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P6 THINK

URGENT NEED FOR ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES FOR COLLECTORS

On July 27th this year, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir pronounced a landmark judgement on land acquisition. The division bench of the High Court prevented the district...

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HOW FEASIBLE IS AN EU ARMY?

It seems that the EU has learnt the lessons of the abrupt end of the US-led mission in Afghanistan and furthermore after AUKUS, that the US is a trying to build a coalition of English speaking Anglophonic nations in the defence realm and that time has now come for them to guard...



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WORLD

PANDORA PAPERS LEAK: THE BIGGEST REVEALS SO FAR

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists obtained 11.9 million confidential documents from 14 separate legal and financial...



Quote!

There is no sin except stupidity

– Oscar Wilde

NEWS DIGEST

NIA Files Charges Against 2 Militants

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency filed a supplementary charge sheet against two militants of the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM), including a Pakistan-based handler, in a special court here on Monday in a case related to smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir, an agency spokesperson said. The charge sheet [● More On P10](#)

BDC Member Booked For Abduction

SRINAGAR: A BDC member is on the run after being booked by police for abducting the mother of two children in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. According to reports, police have filed a case under section 363 against BDC member for Naninara Sumbal Block Abdul Hameed Kaloo for allegedly abducting a mother of two. [● More On P10](#)

Minor Boy Found Dead In Rajouri

SRINAGAR: A minor boy was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his home in Kanara Nowshera in Rajouri district, officials said. They said that the boy—4-year-old Harnam Singh son of Manjeet Singh—was with his father at home while his mother had gone to her maternal house at Lam after some rift. [● More On P10](#)

Ladakh Reports 10 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh recorded 10 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising its tally to 20,822, officials said on Monday. They said 22 patients were cured of the disease in the past 24 hours, taking the number of those recuperated 20,653. As of now, there are 52 active cases in the union territory—47 in Leh district and five in Kargil district, the officials said. [● More On P10](#)

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Working For Equitable Dev Of J&K: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that his government has been working with an agenda of equitable development of all the regions of the Union Territory, with special focus on its remote and far-flung areas. The LG made these remarks while interacting with District Development Council (DDC) representatives here at Raj Bhavan on Monday, an official spokesperson said. He said Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Panditpuri and Vice-chairperson, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, submitted a memorandum to the LG apprising him of the concerning issues and demands of the district. "The demands include

additional macadamisation for each DDC constituency, additional funding for irrigation sector, opening a de-addiction centre in the district, besides filling up vacant posts of officers in various government departments in the districts," the official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, while interacting with the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson observed that the government has been working with an agenda of equitable development of all the regions of the Union Territory, with special focus on its remote and far-flung areas.

"He assured them of appropriate redressal of all their demands on merit," he said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of DDC members of Srinagar led by Er Aijaz Hussain also met the LG and [● More On P10](#)

Devender Rana Hints At Switching Sides

'Still In NC, But Ready to Make Any Sacrifice For Safeguarding Interests of Jammu Region'

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid speculation that he is going to resign from the National Conference, its Jammu provincial president Devender Singh Rana on Monday said he has not submitted his resignation yet, but added he can make any sacrifice in the interests of Jammu region and its people.

He appealed to all political parties of Jammu region, including the BJP, to



unite and adopt the Jammu declaration to safeguard the interests of the region like the people in Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh stood [● More On P10](#)

Ex- Minister Javaid Mustafa Joins Apni Party

Former Jammu and Kashmir minister Javaid Mustafa Mir on Monday joined the Apni Party. Mir, who has been a three-time MLA from Chadoora constituency, was welcomed into the party by its chief Altaf Bukhari and other leaders. We all are honoured by Javid's joining. He has not only been a former colleague but has always shared a personal relationship with all of us, Bukhari said. He said Mir is a people's leader and enjoys a position earned through his tireless efforts for the betterment of the masses. [● More On P10](#)

FB, Whatsapp All Down In Mystery Outage

SRINAGAR: WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook have gone down in several parts of the world, users reported on Monday evening.

All three apps are owned by Facebook and run on shared infrastructure.

Users posted messages on Twitter saying the popular social networking and communication platforms were inaccessible from around 9 pm Indian time.

The website downdetector.com, which tracks web services, also reported a sharp spike in complaints by users.

"Sorry, something went wrong. We're working on it and we'll get it fixed as soon as we can," a message on the Facebook website said.

WhatsApp acknowledged the outage on Twitter.

Later WhatsApp also issued a statement and said "We're aware that some people are experiencing issues with WhatsApp at the moment. We're working to get things back to normal and will send an update here as soon as possible."

This is the third time the social media platforms [● More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 100 New Covid Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 144 coronavirus infected people recovered in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, while 100 new cases of infection were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 144 more patients have recovered—27 from Jammu and 117 from Kashmir, while as 78 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 22 from the winter capital during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of people infected by virus in J&K to 329889.

In Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 44 cases followed by Ganderbal with 9, Budgam 6, Pulwama and Bandipora 5 each, Kupwara 3, Baramulla and Anantnag two each and one [● More On P10](#)

12 J&K Police Officers Inducted In IPS Allocated J&K Under AGMUT Cadre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The President of India on Monday appointed twelve officers of J&K Police to the Indian Police Service on probation and allocated them to the Jammu and Kashmir under AGMUT Cadre.

The officers include Shakti Kumar Pathak, Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, Javid Ahmed Koul, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, Shahid Mehraj Rather, Dr. Ajeet Singh, Altaf Ahmed Khan, Haseeb-ur-Rehman, Vikas Gupta, Abdul Qayoom, Ms. Nisha Nathyal and Javid Iqbal Matoo.

DCI Raps Govt Dental College Over 'Gross Deficiencies' Seeks Compliance Report From Authorities Today

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Coming down heavily on the Government Dental College (GDC), Srinagar over gross deficiency of clinical material and infrastructure, the Dental Council of India (DCI) on Friday sought a compliance report from the authorities by tomorrow (Tuesday) failing which the council will send "appropriate recommendations" to "the government of India for further action."

In a hard-hitting two page letter sent to the Principal GDC,

Srinagar, the Council has asked the authorities to immediately fulfill the deficiencies and furnish the compliance report latest by October 5, 2021 to the council "positively", for furtherance in the matter.

"No compliance report thereafter shall be entertained by DCI and appropriate recommendations of the first spell would be sent to the Government of India without any further notice," reads the communication, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer.

The letter by DCI came nearly three weeks after the Council's team of inspectors comprising of Dr. R.Sridharan and Dr. Pankaj Datta

carried out an inspection on September 13-14 to verify the achievements of annual target for renewal of Central Government Permission for admitting 4th batch of students in MDS course and for increase of seats in the speciality of Prosthodontics Crown and Bridge from 2 to 3 seats at Government Dental College and Hospital, Shireen Bagh, Srinagar for the academic year 2022-2023.

The letter has also listed a number of deficiencies, including Dental Chairs, Articulator, High Speed Lathe, Acrylizer, Dewaxing Unit, Hydraulic [● More On P10](#)



J&K Ranks Fifth In NSO Survey On Female Employment

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The newly unveiled annual survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO) has revealed that the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir ranks fifth nationwide in having the lowest number of females employed as legislators, senior officials and managers.

The NSO's, "Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020", report revealed that in 231 villages of rural J&K more than 8900 persons were surveyed and in 1400 households of 175 blocks in Urban J&K, over 6300 persons were surveyed.

As per the survey, the ratio of female workers to total

workers in the positions of legislators, senior officials and managerial posts is 10.4 percent in J&K. The erstwhile state is preceded by the states of Assam (6.2 percent), Haryana (7.7 percent), Delhi (9.2 percent) and Andaman & N. island (10.1 Percent).

The survey has further revealed that the ratio of female workers to total workers in managerial positions in urban J&K is 9.2 percent. In the same graph, the erstwhile state is preceded by Andaman & N. Islands that stood at 9 percent, Delhi (7.9 percent), Haryana (7.5 percent), and Assam (6.9 percent). As per the survey, the ratio of female workers to total workers [● More On P10](#)

Mehbooba Takes A Dig At Govt

'Iron Fist For Own People But Welcome For Chinese Troops'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: In an apparent reference to the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged on Monday that imposing Section 144 wherever human rights and dignity have trampled upon has emerged as the Centre's preferred approach.

She claimed that the government uses an iron fist against its own people but welcomes Chinese troops with open arms.

Her remarks came after at least eight people were killed as violence erupted in Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday. [● More On P10](#)

'Art Has Responsibility Towards Society, So Has Artist'

Nisar Lone

She runs her brush with an effortless ease just like her eloquent expression on the contemporary themes. akin to her growing tribe, Tahseen Bashir is making her art a comment on times, trends and talismans. The forthright—and somewhat bolstered—artistic approach makes this 22-year-old calligrapher from Khanyar Srinagar as one of the plain-speak performers in town today.

The autodidact artist lately became prominent after her work based on the Quranic verses went viral online. Besides earning her a name, "the devotional drawer", it made Tahseen one of the few artists working to revive the Islamic calligraphy in Kashmir.

She mostly stays inside her home-studio's artistic atmosphere, filled with dozens of her art-pieces, where she's creating new curves and contours. Her solemn creative display makes her a captive calligrapher for onlookers.

But before calligraphy, Tahseen was finding means and methods to make her home-confinement phase productive during Kashmir lockdown. This artistic struggle started shortly after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir faced communication clampdown following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

"I didn't have any idea of calligraphy before one day a friend of mine sent me a picture with Kalima written on it," Tahseen recalls. "It inspired me to write the



holy verses in calligraphy for the first time and in a better way."

The work done to ward off weariness would soon earn her sweeping praises and boost her morale to brush up her creativity.

A flurry of art-pieces revolving

around the "beautiful messages" of the Holy Scripture would soon make her lockdown period a productive phase.

Tahseen belongs to the young generation of Kashmir who're known to channelize their

homeland blues through their creative expressions. While many over the time have resorted to poetry, singing, song-writing and other creative means—either to lament the state of affairs, or romance the

resilience—Tahseen chose to be a calligrapher. She's happy that her tribe is only growing.

"To begin with, calligraphy was just an escape route before it became the means to create something constructive out of our chaotic lives," Tahseen pursuing BUMS in Asian Medical College of Zakura Campus says.

"Creative pursuits are in our DNA, and make us Kashmiris very unique as a community. We must learn Art for the betterment of the society. Art has to survive to become a way out for us during crises."

But in the times of rising Islamophobia, hate crimes and misinterpretation of Islam, the

young artist aspires to put out the telling verses for everyone to read and understand "the beautiful message of the religion of peace".

"At the end of the day," she says, "art has a responsibility towards society, and so has an artist."

It's with this sense of responsibility that Tahseen is adding colours to her childhood creative dream.

Her 'Art by Tanseen' initiative is already getting traction online with many reaching out to her for creative pieces.

"Since I was just an art aficionado trying to make something with my creativity, I had no idea that calligraphy would become my ultimate creative pursuit," she says.

"I guess being passionately engaged in something itself puts you on a beautiful [● More On P10](#)



A NOMADIC GIRL PREPARES BREAD for her family members at a roadside temporary camp in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Justice Magrey Launches Cleanliness Drive In Dal Lake



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh ton Monday launched a cleanliness drive/ campaign in Dal Lake, Srinagar.

The drive/ campaign was organised by District Legal Services Authority Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Lakes & Waterways Development Authority.

The other Officers present on the Occasion were VC LAWDA Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat,

Secretary District Legal Services Authority Mr. Noor Mohammad Mir, and Volunteers of DLSA Sgr & volunteers from other sections of the society.

Administering the Swachhta Pledge, Justice Magrey, who is also Executive Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority interacted with the Volunteers and other Officers present on the occasion and discussed the importance of preserving the water bodies in J&K, in India and world for a sustainable future.

ADMINISTERING THE SWACHHTA PLEDGE, JUSTICE Magrey, who is also Executive Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority interacted with the Volunteers and other Officers present on the occasion and discussed the importance of preserving the water bodies in J&K, in India and world for a sustainable future.

Speaking on the occasion Justice Magrey said that “The combination of climate change and population growth has lead to a global water crisis and as our population is increasing the burden on our water resources and increasing the capacity to dispose off the waste waters is increasingly compromised & thus the onus lies on the Civil Society for accepting the challenge of water preservation, mitigating the water crisis & to provide a cleaner and safer environment to our next generations”.

The other Officers present on the Occasion were VC LAWDA Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Mr. Noor Mohammad Mir, Secretary LAWDA Mr. Ilyas Ahmed was also present along with other officers of LAWDA and Volunteers of DLSA Sgr & volunteers from other sections of the society.

The day-long initiative was concluded by Noor Mohammad Mir Secretary DLSA Srinagar by thanking all the volunteers who participated in this noble cause.

Massive Cleanliness Drive Launched Across Srinagar: Govt

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:- In connection with ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan being observed on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the District Administration Srinagar launched a special cleanliness drives in all Government offices and at the Panchayat level.

The drive has been launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad which shall continue till October15.

During the 15-day long clean run, various Government Buildings, Office, Play grounds, Parks, Panchayat Ghars Health & Educational Institutions and other public places are being cleaned. Besides, garbage and debris will also be removed from the sides of various roads. While general public is also given awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

Some areas in Srinagar Panchayats have been identified and are being cleaned with the active participation of Rural Development Department and local volunteers. Besides, members of DDC, BDC, Panchs and Sarpanchs are also participating in cleanliness drives at various blocks and Panchayats.

On today, cleanliness drive was held in various Government Offices including the office of District Programme Office ICDS, District Employment & Counsel-



ling Centre Rajbagh, DSHO office Complex Nowshera, Small Ruminant Hospital Lal Mandi , Joint Directorate Extension Office , Sheep Husbandry offices at Nishat, Anchar and Zakura, Chief Agriculture Office Lal Mandi and its subordinate offices in the district.

The cleanliness drive was also held at right side of River Jhelum from Zero bridge to Jhelum view park.

On the occasion, the Government employees whole heartedly participated in the programme with full enthusiasm and endorsed the Swachhta Mission under Swachhta Abhiyan.

Appreciating the efforts made by the participants in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to make Srinagar a clean district under ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has urged the Officers/ Officials of all Government departments to ensure cleanliness in their respective office buildings, premises and surrounding so that surrounding environment is made neat and clean.

Sikh Youth Stage Candle Light Protest In Sgr Against Killing Of Farmers In UP

Agencies

SRINAGAR:-- The Sikh youth staged a candle light protest near court road Srinagar against the killing of four farmers killed in an accident on Sunday in Uttar Pradesh.

Talking to media persons as per news agency, the protesters alleged: “We are protesting against the killing of four farmers who were killed in a deliberate attempt by a BJP Minister’s son who ran over his car.”

