cell No: 7880919630 was being used by some cheat/fraudster, impersonating as Minister (s) / Bureaucrat (s), demanding money from engineers of PWD, PMGSY and Tehsildar Uri.

“Subsequent to the information, a verification was initiated in Crime Branch Kashmir, Srinagar which lead to the registration of case FIR No. 46/2018 U/S 419, 420 RPC 66-D IT Act of P/S CBK,” it said.

During the course of investigation, the CBK said, it came to fore that the cell number was being used by Firdous Ahmad to contact Superintending Engineer PMGSY Srinagar, Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara, Tehsildar Uri and Chief Education Officer Ganderbal respectively. “He introduced himself as MoS for R&B and Revenue department, and stated to them that they might be transferred unless they pay money to him,” it said, adding, “The investigation thus conducted has established that the accused Firdous Ahmad has used the cell number by using a spoof call application, which displayed the cell number of concerned ministers on the cell phone of the receiver of such calls/SMS's, and impersonated himself as Minister of concerned departments in order to cheat them and extract money from them against their transfer or post them as per their choice.”

During the course of investigation, offences U/S 511-420, 419, 468, 201 RPC, 66-D IT Act were established and the Final Report (charge sheet) of the instant case was produced before the court of 13th Finance, Srinagar on September 29.

“Pertinent to mention that the accused person is also involved Case FIR No: 17/2012 U/S 420, 468, 471, 120-B RPC P/S CBK, which stands charge-sheeted on 21.02.2013 before the court of law.”

Moreover, it said, Case FIR No: 63/2016, U/S 420, 66 IT Act & FIR No: 37/2017 U/S 419, 120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch Kashmir was also registered against the said accused person for cheating and the investigation of these cases is going on.

Ammunition Recovered

on Wednesday evening, they said. They recovered 25 rounds of Light Machine Gun (LMG) and a rusted magazine, they said.

Facebook User

Naib-Tehsildar Qalamabad approached the local police station with a complaint against a Facebook user over the latter's alleged abusive comments and messages against him. The revenue official sought a formal case be registered into the matter.

Taking cognizance of the ‘abusive act’, the police registered a case against the accused person identified as Farooq Ahmad Dar from Mawer Bala, the official said.

Meanwhile a police official told GNS that a case has been registered against the accused person for necessary action. (GNS)

3 Students Injured

driver Showkat Ahmad Ganaie son of Gulam Hassan lost control over the vehicle bearing registration number JK09A-1209 and hit an electric pole. The vehicle was on way from Krusan to Khurhama.

In the incident three injured students identified as Syed Umair Pir (10), Syed Zia Pir (10) and Uzma Jan all residents of Khurhama were immediately brought to SDH Sogam where from two boys injured in the accident were referred to SKIMS Soura Srinagar for specialized treatment.

4-Day Inter-Zone Sports Activities Conclude At Bandipora



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: 4-day long indoor games competition organized by District Youth Service and Sports office, Bandipora concluded with the Carrom and Chess competition between Bandipora and Quilmuqam educational zones.

Under phase second, the inter-zonal competition was organized in the disciplines of Chess, Carrom, Badminton and Table Tennis at Girls Higher Secondary school and SK Stadium Bandipora.

Students under the age group of 17 and 19 participated in the competitions. Zone Quilmuqam bagged first position in Under-17 Chess game, Zone Bandipora managed first position in Under-19 Badminton while Girls team of Zone Sumbal bagged 1st position in Under-19 badminton games.

The deciding games were attended by the District Youth Service and Sports Officer, Bandipora, Ghulam Qadir Bhat, PEM Nasir Hussain and Physical Education Teachers of the institutions.

Positive Kashmir KO Tournament: SCFA Defeats RKFC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing 1st Positive Kashmir Knockout Football Championship 2021 the fifth match of the Championship was played on Wednesday at Synthetic Turf TRC between Sports Council Football XI (SCFXI) and Real Kashmir FC (R).

SCFA XI defeated RKFC (R) by 3 goals to nil.

Suhail Ahmad of SCFA XI scored the first goal in the 38th minute of first half to help his team take the first half 1-0. In

the second half, SCFA XI scored their second through Sahil in the 43rd minute. The RKFC (R) players tried their best to score, but the defensive lines of SCFA XI thwarted all their attempts.

In the 75th minute, Suhail of SCFA XI the third goal of the match. RKFC (R) players tried their best to stop the SCFA XI, but they lacked the coordination and ultimately had to settle for the 3-0 scoreline.

