



P6 THINK

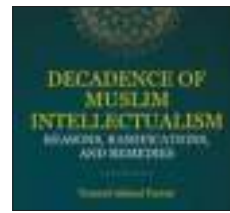
STILL AROUND, STILL ABOUND

On Thursday, 23 September 2021, the Assam police killed two members of a poor Muslim community in Dholpur area of Darang district during an eviction drive that has displaced nearly 800 families. The victims were identified as 12-year-old Sheikh...

P7 THINK

LOCATING THE RISE AND FALL OF MUSLIM INTELLECTUALISM

Today's world is one with global Islamophobia justifying violence against Muslims all over the world. Owing to this, our world is filled with semiotics and representation that inevitably justifies anti-Muslim racism. This predicament is...



P11 SPORTS

TOWNSEND IMITATES RONALDO AS EVERTON DRAWS AT MAN UTD

There was a trademark Cristiano Ronaldo celebration at Old Trafford on Saturday, even if it didn't come from the Portugal superstar himself. Everton winger Andros...



Quote!

The price of greatness is responsibility
– Winston Churchill

NEWS DIGEST

Youth Falls From Walnut Tree, Dies

KUPWARA: A 24-year-old youth died after falling from a walnut tree in an adjacent village in Lolab area in this north-Kashmir district on Saturday.

Reports said that the youth Bilal Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Khaliq Bhat, resident of Sivere Kauri fell from a tree while harvesting walnuts at Warnow Chekk area. The youth was immediately evacuated to a nearby health facility where from he was referred to SDH Kupwara, however soon after his admission, he succumbed to his injuries, according to news agency GNS.

A police official has confirmed the incident. A pall of gloom has descended over the locality over the tragic death of the youth.

Chemist Found Dead In Poonch

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday recovered the body of a 35-year-old chemist from his home in Dhargloon area of Mendhar Poonch, officials said. They said at about 0940 hours, the chemist Tahir Mehmood was found dead under suspicious circumstances in his room. A team from police station Gursai rushed to the spot and took the body in custody for medico-legal formalities. Tahir owned a shop near Sangla Chowk Mendhar. Meanwhile, police have started proceedings under 174 CrPc in this regard.

Rusted Shell Destroyed In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Police and army has recovered a rusted shell from a paddy field in Kupwara district of north Kashmir, officials said on Saturday. They said police and army's 14 SIKHLI recovered the rusted shell from Paddy fields of Chowkibal Kupwara last evening. A police official said that it was an old shell and was destroyed without causing any harm.

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Shootouts In Srinagar, 2 Civilians Killed

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunmen on Saturday shot dead two people in a span of over two hours in Karan Nagar and Batamloo areas of this capital city.

Around 5:30pm, Majid Gojri, son of Abdul Rehman of Chattabal here was fired upon by unidentified gunmen from point blank range near Madina Complex in Karan Nagar area of the city, leaving him in a pool of blood, a police official said. Gojri, he said, received multiple gunshot injuries in chest, face and abdomen.

The injured youth, the police officer said, was removed to the nearby SMHS hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries before the doctors could operate upon him.

The attack on Gojri took place barely a stone's throw from Police Station Karan Nagar and several CRPF camps located in the area that remains bustling.

Meanwhile, police have blamed militants for carrying out the fatal attack on the youth. According to a police



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

spokesperson, senior police officers reached Madina Complex after information about a "terror" incident was received.

"Officers attending the terror crime spot learnt that one individual identified as Majid Ahmad Gojri son of Abdul Rehman resident of Chattabal Srinagar was shot at by the terrorists near Madina Complex Karan Nagar area of Srinagar. He has received grievous gunshot injuries in this terror incident. Although, the injured was immediately evacuated to

nearby hospital, however he succumbed to his injuries," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that the Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law.

"Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," he added.

Pertinently, Gojri's killing comes over two months after 25-year-old **More On P10**

Militants Attack CRPF Bunker In Anantnag

Militants hurled a grenade towards a CRPF bunker in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday evening but there was no damage due to the explosion, police said. "The incident occurred at about 6:50 PM. Militants hurled a grenade towards 40 Battalion CRPF bunker at K P Road in the south Kashmir district," a police official said. He said the grenade missed the target and exploded nearby without causing any loss. **More On P10**

3 Held For Selling Fake 'Celestial Object'

SRINAGAR: Police have arrested three persons for duping a man by selling him a stone and claiming it to be 'celestial object' in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Ghulam Qadir Parray, Rafiq Ahmad Parray, both residents of Lassipora, Drung and Mohammad Aslam Khan of Nadihal Bandipora were arrested by police on the basis of a complaint filed by Ghulam Mohammad Wani of Ganderbal **More On P10**

Dal Not Cleaned As It Should Have Been: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said Dal Lake here has not been cleaned up to

the level it was supposed to, and appealed to the people to cooperate with the administration to restore the pristine glory of the water body. The LG launched **More On P10**

RSS To Setup 'Shakhas' To Inculcate Patriotism In J&K: Bhagwat

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that the Sangh must set an example for others by creating a peaceful society that takes everyone along, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday stressed setting up a network of shakhas across Jammu and Kashmir to inculcate



patriotism among people. Bhagwat arrived in Jammu on Thursday on a four-day visit

to the union territory during which he will meet intellectuals and prominent citizens.

This is Bhagwat's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019, when the erstwhile state's special status was ended and it was bifurcated into union territories -- J-K and Ladakh. On Friday, he held **More On P10**

Railway Network Will Be Game Changer For Kashmir: Minister

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Terming the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line as the most ambitious railway project in India post-Independence, the Union Minister of State for Railways and Textiles Darshana Jardosh said on Saturday that the railway network, once completed, will be a game changer for Kashmir.

Jardosh, who is on a visit to Kashmir as part of the Union

Government's public outreach programme, made these comments at a press conference at the Srinagar Railway Station here on Saturday.

According to an official spokesperson, Jardosh said that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project is the most ambitious railway project in India post-Independence and the Railways is working at full capacity to meet all deadlines. "She said **More On P10**

Sajad Lone To Dr Farooq 'Quit Electoral Politics, Support PC To Consolidate Muslim Votes'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: People's Conference (JKPC) chief Sajad Lone on Saturday said that National Conference president Farooq Abdullah should quit electoral politics and support his party in order to consolidate Muslim votes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters here after former legislator and senior Peoples Democratic Party leader Nizam-ud-Din Bhat joined the JKPC, Lone was responding to a question about Abdullah's remarks that attempts are being made to divide Muslim votes in J-K by propping up new political parties.

"If he (Abdullah) thinks that way, then let him not contest elections and support us. That way the Muslim vote will not get divided," the JKPC chief said.

"His (Abdullah's) daddy (Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah) was a chief minister, he himself was and his son (Omar Abdullah) also (was a chief minister). So now if a poor man's son becomes a chief minister... is there any objection to it?" he asked.

The JKPC chairman said his party is ready to take the NC's support.

"Let them support us. I will do whatever **More On P10**

Chinese Troop Buildup In Ladakh: Army Chief Sounds Alert

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Saturday said that the Chinese troops have been deployed in "considerable numbers" across all eastern Ladakh and northern front, right up to India's eastern command.

Calling it a "matter of concern", the Army chief said, "Definitely there has been an increase in their deployment in the forward areas which remains a matter of concern for us," he was quoted as saying by ANI in Ladakh.

The Army Chief visited forward locations in Ladakh and reviewed operational and



logistic preparedness of the force as winter sets in.

Talking to media persons, General Naravane said though the huge deployment of Chinese People's Liberation Army along the LAC is a matter of concern but expressed hope the disengagement **More On P10**



Largest Khadi Flag

"Khadi national flag" that has been installed in Leh on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is made up of Khadi cloth, the largest such national flag in the world. It is stated that the length of the flag is 225 feet, width 150 feet and it weighs 1,000 kg.

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Sunday | 03-10-2021

NOTICE

I, Rabiya Bilal W/O Bilal Ahmad Qureshi R/O 622, Housing Colony Baghi Mehtab have purchased plot number 622 sector number – in housing colony Baghi Mehtab from Mr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh, S/O Ali Mohammad Sheikh, R/O Raj Baj Bagh, Srinagar originally allotted in favour of Shri Girdari Lal Dhar, S/O Shri Rug Nath Dhar resident of Rahbab Sahab, Srinagar. The following original papers issued by the J&K housing board stands misplaced/ not traceable: 1: x 2: x. I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Name: Rabiya Bilal
W/O Bilal Ahmad Qureshi
R/O 622, Housing Colony Baghi Mehtab

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FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **wife of Haji Muhammad Yousuf of Arampora Bota Kadal Srinagar** who passed away on Friday 1st October 2021.

Her congregational Fateha Khawani would be held on **Monday 4th October, 2021** at their ancestral graveyard **Mohalla Syed Afzal Sharibhat, Srinagar near Iqbal Khomeni (RA) Hall at 6:00 am.**

Thereafter a daylong condolence meeting will be at their residence Arampora Botakadal Srinagar.

BEREAVED

Haji Muhammad Yousuf Rather, Abdul Majid Rather
CELL NO: 9906733204

ARSHAD INFO



JAMMU AND KASHMIR PHARMACY COUNCIL

Constituted in terms of Section (19) of Pharmacy Act 1948

COMBINED DRUG & FOOD LAB, PATOLI MANGOTRIAN, JAMMU).
EMAIL: presidentjkipharmacycouncil@gmail.com, Tele: 0191-2536043.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The J&K Pharmacy Council adopted an Online Portal for Registration of eligible candidates as Pharmacist on the basis of eligibility acquired by applicants under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 w.e.f 16.12.2020. The sole objective of offering Online services to the intending applicants was to reduce physical interface as also offer services to the applicants at their doorsteps.

All those candidates who were holding Registration as Pharmacist under the repealed J&K Pharmacy Act, Samvat, 2011 are once again informed to get themselves registered under Section 32 C of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 by or before 31st of October, 2021.

Any application in this regard which is received after the above cut off date shall not be considered for Registration as Pharmacist in the Central Act. The applicants are informed to apply as per below link: www.jkpc.in Checklist for 32C registration:

S.no	Documents to be submitted
01.	10 th (Secondary School Certificate), Matriculation Date of birth certificate.
02.	10+2 (Senior Secondary Certificate), if applicable to respective category.
03.	Category _____ in which previously registered in the repealed J&K Pharmacy Act, Samvat, 2011, i.e [c],[d],[a]:
	1. Medical Assistant/Pharmacist/Diploma in Pharmacy (c) Certificate.
	2. Matric/Graduation with experience (d).
	3. Bachelor in Pharmacy (a).
	Certificates required applicable to respective category.
04.	Pharmacist Registration Certificate.
05.	Last Renewal certificate.
06.	One Character Certificate certified from concerned SHO / Sarpanch / Corporator / Ist Class Magistrate.
07.	Aadhar Card Number/ Copy thereof.
08.	Address Proof.
09.	Identity Proof.
10.	One Passport size Photograph with white background.
11.	Email ID of the applicant.
12.	Signature of the applicant.
13.	Basic Details
14.	Phone Number/ Mobile number.
15.	Personal Account details.

The fee (actual, Retention fee and late fee applicable if any) shall be charged as per J&K Pharmacy Rules, 2020.

For the convenience of the applicants a ready reckoner for fee structure and Checklist applicable to all categories is available on the WEB PORTAL.

Sd/-
(Lotika Khajuria)
(Ex-Officio)President
Jammu & Kashmir Pharmacy Council.
No: JKPC-Estt/86/-Part file-227-1521-32
Dated: 01.10.21.
DIPK-9893/21

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY BANDIPORA,

E-mail address: dpmubandipora@gmail.com

Telefax: 01957-225535

INTERVIEW NOTICE

As approved by Chairman District Health Society Bandipora, the interview of the shortlisted candidates for post of Junior Staff Nurse under NHM for District Bandipora advertised vide notification no. CMC)/NHM/ Bpr/2020-21/620-626 Dated 29-12-2020 will be held in the office chamber of District Development Commissioner Bandipora, (Chairman District Health Society) on 12-10-2021 at 10:00 AM sharp. The shortlisted candidates should reach the venue on scheduled date & time along with the original testimonials.

No:-CMO/BPR/NHM/21-22/927-932
Dated:- 01/10/2021.
DIPK-9890/21

Vice-Chairman DHS,
Bandipora.

This sweet gesture by Indigo air hostesses floors flyers onboard delayed flight

BENGALURU: An ingenious gesture by two air hostesses on board an Indigo 6E flight from Bengaluru to Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh on Monday has left behind a sweet memory for passengers on board despite a frustrating delay of nearly three hours due to bad weather.

Flight No. 6E 7911 was supposed to depart from Kempegowda International Airport at 9.05 am on September 27. However, due to bad weather at Kurnool, it did not get permission to take off from Bengaluru until 11 am. Even after reaching the Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport 45 minutes later, rainy conditions ensured it was left circling in the skies (in a holding pattern) for nearly an hour before it could land.

However, the sole flyers on board, eight male passengers, were not complaining after reaching their destination. A handwritten note given on board to each flyer signed by flight attendants Sneha and Meren-

tula ensured tempers were cooled at one go.

The note ran thus: "Nature is something which is beyond our control! Dear sir, thank you for being so patient and understanding us during the delay of our departure caused due to weather conditions. We thank you for your support and truly appreciate choosing Indigo as your travel partner. Hope to see you on many more Indigo flights... from Sneha & Merentula."

Among those impressed was Venkatraghavan Chandra, a software professional on way to Kurnool for a personal visit. Reliving the incident, he told The New Indian Express, "We were all on board the plane including the pilots when it had to wait nearly two hours at the tarmac to get clearance to take-off. Even after reaching our destination, it had to circle for long to get landing permission due to the weather. It was then that the air hostesses handed over this note to each one of us. I really appreciate the gesture by them."

Over 90 crore Covid vaccine doses administered in India: Health minister

NEW DELHI: The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 90 crore, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday.

The country-wide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with health-care workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase.

The vaccination of front-line workers (FLWs) started on February 2.

"Shastri ji gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan'. Revered Atal ji added 'Jai Vigyan' and PM @Narendra Modi Ji gave the slogan 'Jai Anusandhan'. Today the result of anusandhan is this corona vaccine. #JaiAnusandhan," Mandaviya tweeted.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 from April 1.

GRATITUDE

The demise of our esteemed father, **Syed Altaf Hussain son of Syed Abdullah Shah of Hassanabad Rainawari, Srinagar** who passed away on **27th October, 2021**, was nothing less than a colossus loss for us which drowned us into an inconsolable situation of shock and grief. We feel indebted to our Hussaini Welfare Organization, neighbors, relatives, friends, colleagues who expressed their sympathies with me by different means of communication in condolence meetings held to mourn death. Since it is humanly impossible for us to respond and gratefully acknowledge the support, comforting words of sympathy and condolences offered by all the respected individuals, neighbors and friends. We convey our sincere gratitude to all of them through this message from the **HAMDANI FAMILY.**



SYED IMRAN HUSSAIN (SON) AND FAMILY

ARSHAD INFO



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

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CORRIGENDUM No. 01 for RETENDER

Name of work: Servicing / Engine-oil change of DG set and Wheeled Backhoe Loader of MFSD Budgam of Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Reference: This office NIT NO: MDS/TS / 2021-22/ 95/e-tendering;
Dated: 18-09-2021 (Tender ID: 2021_PWDJK_140225_1)

Due to poor response from bidders, the above referred NIT issued for the subject work is retendered through this corrigendum and the critical dates are extended as under:

Particulars	New Critical Dates
Last date of submission of tenders	08 -10-2021 (06.55 PM)
Date of Opening of tenders	09-10-2021 (02:00 PM)

All other terms, conditions, technical specifications and pre-qualifications of the original NIT shall remain same.

No: MDS/TS/ 5769-72
Date: 30 .09.2021
DIPK-9892/21

Sd/-
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
No: MDS/TS/ 5769-72 Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division, Srinagar

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LG E-Inaugurates Online Entry Permission For Dachigam; Hangul Eco-Stop Near Parimahal



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Wildlife Week, 2021 to be observed from 2nd October to 8th October, on Saturday at SKICC.

The Lt Governor also e-inaugurated the online permission for entry to Dachigam National Park, Hangul Eco-Stop near Parimahal, and released Hangul census report and brochures of Trekking Routes.

While speaking on the occasion the Lt Governor said that observance of the Wildlife Week in J&K along with rest of the country is a sincere effort to create awareness among people for the protection of precious wildlife resources.

“J&K’s wildlife has rich and rare assets in the form of its flora and fauna, biodiversity,

and wildlife sanctuaries. Government is giving focused attention towards conservation and protection of invaluable natural resources”, he added.

The Lt Governor said that the government has opened Dachigam National Park for the public and to provide easy access, permission will be granted through an online portal operated by J&K Forest & Wildlife Department. We have also opened several trek routes to promote eco-tourism in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

Wildlife plays an invaluable role in sustaining human and other forms of life. The basic premise of our culture has been the co-existence of nature and human civilization, but unfortunately, the indiscriminate use of natural resources has gradually turned this coexistence into Man-Animal Conflict, the Lt Governor observed.