Sagar Seeks End To Policy Of Disenfranchisement

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Monday said that trusting the people of JK with democracy, and basic fundamental rights can go a long way in healing their wound and cleaning the cobwebs of mistrust between Srinagar and New Delhi.

In a statement, he said this while addressing a meeting of senior party functionaries and workers at party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha. “The absence of democracy and a long spell of

They said that paying compensation and providing jobs can’t bring back the lives. “We demand proper action and punishment to culprit so that this terrorising and suppressing environment which has been created nationally by BJP will come to end,” the protestors said, adding that “It is not about any political party but its matter of human rights, if we can’t express our views and opinions then we are living under dictatorship.”—(KNO)

bureaucratic rule has obstructed the development prospectus in the entire region. The airdropped coterie of officials at the helm of power in JK seems to care little about the issues concerning the people,” he said.

“It was claimed that the post abrogation era will iron out all issues and put the region on the track of “development and prosperity” but in reality the region has been plunged into an abyss of chaos and uncertainty. The morass that the entire region finds it in belies those claims. The local administration has become slack and is not living up to its obligations.

Awareness Programme On Healthy Relation Between Humans- Wildlife Held

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: An inaugural function of Iconic Week under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahaotsav was organized and celebrated at Hokersar Wetland Reserve (RAMSAR Site) by Wetlands Division, Kashmir Region to raise awareness about healthy relation between Humans and the Wildlife.

Chief Guest of the occasion Rashid Yahya Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region while speaking on the occasion said that observance of the Iconic Week in Uttar Territory of J&K is a straight effort of the Government of India, MoEFCC to create awareness among people for the protection of precious Wetland Biodiversity and to emphasize upon the need to protect and conserve the Wetlands besides he deliberated in length regarding the importance of Hokersar Wetland Reserve designated as RAMSAR Site on 8th of November, 2005.

The dignitaries / invitees from cross section of society included present on the occasion threw light on the theme and stressed for the measures to be adopted for betterment of wildlife and outlined the precautions necessary at this juncture to combat different challenges



THE DIGNITARIES / INVITEES FROM cross section of society included present on the occasion threw light on the theme and stressed for the measures to be adopted for betterment of wildlife and outlined the precautions necessary at this juncture to combat different challenges faced in mitigating Man Animal Conflict.

faced in mitigating Man Animal Conflict. A pledge to Protect / Conserve Wetlands devised / designed by MoEFCC GoI was taken by Wetland Mitras.

Mst Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Kashmir Region during her speech recalled Alamdar-e-Kashmir’s sayings “Ann Poshe teli yeli Wann Poshe” underlined upon the deteriorating ecosys-

tem and called for launching a mass movement with the help of public representatives to conserve the wildlife and biodiversity and highlighted the importance of the Wetlands for harboring lakhs of Migratory birds during winter season and thanked all the guests for their valued time and proposed vote of thanks to the invited dignitaries and the participants.

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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik I, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958- Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - Netherlands beats Belgium 9-1
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1964 - 3 cars of a commuter train derails in South Africa killing 81
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiaah.
- 1968 - A Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) delegation meet with the Derry March organisers and try to have the march cancelled; eventually it was decided to go ahead with the march.
- 1975 - A Cessna 310Q airplane crashes over Wilmington, North Carolina, killing the pilot and severely injuring several pro wrestlers affiliated with the NWA's Mid-Atlantic promotion. One of the survivors is the legendary Ric Flair.
- 1976 - Official launch of the Intercity 125 High Speed Train (HST).
- 1978 - Funeral services held for Pope John Paul I
- 1982 - West German parliament officially confirms Helmut Kohl as the country's new Chancellor
- 1985 - Free Software Foundation is founded in Massachusetts, USA
- 1990 - Regional elections held in East Germany
- 1993 - Troops of President Boris Yeltsin occupy Russian White House (parliament)
- 1994 - Soyuz TM-20 launches
- 1996 - Shahid Afridi scores century in 37 balls for Pakistan v Sri Lanka
- 2006 - WikiLeaks is launched, created by internet activist Julian Assange
- 2011 - US State Department lists Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIL) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist with a \$10 million reward for information leading to his capture
- 2012 - Turkey's parliament approves cross-border military operations in Syria
- 2012 - 19 people are killed after being buried by a landslide in Yunnan, China
- 2012 - Jordan's King Abdullah dissolves parliament in preparation for new elections
- 2012 - Formula One legend Michael Schumacher retires

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwaals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain . In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama -incidentally, a se-nior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajan; the then assistant commission-er, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty of-ficials of the district DCs office have been challaned by the vigilance) organisation misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamitie s in the hilly areas of Shopy-an and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named m the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjjar and bakarwaa community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having recieved any relief, and the finger impressions on acquittance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency lather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involve-ment in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti -corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 05, 2000)

Cartoonist Who Drew Blasphemous Sketches of Prophet Killed in Car Crash

Agencies

Stockholm : Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who stirred world-wide controversy in 2007 with blasphemous sketches of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH),



Vilks, 75, who had been living under police protection since the drawings were published, was travelling in a police vehicle that collided with a truck. Two police officers were also killed.

was killed in a car crash near the southern town of Markaryd on Sunday, police said.

Vilks, 75, who had been living under police protection since the drawings were published, was travelling in a police vehicle that collided with a truck. Two police officers were also killed.

"This is a very tragic incident. It is now important to all of us that we do everything we can to investigate what happened and what caused the collision," Swedish police said in a statement on Monday.

"Initially, there is nothing that points to anyone else being involved."

Since the publication of the cartoons, Vilks had been living under round-the-clock police guard following threats against his life. He had a bounty put on his head and his house was fire-bombed.

In 2015, one person was killed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at a meeting meant to mark the 25th anniversary of an Iranian fatwa against British writer Salman Rushdie, which Vilks attended.

Vilks was widely seen as the intended target.

Vilks had said that the cartoons were not intended to provoke Muslims, but to challenge political correctness in the art world.

Now, British Military Deployed To Solve Fuel Crisis Denied By Government

Agencies

London: British military personnel in combat fatigues arrived on Monday at a BP storage depot after the government ordered the army to help deliver

"The situation has been improving now for I think over a week every day ... it is getting better and as demand settles back to more normal levels the strong expectation is things will resolve themselves."



er fuel to help compensate for an acute shortage of trucks, a Reuters reporter said.

Britain's supply chains for everything from pork, petrol and poultry to medicines and milk have been strained to breaking point by shortages of labour in the wake of the Brexit and COVID crises.

Panic buying of fuel amid the shortage of trucks triggered chaotic scenes across major cities last week with queues of drivers stacked up. Some have had fist fights over the pumps while others hoarded fuel in old water bottles.

"As an extra precaution, we've put the extra drivers on," Prime Minister Boris Johnson's finance minister, Rishi Sunak, told LBC radio.

selves."

Reuters reporters said they saw at least a dozen gas stations still closed across London.

The Petrol Retailers Association said about 22% of fuel stations in London and the southeast were still without fuel, and the association's executive director, Gordon Balmer, said it might take a week to 10 days to get stocks back up to normal.

British ministers have repeatedly denied that the fuel crisis has anything to do with Brexit and have cast the trucker shortage as a global problem, though other European neighbours have not experienced queues at gas stations.



Pandora Papers Leak: The Biggest Reveals So Far

Iain Marlow | Bloomberg

An unprecedented leak of financial records known as the Pandora Papers has revealed the offshore financial assets of dozens of current and former world leaders and hundreds of politicians from Asia and the Middle East to Latin America.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists obtained 11.9 million confidential documents from 14 separate legal and financial services firms, which the group said offered "a sweeping look at an industry that helps the world's ultrawealthy, powerful government officials and other elites conceal trillions of dollars from tax authorities, prosecutors and others."

Moving money through offshore accounts, in mostly low-tax jurisdictions, is legal in most countries, and many of the people named in the data release aren't accused of criminal wrongdoing. But the journalist group said the 2.94 terabytes of financial and legal data — which makes this leak larger than the 2016 Panama papers release — shows the "offshore money machine operates in every corner of the planet, including the world's largest democracies," and involves some of the world's most well-known banks and legal firms.

Here are some of the biggest revelations in the release:

Jordan king's real estate empire

Jordan's monarch, King Abdullah II, used an English accountant in Switzerland and

lawyers in the British Virgin Islands to secretly purchase 14 luxury homes worth \$106 million, including a \$23 million property in California overlooking a beach, the ICIJ reported, noting the country relies on foreign aid to support its people and house millions of refugees. U.K. attorneys for the king told the ICIJ that he was not required to pay taxes under Jordanian law, has never misused public funds and has "security and privacy reasons to hold property through offshore companies."

French Riviera estate

Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, who is currently running for re-election, "moved \$22 million through offshore companies to buy a lavish estate on the French Riviera in 2009 while keeping his ownership secret," ICIJ said. The five-bedroom Chateau Bigaud, which is owned by a subsidiary of one of Babis's Czech companies, sits on 9.4 acres (3.8 hectares) in a hilltop village where Pablo Picasso spent the last years of his life, the group said.

The Queen and Azerbaijan

The data release revealed that Azerbaijan's ruling Aliyev family traded around \$540 million worth of U.K. property in recent years, reported the Guardian, one of the ICIJ's media partners. Queen Elizabeth II's crown estate bought one property worth almost \$91 million from the family, and is currently in the middle of an internal review into the purchase, the Guardian said. "Given

the potential concerns raised, we are looking into the matter," a spokesperson for the crown estate told the paper, which added the Aliyevs declined to comment.

South Dakota, Nevada havens

One of the most "troubling revelations" for the U.S. was the role of South Dakota, Nevada and other states that have adopted financial secrecy laws that "rival those of offshore jurisdictions" and demonstrate America's "expanding complicity in the offshore economy," said the Washington Post, one of the ICIJ's media partners. A former vice president of the Dominican Republic finalized several trusts in South Dakota to store his personal wealth and shares of one of the country's largest sugar producers, the paper said.

Pakistan's political elite

Several members of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's inner circle, including current and former cabinet ministers, "secretly owned an array of companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of hidden wealth," the group reported. That could create a political headache for the former cricket star, who campaigned for the South Asian country's highest office as the head of a reformist party that promised a strong anti-corruption agenda. Before the release of the Pandora papers, a Khan spokesperson told a news conference Khan had no offshore company, but ministers and advisers "will have to be held accountable" for their individual acts.

Offshore Assets Of Heads Of State, Govt Revealed In Pandora Papers

Agencies

WASHINGTON: More than a dozen heads of state and government, including the king of Jordan and the Czech prime minister, have hidden millions in offshore tax havens, according to an investigation published on Sunday by the ICIJ media consortium.

The so-called "Pandora Papers" investigation — involving some 600 journalists from media including The Washington Post, the BBC and The Guardian — is based on the leak of some 11.9 million documents from 14 financial services companies around the world.

Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in the documents analysed by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) — facing

allegations ranging from corruption to money laundering and global tax avoidance.

The documents notably expose how King Abdullah II created a network of offshore companies and tax havens to amass a \$100 million property empire from Malibu, California to Washington and London.

The BBC cited lawyers for King Abdullah saying all the properties were bought with personal wealth, and that it was common practice for high-profile individuals to purchase properties via offshore companies for privacy and security reasons.

ICIJ finds links between about 1,000 companies in offshore havens and 336 high-level politicians and public officials

The documents also show Czech Prime Minister Andrej

Babis — facing an election later this week — failed to declare an offshore investment company used to purchase a chateau worth \$22m in the south of France.

In total, the ICIJ found links between almost 1,000 companies in offshore havens and 336 high-level politicians and public officials, including country leaders, cabinet ministers, ambassadors and others.

More than two-thirds of the companies were set up in the British Virgin Islands. In most countries, the ICIJ stresses, it is not illegal to have assets offshore or to use shell companies to do business across national borders.

But such revelations are no less of an embarrassment for leaders who may have campaigned publicly against corruption, or advocated austerity measures at home.

Taliban Say ISIS Cell Destroyed After Mosque Attack In Kabul

Agencies

Kabul: The Taliban said on Monday they had destroyed an ISIS cell in the Afghan capital, hours after a suspected IS attack on a mosque killed five people.

The Taliban's chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said fighters carried out the operation in the north of Kabul on Sunday evening.

"As a result of the operation, which was very decisive and successful, the IS centre was completely destroyed and all the IS members in it were killed," Mujahid said on Twitter.

Witnesses and AFP journalists heard blasts and gunfire in the capital at the time of the raid, and images posted to social media showed a large explosion and a fire at the scene.

Kabul resident and government employee Abdul Rahaman told AFP that a "large number" of Taliban special forces attacked at least three houses in his neighbourhood.

"The fighting continued for several hours," he said, adding the sound of weapons kept him awake all night.

"They said they were after Daesh (IS) fighters in the area," Rahman said.

"I don't know how many

were killed or arrested but the fighting was intense."

The operation took place within hours of a deadly attack targeting a prayer ceremony at the Eid Gah mosque in memory of Taliban spokesman Mujahid's mother, who died last week.

A government cultural commission official, who asked not to be named, told AFP that five people died and 11 were wounded, adding the casualties included both civilians and Taliban members.

"We have also arrested three people in connection with the blast," he said.

According to the official, the device was placed at the entrance to the mosque and detonated as mourners were leaving after offering condolences to Mujahid and his family.

On Monday, Mujahid told AFP that an investigation was still ongoing but "initial information suggests that Daesh-linked groups may have carried out the attack". The Taliban and the Afghanistan branch of IS — known as the ISIS-Khorasan Province, or IS-K — are both headline Sunni Islamist militant groups.

But they differ on the issues of religion and strategy, which has led to bloody fighting between the two.

UAE, Saudi on alert after Cyclone Shaheen hits Oman



Agencies

Abu Dhabi: "Authorities are working proactively around the clock to evaluate residential units in expected affected areas and transport families to safe locations until it is safe to return," it said.

Saudi Arabia's civil defence authorities called for caution in several regions from Monday to Friday in expectation of high winds and possible flooding, the state news agency reported.

Cyclone Shaheen slammed into Oman on Sunday with ferocious winds and heavy rain, flooding streets, prompting evacuations from coastal areas and suspending some flights to and from the capital Muscat.

Omani state television broadcast images of flooded roadways and valleys as the storm churned deeper into the sultanate, its outer edges reaching the neighbouring United Arab Emirates.

When its eye crossed land, the cyclone was carrying winds of between 120 and 150 km/h (75 to 93 mph), Omani authorities said. It was throwing up waves of up to 10 metres (32 feet).

Video footage from Omani broadcasters showed vehicles submerged as people tried to make their way through muddy brown floodwater.

Up to 500cm (20 inches) of rain was expected in some areas, raising the risk of flash floods.

The country's National Committee for Emergency Management announced on Monday afternoon seven additional deaths from the storm, bringing the total death toll to 12.