The KO tournament is being organized by J&K Football Association in collaboration with an NGO, Positive Kashmir.

Jehlum FC Reach Srinagar Super Division Finals

Defeats Syed Tajuddin FC 2-1



R. Elahi

SRINAGAR: Jehlum FC on Thursday defeated Syed Tajuddin FC 2-1 in the first semi final match of DFA Srinagar Super Division being played at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

A neck-to-neck contest, the match-up saw two equally balanced teams battle it out for the ultimate prize of Premier Division 2022 qualification.

The match was filled with both teams creating goal scoring opportunities, and in the 28th minute Jehlum FC managed to take the lead through Rizwan. The first half ended 1-0 in favour of team Jehlum.

In the second half both teams tried to come out on top. With a goal behind, Syed Tajuddin players upped the ante and were rewarded with the equal-

ising goal in the 63rd minute.

With the match hanging in balance at 1-1, and with full time whistle and penalties looming, Jehlum FC team made a scintillating move in the dying moments of the match to score a last-gasp winner.

Jehlum FC players surrounded the goal scorer Akib in joy and jubilation as soon after, the match ended 2-1 in their favour.

With this victory the Jehlum FC reached the Super Division finals and will now await the result of the other semifinal match between Real Kashmir FC (U-18) and Galaxy FC, the schedule of which is yet to be decided.

The top two teams, that is, the finalists will earn promotion to the Premier Division League 2022.

Srinagar A-Division: Two Matches Played

Over in A-Division, two matches were played on Thursday at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match of A-Division league was played between Young Boys FC and Flying Kashmir FC. Both teams played goalless draw. The second match was played between Al-Ahlam FC and Al-Qudus FC. Al-Ahlam FC won the match 3-1.

Premier Division 2021 From Today

The Khyber Premier Division League 2021 is all set to kick off on Friday at the Synthetic Turf, TRC in Srinagar. The inaugural match of the Valley's top most league will see Downtown Heroes take on J&K Bank Academy, with kick off at 4:00 PM.

Advisor Khan Reviews Winter Games 2022 Preparations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for forthcoming Winter Games 2022 and also took stock of various activities of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Alok Kumar; Director, YSS, Gazanfer Ali; Special Secretary, M. Ashraf Bhat; OSD, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull and other officers of the department.

During the meeting, issues raised by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, is-

sues related to Sports Council, Sports Infrastructure, forthcoming sporting events, training and coaching besides matters related to winter games like procurement of various logistics for the event, stay, lodging and boarding of players and several other related issues were also discussed in detail.

Speaking in the meeting, Advisor Farooq Khan stressed upon the officers to work in coordination and raise the standard of the winter games to that of international level. He added that the previous edition of the games has been a huge success and the coming winter games 2022 shall be of the more standard and level.

The Advisor asked the officers to make fool proof ar-

rangements for the event as the winter games are attracting a huge number of sports lovers and tourists. He delved upon the officers that it should be our endeavour to provide best facilities to players, sports lovers and tourists to make the event successful.

During the meeting, the Advisor was informed that participants from Himalayan Countries are also expected to participate in the event which will add number of games including ice skiing, snow shoeing, ice hockey, ice skating and others to the event.

During the meeting it was decided that committees will be constituted for successful conduct of event and also for arrangements and other logistics.

IPL 2021

Ashwin Hits Back, Asks Morgan To 'Stop Taking Moral High Ground'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: An angry Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday asked Eoin Morgan and Tim Southee to not use "derogatory" words and lecture him on 'Spirit of Cricket' by taking a moral high ground after their on-field bust-up over an extra run during an IPL game.

During Tuesday's IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders, Ashwin tried to take a run after a throw from the deep by Rahul Tripathi had ricocheted off his partner Rishabh Pant's body.

Morgan and Ashwin then had an altercation with the England white-ball skipper calling the Indian a "disgrace" and accusing him of not adhering to the 'Spirit of Cricket' despite MCC rules allowing runs after rebound from a batsman's body.

England were also awarded four runs after a throw from the deep had rebounded off Ben Stokes' bat during the 2019 World Cup final, and the umpire had signalled overthrows, leading to their title triumph.

On Tuesday, after Ashwin was dismissed by fast bowler Southee, the bowler had apparently rebuked the senior India star by saying, "That's what happens when you cheat".