We need a perfect balance between Digital River and Natural River in the fast-paced world. With dedication for the conservation of forests, wildlife, and the environment we can discharge our responsibility to handle man-animal conflict and climate change, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor while recalling Mahatma Gandhi’s observation on the deteriorating wildlife ecosystem called for launching a mass movement with the help of public representatives to conserve our biodiversity.

The spirit of wildlife preservation should become a part of our everyday life. There is an urgent need to protect our new generation from the threat posed by climate change, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Forest and Wildlife Department for the new initiatives, new resolutions to preserve and protect the wildlife ecosystem. It is the result of the strenuous efforts of the stakeholders that today J&K’s total green cover is above 50%, he said.

In order to conserve and protect the wildlife, the government has notified 11.5% of the total geographical area, which is much higher than national average of 5.5%, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also inspected the stalls installed by the Department of wildlife protection. A video clip on wildlife of J&K and animated jingle on Human-wild Animal conflict was also screened on the occasion.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the significance of Wildlife and Bio-diversity of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He called

for community participation in wildlife conservation efforts to ensure that forest & wildlife areas are plastic free. He also advised to involve the schools in conservation efforts by constituting the Eco-clubs.

Sh Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, informed about various activities being undertaken by Department of Wildlife.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF spoke about the importance of wildlife week and informed about the efforts being undertaken by the forests department to address the issue of human-wildlife conflict besides protection and conservation of wildlife habitats.

Sh. Suresh Kr. Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K in his welcome address gave historical perspective of wildlife conservation in Jammu & Kashmir, major achievements after the implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and various initiatives taken by the department for wildlife conservation & protection.

Sh. Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sh. Athar Aamir-ul-Shafi Khan, Commissioner, SMC besides senior officers of UT administration, members of Civil society were present on the occasion.

J&K’S WILDLIFE HAS RICH AND RARE ASSETS IN THE FORM OF ITS FLORA AND FAUNA, BIODIVERSITY, AND wildlife sanctuaries. Government is giving focused attention towards conservation and protection of invaluable natural resources”,

Hafeez Kickstarts Sanitation Drive At Chinar Bagh

Director Tourism Flags Off Shikara Rally At Dal Lake



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Tourism Department organized a host of cleanliness drives and sanitation campaigns all across Kashmir valley.

The main function in this regard was held at Chinar Bagh, Srinagar where Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez flagged off a cleanliness drive by students drawn from different parts of the city and volunteers of Bharat Scouts & Guides.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo and other senior officers of the Department besides students participated in the cleanliness programme.

On the occasion, a large quantity of polythene bags, plastic bottles, wrappers and packaging material was collected and handed over for proper disposal.

While interacting with students, Secretary Tourism asked students to be the ambassadors of Clean India Programme and encourage their friends and youth of their respective areas to keep their surroundings neat and clean to maintain general hygiene of their localities.

He impressed upon the students to undertake cleanliness of their respective areas voluntarily to promote a healthy and clean environment and society.

Similar functions were held at tourist resorts of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Verinag, Achabal, Manasbal, Doodhpathri and other spots where volunteers and officials of Tourism Department carried sanitation drives to promote clean environment and hygiene.

As part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (75 years of India’s independence), a shikara rally was organized by the Department at Dal lake.

The shikara rally was flagged off by Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo. Senior officers of the Department besides many stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Shikaras decked in colorful manner carried the rally from Nehru Park Ghat upto SKICC. Many tourists present witnessed the event with keen interest.

about the emerging tourism scenario in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. G N Itoo and several tourism stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Secy. Tourism Interacts With Thailand Tourism Delegation

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez interacted with a Tourism delegation from Thailand here.

The delegation comprising Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mr. Vacharachai Sirisumpan and Marketing Head Tourism Authority of Thailand, Ms. Pinkie Arora are on a visit to Kashmir these days.

The Secretary Tourism briefed the visiting delegation



Closure Of Shrines And Mosques Mehbooba Mufti Accuses Centre Of Bias

Agencies

SRINAGAR,: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday accused the Centre of bias, saying preventing people from offering prayers at mosques and shrines in Kashmir shows the Government of India’s “disrespect” for the sentiments of the majority community.

Mehbooba was reacting to the continuous closure of a few mosques and shrines in Srinagar city, including Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta here, for the past few weeks in the wake of a spike in COVID-19 cases.

“Preventing people from offering prayers & obeisance at mosques & shrines in Kashmir shows GOI’s disrespect for sentiments of the majority community. Especially at a time when parks & public spaces are open & countless crowded government functions are held throughout the day. Reeks of bias,” the PDP president wrote on Twitter. (KNT)

Pooling Will Jeopardize Career Of JK MBBS, PG Aspirants: DAK

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: With Jammu and Kashmir (JK) pooling its MBBS and PG seats in All India Quota (AIQ), Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said the move will jeopardize the career of JK aspirants.

Opposing the move, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said pooling will mar the future prospects of aspiring candidates.

The Medical Council Committee (MCC), in its recent notification, stated that the JK government was likely to participate in AIQ counseling from this year and referred the subject to JK government for its approval.

Earlier, JK has been reserving all the medical seats for local students and opting out of AIQ.

“Now with pooling, 15 percent of the MBBS seats and 50 percent of PG seats will go to AIQ,” the DAK President said.

“It would open floodgates for outsiders and will impact the local aspirants gravely,” he said.

“Pooling will block job avenues for locals and will increase unemployment among doctors in JK,” he added.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said the non-local doctors after completing their postgraduate courses would move back to their respective places which would result in a great void in the health care system of the region.

“Pooling would further decrease the doctor-patient ratio that would deteriorate the health care delivery system in JK. It would also mean depriving the people of Kashmir the services of specialist doctors,” he said.

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said the move would be detrimental to the health system of the region and the biggest casualty of the pooling would be patient care.

“JK has a limited source of education and scientific exposure. A large number of students do not have access to modern tools of education. And with the prevailing circumstances and frequent internet blockage, it is difficult for local students to compete at all India-level,” he said.

Vice-President DAK Dr Muhammad Iqbal Mir said most of the students who have already appeared for MBBS and PG exams had studied keeping in view the competition at JK level.

“But, now they have to compete at All India-level which is unacceptable,” he said.

Dr Javid Qanangoo senior executive member DAK urged JK government to opt out of All India Quota and keep all medical seats available for local candidates.

“Participating in AIQ for MBBS and PG seats would be against the rights and interests of JK aspirants,” he said.

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

- 1835 - Battle of Gonzales fought between Texan settlers and Mexican forces. First engagement of the Texas revolution
- 1851 - The pasilalinic-sympathetic compass(a contraption built to test the pseudo-scientific hypothesis that snails create a permanent telepathic link when they mate) is demonstrated but proves to be a fake.
- 1864 - Battle of Saltville, VA
- 1912 - Gopal Krishna Gokhale, at invitation of Gandhi, arrives in South Africa on a 26-day tour; he also visits Tolstoy Farm
- 1920 - The Chinese sign an agreement with the Russo-Asiatic Bank, largely French and Russian controlled, which will oversee the Chinese Eastern Railway, but give local supervision to China
- 1923 - British occupying army leaves Constantinople
- 1924 - League of Nations approves protocols of Geneva
- 1935 - Mussolini’s Italian army attacks Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1940 - 17 German aircraft shot down over England
- 1941 - Germans launch attack on Moscow
- 1944 - Nazis crush Warsaw Uprising killing 250,000 people
- 1944 - US B-17’s drops pamphlets on Walcheren
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People’s Republic of China
- 1956 - 1st atomic power clock exhibited-NYC
- 1958 - Guinea (French Guinea) gains independence from France (National Day).
- 1963 - West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer condemns western grain shipments to USSR
- 1968 - Mexico City police fire on protesting students, 300-500 killed
- 1968 - Republic Guinea forms (day of republic)
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105
- 1977 - Pakistani general Zia ul-Haq bans all opposition
- 1978 - Syrian & Palestinians shoot in East Beirut, 1,300 killed
- 1981 - Ali Chamenei elected president of Iran
- 1982 - Bomb attack in Tehran, kills 60, injures 700
- 1990 - WW2 Allied nations cede any remaining rights as occupiers of Germany
- 1990 - Chinese plane explodes, about 100 die
- 1991 - Steffi Graf becomes the youngest woman to win 500 professional tennis matches
- 1994 - Pakistan defeat Australia by one wicket in Karachi Test
- 2001 - NATO backs US military strikes, following 9/11
- 2009 - The economic crisis in Ireland is considered to be the driving force behind the largest migration of Irish people to London in 20 years, it is reported today
- 2012 - 20 students are gunned down in Mubi, Nigeria
- 2014 - 15 people are killed after a gun powder plant explodes in Gorni Lom, Bulgaria



HIJRI
CALENDAR

25

SAFAR
-UL-
MUZAFFAR

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
5: 06
ZUHR
12: 21
ASR
4:34
MAGRIB
6:20
ISHA
7:40

From KO Archives

Police Registers Case Against Army

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Even as army promised an Inquiry into the raid on Beeru police station and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) battalion headquarters a fortnight ago a case has been registered against the commanding officer, of 34 Rashtriya Rifles Col TJ Shashidharan in this connection, official sources said today. Station House Officer (SHO) of Beerwah police station registered the case on September 25 for unauthorised entry by the army personnel into the police station after higher authorities gave a green signal to do so, they said. Following strong protests by the police over unbecoming behaviour of the Rashtriya Rifles troops, the army promised an inquiry into the conduct of its officers involved in the raids on the intervening night of September 18/19. Personnel of Rashtriya Rifles conducted raids on the Beerwah police station and the battalion headquarters of the CRPF in connection with September 12 attack by a two-member Fidayeen of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen on a Rashtriya Rifles camp in Beeru in which 15 armymen including a major were killed. The army suspected involvement of policemen in harbouring militants. It also conducted an identification parade of policemen and raided the residential quarter inside the police station premises. The police, sources said, believe that raids were an attempt by the RR to cover up its failures in preventing the attack as it had specific intel-ligence suggesting an attack by militants. But, the army personnel took the report lightly, the sources added.

They found nothing, because the whole search operation was a ploy to cover up their own failure and shift blame on others, they claimed.

(Kashmir Observer, October 03 ,2000)

TAAK Meets Tourism Minister Welcomes Launch Of Srinagar Sharjah International Flight

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In an effort to reach out to the union Government, Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) met with the visiting union Tourism Minister, Mr G Kishan Reddy in Srinagar and apprised him about various issues pertaining to J&K’s tourism sector.

President TAAK Farooq A Kuthoo

raised various issues and demands before the minister who promised to take it up on priority.

TAAK also welcomed the launch of an international flight to Sharjah.

TAAK further demanded opening of other lucrative international routes which have contributed to a good inbound football in pre Covid era.

Kuthoo said operating inter-

national flights would give a new dimension to foreign traffic which would ultimately contribute in getting back the pristine glory of Kashmir tourism.

The minister said that the Central Government is doing every effort to bring JK on the world tourism map and assured all the support to the tourism stakeholders in redressing their issues. (KNS)

Protests In Bahrain Over New Israeli Embassy

Anti-Israel protests broke out in Bahrain on Friday, a day after Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid's visit to open the Jewish state's first embassy in the country.

Police fired tear gas during one rally as scattered, small-scale protests took place around the tiny Gulf state.

Protesters marched waving Palestinian and Bahraini flags, chanting "Death to Israel" and "No to Israeli embassy in Islamic

Bahrain". No arrests were reported.

Lapid's visit on Thursday came a year after Bahrain normalised ties with Israel, breaking with decades of Arab consensus that there should be no relations without a resolution to the Palestinian question.

The United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco also established relations in a series of US-brokered agreements known as the Abraham Accords.

Three Years After His Murder, Khashoggi Widow Urges US to Hold Saudis Accountable



Agenceis

Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi's widow on Friday questioned US President Joe Biden's commitment to hold the kingdom accountable three years after the writer's brutal murder.

Marking the anniversary, Hatice Cengiz traveled to Washington for a demonstration outside the Saudi embassy and an evening vigil near the US Capitol where she unveiled a portrait of Khashoggi made out of newspaper columns.

She voiced dismay that days ahead of the anniversary, Biden's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who US intelligence says ordered the killing.

"Is this what the accountability that Biden promised looks like?" she asked at the candlelight vigil organized by rights groups.

"MBS took Jamal from me and the entire world. Will you hold him accountable or will you reward these murderers?" she said, referring to the 36-year-old heir apparent by his initials.

Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi who lived in self-exile in the United States, wrote critically about MBS in columns in The Washington Post.

On October 2, 2018, he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to file paperwork to marry Cengiz, who is Turkish. According to US and Turkish officials, a waiting Saudi hit squad strangled him and dismembered

his body, which has never been retrieved.

US president at the time Donald Trump played down the episode, saying it was more important that Saudi Arabia buys US weapons and shares hostility toward Iran.

Biden vowed a tougher approach, declassifying intelligence and imposing sanctions on Saudis although not on the crown prince himself.

US officials said Sullivan traveled to Saudi Arabia, where MBS is also defense minister, largely to discuss the crisis in Yemen where the kingdom has led a devastating air campaign aimed at defeating Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

Also addressing the evening vigil was the sister of Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, a Red Crescent aid worker who was arrested in 2018 and earlier this year was handed a 20-year sentence after criticizing the Saudi leadership through an anonymous Twitter account.

"They tortured him so bad, they almost killed him. They broke his hand and smashed his fingers until they were disfigured, saying, 'Is this the hand you tweet with?'" said his sister Areej al-Sadhan, who lives in California.

She said she was hopeful the new US administration's pressure would win her brother's release but that changed after Biden let MBS "off the hook."

"That's how Saudi officials repaid President Biden's generosity, by committing more human rights abuses," she said.

Panama Police's Arab Target Practice Sparks Outcry



Agenceis

Panama's police force has issued an apology for taking part in an Israeli-run training course after images showed officers shooting at targets that appeared to depict people dressed in traditional Arab clothing.

The controversy arose after photos emerged from the training, one of which showed a man pointing a gun at an image of an armed person wearing what appeared to be a traditional headdress.

The images were published on Twitter by the National Police and the local Israeli chamber of commerce but were later deleted.

"We are respectful of cultural, religious and ethnic differences," the police force said in a statement on Friday. "We regret that ... a situation arose outside the nature of our mission and duty."

The deleted Twitter posts had said the training was organized by the Israeli embassy in Panama.

The Palestinian Information Office in Panama also

condemned the training.

"The target shooting training codes of conduct only accept silhouettes without images ... [this] is an act of discrimination and racism that Panama should not tolerate," the office said in a statement, local media reported.

The controversy drew a rebuke from the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Palestine, which said the course promoted "violence and racism so that anyone who wears a hijab or something similar can be classified as a terrorist".

The committee also requested the government to cancel the "intervention" of foreign countries in the training of security forces.

"This training constitutes a violation of the protocols referring to the shooting courses that prohibit the use of distinctive figures of the Arab peoples as objects of hatred and persecution," the statement said.

"We call on the national government to cancel the intervention of Israel and other countries ... in our security forces," it added.

The training also sparked condemnation on social media.

Merck Pill Breakthrough Raises Hopes Of Preventing Virus Deaths

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: A pill developed by US drugmaker Merck could halve the chances of dying or being hospitalised for those most at risk of contracting severe Covid-19, with experts hailing it as a potential breakthrough in how the virus is treated.

If it gets authorisation, molnupiravir, which is designed to introduce errors into the genetic code of the virus, would be the first oral antiviral medication for Covid-19.

Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics plan to seek US emergency use authorisation for the pill as soon as possible and to make regulatory applications worldwide.

"This is going to change the dialogue around how to manage Covid-19," Merck Chief Executive Robert Davis said.

Current treatment options include Gilead Sciences Inc's antiviral remdesivir and generic steroid dexamethasone, although both are generally only given once a patient has already been hospitalised.

"An oral antiviral that can impact hospitalisation risk to such a degree would be game changing," Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security, said.

Existing treatments are "cumbersome and logistically challenging to administer. A simple oral pill would be the opposite of that," Adalja added.

Due to the positive results, which sent Merck's shares up more than 9 per cent in early New York trading, the Phase 3 trial is being stopped early at the recommendation of outside monitors.

Shares of Covid-19 vaccine manufacturers Pfizer and Moderna dropped by nearly 3pc and 10pc respectively, moves Michael Yee, a biotechnology analyst at Jefferies, said indicated investors believe "people will be less afraid of Covid and less inclined to get vaccines if there is a simple pill that can treat Covid". Pfizer and Swiss



pharmaceuticals group Roche are racing to develop an easy-to-administer antiviral pill for Covid-19, but so far only antibody cocktails which have to be given intravenously are approved for non-hospitalised patients.

A planned interim analysis of 775 patients in Merck's study looked at hospitalisations or deaths. It found that 7.3pc of those given molnupiravir were hospitalised and none had died by 29 days after treatment, compared with 14.1pc of placebo patients. There were eight deaths among placebo patients.