In Iran, state television said rescuers found the body of one of five fishermen who went missing off Pasabandar, a fishing village near the Islamic Republic's border with Pakistan.

Earlier on Sunday, Iranian deputy parliament speaker Ali Nikzad said he feared as many as six fishermen had been killed because of the cyclone.

India's Meteorological Department, the top forecasters for cyclones that sweep across the Indian Ocean, said winds from Shaheen now gust up to 90 kph (55 mph) and would continue to weaken.

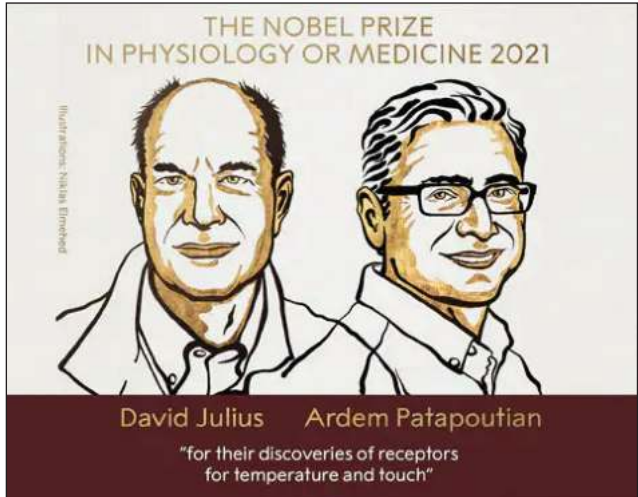
NEWS MAKERS

Nobel Medicine Prize Awarded Jointly To David Julius, Ardem Patapoutian

Stockholm: US scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize for discoveries on receptors for temperature and touch, the jury said.

"The groundbreaking discoveries... by this year's Nobel Prize laureates have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world," the Nobel jury said.

"In our daily lives we take these sensations for granted, but how are nerve impulses initiated so that temperature and pressure can be perceived? This question has been solved by this year's Nobel Prize laureates."



Julius, a professor at the University of California in San Francisco and Patapoutian, a professor at Scripps Research

in California, will share the Nobel Prize cheque for \$1.1 million, one million euros).

Last year, the award went to three virologists for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.

While the 2020 award was handed out as the pandemic raged, this is the first time the entire selection process has taken place under the shadow of Covid-19.

Nominations close each year at the end of January, and at that time last year the novel coronavirus was still largely confined to China.

The Nobel season continues on Tuesday with the award for physics and Wednesday with chemistry, followed by the much-anticipated prizes for literature on Thursday and peace on Friday before the economics prize winds things up on Monday, October 11.

Russia Test Fires Submarine-Launched Hypersonic Missile For First Time

Moscow: Russia said on Monday it had successfully test launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time, a weapon President Vladimir Putin has lauded as part of a new generation of unrivalled arms systems.

The defence ministry said that the Severodvinsk submarine had fired the missile in the Barents Sea, successfully hitting its chosen target.

The launch took place at night, video footage released by the ministry showed.

Russia tested firing the Tsirkon missile from a warship in July.

Putin announced an array



Severodvinsk submarine had fired the missile in the Barents Sea, successfully hitting its chosen target

of new hypersonic weapons in 2018 in one of his most bellicose speeches in years, saying they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a U.S.-built missile shield.

WATER SHORTAGE: Locals From 3 Boniyar Villages Stage Protest

Block road to press for long pending demand

AGENCIES

URI: The residents of Ijara, Shamsuari and Peernia villages of Boniyar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday staged a protest demonstration against PHE Department and blocked a link road connecting Srinagar-Muzaffarabad highway at Peerniyar against the acute drinking water shortage.

The protesters including men, and children assembled at the highway and resorted to sloganeering against the PHE Department. They were demanding the immediate restoration the clean drinking water supply in their villages.

The protesting residents told news agency KNT, "We are not

getting pure drinking water from past several years due to which they were forced to drink contaminated water."

They said that the authorities are ignoring the plight of the residents and don't even bother to look into the sufferings of the inhabitants.

"The department must restore the pure drinking water immediately so that the locals here could feel a sigh of relief," they said.

After the assurances given by the officials, the protesters later dispersed peacefully.

When contacted AEE, Nasir Ahmed said that the long pending demand of these villagers will be fulfilled in coming days as a new water supply scheme will be started shortly.

Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani Annual Urs: Anjuman Auqaf Pays Tribute

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid on behalf of its incarcerated head Mirwaiz Umar Farooq paid glorious tribute to the most revered saint of the Valley, Sheikh-ul-Alam Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) who is also fondly referred to as Nund Reshi by the people of Kashmir, on his Urs and described him as an epitome of knowledge of Shariah and wisdom.

In a statement, issued to KNS, Anjuman Auqaf said that the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir is invited by the people of Chraar-i-Shareef every year on the occasion of the annual Urs to deliver sermon, which he wholeheartedly accepts and participates by paying a visit to the revered shrine and offering rich tribute to the Alamdaar-e-Kashmir (RA) for his unforgettable social, religious and literary contribution, but due to his continuous house arrest since last 2 years that has not been possible.

On the 602nd Urs of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), the Anjuman said, Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) was a high level religious and spiritual leader and a great reformer and educator who made a successful and sincere effort to present the eternal and immortal teachings of the holy Qur'an in our own mother tongue Kashmiri. "That is why, despite the passage of centuries, the meaning, importance, significance, eloquence and relevance of his words have not diminished. Even today, the Kashmiri people, especially the scholars and preachers, read his Kalaam in their lectures and sermons with full enthusiasm and devotion."

The Anjuman said that the purpose of observing the Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA) can be achieved only when the Kashmiri people, amid the prevailing dire and appalling situation, practically follow the way of Shariah and social welfare as espoused by the great saint.

Chairperson DDC Kupwara, Others Call On LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Kupwara, Irfan Panditpuri and a delegation of members of DDC Srinagar led by Er Aijaz Hussain called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan on Monday.

The DDC Chairperson submitted a memorandum to the LG apprising him of issues and demands of District Kupwara. The demands included additional macadamisation for each DDC constituency, additional funding for the irrigation sector,

opening a de-addiction centre in the district, besides filling up vacant posts of officers in various government departments in the districts. Sh Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, Vice-chairperson DDC Kupwara was also present.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson observed that the UT government has been working with an agenda of equitable development of all the regions of the UT, with a special focus on its remote and far-flung areas. He assured them of appropriate redressal of all their demands on merit.



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS hold placards in Srinagar during a protest demanding online examinations.

High Court Dismisses Appeal Against Reinstatement Of JK Bank Employee

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir High Court has dismissed an appeal by the J&K Bank against an order of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court setting aside the termination from service of Bashir Ahmad Khan, former Cashier-cum-Clerk at the Bank's Fruit Complex Srinagar Branch.

Khan was discharged from service following detection of fraud amounting to Rs. 6,00,000 in the SB Account No. 2204/23 in the name of one Hafiz Ali Baba.

The Bank had conducted an in-house enquiry which claimed that a fraudulent insertion of the entry of Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 700,000 had been made thereby raising the balance by Rs. 600,000 out of which Rs. 5, 79,025 had been withdrawn from 15 May 1997 to 24 May 1997. Khan was charged with processing and opening of a fake and fictitious SB account and, therefore, making fraudulent insertion to the tune of Rs. 600,000.

Claiming that the inquiry was not conducted in fair and proper manner and the order of disciplinary authority was based on wrong information, Khan filed an appeal before the Bank's appellate authority which set aside the order of discharge accepting his appeal but, against the Rules, ordered fresh inquiry. During the inquiry, Khan claimed, 'it was established that the managerial staff tried to escape the liability and he was made a scapegoat without any justification'. Other seven officials of the Branch including the Branch Manager were subjected to disciplinary proceedings. An FIR was lodged with the police. Khan challenged his termination in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Chandigarh arguing that the withdrawals



from the SB Account No. 2204/23 to the tune of Rs. 5, 79,025 were made when he had already been transferred from the Fruit Complex Branch and that the police inquiry had not established his involvement in the crime in view of the expert opinion of FSL which, at the same time, had found other three employees of the Branch involved. The discharged employee held that the FSL had found three other officials of the Branch involved in the crime.

The Bank management pleaded that Khan was 'dismissed from service after prolonged investigation, disciplinary proceedings and his case was considered by the appellate authority.'

It alleged that the fraudulent insertions took place in a fake and fictitious savings bank account opened and maintained by Khan till his posting in the Branch and after his transfer withdrawals took place on 19 May 1997 and 25 May 1997.

It further alleged that the official did not obtain a photograph of the ostensible account holder, Hafiz Ali Baba, and while issuing cheque book willfully ignored that signatures of the depositor on the cheque book issue register did not match with the cheque book issue application.

Considering the entire facts and circumstances of the case, the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court presided over by S. P. Singh, on 11 July 2016, held that

"the dismissal order of the workman (Khan) dated 15-01-2008 is illegal, unjust and discriminatory and cannot be sustained and the same is set aside." The court directed the management to reinstate Khan within one month from the date of publication of the award with 40% back wages.

For Khan's failure to do summation, the court ordered that, like co-wrongdoer, Ali Mohammad Matto, Khan also may be awarded punishment of censure entry for this act of omission.

The Bank management went on appeal in the High Court against the judgement of the Tribunal.

Khan also moved the High Court seeking full back wages instead of 40% as allowed by the tribunal.

After having heard both the sides the Single Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar in its judgement delivered on August 18 2021, declined to interfere with the award of the Tribunal insofar as it holds the order of dismissal of Bashir Ahmad Khan dated 15-01-2008 illegal and unjustified and directed the reinstatement of the petitioner in service. The Court dismissed the writ petition filed by the J&K Bank.

The Court also dismissed Khan's writ petition seeking back wages in full as he could not produce evidence that during the period of his ouster from service he remained idle or was not gainfully employed.

9 Years On, Rs 35 Cr Bijbehara Fruit Terminal Awaits Completion

Terminal will made functional next season: Dir HP&M

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Even after nine years since the foundation stone of much hyped state-of-art fruit terminal in Bijbehara area was laid, the project awaits completion. Many traders and growers told news agency KNO that the government is "non-serious" in completing the project.

Apple traders said they were disappointed due to the non-serious attitude of the government to improve trading facilities for their production.

"We were promised that the market will have 600 shops, market yards, weighing bridge, administrative block, bank, post office, cold storage, and other facilities," Manzoor Aziz, a fruit grower said, adding the fruit traders were expecting the market would have been made functional by now, but the government has been sitting over the proposal.

The traders said besides easing the trade, the market would have created jobs for hundreds of local youth.

"The administrative apathy has kept the entire project hanging which clearly shows the attitude of the government towards the development of the Horticulture sector in the UT," said Mohammad Abbas, another fruit grower. While showing displeasure

over the delay in the completion of the project, the traders complained the department has failed to complete the facility even after contributing money from their own pockets.

"The planning and marketing wing of Horticulture the department has even received a contribution of Rs 1 lakh each from over 1000 traders and growers for allotting them space but on ground we haven't got any relief," they said.

"It seems only the contributions of the growers have been spent on the project, that is why it takes so much time," traders said.

"We request LG Manoj Sinha, and director Horticulture Planning and Marketing to personally look into the matter and complete the project at an earliest so that they can heave a sigh of relief.

The project was announced in the year 2013 with an aim to attract top fruit growers from the country and with an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore. The foundation stone was laid by then Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of J&K Omar Abdullah and 440 kanals of land were notified for it.

Vishesh Paul Mahajan Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing J&K while talking with KNO said that work on Jablipora Bijbehara fruit terminal is going on full swing and it will be completed before next fruit season.

Baseer Khan Test Runs 100 MV Budgam Grid Station



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Advisor Baseer Khan on Monday held test runs and undertook a progress inspection of the 33.86 Cr:100 MV Grid Station at Nowbug, here.

"25000 residents belonging to areas of Tehsil Chadoora will be benefited with the commissioning of 100 MV Grid at Nowbug Bugam, Budgam. A long pending demand of the concerned inhabitants will get fulfilled ensuring better power network for the locality, besides the grid has a capacity and capability to absorb more areas subject to available feasibility," Advisor Khan said.

The inspections were also held in order to make it ready in due time for the expected inauguration by the LG.

The Advisor on the occasion was accompanied by ADDC Budgam Akramulla Tak, Chief

Engineer KPDCL Maintenance Hashmat Qazi, Chief Engineer KPDCL Distribution Aijaz Ahmad Dar, SDM Chadoora, Exen F.A.Teli, Exen Grid Station and other concerned.

During the inspection the Advisor was briefed that 100 MVA, 132/33KV grid station including 132 KV transmission lines has been constructed at project cost of Rs 33.86 Crore. It was also given out that the 100MVA grid is capable of providing reliable and quality power supply to the villages of Chadoora Tehsil.

The Advisor was informed that work on project got started in the year 2010-2011. However due to several snags the work got halted and could not take off. It was only due to the intervention of present LG government the project was taken up under languishing programme through JKIDFC Ltd and could be finally completed.

SHORT TAKES

Amit Sharma Appointed AO IT Department

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday appointed Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department, as the Adjudicating Officer, Information Technology Department, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a circular issued here today by the Information Technology department, the appointment has been made by virtue of Notification GSR 240 (E) dated 25.03.2003, in terms of section 46 of "The Information Technology Act 2000".

The offices of Adjudicating Officer would be located at room number 04/2, mini block, civil secretariat, Jammu and at room number 40/1, civil secretariat, Srinagar.

Accordingly, any matter or case or dispute under sections 43, 43A, 44 and 45 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, can be placed before the authority for hearing/perusal and justice thereof as per the relevant clause(s) of The Information Technology Act, 2000. Complaint(s) under relevant sections, as given above, can be registered either at cit-jk@nic.in (Email) or registered letter or in person in any of the above mentioned office addresses on any working day between 1000 hours to 1600 hours.

Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam Condoles Demise Of Several Personalities

KNO

SRINAGAR: Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam has expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of several eminent personalities who passed away during the last few days.

According to a statement issued to the news agency KNO, among the deceased include renowned educationist Prof Nusrat Andrabi, Dr Faisal Khan (residing in the US), Jamiat Ahle Hadeeth J&K Vice President Dr Abdul Latief Al-Kindi's young nephew Sheikh Muhammad Amin and

the mother-in-law of a noted businessman late Muhammad Amin Bhat of Ahmad Nagar.

Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam on behalf of the institution and its incarcerated president Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq has paid homage to all the deceased personalities and expressed heartfelt condolence and solidarity with all the bereaved families.

The Anjuman prayed for Janat-ul-Firdous to the departed souls and forbearance to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable losses.

Cows, Calves, Sheep Stolen From Shopian village

AGENCIES

SHOPIAN: Cattle thieves have stolen 14 cattle including sheep and cows in Safanagri area of Zainapora Shopian.