Soon Ashwin was seen charging towards Morgan and Southee, prompting Dinesh Karthik to intervene and douse the fire.

In a series of tweets, Ashwin clarified his stand and made it clear that he would again run if the ball hit a fielder's body.

"1. I turned to run the moment I saw the fielder throw and dint (didn't) know the ball had hit Rishabh. 2. Will I run if I see it? Of course I will and I am allowed to. 3. Am I a disgrace like Morgan said I was? Of course NOT," Ashwin said.

He then told Morgan and Southee that 'Spirit of Cricket' can't be different strokes for different folks.

"Did I fight? No, I stood up

for myself and that's what my teachers and parents taught me to do and pls (please) teach your children to stand up for themselves.

"In Morgan or Southee's world of cricket they can choose and stick to what they believe is right or wrong but do not have the right to take a moral high ground and use words that are derogatory," he further wrote.

Ashwin is not liking that people have got down to passing judgements because of this incident.

"What's even more surprising is the fact that people are discussing this and also trying to talk about who is the good and bad person here!"

The Indian off-spinner with 400-plus Test scalps then said that all 'Old School' proponents of the gentleman's game should allow different perspectives to co-exist.

"There are millions of cricketers with several thought processes that play this great game to make it their careers, teach them that an extra run taken due to a poor throw aimed to get you out can make your career and an extra yard stolen by the non striker can break your career," he wrote.

He also requested people to not judge on the basis of on-field cricketing decisions, saying that all those who criticise are the ones who have made a living out of it.

"Do not confuse them by telling them that you will be termed a good person if you refuse the run or warn the non striker, because all these people who are terming you good or bad have already made a living or they are doing what it takes to be successful elsewhere."

"Give your heart and soul on the field and play within the rules of the game and shake your hands once the game is over. The above is the only 'spirit of the game' I understand," he said.

NEWS MAKERS

Ronaldo Lifts United, Barcelona Slumps In Champions League

AGENCIES

MANCHESTER: While Cristiano Ronaldo is keeping up his record-setting Champions League level to the end, Barcelona has become barely recognizable as a European power.

Ronaldo struck deep into stoppage time to lift Manchester United to a 2-1 come-from-behind win over Villarreal — his record-extending 136th goal in a new competition-best 178th game.

That goal moved United off the bottom of Group F as five-time European champion Barcelona stayed dead last in Group E with another 3-0 loss.

Barcelona finished with 10 men in a humbling defeat at Benfica two weeks after being swatted aside at home by Bayern Munich.

Bayern eased clear atop the group by routing Dynamo Kyiv 5-0 with Robert Lewandowski scoring twice in the first half for the 2020 champion.

Title holder Chelsea lost 1-0 at Juventus after being caught cold with a goal about 12 seconds into the second half.

Atalanta also won 1-0 at home in Italy, against Young Boys, and also leads its group, one point ahead of United before they meet next at Old Trafford on Oct. 20.



Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics Will Not Allow Foreign Spectators: IOC

AGENCIES

BEIJING: A 21-day quarantine for non-vaccinated athletes, officials and workers will be in force at the 2022 Beijing Olympics, the IOC said.

Daily testing for vaccinated people and no tickets will be sold to anyone living outside China as Olympic venues open their doors again.

Restrictions imposed to control the COVID-19 pandemic at the next Winter Games in February were announced on Wednesday by the International Olympic Committee. While not imposing a vaccine mandate, organizers in Beijing plan stricter rules than applied at the Tokyo Olympics where vaccination was advised though not demanded within a strict regime of testing.

"Games participants who are not fully vaccinated will have to serve a 21-day quarantine upon arrival in Beijing," the IOC said in a statement.

Olympic athletes can ask to avoid quarantine, the IOC said, for a "justified medical exemption" — a phrase that appeared to exclude ideological objections to vaccines. It will be the second straight Olympics during the pandemic where families of athletes cannot visit the host country to watch the events.

Qatar To Host F1 Race For First Time In November



AGENCIES

DOHA: Qatar will host a Formula One race for the first time in November and for 10 years from 2023.

Qatar takes the remaining slot left vacant on this year's reshuffled calendar. The race will start under floodlights at 6 p.m. local time on Nov. 21 at the Losail International Circuit.

As the 20th of 22 races this season, it will be followed by the inaugural Saudi Arabian GP in Jeddah on Dec. 5 and the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP on Dec. 12.