"Antiviral treatments that can be taken at home to keep people with Covid-19 out of the hospital are critically needed," Wendy Holman, Ridgeback's CEO, said in a statement.

Scientists welcomed the potential new treatment to help prevent serious illness from the virus, which has killed almost 5 million people around the world.

"The availability of a well-tolerated, effective oral antiviral will be particularly useful in supplementing vaccination as a means to reduce the proportion of patients needing hospital care," Penny Ward, visiting professor in pharmaceutical medicine at Kings College London, said.

In the trial, which enrolled patients around the world, molnupiravir was taken every 12 hours for five days. The study enrolled patients with laboratory-confirmed mild-to-moderate

Covid-19, who had symptoms for no more than five days.

All patients had at least one risk factor associated with poor disease outcome, such as obesity or older age.

Merck said viral sequencing done so far shows molnupiravir is effective against all variants of the coronavirus, including highly transmissible Delta.

It said rates of adverse events were similar for both molnupiravir and placebo patients, but did not give details.

Merck has said data shows molnupiravir is not capable of inducing genetic changes in human cells, but men enrolled in its trials have to abstain from heterosexual intercourse or agree to use contraception. Women of child-bearing age cannot be pregnant and also have to use birth control.

Merck said it expects to produce 10 million courses of the treatment by the end of 2021, with more coming next year. The company has a US government contract to supply 1.7m courses of molnupiravir at a price of \$700 per course.

Davis said Merck has similar agreements with other governments, and is in talks with more. Merck said it plans a tiered pricing approach based on country income criteria.

Merck has also agreed to license the drug to several India-based generic drugmakers, which would be able to supply the treatment to low- and middle-income countries.

Pak Government In Talks With Terror Group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Reveals Imran Khan

Agenceis

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has revealed that his government is in talks with banned terror group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for "reconciliation" with the help of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The TTP, commonly known as Pakistani Taliban, is a banned terrorist organisation based along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

There were reports that the Afghan Taliban had set free some dreaded TTP terrorists, including Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, after taking over Afghanistan in August.

In an interview to Turkish government-owned TRT World news channel, Imran Khan said there are different terror groups which form the TTP and some of them want to talk to the Pakistan government for peace, Pakistan's Dawn News reported on Friday.

"So, we are in talks with them. It's a reconciliation process," the Imran Khan said.

When asked if the government was asking the terrorists to lay down arms, Imran Khan said, "Yes, we forgive them and they become normal citizens."

To a question on why the TTP was conducting attacks on Pakistan's security forces when they were in talks with the government, he said it was just a



"spate of attacks".

Pak Government In Talks With Terror Group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Reveals Imran Khan

Pak PM Imran Khan said his government is in talks with terror group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

"We might not reach some sort of conclusion or settlement in the end but we are talking," Imran Khan added.

Responding to another query on whether the Afghan Taliban were acting as mediators between the TTP and Pakistan, the Imran Khan said: "Since the talks were taking place in Afghanistan, so in that sense, yes."

The Taliban swept across Afghanistan in August, seizing control of almost all key towns and cities in the backdrop of

withdrawal of the US forces that began on May 1.

On August 15, the capital city of Kabul fell to the terrorists. The Taliban claimed victory over opposition forces in the last holdout province of Panjshir on September 6, completing their takeover of Afghanistan three weeks after capturing Kabul.

Pak Government In Talks With Terror Group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Reveals Imran Khan

Pak PM Imran Khan said his government is in talks with terror group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

The Taliban have put in place a hardline interim 33-member so-called "Cabinet" that has no women and includes several UN-designated terrorists. The Taliban last ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

Rights Groups Urge Full Probe Into Rohingya Leader's Killing

Agenceis

Rights groups have called for an investigation into the killing of a prominent Rohingya leader who was shot to death at the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh.

Mohibullah, who was in his late 40s and had eight children, was killed by unknown gunmen in a camp in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday night. He led one of the largest community groups to emerge since more than 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar after a military crackdown against the Muslim-majority minority in August 2017.

"He left me with so much responsibility," his wife, Nasima

Human Rights Council session in Geneva in 2019.

Human Rights Watch called Mohibullah a vital voice for the Rohingya community.

"He always defended the rights of the Rohingya to safe and dignified returns and to have a say in the decisions concerning their lives and future. His killing is a stark demonstration of the risks faced by those in the camps who speak up for freedom and against violence," Meenakshi Ganguly, the rights group's South Asia director, said in a statement.

"Mohibullah's death undermines not only the struggle of Rohingya refugees for greater rights and protection in the refu-



Begum, told Al Jazeera. "I am devastated, how can I manage the family now? It's a difficult road ahead. I am scared to live here now, we need security."

Al Jazeera's Tanvir Chowdhury, reporting from the site where Mohibullah was shot dead, said there was "an uneasy calm prevailing in the camp and a heavy security presence".

"Rohingya refugees are worried and anxious to find out who is behind the killing."

Mohammed Qasim, a Rohingya refugee, could not hold back his tears. "For years now, we have been watching and following Mohibullah, he was a gem to us and done so much for us, but we couldn't save him," he told Al Jazeera. "He took our case to the global community to seek justice for us."

Mohibullah came to prominence when he was chosen to represent his community on a visit to meet then-US President Donald Trump at the White House and attend a UN

gee camps, but also their efforts to safely return to their homes in Myanmar. Bangladesh authorities should urgently investigate Mohibullah's killing along with other attacks on Rohingya activists in the camps," she said.

Amnesty International also condemned the killing and urged Bangladeshi authorities and the United Nations refugee agency to work together to ensure the protection of people in the camps, including refugees, activists and humanitarian workers from both the Rohingya and local community, many of whom have shared concerns about their safety.

"Some groups active in the camp have been organising different types of criminal activities, from operating drugs cartels to holding refugees hostage to killings that have happened as recently as last year. So that clearly indicates who could be behind it," Saad Hammadi, Amnesty's South Asia campaigner, told Al Jazeera.

First Royal Wedding Held In Russia Since Revolution

SAINT PETERSBURG: Russia on Friday held its first royal wedding since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution toppled the Romanov monarchy, with aristocrats travelling from across Europe for the lavish ceremony.

Grand Duke George Mikhailovich Romanov, 40, and his Italian fiancée Rebecca Virginia Bettarini, 39, were wed at Saint Isaac's cathedral in the former imperial capital Saint Petersburg.

Hundreds of foreign guests travelled to Russia's second city for the Orthodox Christian ceremony, including Prince Rudolph and Princess Tilsim of Liechtenstein, and the former king and queen of Bulgaria.

The guest list of around 1,500 people included other prominent names like Konstantin Malofeyev, a monarchist and billionaire close to the Kremlin, and Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. Bettarini converted to the Orthodox faith last year. Her wedding dress train featured the coat of arms of the Russian Empire, embroidered in gold, and she wore a diamond-encrusted tiara made by high-end jewellers Chaumet.

Passing by Saint Isaac's cathedral on Friday, Saint Petersburg resident Galina Bobrova said she

wished the couple "happiness". "For us the monarchy is something from a past life, of course, but it's interesting," the 50-year-old said.

The last wedding in Russia of an heir to the Romanovs was that of Nicholas II and Alexandra, 127 years ago.

Ahead of the ceremony, Romanov said the couple chose to tie the knot in Saint Petersburg because it was the first place in the country where the family returned in the early 1990s.

"It is very, very close to our family," he told Saint Petersburg-based news website Fontanka ahead of the wedding. Saint Petersburg is "the history of Russia", he added, "and the history of the House of Romanov."

Born in Madrid, Romanov is the son of Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna Romanova, the self-proclaimed heir to Russia's imperial throne.

She is the granddaughter of Grand Duke Kirill, a cousin of Nicholas II, the last Russian tsar who was executed along with his wife Alexandra and five children by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

Buried after their execution in a place long kept secret by the Soviet authorities, their bodies and those of their children were transferred in 1998 to the Peter and Paul Cathedral in Saint Petersburg.

NEWS MAKERS

Trump Asks Florida Judge To Force Twitter To Restart His Account

Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump asked a federal judge in Florida on Friday to ask Twitter to restore his account, which the company removed in January citing a risk of incitement of violence.

Trump filed a request for preliminary injunction against Twitter in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida, arguing the social media company was "coerced" by members of the US Congress to suspend his account.

Twitter and several other social media platforms banned



Trump from their services after a mob of his supporters attacked the US Capitol in a deadly riot on

January 6.

That assault followed a speech by Trump in which he reiterated

false claims that his election loss in November was because of widespread fraud, an assertion rejected by multiple courts and state election officials.

Twitter "exercises a degree of power and control over political discourse in this country that is immeasurable, historically unprecedented, and profoundly dangerous to open democratic debate," Trump's lawyers said in the filing. The filing was reported earlier by Bloomberg.

Twitter declined to comment on the filing when contacted by Reuters.

Before he was blocked, Trump had more than 88

million followers on Twitter and used it as his social media megaphone.

In the court filing, Trump argued Twitter allowed the Taliban to tweet regularly about their military victories across Afghanistan, but censored him during his presidency by labelling his tweets as "misleading information" or indicating they violated the company's rules against "glorifying violence."

In July Trump sued Twitter, Facebook and Alphabet Inc's Google, as well as their chief executives, alleging they unlawfully silence conservative viewpoints.

Annual Urs Of Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) Begins

No night-long prayers for 2 consecutive years

AGENCIES

BUDGAM: The annual Urs of Kashmir's revered sufi saint Hazrat Sheikh Noorudin Noorani popularly known as Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA) commenced at Charar-e-Sharief in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday.

However, for the second consecutive year, there were no night-long prayers at the shrine in the wake of Covid pandemic.

Wakaf Board Administrator Abdul Salam told news agency KNO that the annual Urs of the saint is marked with the change of sacred cloth (Gila) on the grave of the saint every year.

"Annual Urs of Sheikhul Alam (RA) also known as Alamdar-e-Kashmir is being observed at Central Kashmir's Charar-e-

Sharief on October 4 (i.e 26th day of Islamic month of Saffar)," he said.

Keeping in view of Covid pandemic, the devotees without facemask were denied entry by the police at the main gate and no nightlong prayers were held at the Shrine.

However, hundreds of devotees who came from different areas of the Valley participated in the holy event of cloth changing (Gila) changing). Also, special prayers were held at the shrine throughout the day. Emotional scenes were witnessed at the shrine as people were seen crying while praying before the Almighty.

Meanwhile, man officials visited the shrine and took stock of the arrangements made for smooth conduct of annual Urs.

Invasive Pests Infect Apple Orchards In Shopian District



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Apple growers in Zainapora hamlet of South Kashmir's Shopian district are in distress as a new pest has been found in their orchards that is infecting the apple crop.

Locals from Zainapora area told news agency KNO that such kind of an insect has been found for the first time and that the pest was creating havoc in the orchards.

"Our produce is less shiny, smaller in size as this insect has sucked all the nutrients from trees," the locals said.

Tawseef Ahmad, a resident of Zainapora area of Shopian, said that new pest is laying web layers from one branch to another, followed by trunk and then even inserting its body into the fruit.

"This pest whose number is in millions has sucked all nutrients from the tree due to which size of fruit is small. It is damaging leaves and then trees as well," he said.

Orchardists said that they are unable to pick apples as this pest bite causes allergy and that they are not even able to hire

labourers. "Even after spraying insecticides several times, there is hardly any effect on this pest," they claimed.

Senior Entomologists from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST) said that it is an invasive insect which has been identified as "leaf miner and has probably reached here before two or three years."

"Leaf miners were reported some time before but this year their manifestation is very huge," they said, adding that "Most pathogens and fungal or bacterial diseases are invasive species and this leaf miner is curable if growers will follow advisories regularly."

Meanwhile, growers demanded that it should be checked as to how this insect reached here and proper vigil must be kept on such things in future.

Pertinently, the department of Horticulture has already issued an advisory for farmers to stop the spread of leaf miners.

Notably, around half population of the valley is directly or indirectly on fruit industry as this industry has a turnover of around 20,000 crore annually.



NURSES OF NHM STAGED SIT-IN protest in Srinagar demanding continuation of their services in the Health Department.

DHSK Holds Cleanliness Drive Across Kashmir Hospitals



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir on Saturday observed Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Day across Kashmir hospitals on the eve of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which is celebrated throughout the country.

A spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir said special sanitation drives were carried out in all the hospitals. In hospitals, employees pledged for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The hospitals conducted sanitation drives/awareness programs in under their ad-

ministrative control and held ceremonies regarding Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

In this connection, Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather visited various hospitals and encouraged hospitals employees for the same.

He supervised drives at JLN Hospital, UPHC Batmaloo and CHC Khanyar. At UPHC Batmaloo the director distributed sweets among sweepers, helpers, health care workers and the general public also and token appreciation for their contribution for the celebration of the day.

AT JLN he participated in the cleanliness drive. "We

pledge that we all can together maintain sanitation in hospitals, localities and in communities. Sanitation is an essential part for human health. We all can prosper only when we are healthy," the director said.

He also encouraged the employees of the department for holding sanitation drives and appealed to people to maintain sanitation for their wellbeing.

Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.

Union MoS Kulaste Inaugurates Projects In Kupwara

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development, Fagga Singh Kulaste Saturday said that Kupwara being the frontier district has special attention of the Union Government to build its infrastructure and economy under Aspirational District status.

The Minister who is on a t2-day tour to the district inaugurated 4 KM Magam-Ucher road, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.96 crore under PMGSY project and also carried out inspection of under construction 500 bedded Associated Hospital for Government Medical College Handwara.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said that the sole aim of the public outreach programme is to assess the developmental scenario of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that the Union Government is committed to the overall development of the Union Territory.

Later, the Minister convened a detailed meeting with DDCs,

BDCs, PRIs and public delegations at Environment Hall Handwara. The public representatives deliberated on projected issues including development of tourist resort Bangus, speedy construction of Baramulla-Kupwara four lanes Highway and extension of railways to the Kupwara district.

Responding to the demands of Public representatives and other delegations, the Minister said that he will take up the matter with the concerned departments at the centre as well as with UT administration and assured that these demands would be fulfilled on priority basis.

Commenting on the demand of augmentation of water supply in the district, the minister said that every household will get tap water connection by the end of 2022 as per the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission of Central Government.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din, ADC Handwara, SP Handwara and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Union MoS Education Visits Gulmarg

Leads Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on Gandhi Jayanti



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

GULMARG: Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar on Saturday paid visit to Gulmarg where he led a cleanliness drive on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by the Directorate of School Education Kashmir.

Emphasizing on the virtues of cleanliness the Minister said that Gandhi always saw cleanliness as an integral part of developing a healthy and civilized society. He urged the parents and teachers to inculcate the habit of maintaining good hygiene among children at a young age.

Pointing to the need of effective methods for solid waste management he said that the Government is trying to figure out various scientific methods through which the problem could be tackled. The minister also directed concerned authorities to achieve the target of 100 percent plastic free Gulmarg till

next Gandhi Jayanti in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Minister along with other dignitaries inspected various stalls installed by Khadi and Village Industries Board where he inspected embroidery shawls and other garments. On the occasion, he said that Centre Government is committed to give a boost and expand the Embroidery of Jammu and Kashmir across the globe and several initiatives in this regard are being taken.

Dr. Sarkar is on his visit to Baramulla as part of the Union Governments special outreach programme which aims to evoke public feedback from different sections of the society besides carrying out developmental activities in the region.

Director School Education Kashmir Tasaduaq Hussain, Additional Secretary School Education Naseer Ahmad Wani, Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Zahoor Ahmad Raina and other officer of district administration were also present on the occasion

SHORT TAKES

Idea Of India Under Great Threat: J&K Congress

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday observed birth anniversaries of father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi at its Srinagar Party Office.

KNO news agency reported that the JKPCC also remembered Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and recalled his services to the Nation.

Addressing the party workers, Ghulam Ahmad Mir highlighted the sacrifices and services of Mahatma Gandhi towards Nation and said, "Gandhi ji laid down his life for the harmony and unity in the country, his sacrifices shall continue to inspire the generation across the globe." "The idea of India in great danger under the present dispensation at Centre, so the country men should rise to the occasion to defeat the designs of all those forces hell-bent upon to damage the unity, diversity and secular identity of India." Mir said on the occasion.

Paying rich tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri JKPCC President termed the departed leader a visionary under whose leadership India prospered and developed fast.

"Shastri ji was a best statesman, who served as the second Prime Minister of India, Mir said and reminded the Party cadres that the departed leader was a courageous and a man of development, who promoted white revolution, which was popularly called as a National campaign to increase the production and supply of milk," JKPCC President said.

The JKPCC President also condemned forces "bent upon to damage the very idea of secular India in order to serve their vested interests and said it is the bounden duty of every citizen to work towards strengthening and safeguarding Idea of India."

Re-Engagement Of Retired Employees Injustice With Youth: NC

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Saturday took strong exception to the engagement of retired engineers on contractual basis by "bureaucrat driven JK government", saying the measure will disproportionately affect the young employed as well as unemployed engineers.