Locals told news agency KNT that thieves stole cows, calves and sheep from the sheds of four persons. They identified the victims as Muhammad Abbas Wani, Farooq Ahmed Itoo, Ghulam Muhammad Ganaie and Abdul

Rehman Ganaie.

"Cattle thieves stole two cows from the shed of Muhammad Abbas Wani, two calves from Farooq Ahmed Itoo, four calves from the shed of Ghulam Muhammad Ganaie and four sheep and two cows from the shed of Abdul Rehman Ganaie," the locals said.

They appealed police to nab the cattle lifters and trace the stolen cattle.

Inder Cultural Forum Holds Annual 'Hussaini Mushaira' In Sonawari

AGENCIES

BANDIPORA: Inder Cultural Forum Sonawari held its annual "Hussaini Mushaira" in North Kashmir's Inderkoot Sonawari area which was attended by a galaxy of poets from across the Kashmir valley.

Mushaira was presided over by renowned poet and writer Professor Mohammad Zaman Azurdah while as Mohamad Amin Bhat, Ismael Aashna and Aga Syed Mujtaba, were also present on the occasion.

Mushira begun with the recitation of Holy Quran by Gulam Hussain Gowhar while as naat was recited by Mir Shahnawaz.

In his welcome address, President Inder Cultural Forum Sonawari Saleem Yousuf said that every year this Mushaira is being attended by poets from different schools of thought be it Shia, Sunni or Pandits community, everyone shares his love for Imam Hussain a.s.

Mushaira was held in Imam Bada Inderkoot and two books of Irfan Turabi were also released on the occasion.

Moreover Aga Syed Mujtaba Mosavi was provided an award of appreciation while as Showkat Shahbaz was given an award of best Anchor.

Conductor Missing After JCB Plunges Into River Sindh

Operation to trace the missing going on: SDRF

AGENCIES

GANDERBAL: The driver of a JCB was injured while its cleaner went missing after the JCB plunged into river Sindh near Hung Sonamarg on Srinagar-Leh highway in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district early Monday morning.

SDPO Kangan, Yasir Qadri told the news agency KNO the driver was injured while JCB cleaner has gone missing after the JCB plunged into river Sindh.

"Today in morning one JCB vehicle skidded off-road and fell into nallah sind at hung area of sonamarg resulting injuries to driver Shahid Ahmad Gasi a resi-

dent of Guzham Ganderbal and conductor namely Irfan Ahmad Bhat a resident of Bakura Ganderbal," the police statement reads.

Qadri said that soon after receiving the information a police team from Sonamarg, SDRF unit Ganderbal and locals launched a massive rescue operation.

SDPO said that after hectic efforts the driver of the JCB was rescued in an injured condition from the gushing water and was immediately taken to PHC Sonamarg for treatment.

He said that the cleaner of the JCB is still missing and a rescue operation is underway to trace him.

1 Killed, Another Injured As Tractor Falls Into 40-ft Gorge In Ramban

AGENCIES

JAMMU: One person was killed and another injured after a tractor they were travelling in skidded of the road and fell down into a gorge in Banihal area of Ramban on Monday, officials said.

They said the driver lost control over tractor (JK03K-8337) and rolled down into 40-ft gorge near

Chareel Banihal this afternoon.

One person identified as Mohammad Rafiq of Nowgam Banihal died on the spot while another person Wahied Ahmed from Bengal was injured and shifted to hospital by a rescue team comprising police and others.

SHO Banihal Nayeem Matoo confirmed the death of the person in the accident and said that a case has been registered.

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K O V I E W

Abating Pandemic

India's daily Covid-19 tally has steadily come down since the peak of when the number was hovering close to 5 lakh a day. Now the number fluctuates between 20,000 to 25000. The total recorded Covid-19 cases in the country is around 3.38 crore, according to the union health ministry. The active cases have dwindled to 2,73,889, while the death toll climbed to 4,48,573 with 234 fresh fatalities in the last 24 hours. The pandemic since it began in India in April 2020 has taken a massive toll. In a non-peer-reviewed study, researchers from the United Kingdom have revealed that there might have been as many as 28 lakh-29 lakh "excess deaths" in India during the Covid pandemic from April 2020 to May 2021.

On a positive note, the vaccination is progressing well. According to the latest figures, the vaccination in India has gone past the 90 crore mark. In a bid to ramp up the pace of inoculation, the government in June introduced the 'new phase of universalization' of Covid-19 vaccination. Under this drive, the center is procuring and supplying free of cost 75 percent of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to states and union territories.

That said, the government's effort should be to root out the pandemic in the country. And this will require not only observance of a Covid-appropriate behavior by the people but also strict enforcement of the Standard Operating Procedure by the government. At the same time, the vaccination needs to be speeded up.

The need for caution thus can't be overemphasized. In Kashmir too where on the ground, the Covid protocols are observed in the breach. The situation has, more or less, gone back to square one. The people seem to have concluded once again that the pandemic is all but over. And which is not the case – albeit, the second Covid-19 wave may be waning. The government's priority therefore should be to focus on vaccination. It is only when there is 100 percent vaccination that the pandemic could be effectively controlled.

Much is at stake in India. The economy that was battered last year can't afford one more year of disruption. Already lakhs of people are jobless or have had their incomes truncated. There's no other option but to vaccinate the entire population to get a handle on the pandemic. Already, the positive impact of vaccinating around two-third of the country's population is showing. The daily Covid infections have considerably reduced and become manageable.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Locked In Stalemate

In the coming week, military commanders from India and China are expected to hold the 13th round of talks to continue the effort to find a way out of the LAC crisis. Sharp exchanges between Beijing and New Delhi have served as a reminder that relations are undoubtedly at their lowest since 1988. On September 24, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, while responding to a question about new border management protocols, laid the blame for last year's border crisis entirely on India's doorstep, saying India's "illegal trespass" caused the dispute. The Foreign Ministry repeated this charge in even stronger language, describing, on September 29, India's actions last year as a "forward policy", implicitly invoking the 1962 war. New Delhi in turn reminded Beijing that it was its "provocative behaviour", and amassing of troops in April 2020 following annual military exercises, that led to the flashpoints. The envoys of both countries have also made statements, at a virtual dialogue, that suggest a gulf in the state of relations. The Chinese envoy to India, Sun Weidong, called on both countries to "place the border issue in an appropriate position" and said "it is not the whole story of bilateral relations". His Indian counterpart, Vikram Misri, said the Chinese side was "shifting goalposts" in how both countries have, for three decades, managed the border areas peacefully. This, he said, was predicated on "a well-understood distinction" between managing the border areas and resolving the boundary question.

It is clear that this understanding, along with the four border agreements, has now broken down on account of China's actions last year to unilaterally re-draw the LAC in Ladakh in the Western Sector. This week's military commanders talks will take up disputes in Hot Springs, while disputes in Demchok and Dapsang remain unresolved. Since the crisis last year, both sides have set up buffer zones in Galwan Valley and on the north bank of Pangong Lake, and have disengaged on the south bank and in Gogra. This temporary arrangement has helped prevent the recurrence of clashes, but with past agreements in disarray, a longer term understanding to keep the peace still eludes both sides. Recent incidents in Uttarakhand, and a continued military build-up in the Eastern Sector, underline the pressing need for reaching one. Mr. Misri suggested a way out of this stalemate, saying "it cannot be that only one side's concerns are of relevance..." and acknowledging that "safeguarding territorial integrity and national security holds equal value for both sides." He maintained both sides still had the space to cooperate on issues including tackling the pandemic, concerns about terrorism in the region and the situation in Afghanistan. Doing so will certainly build trust. Finding that space, however, will hinge on first restoring normalcy along the border.

The Hindu

Educate To Execute



image of a protest for representational purposes only

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS AND training programmes are an urgent need to acquaint revenue officers especially those posted as collectors. It takes at least a year to get familiar with the land revenue laws. This means that it is only fair for the government to ensure that those set to be posted or those posted on this role are prepared for it

Advocating Orientation Programmes For Collectors

HAD THE REVENUE

officers been familiar with the land revenue laws they would have issued the section 6 declaration soon after issuance of section 4 notification. Because of the lack of knowledge about the law, now the Govt will have to pay a huge amount as compensation which is a direct burden on the state exchequer

forcibly acquire more than 4000 kanals of agricultural land in almost 4 dozen villages of Budgam for construction of Srinagar Ring Road. The affected farmers want application of the Right to Fair Compensation Act in the same way as affected parties in Ganderbal wanted. The declaration under section 6 for the Srinagar Ring Road project was issued in August 2017 in the villages of Choon, Razwen, Buchroo, Ganji Bagh, Gudsathoo, Wathoor etc. It was thus mandatory for the Collector Land Acquisition, Budgam, to finalize the awards by July 2019 i.e within 2 years as mandated under section 11-B of repealed J&K Land acquisition act 1934. This section of the erstwhile act mandates the collector to complete acquisition proceedings within 2 years from the date of declaring an intent to acquire the land under section 6 of the Act. If he fails to do so, the notification and proceedings lapse & fresh notification has to be issued. The awards were not prepared within stipulated time. The Collector had to issue fresh notification for Srinagar Ring Road land acquisition under the central Right to Fair Compensation Law (RFCTLARR Act 2013) but this was not done and instead the repealed obsolete law continues to be invoked.

While the center continues to claim the benefits of abrogating Article 370, on the ground, the situation is totally opposite.

Orientation workshops and training programmes are an urgent need to acquaint revenue officers especially those posted as collectors. It takes at least a year to get familiar with the land revenue laws. This means that it is only fair for the government to ensure that those set to be posted or those posted on this role are prepared for it. Usually, it is the KAS cadre that is engaged and by the time they acquaint themselves with the role, they're shifted to some other role.

Therefore, the government needs to work proactively to educate all stakeholders and ensure that these laws are understood and followed in spirit.

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

The author is an Acumen Fellow and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He is also an Anant fellow for Climate Action

On July 27th this year, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir pronounced a landmark judgement on land acquisition. The division bench of the High Court prevented the district administration Ganderbal from acquiring land for widening and upgradation of Pandach Beehama-Ganderbal road. Around 4 years back, the executing agency PWD (R&B) had invited tenders (NIT) for this road project when the land was yet to be acquired through a proper process under the erstwhile J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934. After the invitation of tender, the collector land acquisition Ganderbal issued notification under the section 4 and no further notifications were issued. The J&K High Court division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar in an order said that as no declaration has been made under section 6 of J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (now repealed) the notification issued under section 4 is simply a proposal to acquire the land and not a declaration to acquire the land.

The Court disposed off the petition titled Abdul Rahim Bhat v/s State and directed the Govt to proceed in accordance with the existing land acquisition law if they were in need of the land for road widening project.

The High Court order reads:
"The writ petition stands disposed of with a liberty to the respondents to proceed in accordance with law, if necessary, to acquire the land leaving it open for the petitioners to challenge the acquisition proceedings as and when the final notification to acquire the land is issued by the respondents. It is made clear that as the land has not been finally acquired, the ownership/ title of the land has not passed to the respondents and the petitioners are free to use it in the manner they so desire. The writ petition is, accordingly, disposed of"

Fresh notification for land acquisition

Now the Govt has to issue a fresh notification for the land acquisition and that will be issued under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR Act 2013) which is applicable in J&K post article 370 abrogation. Ironically, even after 2 years of its applicability in J&K, the land acquisition collectors are reluctant to issue notifications under this law which is considered to be quite progressive and people

friendly. RFCTLARR Act 2013 is one of the half a dozen central laws that could benefit people of J&K but the Govt is not applying this law in many cases of land acquisition. In fact, the aggrieved persons Abdul Rahim Bhat and others had gone to High Court with the same prayer. The present collector land acquisition Ganderbal cannot issue section 6 notification under the J&K Land Acquisition Act of 1934 as the same is no more in operation post article 370 abrogation. Now, a fresh notification has to be issued under the RFCTLARR Act 2013 and Govt will have to pay 3 to 4 times more compensation to the affected landowners in Ganderbal. Had the revenue officers been familiar with the land revenue laws they would have issued the section 6 declaration soon after issuance of section 4 notification. Because of the lack of knowledge about the law, now the Govt will have to pay a huge amount as compensation which is a direct burden on the state exchequer.

Land Acquisition for Transmission Line

This case is not exclusive to Ganderbal only but is also true of a similar ordeal in the Chatterhama area of Srinagar outskirts where, a few years back, Power Department was laying concrete foundation for erecting electricity transmission towers for Alesteng – Mir Bazar transmission line. The land owners were not informed at all. When they raised their voice, the senior officers of the power department agreed to pay them compensation. When the case was referred to Collector land acquisition Power Department Srinagar recently, the officer was reluctant to issue a notification under central law (RFCTLARR Act 2013). He didn't want to bell the cat. This is what I could make out after having personally met him in this case. He was asking the affected landowners to take compensation as per the provisions of old law (JK Land Acquisition Act 1934) which has been repealed soon after abrogation of article 370. I was shocked to hear him say this.

On the other hand, the power department has not only laid concrete foundations, they have even erected huge transmission towers and laid cables as well. This is simply an act of trespassing. There is a lack of training and awareness among the officers of the Revenue department as the Govt had not held any training workshops or orientation programmes for the officers.

Srinagar Ring Road

As discussed in my previous articles on this subject, similar legal fraud is being committed to



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Kashmir's Unfounded Obsession With NEET

NEET is a medical entrance examination conducted every year for the purpose of admission into the Government medical colleges. Now with every passing year an obsession with this discipline is getting high. Earlier, there was an affinity towards both Engineering as well as

Medical sciences. However, now the craze is limited to medical sciences only. For K-parents there remains only one option for their children to become successful in their lives i.e; qualifying the NEET exam and becoming a doctor. Every year about 15-17 lac candidates appear in this exam and only 60-70 thousand students

crack it.

And what of those who do not qualify it? Are they incompetent?

The K-parents would have us believe that this lot is not meritorious and is no-good.

People in Kashmir are having a preconceived notion that if somebody fails to qualify this exam, it is the end

of life. Lacs of students prepare for this exam and only few thousands manage to qualify it but that doesn't mean that the students who fail to crack this exam won't do anything good in life. Infact, many go on to have better careers.

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How Feasible is an EU Army?

Proposals For A EU Army Have Re-Emerged After The Afghan Fiasco – But Many Member States Still Remain ‘Hard To Convince’, About Its Feasibility

Asad Mirza

It seems that the EU has learnt the lessons of the abrupt end of the US-led mission in Afghanistan and furthermore after AUKUS, that the US is a trying to build a coalition of English speaking Anglophonic nations in the defence realm and that time has now come for them to guard their interests themselves.

In her annual state of the union speech in the European parliament in Strasbourg recently, Von der Leyen, a former German defence minister, described the withdrawal of the US-led mission in Afghanistan, and the subsequent collapse of President Ghani's administration as troubling. She urged the European leaders to acquire the "political will" to build up its own military force to be deployed at or prevent any future crises.