"There was a strong will from Qatar to be helpful to F1, and in the course of this process, the vision for a longer partnership was discussed and agreed," F1 said in a statement on Thursday.

"The vision for F1 to be the showcase for Qatar after the (soccer) World Cup in 2022 was the driving force."

There will not be a race in Qatar next year because of the World Cup so the 10-year deal starts the following year.

The 5.4-kilometer (3.4-mile) circuit, which holds 8,000 fans, is north of Doha and has hosted the MotoGP series since 2004.

It is not yet clear whether Losail will continue to host F1 from 2023, as the circuit will need to be altered, so there is a strong possibility another location could be chosen. F1 said only that it was in discussions. The cancellation of the Japanese GP set for Oct. 10 amid the government's coronavirus concerns triggered off changes.

More Than 10 Boxing Bouts Manipulated For Money In 2016 Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: More than 10 bouts in the 2016 Rio Olympics boxing competition were manipulated for "money" and other "perceived benefits", an independent investigation has revealed, prompting the International Boxing Association (AIBA) to promise a "tough" selection process for referees and judges at the upcoming men's world championship.

The first phase report of the McLaren Global Sport Solutions' independent investigation into boxing, which was accessed by PTI, has been handed to AIBA and revealed that "a system for the manipulation of bouts by officials existed at Rio". In all, 14 bouts came under the scanner, including two finals.

The damning findings of the investigation stated that conspiracy to manipulate Rio results dated back as far back as before the London Olympics of 2012 and that a trial run was carried out during the qualifying events for the 2016 edition.

"Bouts were manipulated for money, perceived benefit of AIBA, or to thank National Federations and their Olympic committees, and, on occasion, hosts of competitions for their financial support and political backing," it stated.

"The investigation to date has concluded that such manipulation involved significant six figure sums on occasion. The manipulation methodology relied upon corruption within the cadre of corrupted R&Js (referees and judges) and the Draw Commission," it added.

The AIBA promised a thorough clean-up and more stringent mechanism to appoint referees and judges.

Congress Leaders Slam 'Hooliganism' Outside Sibal's House



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma, along with some of their G-23 colleagues, on Thursday strongly condemned and termed as "orchestrated hooliganism" the Congress workers' protest outside Kapil Sibal's house after he raised questions over the party's functioning, with Sharma asking AICC chief Sonia Gandhi to take strong action against those involved.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also criticised what he said was an "attack" at the house of Sibal by the Congress workers only because he "chose to express views that were not palatable to the party leadership".

This does not augur well for the party, Singh was quoted as saying by his media adviser Raveen Thukral.

Azad, former leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, also strongly condemned the "orchestrated hooliganism" at Sibal's residence.

"He (Sibal) is a loyal Congressman fighting for the party both inside and outside Parliament. Any suggestion from any quarter should be welcomed instead of suppressing, hooliganism is unacceptable," tweeted Azad, who along with Sibal is part of the 'Group of 23' which last year had written to Gandhi seeking organisational overhaul of the party.

Asserting that differences of opinion and perception are integral to a democracy, Sharma, also a part of the G-23, said intolerance and violence is alien to Congress values and culture.

"Shocked and disgusted to hear the news of attack and hooliganism at Kapil Sibal's house. This deplorable action brings disrepute to the party and needs to be strongly condemned," Sharma said in a series of tweets.

He asserted that the Congress has a history of upholding freedom of expression.

Those responsible must be identified and disciplined, Sharma said.

"Urging Congress president Sonia Gandhi to take cognisance and strong action," he said in a tweet.

Taking to Twitter, Congress MP from Punjab, Manish Tewari, unequivocally condemned what he said was "orchestrated hooliganism" at Sibal's residence last night.

"Those who masterminded the assault must bear in mind that he fights for @INCIndia both

inside and outside courts of law. You may find his views uncomfortable but that can not be a license for violence," Tewari, who was among the 23 leaders who wrote to Gandhi for an overhaul of the party, said.

In another tweet, he said, "Those who are trying to defend the 'command performance' last night. This is what happened @KapilSibal's house. They damaged the car. Stood on top, so it caved in. Threw tomatoes both outside and inside the house. If this is not hooliganism then what else is it".

Responding to Tewari's tweet, Tharoor, who was part of the leaders who wrote to Gandhi, tweeted, "That is shameful. We all know @KapilSibal as a true Congressman who has fought multiple cases in court for @INCIndia."

"As a democratic party we need to listen to what he has to say, disagree if you must but not in this way. Our priority is to strengthen ourselves to take on the BJP!" Tharoor said.