According to a statement, this was said by party's Member of Parliament (Retd) Justice Hasnain Masoodi while expressing dismay over engagement of retired engineers on contractual basis in the Rural Engineering Wing of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for execution of works on the consolidated remuneration of Rs 30,000 PM to Rs 45,000 PM.

BJP Seeks FIR Against Congress Leader's Remarks About PM

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: BJP Kashmir Unit party leaders headed by former MLC Surinder Ambardar Saturday lodged complaint with police, seeking an FIR against Indian National Congress leader and former MLA Sopore Abdul Rasheed Dar over alleged derogatory and defamatory remarks about Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

In a formal written complaint addressed to Station officer Ram Munshi Bagh Police station, a copy of which is in possession of GNS, the BJP maintained that "the remarks of the congress has demeaned the office of the Prime Minister of India and has only nefariously and maliciously tried to provoke and maliciously

instigate the public and threatening the life of Prime Minister with a view to create public disorder."

"The act of the former Congress legislator is a criminal offence punishable under Indian penal code and should be banned from public life and politics", the Complaint reads.

As such it is requested to kindly register a FIR against under Sections 116, 141,142,143,153,153A, 153B,171F,189, 499, 500,501,503, 504,505,506 of IPC besides the relevant section of the IT Act. The said person is also liable to be prosecuted as per the provisions of Representation of People's Act and after lodgment of the FIR the above mentioned person be punished under law in order to meet the justice, the complaint reads.

Nizamuddin Bhat Rejoins Peoples Conference

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Former PDP leader Nizamuddin Bhat rejoined Peoples Conference on Saturday.

Bhat was welcomed into the fold by PC chairman Sajad Gani Lone along with senior party leaders, as per a statement issued here.

Welcoming Nizamuddin Bhat into the party fold, Lone said that it is a remarkable moment for him and the party cadres to have Nizam sahib back in the party and that he will complement the party efforts in scripting an agenda for change and help navigate J&K out of the web of disempowerment a dignified manner.

Lone said that besides mass appeal, Mr Bhat is bestowed with intellectual and analytical qualities and that his connection with the masses will play a significant role in the party's overall growth and strength on the ground.

Narcotics Worth Rs 15 Lakh Recovered From Bandipora Orchard

AGENCIES

BANDIPORA: Acting tough against the drug dealings, Police in Bandipora have recovered huge consignment of drugs worth lacs.

Acting on specific information regarding concealment of drugs in orchards of Lawaypora Bandipora, a police team of PS Bandipora on the directions of SSP Bandipora Mohammad Zahid, under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Bandipora Mohammad Idrees, raided the specific spot.

During search, huge consignment of drugs (500 strips containing 12000 Spasmoproxyvan capsules) concealed in a gunny bag and hidden under dense bushes were recovered.

The consignment was meant to be supplied among the youth in Bandipora town and its adjacent areas. The value of drugs is approximately 15 lac rupees. However, the identity of the accused person involved in this crime is being ascertained.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No.172/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Bandipora and further investigation has been initiated.

Police Arrests 2 Drug Peddlers In Awantipora

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Police in Awantipora have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

Officers from Police Station Pampore at a checkpoint established at Galander near NHW intercepted a vehicle (Alto 800) bearing registration number JK13G-0883 with two persons on board. They have been identified as John Mohd Wani son of Abdul Gani Wani and Hilal

Ahmad Ganie son of Mohd Shaban Ganie both residents of Lolipora Nehama.

During checking, officers recovered 11 kgs of grinded Poppy Straw from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 131/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pampore and investigation has been initiated.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



"A leading gastroenterologist of the valley called me today, he had treated 50 Hepatitis-C positive i/v drug abusers in a single day. All I could sense in his voice was worry and helplessness"

@khan_khawar

"Please don't take medical advice from your WhatsApp/ Facebook groups. If your doctor has advised something, end of story. If only medical opinions were that simple!"

@shaziashfi5

"First October and our ceiling fans are still on throughout the night. Minimum temperature is 7 degrees above normal. That's not just climate change, it's a climate disaster"

@meenwhile

Crime And Pandemic

The annual report, "Crime in India", released by the National Crime Records Bureau in mid-September this year needs to be carefully parsed before gleaning insights or making State-wise comparisons. The reason is the

tered cases of crimes against women in 2020 (of which the bulk of them, 30.2%, were of the category "Cruelty by husband or his relatives"), this number has to be assessed along with the fact that the year saw prolonged lockdowns during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic (between late March and May 2021 in particular). This period coincided with a high number of complaints of domestic violence — the number of complaints received by National Commission for Women registered a 10-year high as of June 2020. The seeming mismatch between the NCW and NCRB data must be studied and can only be explained by a lack of registration of cases in some States where crime reporting remains sluggish either due to a fear of doing so or a lackadaisical approach to such cases by law enforcement. On the other hand, the lockdown also led to an overall fall in crime related to theft, burglary and dacoity.

THE COVID-19 related disruption also led to a greater registration of cases overall (a 28% increase in 2020 compared to 2019) largely due to a 21-fold increase in cases related to disobedience to the order duly promulgated by a public servant and over four times in cases involving violations of other State local laws. This is not surprising either. India had one of the most stringent lockdowns and law enforcement spared little in enforcing strictures on physical distancing.

significant variances in case registration across States and Union Territories, especially serious crimes pertaining to rape and violence against women. States/UTs such as Tamil Nadu with 1808.8, Kerala (1568.4) and Delhi (1309.6) recorded the highest crime rate (crimes per one lakh people) overall. But it is difficult not to see these numbers as a reflection of better reporting and police registration of cases in these States and the capital city, respectively. On the other hand, while there was an 8.3% decline in regis-

The COVID-19 related disruption also led to a greater registration of cases overall (a 28% increase in 2020 compared to 2019) largely due to a 21-fold increase in cases related to disobedience to the order duly promulgated by a public servant and over four times in cases involving violations of other State local laws. This is not surprising either. India had one of the most stringent lockdowns and law enforcement spared little in enforcing strictures on physical distancing. The question of registration does not apply to some types of cases such as murders — which showed only a marginal increase of 1% compared to 2019. Worryingly, while there was a reduction in the registered number of economic offences (by 12% since 2019), cybercrimes recorded an increase of 11.8%. The increase in cybercrimes is cause for concern as this requires sharper law enforcement as seen even in highly developed societies. While cases related to sedition declined from 93 in 2019 to 73 last year, Manipur and Assam led with 15 and 12 cases each. Sedition has increasingly been used as a weapon to stifle dissent and this trend needs to be reversed urgently.

The Hindu

Still Around, Still Abound

Islamophobia Is Ever Increasing, Owing To Many Factors And Has Translated Into Large Scale Violence Against Muslim Minority Community In India



Mohammad Tahir

TO CAMPAIGN for a legislation (on the model of The Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989) that recognises Islamophobia as a religious form of discrimination. Such a legislation will potentially act as a deterrent against anti-Muslim abuse and violence, and instil some confidence among the members of the largest minority community in India

On Thursday, 23 September 2021, the Assam police killed two members of a poor Muslim community in Dholpur area of Darrang district during an eviction drive that has displaced nearly 800 families. The victims were identified as 12-year-old Sheikh Farid and 33-year-old Moinul Haque, a daily wage labourer, whose family has lived in Assam since several decades. A viral video of the incident shows a photographer (identified as Bijoy Bania, associated with the local administration) stomping and mercilessly pouncing on the body of Haque as he lay dying due to a bullet wound.

While anti-encroachment drives are a regular affair in different parts of India, and such measures often-times result in some form of a clash between the government officials, police and the affected people, the Dholpur incident has garnered attention because it occurred in a particular political context, and was, of course, accompanied by abominable cruelty by the photographer Bania and disproportionate force by the police.

Violence against members of the Muslim community in Assam was preceded by a series of attacks on poor Muslims (usually vendors and

small traders) in different parts of India by vigilante groups (reportedly) belonging to Hindutva organisations and outfits.

For example, on 22 August, Tasleem Ali, a bangle-seller, was thrashed in Indore's New Govind Area (Madhya Pradesh) for selling his wares in a Hindu-locality. On the complaint of the daughter of an accused attacker, Ali was booked under POSCO and IPC sections 354 (assault on a woman), 354-A (sexual harassment), 467, 468, 471 (forgery), 420 (cheating) and 506 (criminal intimidation). In Vikas Bazar area of Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), a right-wing mob led by some Devraj Pandit harassed a Muslim dosa vendor and vandalised his stall while shouting "Krishna bhakt ab yudh karo, Mathura ko bhi shudh karo (Devotees of Krishna wage war, help purify Mathura)." The mob objected to the stall's name 'Shrinath Dosa Corner', and accused the Muslim owner of waging "economic jihad."

Such incidents abound. For a complete list, you can follow Alishan Jafri (@asfreeasjafri) Twitter account, which documents anti-Muslim violence and hate crimes in India.

Some political observers see increasing anti-Muslim incidents as linked to the upcoming Lok Sabha

and State elections, because religious polarisation play in favour of certain political parties.

Whatever be the case, the genie has been let out of the bottle. A vast majority of young Indians, from the majority community, have been ideologically radicalised. And this does not portend well for the future. As Debasish Roy Chowdhury (Haaretz, 26 Sep) says, "In reality, the radicalization of the majority is a much bigger threat confronting India than minority extremism." Islamophobic narratives and anti-Muslim attacks have been almost normalised, and Indian Muslims and many conscientious Indian Hindus are afraid (and warning) that this anti-minority bigotry may eventually lead to a more violent future, something akin to Europe in the 1930s.

While the situation seems utterly pessimistic, there are possible ways which could be tried to arrest the rising wave of anti-Muslim movement. Firstly, it is important to meticulously document the incidents of anti-minority hate crime, so as to provide evidence during the judicial process, whenever that happens, and get people involved in the crime prosecuted. Secondly, raising awareness about Islamophobia through varied mediums, channels and platforms. Making people understand Islamophobia and its different facets could potentially act to prevent the youth from the majority community from becoming radicalised under the influence of extremist ideologies that have a free run and robust infrastructure for their amplification. Finally, to campaign for a legislation (on the model of The Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989) that recognises Islamophobia as a religious form of discrimination. Such a legislation will potentially act as a deterrent against anti-Muslim abuse and violence, and instil some confidence among the members of the largest minority community in India.

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

The author is an independent researcher

Care Over Growth

TIM JACKSON

NOBODY POINTED OUT WHAT WAS blindly obvious: capitalism was responsible for its own deficiencies – from its neglect of nature, its denigration of work, and its corruption of politics to its distortion of the money system and its insistence that more is always better. These tendencies all ran against the grain of evidence and reason

matter. In a desperate attempt to slow down a global pandemic unprecedented in our lifetimes, growth, confidence, even capitalism itself would be beating a swift retreat. We would be given an object lesson in our own survival. But it should not have been so surprising. Ask people what matters most in their lives, and the chances are that health will come out somewhere near the top of their list. We naturally want health for ourselves, for our friends and families, and – sometimes – for the fragile planet on which we live. Health – rather than wealth – provides the true foundation for our shared prosperity.

What's particularly fascinating is how this truth upends the vision of progress coded into economics. When wealth is the goal, perhaps growth makes sense. But if health is our aim, it categorically doesn't. As Aristotle pointed out in his Nicomachean Ethics (named after his physician father): health is about balance. The good life is characterized not by a relentless pursuit of more, but by a careful quest for a "virtuous" balance between too little and too much.

Our own physiology underscores this point. Too little food leaves us struggling with the symptoms of malnutrition. Too much tips us into the "diseases of affluence" that now kill more people than under-nutrition does. Good health depends on us finding and nurturing this fine nutritional balance.

That task is tricky, even at the individual level. Just think about the challenge of keeping your exercise, your diet, and your appetites in line with the outcome of a healthy body weight. But, as I've argued in Post Growth: Life After Capitalism, living inside a system that has its sights continually focused on more makes the task nearly impossible. It is no wonder that obesity rates have tripled globally since 1975, and that almost two-fifths of adults over 18 are now overweight.

Capitalism not only fails to recognize the point where balance lies. It has absolutely no idea how to stop when it gets there. The bankrupt creed of more has unbalanced our psychological search for security. It has accelerated our obsessive pursuit of novelty. And it has imposed untenable burdens on the climate.

Another insight that emerges from resetting our priorities is that if health is the end, then care must be the means to reach it. The economy of care – those essential sectors of human activity that protect, nourish, and improve the health of people and the planet – should lie at the heart of things. Here, it doesn't take a genius to recognize another profound lesson from the pandemic: these were precisely the sectors that capitalism had systematically undervalued for decades. Worse still, it was the nurses, teachers, distribution workers, and cleaners who bore the brunt of this failure.

Had capitalism cared for the economy of care, the damage from COVID-19 might not have been so profound. Instead, the system produced precarity in work, instability in finance, tension in the body politic, and a divided and impoverished world. Even in adversity, it would be the rich and the privileged who survived and fared best. Chronically underpaid and dangerously exposed to the virus, it was the frontline workers who over-populated the tragic statistics of the pandemic.

The starkest lesson of all was that it didn't have to be like this. With almost shocking alacrity, the crisis revealed what capitalism has long denied: that it is both legitimate and possible for government to intervene in the health of society – and to do so dramatically if necessary. It is for governments to protect livelihoods, re-purpose supply chains, build hospitals, and invest in the economy of care. The rightful vehicle for that process is the sovereign power over money itself – a fact denied for ideological reasons by those who would profit from tragedy. The transition to a net-zero carbon economy is often construed primarily as a technological challenge. The enormous potential of green stimulus to boost investment in renewable energy and build the infrastructure for a low-carbon society is undeniable. But to focus on the tech frontier is to miss the beating heart of the human economy, which is more reliant on the time we spend in service to each other than on the ingenuity we exercise in making things.

Much of what was put in place, at enormous speed, in response to the pandemic can serve as the foundations for a deeper and more substantial economic renewal. Reversing the decades-long precarity in care. Regenerating the devastating loss of the natural world. Replacing a culture of frenetic consumerism with an economy of relationships and meaning. Never have these things made so much sense to so many. Never has there been a better time to turn them into a reality.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson: The care of life and health, and not their destruction, is the first and only task of economics.

Project Syndicate

Locating The Rise And Fall Of Muslim Intellectualism

Mir Basit

Today's world is one with global Islamophobia justifying violence against muslims all over the world. Owing to this, our world is filled with semiotics and representation that inevitably justifies anti-muslim racism. This predicament is so rampant that even muslims may inadvertently internalise such misrepresentations and ultimately sabotage their own identity. Amidst this climate, Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray's book "Decadence of Muslim Intellectualism" (2021,Viva Books) serves as a timely intervention in engaging with the history of muslims but more importantly, at the level of Knowledge.

Dr Parray's book deals with the contemporary challenges that muslims face in the philosophical circles that are predominantly western. In this intervention, he plays a pivotal role by first identifying the rich global period of "muslim intellectualism". He goes onto to address the contemporary intellectual challenges, internal as well as external, that the Muslim world is facing at the global level. The transition of "Muslim Intellectualism" from its golden period (till 13th century) to the darkest days of decay that have persisted, have been discussed at length in the book. The reasons for this transition such as the fragmentation owing to external factors and internal strifes have all been predicated as the primary reasons behind the grim situation that the muslim world is facing today.

However, this critique and lament is not without the acknowledgement of the fertile history of Muslims and their contribution in every sphere and their monumental achievements.