She is also reported to be working with the Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, on issuing a "new declaration" on EU-Nato relations by the end of the year. She has also said there would be crises where the EU's own military force should operate independently from both the UN and Nato.

Germany's current defence minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer has said that Ursula is right. Real EU defence depends on the political will of the member states. That's why Germany and France must lead any such exercise.

European solidarity
For some, this state of affairs revived the old idea of a European military – with the EU's chief diplomat himself urging the bloc to create a collective armed force.

"The need for more European defence has never been as much evident as today after the events in Afghanistan," EU foreign affairs representative Josep Borrell told journalists at a meeting of the bloc's foreign and defence ministers in Slovenia recently, where the Afghanistan debacle featured prominently. The EU needs to create a "rapid response force" of 5,000 soldiers, Borrell said. EU military committee chairman Claudio Graziano also agreed with the idea, which should be supported with a genuine "will to act" he is reported to have said.

This phrase appeared once again, when Macron talked about Afghanistan with visiting Dutch Prime Minister Mark



Feature Image Credits: Getty Images

Rutte at the Élysée Palace. The two leaders gave a joint statement urging the EU to develop "strategic autonomy" so it can take "more responsibility for its security and defence".

Going one step further France has recently inked a defence deal for supply of 13 Rafale jets and 3 frigates to Greece. By choosing French Rafale, Greece rejected the bid by US's Boeing for F-16 planes.

Critics of the Proposal

The idea of common defence, one attacked by some critics of the EU as evidence of fomenting nationalism building, has a long and chequered history. It dates back to the 1990s and the Yugoslav Wars. A joint 1998 statement by France's then president Jacques Chirac and British prime minister Tony Blair declared that the EU "must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces", an assertion which fits Emmanuel Macron very well today.

In 1999 the EU agreed to raise a contingent of 50,000-60,000. In 2007, the bloc created a network of two "battle groups" of 1,500 troops from each country. They have since never been requisitioned.

Proponents of an EU armed force that operates independently of Washington

THE IDEA OF COMMON defence, one attacked by some critics of the EU as evidence of fomenting nationalism building, has a long and chequered history. It dates back to the 1990s and the Yugoslav Wars. A joint 1998 statement by France's then president Jacques Chirac and British prime minister Tony Blair declared that the EU "must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces", an assertion which fits Emmanuel Macron very well today

will also have to win over sceptics with-

in the bloc; the Baltic states and Poland are not in favour of any new defence pact excluding the US.

In addition, perceptions within the EU states differ as to what is a threat to its interests. For example the Baltic states consider Russia as an existential threat as per geopolitical realities but Russia is a key energy partner for Germany, and an ally for Hungary.

Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel also backed the EU army idea in 2018, amid suggestions that the EU "could no longer count on the United States" under Donald Trump's leadership. Other European leaders who had advocated for such an army have included Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Italy's former PM Silvio Berlusconi, Czech President Milos Zeman and former Czech PM Bohuslav Sobotka.

Pushes for an EU-force have public support, too. A 2017 Eurobarometer poll collated by Statista found that 74% of respondents in the Netherlands and Belgium supported the idea. In France and Germany, backing for the proposal was 65% and 55% percent respectively, but in EU's traditionally more neutral countries, like Austria (45%), Ireland (46%),

Finland (42%) and Sweden (40%) it was mellowed. In the UK, only 39% of survey respondents were in favour.

Other critics of the proposal include Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg himself, who has warned that an EU force "cannot defend Europe" without Nato assistance.

Military analysts say that most EU governments can't invest more in defence and they are further concerned about the risk of undermining Nato. In 2019 EU's 27 member states' expenditure on defence stood at 1.2% of GDP compared with 3.4% by the US.

International security and defence analyst Brooks Tigner has also pointed to potential funding issues. In a 2018 opinion piece for the Atlantic Council, Tigner wrote that while the idea for an EU army might appear "impressive on paper", but none has any realisation of what the collective cost of operations might be. He added that the bloc would have to resolve a plethora of other "technical, legal, and administrative differences" that would "boil down to the most mundane things such as soldiers' rights".

A leaders' summit dedicated to European defence will be convened by Von der Leyen and the French president, Emmanuel Macron, in the first half of next year, when France holds the rolling presidency of the EU. The concept of an EU army would be debated and discussions will be held about "why this has not worked in the past" at the next summit Von der Leyen has said.

Overall, as in the past, this time too it seems that the idea might get turned down due to its feasibility but it would help politicians like Macron and other European leaders to root for more nationalism and nationalistic tendencies, independent of the US.

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

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OBITUARY

Erudite, Educator, Empowerer—Who Was Prof. Nusrat Andrabi?

By Nasir Bhat

CIVIL servant Nirupama Kotru recalls the tumultuous time of nineties when Kashmir badly needed a crisis manager to keep the promise of education alive. The constant curbs and curfews had disrupted the classroom ecosystem of the valley. But while many would hesitate to put home in order, an academic—whose cause and contribution made her 'a lady with a lamp' during her lifetime itself—rose to the occasion.

Amid the raging strife in her homeland, Prof. (Dr.) Nusrat Andrabi would lead from the front and keep the spirit of education alive, especially among the female folks of the valley. Her thrust on women education even made many to draw parallels between her and Kashmir's legendary educationist, Begum Zafar Ali.

"Dr. Nusrat Andrabi did yeoman service towards educating the girls of Kashmir," Nirupama said.

This glorious tribute came on Sunday when Nusrat Andrabi breathed her last. She was a Professor of Urdu for over three decades, former Principal, Govt. College for Women, Srinagar, and had



women. Her cause, many say, made the professor a perfect example of feminism and women empowerment. She also penned down several books on women issues and attended many international conferences.

AMID THE RAGING STRIFE IN HER homeland, Prof. (Dr.) Nusrat Andrabi would lead from the front and keep the spirit of education alive, especially among the female folks of the valley. Her thrust on women education even made many to draw parallels between her and Kashmir's legendary educationist, Begum Zafar Ali

served as Principal of three Women Colleges in the erstwhile state.

"Nusrat Sahiba was an abiding symbol of our syncretic culture, a wonderful human being and someone who always stood up for the right values," said Amritabh Mattoo, a noted academic.

Described as an ardent champion of women's rights, Nusrat Andrabi during her lifetime served as a member of Ehsaas group and "actively worked to mitigate the sufferings" of Kashmiri

Apart from her academic treasure, she has left behind a swarm of students describing their departed "mam" as the "finest, decent, intelligent and amazing human being".

Prof. Nusrat Andrabi is also being recalled as a mood-lifter and conversation-carrier in family gatherings. She would be a friend to young and old, said scribe Shuja Ul Haq. "She'll be missed." For youngsters—with whom she would rub shoulders in seminars, debates and



discussions—the late academic was not one of a kind, but only one among her pantheon.

"She was aggressive in debate but soft in conversation," said Danish Iqbal, a policy analyst at National Conference. "She personified the aura and ambience of the Urdu language."

An alumna of the Kashmir University's Department of Urdu, Prof. Nusrat Andrabi had joined Women's College M A Road Srinagar as a staffer in 1968 and later headed the campus as principal.

She also served J&K Waqf Board as a member during the NC-Congress coalition government. During her tenure, she threw her weight behind



the Islamic University of Science and Technology and greatly advocated the campus cause.

"I had the opportunity and good fortune to work with Nusrat Andrabi Sahiba for 6 years in the Waqf Board," Omar Abdullah, former J&K chief minister, said. "Her advice and suggestions were always well considered and practical. She was a firm believer in the power of a good education."

Her husband Dr. Mohammad Amin Andrabi was an authority on Iqbal-iat who died of cardiac arrest in 2001. Their son, Mujtaba and daughter, Tabish couldn't make it to her funeral, as both of them live overseas. The demise, how-

ever, as PDP described it, is a huge loss to her family, friends and society.

Much of this overwhelming homage has to do with the fallen academic's strong beliefs and personality she exhibited throughout her lifetime.

Lately, when the reports surfaced about the name-changing of the campus she headed as principal, she reacted sharply: "My long association with the college has been for decades. I am a Kashmiri, love Kashmir and Kashmiris and my college. Recently I have heard a nasty news about renaming the college after the name of a person who had nothing to do with the institution ever. I am shocked and very unhappy."

Keeping her academic brilliance and crisis-managerial skills in view, former J&K Governor N. N. Vohra appointed Prof. Nusrat Andrabi as Honorary Secretary, Regional Red Cross Committee.

But it's her literacy legacy and women education cause and contribution which is making masses mourn her demise.

"We've lost a great friend, a well-read and a highly-emancipated lady to whom we will never find a substitute," said Dr. Abdul Wahid, a noted medic of Kashmir. "Our society will never be same without her."

Study Finds Learning Is More Effective When Active

AGENCIES



Carnegie Mellon University's Human-Computer Interaction Institute research has found that engaging students through interactive activities, discussions, feedback and AI-enhanced technologies results in improved academic performance, as compared to traditional lectures, lessons or readings.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Science'.

The research also found that effective active learning methods use not only hands-on and minds-on approaches, but also hearts-on, providing increased emotional and social support.

Interest in active learning grew as the COVID-19 pandemic challenged educators to find new ways to engage students. Schools and teachers incorporated new technologies to adapt, while students faced negative psychological effects of isolation, restlessness and inattention brought on by quarantine and remote learning.

The pandemic made it clear that traditional approaches to education may not be the best way to learn, but questions persisted about what active learning is and how best to use it to teach and engage and excite students.

Nesra Yannier, faculty in HCII, and Ken

Koedinger, a professor of human-computer interaction and psychology, collaborated with researchers at several universities including Stanford, Harvard and the University of Washington, to summarise the important findings around active learning.

The recent studies collected by Yannier and Koedinger span children to college-age adults demonstrate how and when different approaches of active learning can be effective and engaging and suggest ways to incorporate lessons learned from schooling during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We wanted to see what we learned from teaching and learning during COVID and what could be brought back into the classroom. COVID forced educators to engage students in novel ways, and teachers were experimenting with new technology," Yannier said.

The collected studies showed that active learning can put students in the driver's seat of their lessons. Active learning techniques encourage students to produce thoughts and get feedback through interactive settings

rather than passively receiving information as is common in pervasive approaches to education like lectures and readings.

One study included in the collection showed the benefits of physical activity for creativity and idea generation. Another found that while college students think they learn more in traditional lectures than through active learning approaches, they do not. Active learning produces better outcomes.

Yannier and Koedinger included their own research, completed with Scott Hudson, a professor in HCII, that found incorporating an AI-based virtual helper to question students, encourage them to think critically and engage them in discussions increased learning

in hands-on activities, while also supporting teachers.

The researchers performed controlled experiments to see how much children learned while interacting with NoRILLA, a mixed-reality learning platform where children perform and interpret real-world experiments with personalised interactive feedback in an earthquake table, ramps or other physical apparatuses, with the artificial intelligence turned on and off. When turned off, the students learned far less.

"We've done a lot of research around this. If we don't have the AI guidance on, the children are not able to understand the underlying concepts, and the learning doesn't translate into the real world," Yannier said.

Both Yannier and Koedinger said that the studies they summarised made it clear that there are many approaches to active learning and how to research it. They hope their paper will move educators to incorporate more active learning in their lessons and think about how they can participate in research into it.

"It's quite clear in this collection that even among like-minded folks there are seven or more applications of active learning that work and sometimes they work in contradictory ways," Koedinger said.

"There is so much richness in this field that we can continually make improvements to make it more effective and enjoyable for a long, long time," Koedinger concluded.

'People Who Suffered In Past More Likely To Get Praised For Good Deeds In Future'

AGENCIES

A team of researchers from the University of Missouri have discovered that people tend to give more praise to someone for their good deeds as an adult after discovering that person has also had to overcome adversity or suffering earlier in life, such as abuse and neglect as a child.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Experimental Social Psychology'.

Philip Robbins, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy in the MU College of Arts and Science, said these findings can help to narrow a knowledge gap found in both psychology and philosophy, two disciplines that study human behaviour.

"Historically, psychology and philosophy have had a stronger focus on the 'dark' side of human behaviour, such as moral wrongdoing, and less attention has been placed on studying the 'light' side of human behaviour, such as acts of altruism," said Robbins, the principal investigator of the project.

"This research aims to provide a better understanding of a relatively neglected aspect of human psychology, the human mind, and the human condition, which concerns how people process and react to positive behaviours, such as giving praise," added Robbins.

The research is based on survey results from a total of 974 participants. It builds upon the researchers' previous finding that people tend to think of an adult who has committed a crime as less culpable, and less



deserving of punishment when told that the accused had suffered serious harm in childhood.

Robbins said the team's findings are also relevant to thinking about criminal sentencing, particularly in capital trials. Defence counsel often presents evidence of clients' suffering and victimisation in their early years, and the authors' previous and current studies support this practice.

He added the findings point to a broader issue about how people judge others without knowing who they really are as individuals since knowing what a person has experienced in life can alter how we assess their good and bad deeds.

"It's important that we pay attention to human beings not just as creatures that do bad things to each other, but also as creatures that do good things for each other," Robbins said.

"Part of what's remarkable about our species is our capacity to behave in prosocial ways, such as cooperating with and helping others, as well as antisocial ways, such as competing with and harming them," Robbins concluded.

Mental health of teenagers affected by fathers' type of debt: Study

AGENCIES

According to a Rutgers University-New Brunswick study, teens whose fathers are behind on paying child support suffer more from behavioural problems like anxiety and depression than those from families whose fathers do not have similar or other types of debts.

Published in RSF: 'The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences', researchers compared the effects of parental debt on the socio-emotional well-being of children who do not live with their biological father, a living arrangement experienced by more than half of children in the United States at some point in their childhood.

"Child support debt is very common," said lead author Lenna Nepomnyaschy, an associate professor at Rutgers' School of Social Work and a core faculty member at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research.

"Across the US, 77 per cent of cases in the child support enforcement system have debt, totalling USD 117 billion. Most of this debt is held by very low-income fathers. Seventy per cent of these fathers have less than USD 10,000 in income and 60 per cent have no income. These debts are a product of punitive child support enforcement policies which target the lowest income men, and unsurprisingly, are considered uncollectible," said Nepomnyaschy.

Child support debt reduces fathers' ability to invest in their children, increases parental conflict and reduces fathers' physical and mental health. According to the



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study, this type of debt then negatively impacts children's behavioural and emotional problems such as crying, worrying, fighting, bullying and skipping school and these effects appear to strengthen as children age.

The researchers analyzed a national dataset of 5,000 children born in urban areas in the late 1990s that followed children and their families for 15 years. They focused on children whose biological fathers did not live with them at ages 9 and 15. They compared the effects on a child's well-being of a mother's household debt

(credit card and loans), non-resident father's household debt and their child support debt.