Also responding to Tewari's tweet, Congress leader Vivek Tankha tweeted, "Never to a person who has fought and saved so many Cong governments and persons and unmake opposition government."

"People may disagree with him. Even protest. But not damage his car. At least in my life I never encouraged or promoted hooliganism," Tankha said.

Hours after he raised questions over the functioning of the Congress, Sibal on Wednesday came under attack from several quarters with party workers also protesting outside his house here.

In the wake of several Congress leaders quitting the party and its Punjab unit in turmoil, Sibal has demanded that an immediate meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) be convened and wondered who in the party was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time president.

Sibal said at a press conference that the G-23 grouping is "not a Jee Huzur 23" and will continue to put forth the views and will continue to repeat the demands.

Carrying 'Get Well Soon Kapil Sibal' placards and raising slogans against Sibal, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) workers had protested outside his Jor Bagh residence, saying they were "hurt" by his remarks.

The protesters raised slogans against Sibal, asking him to "leave the party". A protestor also stood on his car. PTI

Not Joining BJP But Won't Stay In Congress: Capt Amarinder After Meeting Amit Shah

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Scotching speculation, former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday made it clear that he was not joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) but said he had no intention of continuing in the Congress, which he said was going downhill with senior leaders being completely ignored.

Singh said he would leave the Congress as he had been "utterly humiliated" and was not trusted.

I will resign will not stay in the Congress party, he said, adding that he was still thinking through his options in the interest of Punjab, whose security was the predominant priority for him.

Singh had resigned as chief minister on September 18 after accusing the Congress of humiliating him.

I will not be treated in this humiliating manner I will not take such insults, he said, adding that his principles and beliefs do not allow him to stay in the Congress any longer.

Terming the senior Congressmen as thinkers who were critical about the future of the party, the former chief minister said the younger leadership

should be promoted to implement the plans, which the senior leaders are best equipped to formulate.

"Unfortunately, the seniors were being completely sidelined," he said in a statement.

Singh said this was not good for the party.

Slamming Navjot Singh Sidhu, Singh said he was a mere crowd-puller and does not know how to carry the team along.

Singh also condemned the attack on Kapil Sibal's house by Congress workers only because he had chosen to express views that were not palatable to the party leadership.

Expressing the hope that Punjab would vote for the future of the state, he said his experience showed that the people of the state tend to vote for a single party/force, irrespective of the number of parties in the fray.

Misgovernance in Punjab would give Pakistan an opportunity to create trouble in the state and in the country, he said, adding that his meeting with NSA Ajit Doval this morning centred around this issue.

Singh had raised security concerns with Home Minister Amit Shah too, along with the farmers' issue, during his meeting with the latter on Wednesday.

Border Incidents With China Will Continue Till Boundary Pact Is Reached: Army Chief

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Border incidents between India and China will continue to occur till a boundary agreement is reached between the two countries, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Thursday.

Recent developments in Afghanistan "have definitely been the focus" of the Indian Army that continues to evaluate threat perceptions and formulate strategies accordingly, the Army chief added while addressing a gathering at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Discussing China, he said, "... we have an outstanding border issue. We are again well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past."

"Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such time that a long-term solution is reached, and that is to have a boundary agreement. And that should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern (China) border," he stated during the annual session meeting of the industry body.

Referring to Afghanistan, he said the Indian Army "or the armed forces for that matter continue to carry out periodic evaluation of threat perceptions".

Based on those evaluations, the Indian Army formulates strategies and doctrines that are needed to meet future threats, he noted.

"This is a continuous process that never stops," he added.

Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15. Expressing its concerns about the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, India had on September 20 had said the country's territory should not be used



for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts.

As far as the terrorist threat is concerned, the Indian Army is ready to meet all challenges, Naravane said.

"We have a very dynamic counterinsurgency and counterterrorist grid in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a dynamic grid and it is based on threat perception and the escalating levels of attempts by our western neighbour (Pakistan) to push in more and more terrorists," he said.

Based on ups and downs, we also recalibrate our levels of operations, he added.

The current border standoff between the Indian and Chinese armies erupted in May last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The row escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 last year. Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in the clashes that marked the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

How Can Highways be Blocked Perpetually: SC on Farmers' Protest

Agenceis

The Supreme Court on Thursday emphasised that roads cannot remain blocked perpetually and asked the Centre what steps has it taken to remove the road blockade by farmers, protesting against three agriculture laws at Delhi borders.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul told the Centre's counsel: "We have already laid down the law and you have to implement it. If we encroach, then you may say that we have trespassed on your domain."