The book contains eight chapters: The first three chapters focus on the importance of attaining knowledge ('Ilm) in the light of the Quranic Text and Prophetic Traditions and Muslim Intellectual contribution from its formative to Golden Age in different spheres of life, viz. science and technology, philosophical sciences and various other branches where Muslims excelled at par. It was during the 'Golden age' that an immaculate and strong education system was established, of which even the west was full of acknowledgement. Major Islamic centres like Baghdad, Spain were considered as the great centres of learning or 'Centres of the civilised world' which illuminated the world through its rea-

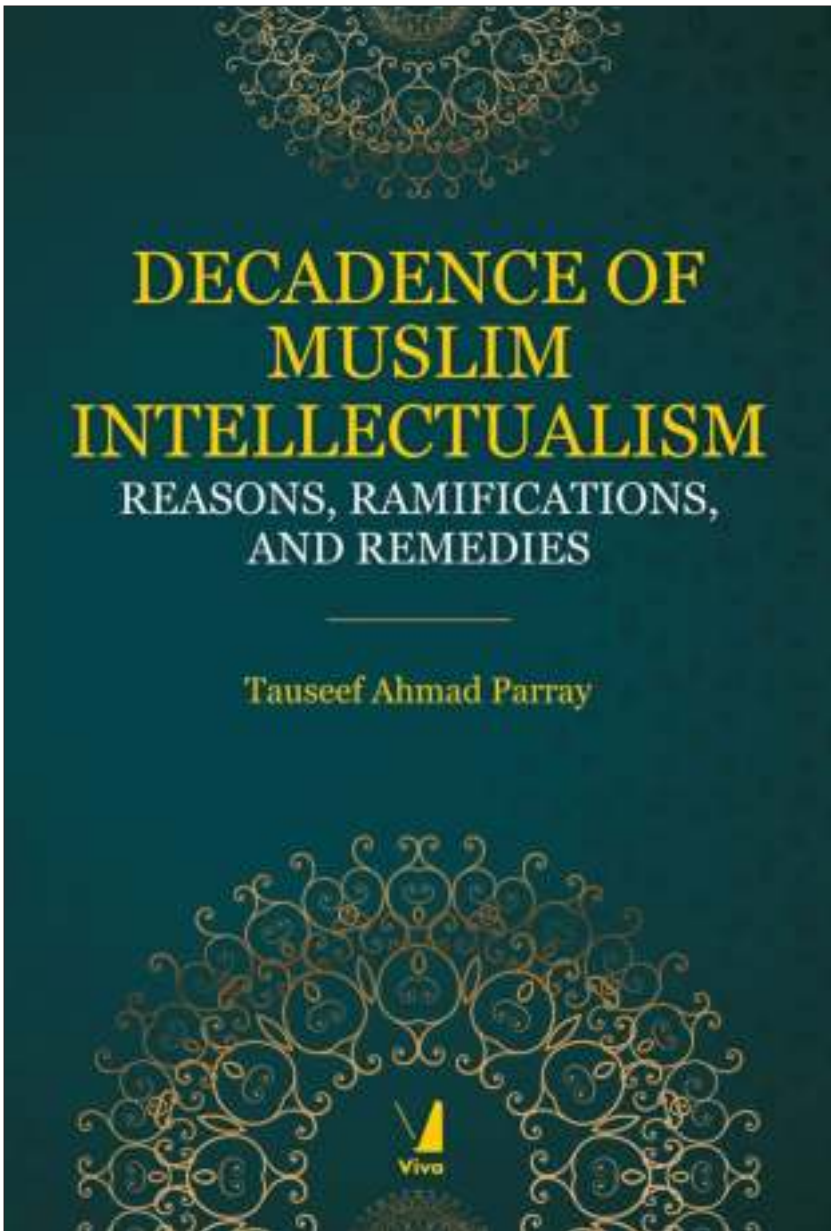
“THEREFORE, THE BOOK IS A necessary read insofar as it provides muslims a chance to relook the past that they were indoctrinated to believe as though it were a vacuum. This is poignantly summed up in this statement which endorses the book as a manifesto of change for muslims world over: "The need of the hour is to learn lessons from the past legacy, to give a rethought on 'what went wrong', and to take steps for a 'Radical reform' in academic and intellectual aspects--the backbone of a civilization"

soning, knowledge and inventions and discoveries.

What happened after this?

This is answered in "What (and Where) Went Wrong", a significant chapter of this book that explains in detail the causes of intellectual decadence and the fall of the Muslim empire. The end of the golden era resulted in the shift of intellectualism and transfer of power to the west and kept receding away from the Muslim ummah. The primary reason which gave a serious blow, as the author points out, was the "bifurcation of knowledge into religious and worldly science, though neither the Quran nor the prophetic traditions used such terms". He also mentions on the authority of various scholars that Islam does not admit the division of education into religious and secular; it is a misconception and such a division is "against the spirit of Islam".Therefore, the solution lies in merging both as an indivisible whole" (p.35).

It was the fragmentation, as a result, which aided in widening the gap between intellectual development and backwardness of the Muslim ummah, along with intellectual collapse. After that, the events of colonialism didn't do



a favour too.

The distorted position of ummah led to less interest and minimal resource allocation for the educational setup and research field, which exclusively worked against their favour and the author puts it as: "A lack of financial resources and incentives has been a major barrier to research except in some oil-rich states. Whereas Japan, the United States, Germany, and other Western countries spend 2 per cent or more of their gross domestic product (GDP) annually on research, no Muslim country

spends more than 0.50 per cent of its (much lower) GDP on research." (p. 53)

Another significant chapter provides a description of some "Islamic research institutes" & "Think tanks" working all over the Muslim world while contemplating it with the facts of the west, whose expenditure on this field is immense and the results are quite evident where the USA owes a maximum number of think tanks in the world and ostensibly the whole Islamic world doesn't even come close to half of its numbers.

The sad state of affairs is their low count. Ironically, what is being done is only the tip of the iceberg, while the demands are enormous. The dearth of these Institutes present a fair view of our backwardness and at the same time ringing an alarm bell of 'what needs to be done' on a concrete basis.

The concluding part of the book comes with some 'remedies' and 'hope' which have been voiced by dedicated scholars and researchers all over the globe as "remedial measures" to be implemented on an immediate basis. The author also throws light on internal issues prevailing in the ummah, and to counter the contemporary challenges he puts forth his 'Five D's theory'. Lastly, He sums up the remedial measures with the '5 points remedial formula', which he believes will prove as a light at the end of the dark tunnel, provided we are determined to move out of the tunnel and adamant to see a shift from a deep slumber to rich intellectualism.

The book elucidates the author's emancipated and unbiased outlook, deep research and analysis which is evident from various references and quotes of renowned intellectuals(Muslims and non-Muslims). It deserves due credit and accolades for being fearless and pointing to the bundle of blunders owing to the shift towards Muslim backwardness in intellectualism. The road to ramifications, which he mentions is tough but at the same time equally prominent and vital in bringing the ummah from backwardness to excellence.

Therefore, the book is a necessary read insofar as it provides muslims a chance to relook the past that they were indoctrinated to believe as though it were a vacuum. This is poignantly summed up in this statement which endorses the book as a manifesto of change for muslims world over: "The need of the hour is to learn lessons from the past legacy, to give a rethought on 'what went wrong', and to take steps for a 'Radical reform' in academic and intellectual aspects--the backbone of a civilization"

Book Details:

Decadence of Muslim Intellectualism: Reasons, Ramifications and Remedies, Tauseef Ahmad Parray (New Delhi: Viva Books, 2019) ISBN:9789390054930 Pages:224

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The Work-Life Balance?

Misha Ketchell



“PERHAPS THE KEY TO LONG-LASTING WELLBEING IS TO CONSIDER which lifestyle suits you best: hedonic, eudaimonic or experiential. Rather than pitching work against life, the real balance to strike post-pandemic is between these three sources of happiness

for 15 minutes for an experiment to start) or to be busy (walking for 15 minutes to another venue to participate in an experiment). Very few participants chose to be busy, unless they were forced to make the walk, or given a reason to (being told there was chocolate at the other venue).

Yet the researchers found that those who'd spent 15 minutes walking ended up significantly happier than those who'd spent 15 minutes waiting – no matter whether they'd had a choice or a chocolate or neither. In

other words, busyness contributes to happiness even when you think you'd prefer to be idle. Animals seem to get this instinctively: in experiments, most would rather work for food than get it for free.

Eudaimonic happiness

The idea that work, or putting effort into tasks, contributes to our general wellbeing is closely related to the psychological concept of eudaimonic happiness. This is the sort of happiness that we derive from optimal functioning and

realising our potential. Research has shown that work and effort is central to eudaimonic happiness, explaining that satisfaction and pride you feel on completing a gruelling task.

On the other side of the work-life balance stands hedonic happiness, which is defined as the presence of positive feelings such as cheerfulness and the relative scarcity of negative feelings such as sadness or anger. We know that hedonic happiness offers empirical mental and physi-

cal health benefits, and that leisure is a great way to pursue hedonic happiness.

But even in the realm of leisure, our unconscious orientation towards busyness lurks in the background. A recent study has suggested that there really is such a thing as too much free time – and that our subjective wellbeing actually begins to drop if we have more than five hours of it in a day. Whiling away effortless days on the beach doesn't seem to be the key to long-term happiness.

This might explain why some people prefer to expend significant effort during their leisure time. Researchers have likened this to compiling an experiential CV, sampling unique but potentially unpleasant or even painful experiences – at the extremes, this might be spending a night in an ice hotel, or joining an endurance desert race. People who take part in these forms of "leisure" typically talk about fulfilling personal goals, making progress and accumulating accomplishments – all features of eudaimonic happiness, not the hedonism we associate with leisure.

The real balance

This orientation sits well with a new concept in the field of wellbeing studies: that a rich and diverse experiential happiness is the third component of a "good life", in addition to hedonic and eudaimonic happiness.

Across nine countries and tens of thousands of participants, researchers recently found that most people (over 50% in each country) would still prefer a happy life typified by hedonic happiness. But around a quarter prefer a meaningful life embodied by eudaimonic happiness, and a small but nevertheless significant amount of people (about 10-15% in each country) choose to pursue a rich and diverse experiential life.

Given these different approaches to life, perhaps the key to long-lasting wellbeing is to consider which lifestyle suits you best: hedonic, eudaimonic or experiential. Rather than pitching work against life, the real balance to strike post-pandemic is between these three sources of happiness.

The author is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, De Montfort University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Extra Spacing Between Letters Can Boost Children's READING SPEED

■ WHILE WE FOUND THAT COLOUR OVERLAYS PROVIDED little benefit, we suggest that children should be encouraged to use overlays if they find these help their reading. Colour overlays may not increase reading speeds, but they may extend reading stamina,"

■ WE BELIEVE THAT EXTRA-LARGE letter spacing works by reducing what is known as the 'crowding effect', which can hamper the recognition of letters and reduce reading speed,"



Agencies

A new study has found that a child's reading speed can be improved by increasing space between the letters in a text.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Research in Developmental Disabilities'.

The research, led by Dr Steven Stagg of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), examined the benefits of letter spacing and coloured overlays amongst a group of dyslexic

and non-dyslexic children. It is the first study to investigate how these adaptations can help to reduce specific reading errors.

Published in the journal 'Research in Developmental Disabilities', the study discovered that text with increased space between each letter provided a benefit to both groups of children. On average, the dyslexia group showed a 13 per cent increase in reading speed, while the comparison group of non-dyslexic children showed a 5 per cent increase in reading speed.

The study involved 59 children aged between 11-15, 32 of whom had a statement of dyslexia, with 27 non-dyslexic children forming a control group. The participants were recruited from six UK schools in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and London.

Participants read four texts with either standard or extra-large letter spacing, both with and without a coloured overlay. The children were instructed to read the text out loud while being recorded. The recording was used to measure the number of

errors they made -- specifically missed words, added words, wrong words, and pronunciation -- as well as the participants' reading time.

In addition to improved reading speed for both children with dyslexia and the non-dyslexic group, the larger letter spacing also resulted in a significant reduction in the number of words being missed by the children with dyslexia. However, the study found that coloured overlays had no significant impact on reading speed or the reduction of errors

for either group of children.

Dr Stagg, a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), said, "We found that extra-large letter spacing increases the reading speed of children both with and without dyslexia, and significantly reduces the number of words that dyslexic children skip when reading."

"We believe that extra-large letter spacing works by reducing what is known as the 'crowding effect', which can hamper the recognition of letters and reduce reading speed," Dr Stagg continued.

"When viewed in the context of previous research, our findings strongly suggest that teaching professionals can be confident that all children would be helped by increased letter spacing in reading materials. As well as being a relatively simple change to make when producing handouts and worksheets, it means that children with dyslexia need not feel singled out by the introduction of specially adapted reading materials, as this is something that everyone can benefit from," Dr Stagg explained.

"While we found that colour overlays provided little benefit, we suggest that children should be encouraged to use overlays if they find these help their reading. Colour overlays may not increase reading speeds, but they may extend reading stamina," Dr Stagg added.

"Previous research suggests their benefits may not become apparent if reading time is less than 10 minutes and the short reading duration of the tests in our study may have put colour overlays at a disadvantage," Dr Stagg concluded.

Involuntary Job Loss Affects BMI, Health Behaviours In Males: Study

Agencies

Involuntary job loss affects the Body Mass Index (BMI) of men and behaviours differentially across the life cycle, suggests the findings of a new study by the University of Kent.

The research published in Economics and Human Biology highlights the prevalence of young people being overweight or obese, with higher alcohol consumption and reduced physical activity after losing jobs through business closures, re-organisations, bankruptcies, or privatisation. The findings also suggested increased prevalence and intensity of smoking in middle-aged men.

Employment is one of the



most critical determinants of health and health behaviours for adults worldwide. While data from Ukraine

over a period of 10 years were analysed to conclude these findings, this research presents wide-ranging im-

plications of involuntary job losses that have particular relevance following the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the furlough scheme comes to an end in the UK at the end of September 2021 and other countries gradually reducing their Covid-19 economic support funds, the research shows concerning trends that could come to light.

The research was led by Dr Olena Nizalova, Senior Lecturer in Economics in Kent's School of Economics and a joint Senior Research Fellow in Health Economics in Kent's Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS) and Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), alongside Professor Edward C. Norton (University of Michigan).

The researchers monitored individuals from 2003-2012 allowing them to capture the long-term effects of past job loss on outcomes at a specific point in time and their trajectories across the life cycle.

Dr Nizalova said: 'It is well documented how detrimental involuntary job losses can be to the mental health of those affected, but this research presents worrying findings that suggest how it can also go on to affect physical health too via engagement in health-compromising behaviours and avoidance of health-promoting behaviours. These findings could inform the design of more targeted policies to support displaced workers across various stages of life.'

Adults Over 40 With Diabetes, Covid-19 More Likely To Be Hospitalised Than Children

Press Trust Of India

Adults over 40 years of age with type 1 diabetes if suffered from COVID-19 are seven times more likely to be hospitalised in comparison to children with same respiratory problem, according to a study.

People with diabetes are at higher risk for COVID-19-related complications, especially if they are over the age of 40, the study, which was published in the Endocrine Society's Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, said.

Children with COVID-19 rarely develop severe respiratory symptoms and often remain asymptomatic, the study said.

In contrast, adults experience respiratory symptoms of varying severity, with older adults and those with diabetes at higher risk of acute respiratory distress syndrome and death.

Our study shows people over 40 with type 1 diabetes have worse outcomes from COVID-19 than children and young adults. Children and young adults experienced milder disease and a better prognosis, said Dr Carla Demeterco-Berggren, from the University of California San Diego.



"These findings indicate the need for age-tailored treatments, immunisation and clinical management of individuals affected by type 1 diabetes and COVID-19. Public health recommendations, including wearing masks and getting vaccinated, need to be followed by all to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19, she said.

The researchers studied data from 767 patients with COVID-19 and type 1 diabetes from 56 diabetes clinics across the US. Fifty-four percent were 18 or younger, 32 per cent were 19-40 years old and 14 per cent were over 40.

The study found patients over 40 were seven times more likely to be hospitalised with COVID-19 compared to the younger group. No patients from the 18 and under group died, while three died from the over 40 age group and two died from the 19-40 age group.

Mental Reattachment To Work Vital For Success Of Leaders

Agencies

The findings of a new study suggest that on the days that leaders and managers were better able to reattach to work in the morning, they experienced higher positive moods and work focus, allowing them to be more successful throughout the day.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Vocational Behavior'. Getting into the right mindset for work can set the tone for the rest of your day -- and it's an especially beneficial practice for managers, the Portland State University study found.

Mentally reconnecting to work -- thinking about what you want to accomplish that day, what's on your day's agenda or what situations you might encounter before you even open your work email -- better prepares an employee to be engaged throughout the workday.

The study found that on the days that leaders and managers were better able to reattach to work in the morning, they experienced higher positive moods and work focus and that in turn allowed them to be more successful throughout the day.

Reattachment to work can occur



while still at home (thinking about the upcoming day during breakfast), during the commute (anticipating events at work that day) or when arriving at work (mentally running through the day's to-do list after parking).

For those working from home, the time saved by not commuting can be used to sit down in front of the computer and mentally get into a work mindset before opening your email or logging into a Zoom meeting.

Charlotte Fritz, the study's lead author and an associate professor of industrial-organisational psychology at PSU, previously found that employees who mentally reconnect to work in the morning are more engaged at work, but she said that this study's focus on leaders is important as they are also responsible for the work and engagement of their employees.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir
Scholarship Name 1: Cine Impact Film Fellowship 2021



DESCRIPTION: Ciné Impact Film Fellowship 2021 is an initiative of the Hyphen in association with IndiaCSR to identify and nurture new talent from the next generation of filmmakers for independent storytelling on social issues. Under this fellowship, filmmakers below 25 years of age will be provided with mentorship, handholding, and grant for making documentaries.

ELIGIBILITY: Open for Indian nationals below 25 years of age.

Prizes & Rewards: Filmmaking grant up to INR 1,00,000

Cash prizes worth INR 1,00,000

Filmmaking Bootcamp and mentorship

Last Date to Apply: 15-10-2021

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CIFF1

Scholarship Name 2: NSP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students 2021-22

DESCRIPTION: NSP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students 2021-22 is an initiative for Class 12 passed students who are studying in college/university. The scholarship aims to support meritorious students from financially weaker sections by providing them financial assistance for their day-to-day expenses incurred while pursuing higher studies

ELIGIBILITY: The scholarship is open for the candidates who have scored above the 80th percentile of successful candidates in the relevant stream in Class 12 or equivalent of respective state examination boards and pursuing a regular course such as Medical and Engineering in a college/institution recognized by the AICTE, Dental Council of India (DCI), Medical Council of India (MCI), and other respective regulatory authorities. To avail the benefits of the scholarship, the candidate must not be in receipt of any other scholarship and the annual family income should be less than INR 8 lakh from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 10,000 to INR 20,000 per annum

Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2021

Application mode: via Online only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CSS9

Scholarship Name 3: The Tata Capital Pankh Scholarship Programme 2021-22

DESCRIPTION: Tata Capital Limited invites applications from students studying in Class 6 to 12, polytechnic, diploma, and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students who belong to economically weaker sections of the society.