Among all non-resident fathers in the sample, 23 per cent have very high child support debt (calculated as more than 25 per cent of their income). However, among the one-third of fathers with the lowest incomes, 41 per cent report this high level of debt burden, while only 8 per cent of fathers with higher incomes are in this situation.

Nepomnyaschy said child support debt is a type of retrospective debt obligation that carries economic, social, and legal sanctions that may be more harmful to children than other types of parental debt.

"Child support debt can lead to license suspension and incarceration, which undermine fathers' ability to work, pay off debts and spend time with children; can lead to more conflict in the co-parenting relationship, less reliable cash support and less involvement with children; cannot be discharged by filing for bankruptcy; and can be extremely difficult for the lowest-income parents to ever repay, thus persisting and accumulating throughout childhood," she said.

The authors suggest several innovative policy reforms to reduce the accrual of debt, which will benefit children's well-being. These include setting more realistic child support obligations based on what fathers can pay, modifying these obligations during unemployment or incarceration, not charging interest when fathers fall behind, decoupling mothers' applications for public assistance from child support enforcement, ending the suspending of drivers' licenses and using incarceration as punishment for falling behind on payments, among others.

Multi Agency Group To Monitor Investigations In Pandora Papers Case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: A Multi Agency Group headed by the CBDT chairman will monitor investigations into the Pandora Papers case, an official statement said on Monday.

Names of more than 300 wealthy Indians, including business people, figure in the 'Pandora Papers' that have uncovered financial assets of rich individuals across the world, and many of the Indians have rejected allegations of misdoings.

The 'Pandora Papers', a leak of troves of financial records in offshore tax havens, has been obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the government has taken note of this and relevant investigative agencies would undertake investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law.

"The Government has directed today that, investigations in cases of Pandora Papers leaks appearing in the media under the name 'PANDORA PAPERS' will be monitored through the

Multi Agency Group, headed by the Chairman, CBDT, having representatives from CBDT, ED, RBI & FIU," said the CBDT, which is the apex decision making body on income tax matters.

To ensure effective investigation of these cases, the government will also proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities.

"The Government of India is also part of an Inter-Governmental Group that ensures collaboration and experience sharing to effectively address tax risks associated with such leaks," the CBDT added.

It further said names of only a few Indians (legal entities as well as individuals) have appeared in the media so far.

Even the ICIJ website has not yet released the names and other particulars of all the entities. The website of ICIJ suggests that information will be released in phases and structured data connected to the Pandora Papers investigation will be released only in the days to come on its Offshore Leaks Database, it added.



Govt Taking Multiple Measures For Development Of Handicrafts, Handloom Sectors: MoS Textiles

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways Darshana Vikram Jardosh Monday said the Central Government is taking multiple measures for revival and development of handicrafts and handloom sectors. She said that the Government is committed to uplift these sectors and every possible help will be provided to the people associated with them.

The Minister said this while convening a meeting with officers of handicrafts, handloom and sericulture departments at Pahalgam during her public outreach programme to district Anantnag.

On the occasion, the Minister was informed about the activities, progress and development in these sectors by the concerned officers. They briefed her about the achievements, schemes, direct and indirect employment generation and number of beneficiaries enrolled under various schemes of these departments.

A review of the handicrafts sector was presented by Director Handicrafts, Mehmood Ahmad while as Director, Sericulture, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri gave a presentation on the sector. Various activities concerning these departments like tweed work, zari embroidery, chainstich, namda and gabba work were highlighted in detail.

During the proceedings, it was informed that certain significant steps have been taken for revival of arts and crafts which among others include merger of handicrafts and handloom departments, financial assistance to handicrafts and handloom societies, enhancement of stipend, artisan credit card, Karkhandar and MSP schemes and education scheme for artisans and weavers.

Sericulture department gave detailed information on propagation of improved mulberry varieties, production of quality silkworm seeds, assistance to farmers for silkworm rearing, organising of cocoon auction markets and promotion of silk rearing in private sector. Besides, the department has incubation and chawki rearing centres (ICRCs) and is adapting to improved and new technologies in silkworm rearing, the officers said.

The Minister also met with the delegations of trade, commerce, industry and other stakeholders who put forth their demands and grievances. The Minister listened to these delegations patiently and assured that their genuine demands and issues will be duly redressed.

District Development Commissioner Dr. Piyush Singla, SSP Ashish Mishra, Joint Director Handicrafts and Handlooms, Director Central Sericulture, Director NIFT, Deputy Director Handicrafts, Assistant Directors of Handicrafts and Handloom and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Petrol, Diesel Price Rise On Hold After 4 Consecutive Days Of Hike



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged on Monday after the pump prices of both fuels rose simultaneously for four consecutive days taking up its retail rates by over Rs 1 per litre.

Benchmark crude prices have settled at a tad lower level of \$ 79 a barrel now after shooting over a three-year high level of \$ 80 a barrel early last week. This has given some room to OMCs to halt fuel price rise.

With no change in fuel prices, diesel continues to be priced at Rs 90.77 per litre while petrol maintains its priceline at Rs 102.39 a litre in Delhi.

Petrol prices had maintained stability since September 5, but oil companies finally raised the pump prices last week on Tuesday given a spurt in the product prices lately. It has now followed diesel with regular hikes in prices for the last four days before the pause on Monday.

Diesel prices on the other hand has increased on eight of the last 11 days that has raised its retail price by over Rs 2.15 per litre.

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

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

In Mumbai, the petrol price is now at Rs 108.43 per litre while diesel rate is Rs 98.48 a litre.

Well-managed companies attract equity investors: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the advice given by company secretaries to businesses is going to make a lot of difference as only "well-managed" companies following good governance practices are attracting investors.

She also said Indian companies have done extraordinarily well in the last year with regard to attracting investments because of their transparency and better compliance.

"In the last few years, the rate at which compliance-related issues have become the main cause for companies to fail to live up to the expectations of investors, well-managed companies, companies which are more transparent in its functioning, companies which have good governance principles, board driven principles, are attracting lot of investors, not only big ticket investors, but also small retail investors.

"And therefore, for a company to flourish and expand in



its area of operation, the role of company secretary to make it easy, to make it ready for the company to follow the guiding principles that you might advice them with, is going to make a lot of difference," Sitharaman said.

She was addressing an event to mark the 53rd Foundation Day of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).

She said at a time when the government is trying to remove archaic laws and bring in amendments to reduce penal provisions in the Companies Act, the scope of work of a company secretary is widening.

"Between 2020 and today, you see a lot of retail investors getting interested in stock market in India... the money is flowing from retail and big ticket investors all towards well-managed companies...

Dwivedi reviews progress made in respect of e-auctioned Minor Mineral Blocks

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Mining and General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi Monday chaired a meeting to review progress made in respect of e-auctioned Minor Mineral Blocks where the Project Proponents have applied for extension of validity period of Letters of Intent (LoI) issued in their favour.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Sanjeev Verma, Director, Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing, Dr. Neelu Gera, Member Secretary J&K, PCB, B M Sharma, Director, Geology and Mining, Joint Directors Jammu and Kashmir besides all District Mineral Officers and Project Proponents and Consultants from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions were present in the meeting.

Dwivedi interacted with the project proponents and consultants and enquired about the bottlenecks being faced by them in expediting their cases for grant of mining leases. He exhorted upon them to expedite the uploading of cases of Minor Mineral Blocks where public hearing has been conducted so that the cases for issuance of environmental clearance in their favour is considered by the JKEIAA in time.

The Project Proponents raised genuine concerns which were deliberated upon during the meeting and necessary instructions were issued on spot to the concerned for taking cognizance of all issues for redressal in a time bound manner.

Dwivedi asked the Joint Directors, Jammu and Kashmir to personally monitor, on day to day basis, the progress achieved with regard to uploading of requisite documents. He also asked them to remove the bottlenecks for expediting the cases for consideration by the JKEIAA for issuance of EC/CTO. He issued strict instructions to all DMOs for ensuring check on any illegal mining in their respective districts.

He said that during the last 4 to 5 months gap in demand and supply has been bridged to great extent and the department shall continue its efforts for grant of remaining Mining Leases, so that public could get minor minerals at reasonable and notified rates.

He appreciated the progress achieved till date in operationalizing the mining blocks which has assured availability of adequate aggregates for mega projects under execution in the UT of J&K.

He directed the concerned departments to follow an integrated approach towards resolving the issues related to grant of environmental clearances, CTO and mining leases.

Flat-Purchasers Can't Be Left At Mercy Of Builders: SC Notice To Centre



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice on a plea seeking direction to the Centre to frame a "model builder agreement" and agent-buyer agreement in the real estate sector to infuse transparency and fairness, restraining builders and agents from indulging into unfair and restrictive trade practices.

A bench comprising justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna said: "This is an important issue on the protection of buyers". It further added, "often (this issue) is put on back foot by clauses in agreements made by builders".

The bench noted that a uniform builder-buyer agreement is required to be framed by the Centre to protect the interests of lakhs of home buyers. It observed the plea raises the

grievance that in the absence of model agreement, flat purchasers are left at the mercy of developers regarding the terms and conditions.

The bench pointed out once the model buyer-builder agreement is framed by the Centre, then it may direct the state governments to follow it. It further emphasized that it is an important issue of consumer protection and often builders get away by putting any clause. "This purpose has to be achieved in the country", it observed.

The Supreme Court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who was represented by senior advocate Vikas Singh. During the hearing, Singh submitted that the Centre should give guidance at least, and emphasized on the importance of a model builder-buyer agreement.

SHORT TAKES

RBI Supersedes SREI Infra And SREI Equipment Management Boards

KOLKATA: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday said it has superseded the board of directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd and Srei Equipment Finance Ltd, owing to governance concerns and defaults by the companies in meeting payment obligations.

Bank of Baroda's former chief general manager Rajneesh Sharma has been appointed as the administrator of the two companies.

"...the Reserve Bank has today superseded the Board of Directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults by the aforesaid companies in meeting their various payment obligations," an apex bank statement said.

It intends to initiate the process of resolution of the two NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019, the regulator said.

The RBI also said it would apply to the NCLT for appointing the administrator as the insolvency resolution professional. (PTI)

First consignment of Kashmir walnuts from Budgam despatched

Observer News Service

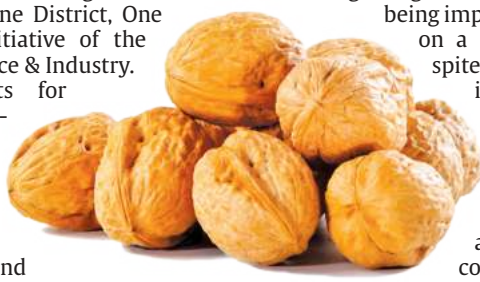
NEW DELHI: The first consignment of Kashmiri walnuts was recently flagged off from Budgam. A truck carrying 2,000 kgs was despatched to Bengaluru, Karnataka under the One District, One Product (ODOP) Initiative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Kashmir accounts for 90% of India's walnut production. With their superior quality and taste, the Kashmiri walnuts are a great source of nutrients and hence widely in demand across the globe. There is immense potential for this product to make its place in the local and global markets.

The successful facilitation of trade was marked with a flag off by Union Additional Secretary, Ms. Sumita Dawra, DPIIT on 26th September 2021 that was organised in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO). Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce;

Ms. Tazayun Mukhtar, Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir; Ms. Anikita Kar, MD, JKTPO; Ms. Khalida, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Kashmir, and Invest India Team.

Recognizing that walnuts were being imported into India on a large scale despite the availability of Kashmir walnuts, the 'ODOP' team began an in-depth market analysis and stakeholder consultations in Kashmir. Further, of walnuts in India were contacted and through dedicated hand-holding at both ends, the ODOP team was able to facilitate the procurement. Such efforts also give a boost to the AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaign as, for instance, in this case the Bangalore-based importer, who was previously sourcing walnuts from the US, is now able to distribute quality walnuts at a fraction of the import cost.



Gold marginally lower; silver slips Rs 137

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital was down marginally by Rs 37 to Rs 45,539 per 10 gram on Monday amid muted global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 45,576 per 10 grams.

Silver declined Rs 137 to Rs 59,203 per kilogram from Rs 59,340 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold traded lower at USD 1,753 per ounce and silver flat at USD 22.42 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.44 per cent down at \$1,753 per ounce on Monday," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

Sensex rallies 534 pts Nifty ends near 17 700

MUMBAI: Snapping its four-session losing streak, equity benchmark Sensex rallied 534 points on Monday, led by gains in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Infosys and ICICI Bank.

The 30-share BSE index ended 533.74 points or 0.91 per cent higher at 59,299.32. Similarly, the NSE Nifty surged 159.20 points or 0.91 per cent to 17,691.25.

NTPC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 4 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's and Tata Steel.

On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, HUL, Nestle India, Kotak Bank and Titan were among the laggards.

"As we approach the earnings season, indices remained buoyant through the day led by the metals and PSU names with the market

breadth exhibiting positive momentum across midcaps and smallcaps," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Privatisation hopes on few metal names fuelled a 3 per cent upmove on the metal index even as select pharmaceutical and specialty chemical stocks saw good buying interest, he said, adding this month is likely to witness almost a dozen companies going public aiming to mop up over Rs 200 billion.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong and Tokyo ended with heavy losses, while Shanghai and Seoul were closed for holidays.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading flat in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.13 per cent to USD 79.38 per barrel. (PTI)

Gravity Of Offence, Conduct Of Accused And Societal Impact Be Considered While Cancelling Bail: SC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday said that gravity of the offence, conduct of the accused, and societal impact of an undue indulgence by the court are the factors to be kept in mind while interfering with a bail granted to an accused.

The apex court said that it is necessary that 'cogent and overwhelming reasons' are present for the cancellation of bail.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana made the observations while cancelling the anticipatory bail granted to a woman and directing her to surrender in a dowry death case.

The gravity of the offence, conduct of the accused and societal impact of an undue indulgence by Court when the investigation is at the threshold, are also amongst a few situations, where a Superior Court can interfere in an order of bail to prevent the miscarriage of justice and to bolster the administration of

criminal justice system.

This Court has repeatedly viewed that while granting bail, especially anticipatory bail which is per se extraordinary in nature, the possibility of the accused to influence prosecution witnesses, threatening the family members of the deceased, fleeing from justice or creating other impediments in the fair investigation, ought not to be overlooked, the bench said.

The bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hina Kohli said that the cancellation of bail is to be dealt on a different footing in comparison to a proceeding for grant of bail.

Conventionally, there can be supervening circumstances that may develop post the grant of bail and are non conducive to a fair trial, making it necessary to cancel the bail, it said.

The apex court said in addition, bail can also be revoked where the court has considered irrelevant factors or has ignored relevant material available on

record which renders the order granting bail legally untenable.