The bench further added, "How to implement the law is your business. The court has no means to implement it".

The top court said there are grievances, which need to be addressed and queried, "How can highways be blocked perpetually? Where does it end". The bench emphasised the problem could be solved through either judicial forum or parliamentary debates, but highways can't be blocked perpetually.

The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj: What was the government doing in the matter?

Mehta, on his part, submitted



that a high-level committee was formed where farmers were invited, but they refused to join. He added that certain farmers' representatives have to be made parties in the matter, so that they are informed about the government plans. However, the bench said the Centre will have to implead them as parties, as the petitioner may not know about the leaders representing the farmers.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Monica Agarwal seeking directions to remove road blockades, which impedes free movement of traffic between Delhi and Noida.

The bench told the Centre's

counsel to move an application, pointing out steps taken and how impleadment of some parties will help in resolution of dispute. The top court has posted the matter for further hearing on October 4.

The top court on August 23 had asked the Centre to find a solution to the blockade of roads by farmers groups protesting against the three agriculture laws. Earlier, the top court had observed that protesters have a right to protest at a designated space, but can't block public roads.

The petitioner had alleged that instead of the normal 20 minutes, she ended up spending two hours for her travel from Noida to Delhi.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari Takes Charge As New IAF Chief

Agenceis

Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Thursday took over as the new chief of the Indian Air Force as Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria demitted the post on superannuation.

After assuming charge, the new chief said that he was honoured and privileged to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the Indian Air Force.

Extending greetings to all Air Warriors, non-combatants (enrolled), DSC personnel, civilians and their families, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari expressed absolute faith and confidence in their ability to

an asset to the IAF in any role tasked for".

An alumnus of NDA, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned in December 1982 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He has flown more than 3,800 hours on multiple fighter and trainer aircraft.

During his career spanning almost four decades, he has held many significant command and staff appointments.

His operational appointments include of a MiG-29 Squadron, two Air Force Stations, and Western Air Command, and staff appointments include the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Senior Air Staff Officer at the Eastern Air



accomplish all assigned tasks with resolute dedication while maintaining IAF's operational capability at an all-time high.

Outlining the focus areas for commanders and personnel, he said: "Protection of our Nation's sovereignty and integrity is to be ensured at any cost."

He added that enhancement of operational capability through integration of newly-inducted platforms, weapons and equipment with existing assets, and dovetailing the same in concepts of operations would remain a priority area.

The new IAF chief also stressed on acquisition of new technology, promotion of indigenisation and innovation, strengthening of cyber security, rapid adaptation of training methods to meet future demands, and sustained work to nurture human resources.

He urged all to "always uphold the ethos and credo of the Air Warrior, and strive to be

Command, Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Air Defence), Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Personnel Officers), Deputy Commandant of Air Force Academy and Air Assistant to Chief of the Air Staff.

A Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor, he has served as an instructor at flying training establishments and has also been an air force examiner.

He was a pioneer member of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Display Team. An alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, he has served as a Directing Staff there. He has also served as Directing Staff at DSCSC in Zambia.

Prior to assuming the present appointment, he was the Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, the Vayu Sena Medal, and is honorary ADC to the President.

NCW Writes To IAF Chief Over Woman Officer Being Subjected To Two-Finger Test

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The NCW has raised strong objections to a woman Air Force officer allegedly being subjected to the "banned and intrusive two-finger test" by Indian Air Force doctors, and asked the air chief marshal to take necessary steps.

The 28-year-old woman officer, who was allegedly sexually assaulted by a colleague, claimed that she was made to "relieve the trauma".

"The National Commission for Women is utterly disappointed and strongly condemns the action of Indian Air Force doctors conducting the banned two-finger test on the victim, thereby violating the Supreme Court's decision and

also violating the right to privacy and dignity of the victim," the commission said reacting to a media report.

NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to the air chief marshal of the Indian Air Force to take necessary steps and impart the necessary knowledge to IAF doctors about the prevailing guidelines laid down by the government and the Indian Council of Medical Research in 2014 terming the two-finger test unscientific.

A flight lieutenant was arrested last week on the charge of sexually assaulting the woman officer. The woman officer had lodged a complaint with police after Air Force authorities reportedly failed to take action against the accused.

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