ELIGIBILITY: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The applicants must be studying in Class 6 to 12, polytechnic, diploma or undergraduate (general and professional) course. They must have secured at least 60% marks in the qualifying examination. The annual family income must not exceed INR 4,00,000 (4 lakh) from all sources. For Class 6 to 10 category, only students who have lost their parent(s) or earning family members due to COVID-19 are eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of the tuition fees

Last Date to Apply: 15-10-2021

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCP55

Petrol, Diesel Rise To New Record Highs As Rates Hiked Again



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices soared to new record highs across the country on Saturday after rates were hiked again by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre, respectively.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 102.14 a litre and to Rs 108.19 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel rates also touched a record high of Rs 90.47 in Delhi and Rs 98.16 a litre in Mumbai.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

The price hike follows international oil prices soaring to near three-year high as global output disruptions forced energy companies to draw more

crude oil out of their stockpiles. The basket of crude oil India imports has averaged USD 78 per barrel in the last few days.

The fourth increase in its rates this week has sent petrol prices above Rs 100 in most major cities of the country.

Similarly, the seventh increase in prices in nine days has shot up diesel rates above Rs 100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) resumed daily price revisions on September 24 after international oil prices neared a three-year high. Global benchmark Brent crude is trading above USD 78 per barrel.

Himalayan Motors Launches All New Mahindra XUV 700



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Himalayan motors Tengpora by pass Batamalo, authorized dealership of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, on Saturday launched the All NEW Mahindra XUV 700.

The vehicle was unveiled by Mohammad Sidiq Beigh in presence of Managing Directors Of Himalayan Motors Ghulam Mohammad Beigh, Bashir Ahmad Beigh, Jybran Gul Beigh & sales General Manager Sumeer Pandita.

Sales Manager Zuhair Fayaz briefed about the features of the vehicle & the complete variant lineup and date of booking commencement for the most awaited SUV of the year, the XUV700. While launching this

vehicle prices for all the variants were announced at the time of the product debut, the complete Variant line-up announced today aims at straddling a wide spectrum of buyers, starting at ₹11.99 lakh-upto 21.08 lakhs (Ex-Showroom) all prices will be applicable for the first 25000 bookings.

On this occasion, Bilal Mustafa Shah (D.E.M) said that official bookings will open from October 7, 2021.

For bookings/testdrive visit our main Branch Himalayan Motors Tengpora By-Pass Sgr or Himalayan Motors Sangrama Baramulla

For more information visit our website or http://www.himalayanmotors.in/ or call us: 0194-2456006, 9596500303

Govt To Provide All Possible Assistance To Farmers To Increase Their Income: LG

Sinha e-launches 20 paddy procurement centres



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: To ensure timely sale of paddy and remunerative prices to the farmers, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday e-launched 20 Paddy Procurement Centres (Mandis) in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts.

In a first, the Government of J&K has started procuring wheat in addition to paddy.

Speaking at the launch, the Lt Governor said the amount of sale proceeds will be directly credited into the accounts of the farmers through DBT within 72 hours.

The Lt Governor assured the farmers that the number of e-Mandis will be increased further in future, and reiterated the commitment of the Government to provide all possible assistance to the farmers to increase their income. 'Contrary to the rumours being spread by certain section with vested interests, I assure the farmers that the number of these Mandis will be increased further in future', he said.

The Lt Governor said that the use of technology has enabled all these Mandis to get linked digitally with the procurement portal, so that the Food Corporation of India can register the farmers on the portal and transfer money

to their accounts through DBT within 72 hours.

The Lt Governor said the initiative would eliminate middlemen and end distress sales. He also directed the Deputy Commissioners and other revenue officers to provide land record documents to the farmers on priority. "I have been informed that advance registration has started on the online portal. For the convenience of the farmers, revenue authorities should start providing the land record documents to the farmers, said the Lt Governor.

Complementing the farmers of J&K for taking a lead in the country with 70 quintals per hectare production of paddy during the last harvest, he said that this time also our farmer will set new records in per hectare production. He also exhorted the farmers to diversify their crops and adopt new techniques for enhanced productivity.

The Lt Governor further said that it is the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that the existing government machinery should solve every issue of the farmers pertaining to the purchase of products. Agricultural reforms introduced by the government will connect farmers directly to the market

and eliminate middlemen, he added.

The Lt Governor informed that under PM KISAN, the assistance of Rs 1,721 crore has been provided by the central government to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir, thus providing huge relief to them during the Corona epidemic.

The Lt Governor said that UT administration is committed and steadfast for the welfare of farmers. The farmers' welfare programs that are being implemented will speed up the process of qualitative and quantitative changes in rural J&K, doubling the income of our farmers.

We have done away with the anti-farmer, anti people policies. We will ensure that whatever best is possible will be done to make the lives of our farmers better, he said.

Farooq Khan, Advisor to the Lt Governor Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners, Director Agriculture, and other senior officers, besides a large number of farmers were present on the occasion, in person and through virtual mode.

Govt Has Not Taken Any Decision On Air India So Far: Commerce Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the government has not taken any decision on Air India so far and the final winner will be selected through a well defined process.

"I have been in Dubai since...day before and I don't think there is any such decision that has happened at all. Of course bids were invited... and that is assessed by the officers and in due course of time, there is a whole well laid down process through which the final winner will be selected," he told reporters here.

He was replying to a question about media reports stating Tata's have emerged as the top bidder for the takeover of debt-laden Air India.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)—the government department

responsible for privatisation—had said in a tweet on Friday that the Centre has so far not approved any financial bid for Air India.

"Media reports indicating approval of financial bids by Government of India in the AI disinvestment case are incorrect. Media will be informed of the Government's decision as and when it is taken," he tweeted.

When asked about the proposed free trade agreement with the UAE, he said there are lot of opportunities for Indian businesses in sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, pharma and healthcare. There is tremendous potential in both goods and services, he added.

On investments, he said "we have to encourage Indian businesses to engage with the UAE."



DoT Slaps Rs 3,050-Crore Fine On Airtel, Voda Idea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecom (DoT) has slapped a penalty of Rs 2,000 crore on Vodafone Idea and Rs 1,050 crore on Airtel based on TRAI's recommendation five years ago, according to sources.

The DoT has given three weeks to the telecom operators to pay the penalty, a source said while sharing the content of the demand notice served to the companies on Thursday.

Airtel spokesperson said, "We are disappointed with the arbitrary and unfair demand based on TRAI recommendations of 2016 relating to provisions of point of interconnect to a new operator. These allegations were frivolous and motivated."

"Airtel takes pride in maintaining high standards of compliance and has always followed the law of the land. We will challenge the demand and pursue the legal options available to us." No immediate comments were received from Vodafone Idea.

BHARTI AIRTEL TO MOVE COURT

A penalty of Rs2,000 crore has been imposed on Vodafone Idea and Rs1,050 crore on Bharti Airtel based on regulator TRAI's recommendations five years ago.

In October 2016, TRAI had recommended imposing a total penalty of Rs3,050 crore on Airtel, Vodafone and Idea (now merged) for allegedly denying inter-connectivity to jio.

Mos Urges Youth To Avail Benefits Of Flagship MSME Schemes For Starting Businesses

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

REASI:Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bhanu Partap Singh Verma Saturday visited district Reasi under the ongoing outreach programme of the Centre Government today.

The Union minister attended an outreach camp at Arnas where he listened to issues raised by DDC members, BDC chairperson, Sarpanches and general public.

The Minister gave a patient hearing and assured that the demands and grievances projected by the delegations have been taken note of and the same would be put up with appropriate authorities for their timely redressal. Verma participated in the Gram Sabhas of Panchayat Kanthan and interacted with Gram Sabha members. He also inspected the stalls of different Departments displaying different varieties of items produced locally.

After a ceremonial lighting of lamp to commemorate the Gandhi Jyanti the minister highlighted the importance of Gandhian Philosophy in these contemporary times. The minister asserted that the objective of these public outreach camps is to gather feedback about the schemes directly from the public. He also highlighted the commitment of the Prime Minister towards the proper implementation of all the schemes and initiatives by the government.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM.

FRESH TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.146/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/10886-99 DATED. 01-10-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Repairs/Renovation of Sub Center Hard Malpora Beeru Budgam	6.58 lacs	300/-	20 days	DEE/CEE	4210-Medical

Position of AAA _____ **Accorded vide:-** _____

Position of TS = Accorded _____ **Position of funds: Available/Committed** _____

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-01-2021 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	01-10-2021 from 04.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	07-10-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	08-10-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA.(The bidder has to provide 3% of advertized Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid)

No: 10886-99
Dtd:- 01.10.2021
DIPK-9886/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam,

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO.II, SGR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.73/CDII/11952-62 of 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Improvement of footpaths and central verge by way of refixing of damaged kerbs and manhole covers including clearance of footpath on Northern Foreshore road.	3.90	200/-	15 Days	3054-M&R (Additionality)	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded _____ **Position of funds: Available** _____

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.10.2021 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.10.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	07.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08.10.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2 nd , Srinagar
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.
- Any item/items of work found necessary during execution of work though not in the BOQ shall have to be got executed and shall be paid At Par the %age quoted by the bidder.
- Any addendum issued shall be the part of NIT.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

No. 11952-62
Dated: 01.10.2021
DIPK-9885/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Construction Division IInd Srinagar

Educationists Question Boards Evaluation System Day After 8 DU Colleges Declare 100% Cut-Offs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A day after eight Delhi University colleges declared 100 per cent cut-offs for 11 courses, a section of educationist on Saturday questioned the evaluation system of the Boards, even as others rejected the idea of entrance tests, saying it would encourage the coaching industry.

Some also called for making more investment on opening good quality institutions, which they said, would be beneficial for the students.

They said so many students getting cent percent marks also raise question on the integrity of those assigned to give marks.

"The cent per cent marks raise a question on the integrity of those assigned to give marks be it the board or the schools. Earlier there was thought given to organise an entrance test but that has not been done. If at this juncture, that could be done it would have been a good solution.

"If it's not done why can't Delhi University conduct an online interview. All the 10 students who have got 100 per cent scores can be assessed and then, one of them can be chosen. This has to be innovated specially in the Covid pandemic," said Professor Arbind Jha of IGNOU.

Professor AK Bhagi of National Democratic Teachers' Front said, "The absolute scores is for Best of Four subjects and there is high possibility of students having perfect scores in four subjects.

"But the number of such students were lower during pre-Covid times, but because of coronavirus and the evaluation being based on internal assessments, the number of cent per cent scorers has increased. This has led to more colleges announcing 100 per cent cut-offs."

Bhagi opined that a hybrid testing system can be formulated under which the Board marks should be taken into consideration along with the performance in an entrance exams.

"The university should not go into extremes and only hold entrance exams as that would encourage people to go for coaching and people from low income groups would be at a disadvantage," he said, adding that entrance exams should be only for some courses.

Currently, the university holds entrance exams for a total of 13 undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

This year, a committee has finalised the process for holding

the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) and the recommendations have been submitted to the Union education ministry but the nod from the ministry is pending. The CUCET is likely to be held next year.

Since the nod is pending, the Delhi University continued with the merit-based admission process. Former Executive Council member Rajesh Jha said there is a need to revisit the Board examination system.

He said the university's admission process is transparent and all those who meet the cut-offs are admitted without any discrimination.

Citing the example of Hindu College, where it admitted more students than the sanctioned number of seats last year for Political Science (Hons) at a cut-off of 99.50 per cent, he said colleges have announced cent per cent cut-offs to avoid over admissions.

"In such a scenario, instead of calling for improvement in DU's system, people should look at the re-examination of the evaluation system which is producing so many students with perfect scores, thereby defeating the purpose of the examination system," he said.

Jha was not in favour of holding entrance exams, saying "it would lead to the flourishing of the coaching industry."

"The examination system is a medium to highlight individual differences and if the examination is not able to do that it is the problem of the system. There is a need to revisit the examination system," he said.

Professors also called on the Centre to invest more on higher education institutions and opening up of more educational institutions for the benefit of the students.

"The territorial rights of the central universities should be re-examined. They should be supported and allowed to open colleges in other states, specially those universities that are institutes of eminence. That would also benefit the local population that cannot come to Delhi," opined Bhagi.

Abha Dev Habib, professor at the university's Miranda House, said "the government should invest more on higher education, fill up vacancies in central universities and open more educational institutions."

Professor Rajesh Jha echoed similar views.

None Can Doubt Patriotism Of Muslim Populace In Lakshadweep: Rajnath

Press Trust of india

KAVARATTI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said no one in the world can dare to question or doubt the patriotism of the Muslim populace in Lakshadweep or even the other inhabitants of the islands as they have thwarted attempts of anti-India forces to brew trouble or instigate the people there against the country.

"No one on Earth can dare to doubt the patriotism of the Muslim people in Lakshadweep. No one can put a question mark on the patriotism of the people of Lakshadweep," Singh said during his speech on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

He was addressing the people after unveiling a statue of Gandhi.

Singh, during the event, also spoke on the issue of climate change and how global warming and resulting rise in ocean levels pose a threat to the existence of Lakshadweep.

He said that as part of the government's "positive attitude" towards reduction of carbon emissions, the Prime Minister has decided to ban manufacture, sale and usage of single use plastics and related products from July 1 next year.

He also said that cleanliness on land should also include cleaning of the oceans and this has been emphasised upon by the PM.

"The marine ecosystem has to be kept clean," he added.

On the issue of anti-India forces attempting to foment trouble in the island, Singh said that due to the strategic location and importance of the island archipelago, such attempts have been made in the past and even now, but efforts of such entities were unsuccessful because of the islanders.

He further said that there were attempts to promote extremism, radicalism and terrorism in Lakshadweep, but all these efforts failed and for that he congratulated the people of the island union territory.

He also said that the BJP government at the Centre has taken a strict stance against terrorism, which was evident from its "cross-border" actions against terrorists.

However, where radicalisation was concerned, the government has not taken such a hard stance and has instead opted for "counselling" to bring those radicalised back into the mainstream.

The Defence Minister said the people of the island were true followers of Mahatma's principles as there was no hatred amongst them on the basis of caste, creed or religion.

He said that even the present BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was totally against any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and religion.

However, "some vested interests" have been projecting the present central government

as "anti-minority", which was "incorrect" and a "false allegation", the Union minister said.

He said the aim of the present government at the Centre was "justice for all and appeasement of none".

The central government and the PM were also focused on "uplift of the poor and marginalised" sections of society and empowering them.

He said that while the island may be thousands of kilometers away from Delhi, the people living there are not far from the hearts of the central government and this message was coming not just from him, but also from the Prime Minister.

Singh said this was evident from the development work being planned and carried out in the island and said any shortcomings in it should be brought to the Centre's attention.

Outlining the Centre's plans for the island, he said Lakshadweep will be turned into the next Maldives, which has a unique identity of its own in the world.

Singh said that Lakshadweep too would soon have a unique identity of its own in the world and for that development work in the island was being expedited.

As part of the development work, the administration of the Union Territory was taking steps to realise the islands' tourism potential, he said and congratulated the administrator - Praful Khoda Patel - for his efforts.

Cong Slams Those Glorifying Godse, Says Doing So With BJP 'Patronage'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday lashed out at those glorifying Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse on the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and alleged that this was happening with the "patronage" of the ruling BJP.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi also slammed those hailing Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Godse, saying they are irresponsibly shaming the country and should be named and shamed publicly.

He said the "lunatic fringe" must not be allowed to enter the mainstream.

Congress leader from Gujarat Hardik Patel thanked Varun Gandhi for taking a "morally right and nationalistic stand", and urged Twitter India as well as Home Minister Amit Shah to take strict action against all those posting in favour of the "killers of Gandhi".

"Any such heinous trends must immediately be banned, accounts blocked and FIR be filed against those tweeting in favour of Godse," Patel said.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said the forces who opposed Gandhi and all that he stood for were the ones who killed him. "Those forces are now in power and are trying to kill all that Gandhi stood, struggled, lived and died for," he said.

Khara also said that "masks have always played the most important role in the dubious history of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) — they conceal the real face of the Sangh".

While paying lip service to Babu, the supporters are encouraged to legitimise Godse, he added.

Another Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said on a day when the whole world is hailing Mahatma Gandhi and remembering him, it is unfortunate that followers of Godse are hailing him on social media in India.

She said she was not at all surprised at the development as it is "the result of that hatred that is being nurtured."

"On Gandhi Jayanti, Godse is being hailed in India, this is the result of the seeds of hatred that the government and its representatives are sowing," she alleged.