It said that each case has its unique factual scenario which holds the key for adjudication of bail matters including cancellation.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Vipan Kumar Dhir challenging the anticipatory bail granted by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to the mother-in-law his daughter in a dowry death case.

The apex court said that offence alleged in the instant case is "heinous and protrudes our medieval social structure" which still wails for reforms despite multiple efforts made by Legislation and Judiciary.

In the case in hand, the High Court seems to have been primarily swayed by the fact that the accused was 'co operating' with the investigation.

This is, however, contrary to the record as the accused remained absconding for more than two years after being

declared a proclaimed offender on April 23, 2018. She chose to join the investigation only after securing interim bail from the High Court. She kept on hiding from the Investigating Agency as well as Magistrate's Court till she got protection against arrest from the High Court, the bench said.

The top court said that even if there was any procedural irregularity in declaring the accused as an absconder, that by itself was not a justifiable ground to grant pre-arrest bail in a case of a grave offence.

The allegations in the FIR against the mother-in-law and her younger son are materially different, the court said.

It is indubitable that some of the allegations against all the family members are common but there are other specific allegations accusing the mother-in-law of playing a key role in the alleged offence.

The conduct of the accused in absconding for more than two years without any justifiable

reason should have weighed in mind while granting her any discretionary relief. These facts put her on a starkly different pedestal than the co accused with whom she seeks parity, the bench said.

It said the High Court has wrongly accorded the benefit of parity in favour of the accused and it has to be borne in mind that the deceased met with a tragic end within three months of her marriage.

While it is too early to term it an offence under Sections 302 (murder) or 304B of Indian Penal Code but the fact remains that a young life came to an abrupt end before realising any of her dreams which were grimly shattered. She died an unnatural death in her matrimonial home.

The accused is the mother-in-law of the deceased. The Investigating Agency, therefore, deserves a free hand to investigate the role of the Respondent -Accused, if any, in the unnatural and untimely death of her daughter-in-law- law, the bench said.

Police Used 'Excessive Force' During Eviction Drive In Assam, Claims NGO in Report

NEW DELHI: A civil rights NGO on Monday released a report on the clashes during an eviction drive in Assam's Darrang district last month which left two people dead and around 20 injured, and alleged that police made unprovoked attacks and used excessive force against the displaced people.

The Association for Protection of Civil Rights said the report was formulated after a fact-finding team comprising social activists, journalists and researchers visited the area last week.

According to the report, the police and the administration blamed a large mob for attacking them with sticks and stones that led to the violence.

"They (police) said that following negotiations at the eviction site, the residents were assured rehabilitation and other alternative measures. Convinced with the assurances, they had started dispersing to collect their belongings before leaving the area.

"Suddenly, over a hundred people attacked the police party with sticks and stones. They first fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse them. When it didn't deter them, they fired live bullets in self-defense," the report noted.

Two people were killed in police firing during the eviction drive on September 23 amid massive protests. Over

20 people were injured in the melee.

According to the report, the residents contacted by the fact-finding team countered the police version and said that "the eviction notices were served less than 24 hours before the government drive began."

They also alleged that police attacked the people who were evacuating their homes, according to the report.

It also alleged that police made unprovoked attacks and used excessive force against the people.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that discussions were held for over four months before the eviction drive was launched.

"The eviction drive was not carried out in a day. It was initiated with an agreed principle that as per the land policy, the landless will be provided with two acres and this was agreed upon by the representatives. Following this, no resistance was expected. However, about 10,000 people surrounded the police, indulged in violence and they were forced to retaliate," Sarma had said.

He also said that the Popular Front of India (PFI) was involved in the violence, and demanded a ban on it.

The NGO's report claimed that the families of the two deceased as well as those injured were yet to receive compensation.

W **SUDDENLY, OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE** attacked the police party with sticks and stones. They first fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse them. When it didn't deter them, they fired live bullets in self-defense."

Good Samaritans To Be Awarded Rs 5K For Rushing Road Accident Victims To Hospital

NEW DELHI: The road ministry on Monday said it has launched a scheme for 'Good Samaritans' under which a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be given to those who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the mishap.

In a letter to principal and transport secretaries of all states and union territories, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said the scheme would be effective from October 15, 2021 till March 31, 2026.

The ministry on Monday



issued guidelines for the "scheme for grant of award to the Good Samaritan who has

saved life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate

assistance and rushing to hospital/trauma Care Centre within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment."

To motivate the general public to help the road accident victims in an emergency situation, MoRTH said "the amount of award for each Good Samaritan would be Rs. 5,000 per incident."

"Every cash award would be accompanied with a certification of appreciation," it added.

Besides award in each case, the ministry said there will be 10 national level awards for the most worthy Good Samaritans (to be

selected from all those who have been awarded during the whole year) and they would be given an award of Rs 1,00,000 each.

According to the guidelines, if more than one Good Samaritan saves the life of more than one victim, the amount of award will be Rs 5,000 per victim saved, subject to maximum Rs 5,000 per Good Samaritan.

'Golden hour' refers to the 1-hour time period following a traumatic injury during which there is the highest likelihood of preventing death by providing prompt medical care.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Working For

put forth their demands and issues.

"The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing and assured that all the genuine demands put forth would be considered and forwarded to concerned departments for redressal of the same," the official spokesperson said.

FB, Whatsapp All Down

have got down. Earlier in March and April this year, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram faced major global outage.

Meanwhile, people have begun a meme fest on Twitter calling out the server down a normal routine.

One user wrote "WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram down again, the world right now is switching to twitter".

J&K Logs 100

new case each from Kulgam and Shopian districts.

In the winter capital, Jammu reported 10 cases, Doda 4, Reasi 3, Rajouri and Ramban two each and Kishtwar one new case of virus. No fresh case of coronavirus was reported from Udhampur, Kathua, Samba and Poonch districts, officials said.

Also, the officials said that there was no death due to the virus. So far 4424-2174 in Jammu and 2250 in Kashmir-have died due to the fatal infection.

DCI Raps Govt

Press, Model Trimmer with Diamond Disc, Casting Machine, Milling Machine, Stereo Microscope, Magnifying Work Lamp, X-ray Machine with RVG, Educating Models, Implant Removing Instruments and other clinical equipments.

Letter further adds that the Casting Lab is non functional and most equipment is damaged while no consumable stock was present. It further notes that no patients were visible during the inspection.

"The GDC has no availability of E-Library and the Department Library contains an insufficient title." The letter notes.

Pertinently, the letter by DCI Assistant Secretary, Anil Kumar to the Principal GDC, Srinagar comes days after Kashmir Observer highlighted the issue in its weekly "Inkisha" program titled, "Unbearable Toothache At Srinagar Dental College".

The report had highlighted how GDC, Srinagar, was lacking basic instruments for the daily operation, including the Orthopantomogram Machine (OPG) which provides panoramic X-ray of the upper and lower jaws, including the teeth. GDC in a press statement had denied lack of infrastructure and even claimed that the x-ray machines like OPG were not necessary for GDC and Hospital.

In its letter, the DCI has also raised questions on the staff assessment for publications of Prof (Dr) Shabir Ahmed Shah who has only 35 points against requirement of 40 points, the letter notes.

"The Promotion letters of Dr. Umair Iqbal and Dr. Nazia are not present." The letter noted "Dr. Sandeep on leave."

Addressing GDC, the DCI demanded an action by the college in ensuring that the raised issues are acted upon urgently without any delay.

A copy of the letter has also been forwarded to the president of Dental Council of India

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Financial

Commissioner (Addl Chief Secretary) Health and Medical Education Department, Vivek Bharadwaj said that he will take appropriate action in this regard soon.

"We'll be reviewing this DCI letter and a proper action will be taken," he said.

J&K Ranks Fifth

in managerial positions is 18.7 percent at the country level.

The survey further reveals that in rural J&K, the ratio of female workers to total workers in managerial positions is 7.5 percent.

At the national level, the report said that the ratio of female workers to male workers in professionals and technical work category was recorded at 50.1 percent.

According to the NSO survey, the RSE for unemployment rate according to the current weekly status in J&K was recorded at 8.5 percent in the July-September 2020 quarter.

"In the July-September 2020 quarter the unemployment rate in urban J&K was recorded at 4.8 percent, October-December 2019 at 7.3 percent, January-March 2020 at 9.2 percent and April-June 2020 at 10.1 percent." The report says.

Mehbooba Takes

Multiple opposition leaders tried to make their way to the Uttar Pradesh district through the night but were prevented from doing so.

"Applying Section 144 wherever human rights & dignity is trampled has emerged as GOI's preferred approach. This government shows no hesitation in using an iron fist with its own people but welcomes Chinese troops with open arms," the PDP chief wrote on Twitter.

"One can't even compare the oppression unleashed in J&K since 2019 but the common denominators are obvious. What started in J&K was sadly met with an air of indifference & has now engulfed the entire country. When will we speak up?" she asked.

Commenting on the situation in Lakhimpur Kheri, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said Uttar Pradesh has become the new Jammu and Kashmir.

"Uttar Pradesh is the 'naya J&K'," he tweeted.

Devender Rana

up above their political and religious affiliations and took a stand on issues concerning their regions.

"I have not submitted my resignation so far and...I am still the provincial president of the J&K National Conference. Whatever I do, I will brief you, Rana told reporters at his residence here.

Rana, a former MLA, was reacting to the reports that he is going to resign from the party post which he had taken over in 2011 after relinquishing as political advisor to then chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Several leaders of different political parties, including former minister Choudhary Lal Singh who heads the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DWSP) and is campaigning for a separate state of Jammu, met him during the day.

"It is my responsibility to welcome anyone whether a brother, a friend or a guest who visits my residence.... I am repeating what I have been saying that there will be no compromise over the interests of Jammu region and the wishes and aspirations of its people, he said, adding as far as the interests of Jammu and its people are concerned, I have requested BJP, Congress, PDP, NC and National Panthers Party some

nine months back to come together for Jammu declaration.

He said it is time to rise above political affiliations and unite for the people of Jammu region for their betterment.

We are all residents of Duggar Pradesh, whether we belong to NC, BJP, PDP, Congress, Apni Party, DWSP or some other party. We all need to come together, including intellectuals, civil society, traders...by keeping our differences aside and build a narrative which should be by Jammu, from Jammu, for inclusive Jammu and Kashmir, Rana said, and asked what objections anyone should have if there is a narrative from Jammu?

The NC leader said if the people of Ladakh, irrespective of their political affiliations and religion, come together and build a narrative to safeguard the interests of the people of Ladakh and the same thing is happening in Kashmir where people from different political parties come together for the interests of the people of the valley, why such a thing is not possible in Jammu.

As long as the interests of Jammu and the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu region are concerned, there will be no compromise over it. If there is a need to make any sacrifice, I am ready for it, Rana said.

The NC leader, however, said he is not forming any separate party as well.

Rana said he stood by the Jammu declaration and will continue to propagate for its need till his last breath.

I don't mind if anyone has any objection to it. I am also not angry with anyone. My only concern is the interests of Jammu and wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu region, he said, adding the Jammu declaration is an attempt in this direction where people from all walks of life, caste, creed and religion and political parties including BJP need to come together.

On January 30, Rana proposed the Jammu declaration, a charter to forge unity and reinforce trust between diverse communities and divergent regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The core of the declaration will be to engage the people in inter-region and intra-regional dialogue to bridge the fault-lines being created by divisive forces on the basis of region and religion, Rana had said.

Ex- Minister Javid Mustafa

Mir quit the PDP and joined hands with former IAS officer Shah Faesal when the latter launched the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement in 2019. Mir was the president of the party after Faesal quit politics.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir said the Apni Party has been at the forefront for the protection of rights and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir residents.

I am grateful to the Apni Party leadership for this rousing welcome. My priority is to serve the people and Apni Party is a better platform to work for the socio-economic and political empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

12 J&K Police Officers

Jammu & Kashmir under adjudication before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu Bench, reads the order.

J&K To Have 1 Lakh

under 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' needs to be expedited to improve quality and reliability of power supply to consumers and put in place a financially and operationally efficient distribution sector," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the meeting was informed that a total of 20 lakh smart meters will be installed in Jammu and Kashmir. While installation of 8 lakh smart meters in J&K has been sanctioned under PMDP/DDUGJ&IPDS, the remaining 12 lakh meters, he said, will be sanctioned under the 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' for which the requisite preparatory work is currently underway.

"It was informed that IT hardware has been supplied and installed in Data Centre in Srinagar and Data Recovery Centre in Jammu, besides integrating the system with utility billing system," he said.

"It was further informed that user acceptance testing is presently underway and shall be completed by 16.10.2021," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, J&K Chief Secretary informed that out of 10600 meters supplied, 5000 meters have been installed as on date.

"He assured that the Government is on course towards installing 1 lakh meter each in Jammu and Kashmir by March 2022," he said.

Mehta, he said, further observed that if installation of smart meters could be completed in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar, the UT would have more or less achieved the targets set forth under the Schemes as most of the power is consumed in these two capital cities.

The official spokesperson said that the Union Home Secretary while agreeing with Mehta's observation, advised him to extend full support to the executing agencies for timely achievements of the milestones in the Schemes.

"Mehta assured that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir will fully support the executing agencies in their efforts to meet the project timelines," he added.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary, as per the official spokesperson, also participated in a meeting chaired by Bhalla to consider resumption of foreign travel to India on tourist visa.

He said Mehta welcomed the idea of resuming foreign tourism before the winter season and said the COVID situation in Jammu and Kashmir is by and large under control and that subject to Covid protocols, foreign travelers can be allowed to visit J&K if they possess double jab certificate and have taken RTPCR test during the last 72 hours.

He further said that Mehta stated that allowing entry of foreign travelers in J&K would not be a problem, especially as around 90 % of the people associated with tourism and hospitality sectors have already been vaccinated with at least one dose.

"Resumption of travel by foreign tourists will provide much needed succour to the UT's tourism industry, which has been severely impacted by the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. J&K would welcome foreign tourists particularly in the winter as several activities are being planned during the upcoming winter season in Gulmarg and other scenic winter spots in UT", Mehta said, as per official spokesperson

'Art Has Responsibility

journey. It's all about being honest and passionate about your work."

As part of the post-2010 creative surge, Tahseen is trying to fill the art-vacuum by

1st Positive Kashmir KO Tournament: Dometown Heroes Defeat AG's XI



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The tenth match of the first edition Positive Kashmir Knockout Football Tournament saw Dometown Heroes FC defeat AG's XI by a single goal on Sunday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

Expected to be a high-voltage match, star-studded Dometown Heroes took on Accountant General's XI (AG's XI) under the TRC ground's floodlights at 6:30 PM.

The first half saw both teams create goal scoring opportuni-

ties but the scoreline somehow remained 0-0 at the end of it.