Youth Congress chief Srinivas B V said as an Indian he is ashamed that with the "patronage" of a "Godsewadi" government, the slogan of "terrorist

Nathuram Godse Zindabad" was being raised on the birth anniversary of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi.

"Mr Prime Minister, stop these double standards, Gandhi on lips, but Godse in heart," he said.

In a tweet, the Congress, on its official Twitter handle, said, "If Babu were alive today he would not recognise the India he gave his life for."

It also used a hashtag in Hindi which stated 'Gandhi is not only the past but also the future'.

In a tweet, RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha said, "We may be supporters of any political party or may differ ideologically from each other, but if on the day of Gandhi Jayanti, about 2 lakh people are tweeting 'Godse Zindabad', then it is a sign of our society fall seriously ill. This kind of disease takes in everyone/everything."

The comments came amid "Nathuram Godse Zindabad" (long live Nathuram Godse) being among the top Twitter trends on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Twitter trends, however, do not necessarily reflect the real public discourse as many experts believe there could be paid tweets, algorithm-based automated posts and other factors at play to push a particular subject among the top-trending topics on social media platforms.

A section of right wingers have often posted comments eulogising the man, who shot dead Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948, especially on the days linked to India's most famous freedom fighter.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi also said India has always been a spiritual superpower, but it is the Mahatma who articulated "our nation's spiritual underpinnings through his being and gave us a moral authority that remains our greatest strength even today".

"Those tweeting 'Godse Zindabad' are irresponsibly shaming the nation," Varun Gandhi, who is not related to Mahatma Gandhi, said.

"We must not forget the respect that India has internationally is because of Mahatma Gandhi and the ideals that he represented. The people who are tweeting 'Godse Zindabad' should be named and shamed publicly. The lunatic fringe must not be allowed to enter the mainstream," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Youth Killed

Meeran Ali Pathan, a professional body-builder and gym trainer was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Bulbul Lanker locality of Nawa Kadal on July 26.

Hours after Pathan's killing, police had issued a statement claiming gang war between two local gangs --Downtown Itehad and Gujjar Gang took the life of the young gym trainer.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot dead a man identified as Muhammad Shafi Dar in SD Colony, Batamaloo here on Saturday evening, over two hours after Karan Nagar shootout.

Medical Superintendent SMHS hospital, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh said that the civilian has a stabbing injury in his chest and a bullet wound in the abdomen.

"His condition is critical and he is being operated upon," he said.

However, a local news agency KNO on Saturday night reported that Dar succumbed to his injuries during the treatment.

Earlier, police in a statement issued here claimed that militants shot at and critically injured Dar

"Preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists had fired upon a civilian identified as Mohammad Shafi Dar son of Ab Rehman Dar resident of Batamaloo at SD Colony Batamaloo area of Srinagar. In this terror incident, he has received critical gunshot injuries and was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for the treatment of his injuries," the statement read.

"Police have registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," it added.

10th, 12th Exams

government in the second week of August has reduced the syllabi of secondary and higher secondary classes of Jammu and Kashmir by thirty percent following the closure of schools in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

BOSE has said that the question papers will be set from the entire syllabus prescribed for the session. However, the students shall have to attempt questions having weightage of 70 percent marks instead of attempting all the questions.

"The marks obtained by students who attempt less than 70 percent from the question paper shall be raised proportionately while the subjects having no practical course, the question paper shall be of 100 marks and the student has to attempt questions with a total of 70 marks," BOSE said.

It further said, "The papers having three hours of duration shall be having only 2.30 hours of time, the subjects having 2.30 hours and 2.00 hours duration shall be having only 2.10 hours and 1.40 hrs time period for attempting the questions during examination.

J&K Sees 124

year in J&K to 329687.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 52 cases, Baramulla 9, Budgam 9, Pulwama 3, Kupwara 3, Anantnag 6, Bandipora 4 and Ganderbal 6. No new case of Covid-19 was reported from twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir. In the winter capital, Jammu reported 9 new cases, Doda 10, Rajouri 2, Reasi 6, Poonch 4 and Ramban 1.

Also, , the officials said that 168 more patients have recovered—46 from Jammu Division and 122 from Kashmir. Meanwhile, one more coronavirus related death was reported from Jammu on Saturday, raising the death toll in J&K to 4424—2174 in Jammu and 2250 in Kashmir.

Army Chief

would happen through dialogue.

India and China are to hold 13th round of military talks for disengagement at the Line of Actual Control in mid October.

General Naravane reached Ladakh on Friday and on his first day of visit he interacted with the troops and complimented them for their steadfastness and high morale, while being deployed in some of the harshest terrain, altitude and weather conditions. A day before his visit to Ladakh, General Naravane in Delhi had said that developments along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh added to the ongoing legacy challenges on India's active and disputed borders on the Western and Eastern Front.

While speaking at the 116th annual session of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on Thursday, General Naravane had said as far as the Northern neighbour is concerned India has an outstanding border issue.

Responding to continued aggression by China at the border, he had stated, "We are 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 the time a long term solution is reached, that is to have a boundary agreement... That should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along our Northern borders." He also has stated that the unprecedented developments at Northern Borders necessitated large scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces and immediate response, all this in a Covid infested environment.

India and China have been engaged in border disputes for the last 16 months. Twelve rounds of commander level talk have taken place so far and the 13th round is scheduled to happen in mid October.

3 Held For

alleging that the trio sold him a stone claiming it to be 'Heavenly ball' (Trati Gola) against an amount of Rs four lacs, a police spokesperson said.

He said that the accused were arrested within two hours along with Rs four lakh cash, it was not

immediately known why the man wanted to buy the fake "celestial object"

"A case (FIR No. 216/2021) under relevant sections of law was registered at Police station Magam and investigations taken up," he said.

"General public is requested not to get swayed by these inimical tactics of anti-social elements and cooperate with police to identify such elements who indulge in these activities," the police spokesperson added.

Dal Not Cleaned

a 15-day mega cleanliness and de-weeding drive of the lake under the Swachhta Pakhwada of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the function, Sinha said attempts to clean the lake in the past have not borne the desired fruit yet.

It is true that attempts have been made in the past, but we have not achieved that 'Swachh' level of the Dal Lake which should have been. There are some de-weeding machines functioning in the lake, some of which we have been hired as well and this has been going on for the past few days, he said.

Extending the wishes on the birth anniversaries of Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the LG said, "we all have taken a pledge of Swachhta" and the 15-day cleanliness drive will continue across J&K.

We will be able to achieve the aim of 'Swachhta' only when the people here cooperate with us and become stakeholders. We appeal to the people that Dal lake belongs to everyone and we all will benefit from it only when it is clean. I will try to come here every alternate day and I appeal to brothers and sisters in Srinagar to take part in this cleanliness drive, he said.

Earlier, Sinha also administered 'Swachhta' pledge to the officers of the UT at Raj Bhawan and Civil Secretariat.

He said the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban-2.0 and AMRUT-2.0 launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday envisions clean urban spaces and water-secure cities, for which there is a need to work on a mission mode.

He directed the officers to execute action plans in a time-bound manner.

The LG said the PRIs and urban local bodies have a greater role in order to make the Swachhta Pakhwada successful and urged them to work on innovative ideas like adoption of a lake/ water body, school or places of public importance for cleanliness drive.

RSS To Setup

detailed discussions with pracharaks on various aspects especially working of the Sangh in the union territory, an RSS spokesman said.

Bhagwat stressed spreading of the organisation's work in new areas and further setting up the network of RSS shakhas in every nock and

corner of Jammu and Kashmir to inculcate patriotism among people, he said.

The RSS chief said swayamsevaks must set an example for others by creating a peaceful society that takes everyone along.

"We have to expand our work in scope and make it more organized," he said.

The Sarsanghchalak also reviewed various projects initiated by the J-K RSS for the development of villages and rural economy, the spokesman said.

Railway Network

Kashmir is a challenging terrain owing to its topography but the Railways is fully equipped to meet all challenges with the latest technology and dedicated workforce," he said.

"The Minister said that the Railways is committed to take development to every corner of the country and Kashmir ranks high on the agenda of the Central Government. She added that Railways has an important role to play when we talk of Atma Nirbhar Bharat," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, Jardosh said that besides providing relief to the general population, the Railways network is also of strategic importance from the security point of view especially in a place like Kashmir. The Union Minister, he said, added that engineers of the Railways are doing a commendable job in meeting up the expectations that the people in general and security forces in particular have from it.

Earlier in the day, the official spokesperson said that the Minister visited Banihal Railway Station by rail and took stock of operations there. She inspected Tunnel T-80 Control Room and also Tunnel 144 during her visit.

Jardosh, he said, also had an inspection of Navyug Road Tunnel during her visit to Banihal and had a detailed interaction with officers of National Highways Authority of India.

"On her return from Banihal, the Minister stopped at Qazigund Railway Station for a brief inspection," the official spokesperson said.

The Minister also took part in a Swachhhta Awareness Programme at Srinagar Railway upon her return from the visit to Banihal and Qazigund.

Union Minister

(PRIs) to play a positive and productive role so as to ensure holistic and inclusive development at grass root levels

The minister made these remarks at a function organised by Jammu Kashmir - Rural Livelihood Mission - UMEED at Singhpora Pattan of Baramulla district, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

The Minister, he said, paid his visit to the area as a part of the central government's special public outreach programme which aimed to get the first hand appraisal of public feedback at the ground level.

Terming the PRIs as the real agents of rural

development, the minister, as per the official spokesperson, emphasized upon them to play a positive and productive role so as to ensure holistic and inclusive development at grass root levels.

"He assured that full support and cooperation will be provided to them by the Union Government adding that J&K UT is the first region where 73rd constitutional amendment has been effectively implemented," he said.

The Minister, he said, also enlisted various initiatives taken to create viable and sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas and said that efforts are being taken to ensure financial inclusion at gram panchayat level.

‘Quit Electoral Politics

he (Abdullah) says (then)," Lone said.

He said if Abdullah wants to prevent the division of Muslim votes, "then let him support us and we are ready to take that support".

Earlier, Bhat joined the JKPC along with scores of his supporters.

Lone said it is a remarkable moment for him and the JKPC cadres to have Bhat back in the party.

"There is a certain level of emotion in welcoming Nizamuddin sahib back into the party fold. Nizam sahib was one of the founding members of the JKPC and the party archives remember him as an idealistic young man driven by a desire for change," he said.

Bhat will complement the party's efforts to script an agenda for change and help navigate J-K out of the "web of disempowerment" in a dignified manner, Lone said.

Bhat is bestowed with intellectual and analytical qualities and his connection with the masses will play a significant role in the party's overall growth on the ground, he added.

Lone said that the people of J-K have been trapped since August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked the special status of the erstwhile state, and the JKPC will stand up for them in "our united quest to retrieve what is rightfully ours".

Describing his return to the JKPC as a homecoming, Bhat said he played a crucial role in the formation of the JKPC.

"And today, based on my decades of experience, I can tell you with utmost certainty that Sajad Lone is the only political leader who can honestly and sincerely and without any paradoxes lead the people of J-K. Power and government formation is not the party's sole agenda.

"PC shall play a crucial role in according dignity and honour back to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The need of the hour is to rebuild people's trust in the institutions of democracy and justice and it is the JKPC alone that has got the saner voices to steer the ship to the shore and restore Kashmir's dignity with impeccable will and determination, Bhat said.

RCB Eye Playoffs Berth Against Punjab Kings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to inch closer to securing a playoff berth when they clash with Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Eyeing their first IPL title triumph, RCB are currently placed third in the pecking order with seven wins and four defeats for a total of 14 points.

Another two points from a win will almost assure them of a place in the place-offs but for that, RCB will need to put it across Punjab Kings who are coming off a morale-boosting win against Kolkata Knight Riders.

With their five-wicket victory over KKR, Punjab Kings too kept alive their prospects of making the playoffs, even though they are down at fifth position with 12 points after five wins and seven reverses.

Up against an ambitious RCB outfit, Punjab Kings will have their task cut out at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Even though he didn't go on to make a big score, Virat Kohli looked good during his stay in the middle in his team's victory over Rajasthan Royals, as did the skipper's young opening

partner Devdutt Padikkal.

Both of them played some cracking shots before the inform star all-rounder Glenn Maxwell completed the job with his second straight half-century.

If the situation demands, like in their last outing, Maxwell can again afford to look at Srikanth Bharat to build a solid partnership in the middle overs.

Batting down the order this season, AB de Villiers provides RCB the kind of cushion the other teams lack, and Punjab Kings are well aware of this fact.

The bowling will be manned by the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Harshal Patel, Shahbaz Ahmed and Yuzvendra Chahal, who has overcome his past struggles with some very impressive spells this season, adding to RCB's strengths.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, will again rely on their trusted opening duo of skipper KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal to provide them a flying start.

They were among the runs against KKR, and will look to do an encore against RCB.

The biggest plus for Punjab Kings heading into the RCB game is their death bowling that paved the way for their win in the last match.

JKFA Premier League: Ali Jana, J&K Bank Win Matches



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Two matches of Khyber Premier Division League were played on Saturday at Synthetic Turf TRC, here.

The first match of the day was played between Ali Jana FC and J&K Forest XI. Ali Jana FC dominated the show against J&K Forest XI.

The first half seemed to be virtually dominated by Ali Jana FC. They made certain brilliant moves at the goal but their attempts were foiled by Goal-keeper of J&K Forest XI. Both teams had several chances to score but the first half ended 0-0.

In the second half, J&K Forest succeeded in taking the lead through Sameer in 60th minute. However, Ali Jana FC gathered momentum and got

the equalising goal through Kojo Obeng in the 86th minute. Ali Jana then consolidated its lead through Adil in the 88th minute. Bismark of Ali Jana FC added the third goal.

At full time whistle, the score line read 3-1 in favour of Ali Jana FC. Adil of Ali Jana FC was declared man of the Match.

The second match of the day was played between J&K Bank XI and Food & Supplies XI. J&K Bank totally dominated Food & Supplies and won the match 5 goals to 0. J&K Bank scored three goals in the first half and added two more in the second to defeat F&S XI 5-0. Akif scored three goals and Adnan and Waris scored one each for J&K Bank XI. Akif was awarded man of the match for his splendid performance.

The Tournament is being

sponsored by Khyber Milk, AMRL Labs, Arise Hyundai. The Premier Division is also being telecast live by Frisk Film Production on ANN News Channel and their social media.

A-Division League: Two Matches Played

In the ongoing DFA Srinagar A-Division League, two matches were played at Gindun Ground Rajbagh.

In the first match between Central Football Academy and Rising Star FC, Central Football Academy defeated Rising Star FC 4-2.

The second A-Division match was played Nadur Gund FC and Mehjoor FC, which was won by Nadur Gund FC 2-1.

The Tournament is organized by JKFA in collaboration with JKSC.



Positive Kashmir KO Tournament: Police XI Defeat Maharaja FC

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In the first edition Positive Kashmir Knockout Football Championship, J&K Police XI defeated Kashmir Maharaja FC in a tie-breaker on Friday at Synthetic Turf TRC, here.

The first half was dominated by Kashmir Maharaja FC, who made certain attacking

moves, only to be thwarted by the J&K Police goalkeeper. First half score was 0-0.

The second half of the match saw attacking moves created by both teams. Both the teams had tough defence line-ups and prevented the forward lines to penetrate. The second half also ended 0-0. The match was decided

by a tiebreaker, in which J&K Police XI defeated Kashmir Maharaja FC 3-1.

Dilbag Singh, DGP J&K Police was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir was the Guest of Honour. The two dignitaries were introduced to the players before the match.

Head Coach Klusener Plots Afghanistan's T20 WC Bid Away From Home

AGENCIES

JOHANNESBURG: Sporting assignments do not come much tougher than Lance Klusener's role as head coach of Afghanistan as he tries to plan a World Cup campaign with a team who are 12,000km away.

In an ideal world, Klusener and his squad would already be in the United Arab Emirates preparing for their first fixture of the T20 World Cup on Oct 25. Instead, the former South Africa all-rounder is at home near Durban while the bulk of the players are attending a low-key training camp in a country still getting to grips with its takeover by the Taliban.

"We were planning at least a month's camp (in the UAE) but we are still waiting for visas, so that's not going to happen. We will try to get there as soon as we can," Klusener said in an interview.

Coaching Afghanistan was not easy even before the Taliban took control but it has become even more difficult, with a series against Pakistan postponed and the country's professional T20 tournament cancelled since the change in regime.

The Taliban's influence has already been felt at the headquarters of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, with a new chairman and chief executive installed.

A major concern for Afghanistan's status as a full member of the ICC is the likely demise of women's cricket in the country.



Klusener, 50, has been to Kabul 'about half a dozen times' in varying weather conditions since his appointment two years ago.

"I came back from Kabul a couple of days before we shut down. I think it [the Taliban takeover] was always going to happen but the speed of it took everyone off guard," Klusener said. "That's how countries work. There's nothing we can do as sports people except work with it or work around it."

"We had a very good training camp for about two-and-a-half weeks. The pitches were pretty good for that time of year. The weather is hugely extreme. I was there in mid-winter once when those pitches were knee-deep in snow."

He has yet to speak to the new men in charge but says his understanding is that the Taliban are "all for promoting and supporting cricket. By all accounts they're very happy for us to continue and have been extremely supportive."

"It's a huge, huge change for the country, for the people. It's going to take a little bit of time for everyone to find their feet."

Townsend Imitates Ronaldo As Everton Draws At Manchester United



AGENCIES

MANCHESTER: There was a trademark Cristiano Ronaldo celebration at Old Trafford on Saturday, even if it didn't come from the Portugal superstar himself.

Everton winger Andros Townsend did a cheeky yet passable imitation of the spin-in-the-air celebration in front of his team's jubilant fans after scoring the 65th-minute equalizer in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United.

"It's just a mark of respect to a guy who influenced my career," said Townsend, adding he "probably didn't do the celebration justice."

With Ronaldo starting on the bench and not entering until the 57th, United produced another sloppy performance but man-

aged to take the lead through Anthony Martial in the 43rd following an exquisite touch and pass by Bruno Fernandes.

Everton was dangerous on the counterattack throughout the game as United's concentration and discipline waned in its third game in an eight-day span — and less than 72 hours after an energy-sapping home win against Villarreal in the Champions League that was sealed by Ronaldo's stoppage-time goal.

After drilling a low shot into the corner from just inside the area, Townsend performed the Ronaldo-style celebration.

"I spent many hours on the training pitch and in the video room trying to analyze his free kicks and his step-overs and the way he dedicated himself to football," Townsend said. "So it wasn't an imitation. It was a mark of respect to one of my idols."

It was a fifth goal of the season for the winger, who has been revitalized since his move on a free transfer after leaving Crystal Palace.

Ronaldo also has five goals this season after joining United for a second spell, but couldn't add to that total in a quiet cameo after coming off the bench. He had one shot but it flashed wide off his left foot.

United dropped points for the third time this season and a week after losing 1-0 at home to Aston Villa.

NEWS MAKERS

Laporta Says Koeman Will Keep Job As Barcelona Coach

AGENCIES

BARCELONA: In an unexpected move, Barcelona's club president quashed reports of the imminent firing of Ronald Koeman on Saturday when he said that the Dutch coach will keep his job.

"Koeman will continue being the coach of Barcelona," Joan Laporta said hours before Barcelona's match at Atlético Madrid that many reports in the Spanish media speculated could be Koeman's last.

"Today, regardless of the result, Koeman will still be Barcelona's coach," Laporta told reporters in Madrid. "He has a contract, (and) we hope that he can get us back on the winning path, playing the way we want. I know he will give it his all."

It was the first public statement Laporta has made since a bitter 3-0 loss at Benfica on Wednesday sparked various reports that Koeman's days were numbered.

Barcelona has lost both its Champions League matches without gen-



erating a single shot on target and is under threat of failing to qualify for the knockout rounds for the first time in 20 years.

Koeman himself said on Friday that he imagined that the rumors of his exit were "probably true."

The Spanish league match at Atlético comes before a break from club competitions for national teams to play, which would have given Barcelona's leadership a window to make

a move. Spanish media had reported that Laporta was considering Xavi Hernández, Andrea Pirlo and Roberto Martínez as possible replacements.

But, at least for now, Laporta is standing by the former Barcelona defender who etched his name into the Catalan club's history thanks to his final-winning goal that earned Barcelona its first of five European Cups in 1992.

"We believe that he needs our confidence because he is one of ours; he loves Barça," Laporta said about Koeman, who left his job coaching the Netherlands to take over the club at the start of the 2020-21 season amid institutional turmoil that finally led to the resignation of ex-president Josep Bartomeu.

"He decided to become Barcelona's coach in a moment of extreme difficulty for the club both on the field and in the boardroom," Laporta said. "It is complicated, the results are not good. But I ask our fans to keep their faith in our coach; he deserves it and he believes in this team."

Despite Superiority, Every SAFF Match 'A War To Fight': Sunil Chhetri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MALE: Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri on Saturday said despite "a little bit of superiority" India enjoy over the South Asian countries, all the opponents in the ongoing SAFF Championships will be tough and his side will play each match like a "war to fight".

India, who have won the regional football tournament seven times out of the 12 editions, open their campaign against Bangladesh on Monday.

The five-team tournament began on Friday with Nepal and Bangladesh beating Maldives and Sri Lanka by identical 1-0 margins respectively.

"All the matches will be tough. Despite a little bit of superiority we many have, every game will be like a war to fight. We have to fight to the last minute. We cannot play 90 per cent," Chhetri said during a virtual press conference.

The captain, however, conceded



ed that his team has not been at its best in the two international friendlies against Nepal in Kathmandu last month. They drew one and won the other.

"If we are talking about the two matches against Nepal, we have areas to improve and the head coach has conveyed that to us about that. We could have done better."

"Bangladesh have changed their coach (after World Cup qualifiers) but they are very difficult side. In the two matches we played against Bangladesh in the last three-four months, it

has been very tough. All the teams in the region have improved.

"So, we want to take it one game at a time. We are at the moment thinking about Bangladesh match only, we are not thinking about the final."

Head coach Igor Stimac said the SAFF Championships, which ends on October 16, will be the last opportunity for the players to play international matches before the start of the third round of 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers in February next year.

No Evidence To Prove Lung Cancer Caused By Smoking Addiction, Says Court; Asks Insurer To Pay Claim

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A consumer court here has ordered an insurance company to reimburse the amount of expenditure on medical treatment for lung cancer after the insurer refused to pay the claim saying the patient was addicted to smoking, which caused the disease.

The court said there was no evidence to prove that the patient suffered from lung cancer due to his addiction to smoking, apart from the mention of "addiction smoking" on the treatment papers, which, it said, cannot form the basis for the insurer to reject his claim. It also said that people who do not smoke also suffer from lung cancer.

The insurance company had rejected the claim of Rs 93,297 incurred by policy holder Alok Kumar Banerjee on treatment of his "adenocarcinoma of lung" or lung cancer, at a private hospital, on the ground that he was addicted to smoking as mentioned on his treatment papers.

Banerjee's wife, Smita, challenged this in the Ahmedabad Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission together with Consumer Education and Research Centre.

On September 30, the consumer court allowed her petition and observed that there is no evidence to prove that her husband was addicted to smoking, apart from the mention of "addiction smoking" on the treatment papers. Neither was any clarification of evidence sought from the doctor who made the same observation. Observations made in discharge summary or treatment papers alone cannot be counted as conclusive proof. Independent proof is required to be presented to support the claim, it said.

"The complainant's husband

had lung cancer, but there is no proof to ascertain that it was due to his addiction to smoking. The insurer has presented a report from a doctor that says that smokers are 25 times more likely to get lung cancer, but that alone does not prove that he suffered from lung cancer due to smoking," said the order passed by commission's president K S Patel and member K P Mehta.

"People who do not smoke also suffer from lung cancer, and all those who smoke do not necessarily suffer from lung cancer. Therefore, the Commission is of the opinion that the insurance company falsely rejected the claim without providing any conclusive proof in its support," it said.

The court ordered the insurance company to pay Rs 93,297 as claim with 7 per cent interest from the date of application on August 2, 2016. Further, the insurer will pay Rs 3,000 for mental torture and Rs 2,000 towards cost of litigation within 30 days, it said.

The policy was valid between May 2014 and 2015, and the complainant's husband was treated on July 29, 2014 and incurred a cost of Rs 93,297 over treatment which he claimed from the insurer.

The insurer rejected the claim and said in its repudiation letter that the complainant is not qualified for the claim as per the policy terms and conditions, as he was addicted to smoking. This is based on the hospital papers which mention "addiction smoking," it said.

The complainant was a chain smoker and was suffering from lung cancer and had sought treatment in different hospitals. He got cancer due to his smoking habit, as smoking and lung cancer are directly related, the insurance company said in its reply to the court. PTI

Rajasthan DSP, Woman Constable Terminated From Service Over Lewd Video

Agenceis

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government has terminated from service a suspended deputy superintendent of police and a woman constable, who were both arrested after video clips purportedly showed them involved in sexual activities in the presence of the constable's minor son.

Director General of Police ML Lather said the duo had been terminated from service. "The termination orders will be served them on Saturday," Lather told PTI.

Sources said such a major step against the two police personnel, who are under judicial custody, was taken after approval from the Chief Minister's Office. The action was taken under the Rajasthan Civil Services Rules.

After the video went viral, the police department had

suspended both the personnel on September 8. The Special Operations Group (SOG) was handed over the inquiry that lodged a case against the Rajasthan Police Service officer and arrested him on September 9. The woman constable was arrested on September 12.

According to the police, the video clips were taken on the mobile phone by the constable in a resort in Pushkar town of Ajmer district on July 10.

Saini was posted as the Circle Office (Beawar) in Ajmer while the woman constable was posted in Jaipur when they were arrested.

The police had taken suo motu cognisance of the video being circulated on social media and arrested the DSP. A case was registered with the cyber-crime station of SOG under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Supreme Court Says It Has "Reservations The Way Bureaucracy Behaving"

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday observed that it has reservations regarding the behaviour of the bureaucracy particularly the police officers in the country.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said, "I have a lot of reservations at the way of how bureaucracy particularly how police officers are behaving in this country."

The Chief Justice further said that he has considered constituting a standing committee headed by Chief Justices of High Courts to examine the complaints filed against bureaucrats of atrocities committed particularly by the police officers.

CJI Ramana observed, "We are very disturbed by what the bureaucracy, particularly police officers are doing. I was in favour of forming standing committees led by Chief Justices of High Courts to look into complaints of atrocities committed by bureaucrats, particularly police officers, in this country."

The observation came when the court was reserving judgment on petitions filed by the suspended Director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy, Gurjinder Pal Singh, who had sought protection from arrest in various criminal cases, including sedition, extortion and criminal intimidation, arraigned against him by the current government.

Earlier, the top court had observed that filing of sedition cases when regimes change is a "disturbing trend" and expresses displeasure over the trend of filing sedition cases.

CJI Ramana said, "This is a very



disturbing trend in the country and the police department is also responsible for this."

"When a political party is in power, police officials take the side of the particular (ruling) party. Then when another new party comes into power, the government initiates action against the police officials," he added.

1994-batch IPS officer Gurjinder Pal Singh, who had served as the IG of Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur during the earlier BJP rule, was initially booked in the disproportionate assets case following raids at his premises by state's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

Later, a sedition case was registered against him on the grounds of his alleged involvement in promoting enmity and hatching a conspiracy against the government.

There are a total of three cases registered against Singh. In the sedition and extortion cases, the top court had earlier granted him relief by directing the Congress-led Chhattisgarh

government not to arrest Singh.

The third case against Singh was lodged under the Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets. In the third case, the Bench on Friday said that Singh would be at liberty to avail appropriate legal remedy as he had only sought its transfer to the CBI and the stay of the ongoing probe being conducted by the state police.

The Chhattisgarh High Court has refused to quash the sedition case against Singh. He then challenged the High Court order in the top court.

According to the police, the documents recovered during the ACB/EOW raids revealed that Singh was allegedly involved in promoting enmity and hatching a conspiracy against the established government and public representatives and was booked under sedition charges.

He was suspended on July 5 after the ACB/EOW on June 29 had registered an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the disproportionate assets he had allegedly amassed.

Forcing Unwilling Party to Undergo DNA Test Infringes Personal Liberty, Right To Privacy: SC

Agenceis

The Supreme Court Friday said DNA test is not to be directed as a matter of routine but only in deserving cases as forcing an unwilling party to undergo a DNA test infringes the personal liberty and right to privacy of an individual.

The apex court said in circumstances where other evidence is available to prove or dispute the relationship, the court should ordinarily refrain from ordering blood tests.

A bench of Justices R Subhash Reddy and Hrishikesh Roy said that DNA is unique to an individual (barring twins) and can be used to identify a person's identity, trace family linkages or even reveal sensitive health information. "Whether a person can be compelled to provide a sample for DNA in such matters can also be answered considering the test of proportionality laid down in the unanimous decision of this Court in K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India, wherein the right to privacy has been declared a constitutionally protected right in India," the bench said.

The top court said the courts should therefore examine the proportionality of the legitimate aims being pursued, i.e. whether the same is not arbitrary or discriminatory, whether they may have an adverse impact on the person and that they justify the encroachment upon the privacy and personal autonomy of the person,

being subjected to the DNA Test.

"When the plaintiff is unwilling to subject himself to the DNA test, forcing him to undergo one would impinge on his personal liberty and his right to privacy," the bench said.

The verdict came on an appeal filed by one Ashok Kumar seeking a declaration of ownership of property, left behind by late Trilok Chand Gupta and late Sona Devi. He arrayed the couple's three daughters as defendants in the suit and claimed himself to be the son of Trilok Chand Gupta and Sona Devi.

In their written statement, the defendants denied that the plaintiff is the son of their parents (Trilok Chand Gupta and Sona Devi), and as such he is disentitled from any share in their parental property.

The defendants also set up an exclusive claim on the property based on the Will dated April 16, 1982, executed by their late mother Sona Devi. During the trial, the defendants filed an application seeking to direct Kumar to undergo a Deoxyribonucleic Acid Test (DNA) and either of the defendants, to establish a biological link of the plaintiff to the defendants' parents.

Kumar opposed the plea and pointed out that he has produced adequate documentary evidence to support his claim.

The trial court dismissed the application saying that the plaintiff cannot be compelled to undergo the test.

“ WHEN THE PLAINTIFF IS UNWILLING to subject himself to the DNA test, forcing him to undergo one would impinge on his personal liberty and his right to privacy.”

"Over 350 Crimes Against Kids In India Daily In 2020": Child Rights Body

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A total of 1,28,531 crimes against children were recorded in India last year, implying that an average of 350 such cases were reported each day during the pandemic, according to an NGO's analysis of the NCRB data.

However, when compared with figures from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2019, there has been a drop of 13.3 per cent in the total number of such cases, Child Rights and You (CRY) said in its analysis.

There were 1,48,185 cases of crime against children recorded in 2019 which meant that each day over 400 such crimes are committed in the country.

"Though there is a drop in total number of crimes against children, child marriage has increased 50 per cent and online abuse has increased 400 per cent in one year," the child rights organisation said.

Further analysis of the decadal trend suggests that crimes against children in India have increased steeply by 381 per cent in the last one decade

(2010-2020) and over the same time, the number of overall crimes decreased by 2.2 per cent in the country.

"A state-wise analysis shows that Madhya Pradesh (13.2 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (11.8 per cent), Maharashtra (11.1 per cent), West Bengal (7.9 per cent) and Bihar (5.1 per cent) account for nearly half of total crimes against children (49.3 per cent) in India," the organisation said.

Compared to NCRB data 2019, in the list of top five states, West Bengal has replaced Delhi while seeing a sharp increase in cases by more than 63 per cent.

Priti Mahara, Director, Policy Research and Advocacy, CRY, said: "Experiences during humanitarian crises have revealed that issues of child protection tend to get exacerbated. School closures during Covid, mobility restrictions to contain the spread of the pandemic coupled with the economic slowdown disproportionately impacted livelihoods and household economic and food security of marginalised families.

"Therefore, it was highly likely



that it contributed to increasing children's vulnerabilities to child labour, child marriage, child trafficking as well as cases of gender-based violence," she said.

According to CRY's analysis of NCRB data, cases under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 saw an increase of nearly 50 per cent from 525 in

2019 to 785 in 2020.

However, the number of cases recorded under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 saw a decline of around 38 per cent from 770 cases in 2019 to 476 cases in 2020.

This is in contrast to the recently released ILO global estimates on child labour 2020 report, which

states that there were 16.8 million more children within the age-group of five to 11 years in child labour in 2020 than in 2016, CRY said.

The COVID-19 crisis threatens to further erode global progress against child labour unless urgent mitigation measures are taken and new analysis suggests a further 8.9 million children will be in child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of rising poverty driven by the pandemic, it said.

"Therefore, this decline needs to be seen in the light of reporting and recording of cases before drawing conclusions regarding progress related to addressing child labour in India," it said.

Another important aspect related to child protection during COVID-19 has been the lack of avenues for recreation and socialisation, according to the organisation.

Since there were restrictions on socialising in-person, and teaching shifted online, there was a corresponding rise in time spent by children online, making them vulnerable to online abuse and exploitation, it said.

PM Modi Pays Tributes To Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri On Their Birth Anniversaries



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary, saying his life and ideas would inspire every generation to walk the path of their duties.

"I bow to respected Bapu on Gandhi Jayanti. His noble principles are globally relevant and give strength to millions," he added.

The Prime Minister visited Rajghat and Vijayghat, memorials to Gandhi and India's second prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, respectively, to pay floral tributes to them.

He paid homage to Shastri on his 117th birth anniversary.

His life based on values and principles will always be a source of inspiration for all citizens, Modi tweeted.

An interfaith prayer meeting was held at Raj Ghat, where Mahatma Gandhi's favourite devotional songs were rendered. PTI

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Unbearable Toothache At Srinagar Dental College— PART II

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