The second half witnessed the only goal of the match, scored by Dometown Heroes' Frank Fifi. One-nil down, AG's XI tried its best to equalise but failed to convert their chances. Heroes' Tabish was declared man of the match.

The KO Tournament is organised by J&K Football Association in collaboration with JKSC and Positive Kashmir NGO.

On Monday, J&K Bank XI took on Sports Council Football Academy.

Sopore Handball Trials From October 6

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council (JKSC) on Monday announced that it is going to conduct selection trials for boys and girls in Handball for Khelo India Centre, Khushal Sports Stadium Sopore for all age groups on October 6 and 7.

The trials will be at 11:00 AM onwards.

The Council has asked all serious sportspersons to submit

their entries to Gh Hassan Bagwan (Ground incharge) Khushal Stadium Sopore at least one day before the scheduled date of trials. Further participants are directed to bring their Aadhar cards and two latest passport size photographs with them.

To register for JKSC Handball Academy's open selection trials, players can contact the officials on the following number: 9622653000.

All Eyes On India Stars As MI Take On RR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Mumbai Indians' mega-stars will be making one last ditch effort to put their derailed Indian Premier League campaign back on track when they take on a confident Rajasthan Royals in their penultimate league match on Tuesday.

The five-time champions were aiming for a hat-trick, which would be a first in the tournament's 14-year-history, but poor show by their batsmen has led the team down. The wrinkles on Rohit Sharma's forehead and the grumpy look on his face are telling a tale that is unheard of in the MI contingent till now.

And in this backdrop, they are now facing Rajasthan Royals, who stunned Chennai Super Kings with a superlative batting performance from two Mumbai men — Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shivam Dube.

The equation is simple for both the teams.

They have to not only win both their matches but also have to win big so that their poor net run-rates are taken care of.

Royals currently have a net run-rate of -0.337 and MI, after a poor batting show against Delhi Capitals, are seventh at -0.453.

The loser on Tuesday will be out of the tournament but then KKR are already on 14 points with a positive NRR of +0.294.

Therefore even if Mumbai win against Rajasthan and then happen to thrash laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad in their final match to reach 14 points, there's no guarantee that they would be able to go through.

KKR have won a very crucial game against SRH and even if they lose against Royals on the final day of the league stage, Morgan and his men would like to limit the damages in order to make it to the play-offs.

Hence, Rohit (341 runs), Suryakumar Yadav (222 runs), Quinton de Kock (297 runs) and Kieron Pollard (232 runs) need to bring their 'A' game to the fore.

Hardik Pandya has just about found some form going his way. The Sharjah pitch showed signs of settling down during the Punjab Kings versus RCB game, something that will make the stroke players of MI happy.



Premier Division: Kashmir Avengers, ARCO Register Wins

A-Division match results, Super Division semifinal today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Khyber Premier Football League 2021 two matches of Premier Division were played on Monday at Synthetic Turf, TRC.

The first Premier Division match of the day was played between Kashmir Avengers FC and Iqbal Sports FC. Kashmir Avengers routed Iqbal Sports 6-0.

In a one sided encounter, Kashmir Avengers dominated the match right from the start. Kelvin was declared man of the match. The second Premier Division match of the day was played between JKSPDC XI and ARCO FC. The match up between two evenly matched teams was always going to be a tight affair but ARCO FC succeeded in their efforts when Moin scored the first goal for his team in 42nd minute.

JK SPDC XI played well throughout the game but failed to find an equaliser. The first half scoreline 1-0 was carried into the second half in which ARCO FC defended astutely to take the win.

The JKFA Premier Division can be seen live on ANN News Channel.

the match for Kashmir Avengers ensuring a 6-0 thumping victory over Iqbal Sports.

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The JKFA Premier Division can be seen live on ANN News Channel.

Srinagar A-Division League: Two matches played

In the ongoing A-Division football league tournament, two matches were played at Gindun Ground Rajbagh on Monday.

In the first match, Yahya Warsi FC defeated Spartans FC by a solitary goal. While the second match was played between Eleven Star FC and Sporting FC, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Mehraj was declared man of the match.

Super Division: Real Kashmir FC (U18) Vs Galaxy FC

The second semifinal of DFA Srinagar Super Division League will take place today, October 5 at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The match between Real Kashmir FC and Galaxy FC will kick off at 6:00 PM. The match result will decide who will join Jehlum FC in the Super Division final.

J&K's Umran Malik Clocks 151 Kmph At IPL 2021

JKSC congratulate Cricket Academy trainee

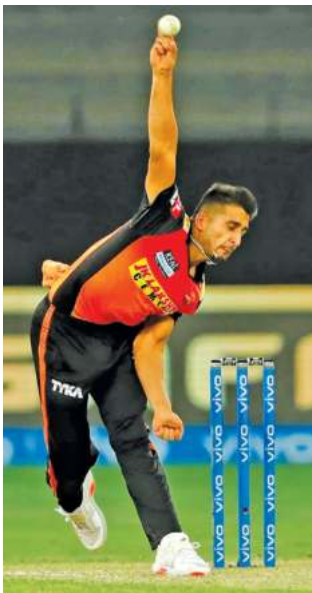
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir pacer Umran Malik, who is currently playing IPL 2021 with Sunrisers Hyderabad, on Sunday clocked the tournament's fastest delivery at 151.03 kmph earning praise from fans and players alike.

The bowler bowled two 150 kmph deliveries, with the latter becoming the fastest delivery in this season's IPL. Malik managed a decent 4 overs, giving away 27 runs without taking a wicket. SRH suffered defeat as KKR won by six wickets with two balls to spare at the Dubai International Stadium.

Regardless of the result, the J&K speedster impressed everyone with his quick bowling.

Meanwhile, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul has complimented Umran Malik



for his performance on his debut and wished him to don blue

jersey soon. In her message, she also applauded the role of Randhir Singh, JKSC coach who first spotted Umran at a cricket coaching center at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

Umran was later selected to represent J&K, initially in junior cricket and later he played for senior cricket team under the captaincy of Parveez Rasool. Parveez who is Technical Advisor in JKSC was impressed by his pace and he advised Umran to work hard.

Parveez Rasool credits coach Randhir Singh and Abdul Samad for discovering and supporting Umran Malik.

Irfan Pathan and Harsha Bhogle are among many dignitaries of the cricketing world who are raving about Umran Malik.

"Good to see a young man like Umran Malik with some serious pace about him," Bhogle tweeted.

JKTA 2nd Ramban Taekwondo Championship Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two-day long Ramban Taekwondo Championship concluded on Sunday, October 3.

More than 50 students took part in this Championship including boys and girls who showed their skills and enthusiasm for Taekwondo. Martial Club Banihal won the overall trophy with maximum number of medals.

Afaq Ahmed Giri (IAS) and Bashir Ul Hassan (KAS) were chief guests on the occasion, while Shabir Ahmed Mir (Roshni Foundation NGO), Mohd Idrees Wani (President Banihal Volunteers NGO), Mohd Tazim Wani (District Officer) were guests of honour. Arvind Satti (SAI Coach Khelo India Centre, Gool) was special invitee of the occasion.

The Championship was conducted under the supervision of Sohaib Masroor (Secretary District Ramban Taekwondo Association). The technical team comprised of Owais Wani, Mohsin Rafiq Wani, Touseef Ahmed and Moin ul Islam.

Speaking on the occasion Afaq Ahmed Giri and Bashir ul Hassan praised the efforts of Taekwondo

Association of Ramban and appreciated Martial Club Banihal and its Coach, Nayeem Masroor for commendable performance in C'ship. They also gave cash award to Taekwondo Association of Ramban for promoting sports activities.

D.N Pangotra, President JKTA congratulated the organising committee.

List of Medallists:
Sub Junior, Cadet, Junior Gold Medallists: Ehsan Ul Haq, Fozan Tariq, Sarmad Khursheed, Sahil Mushtaq, Inaam Ullah Khan, Shahrukh Naik, Arbaaz Rashid Wani, Hazik Gani, Shihab Khursheed, Mohd. Abdullah, Mohd. Ashadullah Wani, Faisal Iqbal, Umar Muzammil, Manshur Ahmed Naik.

Silver Medallists Boys: Yasir Hammed, Fazil Ahmed, Syed Sanan, Ishfaq Tanveer, Musadiq Shabir, Faizan Butt, Musadiq Idrees, Owais Ahmed, Mohd. Adeb, Vansh Sharma, Arsalan Bashir, Adhyan Jaral.

Bronze: Azan Ahmed Mir, Arman.

Poomsae: Arbaz Rashid (Gold), Yasir Hamid (Gold), Musadiq Shabir (Silver).

Girls category: Hadia Masroor (Gold), Hania Malik (Silver).

Sachin Tendulkar Named In Latest Pandora Papers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Indian cricketing legend, Sachin Tendulkar has featured in the latest set of leaked Pandora Papers detailing the covert finances of the world's richest people.

The Pandora Papers investigations unmask the covert owners of offshore companies, incognito bank accounts, private jets, yachts, mansions, and even artworks by Pablo Picasso, as the rich try to hide the details from their respective governments.

"People linked by the secret documents to offshore assets include India's cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar, pop music diva Shakira, supermodel Claudia Schiffer and an Italian mobster known as 'Lell the Fat One'," the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) said in its report.



"Tendulkar's attorney said the cricket player's investment is legitimate and has been declared to tax authorities. Shakira's attorney said the singer declared her companies, which the attorney said do not provide tax advantages. Schiffer's representatives said the supermodel correctly pays her taxes in the UK, where she lives," it notes.

On a world map highlighting the number of politicians linked with offshore dealings, India is shown as having six and Pakistan seven.

England To Decide On Ashes Series In Australia This Week

AGENCIES

LONDON: England cricket officials will announce this week if the scheduled Ashes series in Australia will go ahead.

The tour is in doubt because of restrictions in place in Australia due to the pandemic.

The England and Wales Cricket Board said Monday that there is regular and positive dialogue with Cricket Australia about ar-

rangements for an Ashes tour with health and well-being at the forefront.

We will continue talking to our players this week to share the latest information and seek feedback, the ECB said.

Later this week the ECB Board will meet to decide whether the conditions in place are sufficient for the Tour to go ahead and enable the selection of a squad befitting a series of this significance.

NEWS MAKERS

In My Mind, We Won England Series 2-1: Rohit Sharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: India's white-ball vice-captain and batting mainstay Rohit Sharma has no idea about the status of last month's abandoned fifth Test against England in Manchester but he is quite clear in his mind that his team "won" the hard-fought series 2-1.

The fifth Test in Manchester was abandoned after Team India's junior physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for COVID-19 and was found to be in direct contact of players. This was after some senior members of the Indian support staff also found to be infected.

The BCCI has agreed to play the fifth Test in July, 2022. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has said that it will be an extension of this year's series and not a one-off game that England want.

"I don't know what's happening with the last Test

match. Whether we are playing a one-off Test (next year) but in my mind we have won the series 2-1," Rohit said.

Asked if the England series, where he scored more than 400 runs with a hundred and two fifties in four games is a milestone series for him, he replied: "It was a good one considering where I was standing in my Test career."

But the soon-to-be T20 captain refused to call it his best series.

"It's not my best series. I feel my best is yet to come. I utilised the time before the World Test Championship final in Southampton (to figure) what sort of technique and mindset is required. I was pretty happy and would like to take it further."

Rohit has been actively involved with the 'Save the Rhinos' campaign and also for a plastic free sustainable planet. He spoke about his experience thus far.

SAFF Football Championships: 10-Man Bangladesh Hold India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MALE: India allowed a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike to play out a 1-1 draw in their SAFF Championships opener in Male, Maldives on Monday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to place himself just a goal shy of legendary Brazilian great Pele (77 goals from 92 matches).

He is now in the fourth spot in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79) and Iraq's Ali Mabkhout (77).

India were the better side in the first half and even though they lost possession quite often, they seemed to be cruising. They also had numerical advantage from 54th minute onwards after Bangladesh player Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco.

But Igor Stimac's men failed to stop the swift counter-attacking Bangladeshis on their tracks and conceded a goal in the 74th minute to share points, much to the dismay of the Indian camp.

'I Asked To Leave PSG In July': Kylian Mbappe

AGENCIES

PARIS: Kylian Mbappé confirmed he told Paris Saint-Germain he wanted to leave the club in July in an interview released Monday by French broadcaster RMC.

Mbappé was subject to reported bids from Real Madrid approaching 200 million euros (\$230 million) in August as he entered the last season of a five-year contract with PSG.

"I asked to leave," the 22-year-old star said, explaining once he decided not to renew his deal "I wanted the club to have a transfer fee to have a quality replacement."

Mbappé can sign a pre-contract agreement with another club in January and join after the season with PSG getting no fee.

He asked to go in July and hoped to leave with a good deal and respect on all sides. Reports that his request was in the last week of August made him sound like a thief, Mbappé said.

"I said, 'If you don't want me to go, I will stay,'" Mbappé told his interviewer, former France and PSG player Jérôme Rothen. "It's a club that that's given me a lot and I've always been happy."

PSG rejected Madrid's interest then signed free agent Lionel Messi in August to form a superstar attack with Mbappé and Neymar as the club pursues a first Champions League title.

Extracts of the interview were published Monday one day ahead of a longer interview being broadcast.



Man City Complain To Liverpool Over Fan Spitting Incident

AGENCIES

LIVERPOOL: Manchester City have made a complaint to Liverpool after a fan allegedly spat at their backroom staff during Sunday's 2-2 Premier League draw at Anfield, media reported.

Sky Sports said that Liverpool had opened an investigation into the incident.

City and Liverpool both did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

City manager Pep Guardiola said that he was not aware of the incident at the time but was notified by his staff later.

"I don't know what happened," Guardiola told Sky Sports after the game. "I heard something from the crowd — something not nice to staff. But I don't know what exactly. I didn't see the images."

"I'm pretty sure that if it happened, I'm sure Liverpool will take measures about this person. Liverpool are much greater than this behaviour."

"Nothing will change my admiration for this club. It was the same story two, three years ago when we came here and they destroyed our bus — it is certain people, not just Liverpool."

PANDORA PAPERS LEAK

Probe Exposes Financial Secrets of Rich & Powerful

Agenceis

Millions of leaked documents dubbed the Pandora Papers and a worldwide journalistic partnership on Sunday claims to have uncovered financial secrets of current and former world leaders, politicians and public officials in 91 countries and territories, including India.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which involved the BBC and The Guardian newspaper in the UK and The Indian Express in India among 150 media outlets in its investigation, claims it obtained the trove of more than 11.9 million confidential files to find secret financial dealings of many super rich.

"People linked by the secret documents to offshore assets include India's cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar, pop music diva Shakira, supermodel Claudia Schiffer and an Italian mobster known as Lell the Fat One", says ICIJ in its report.

"Tendulkar's attorney said the cricket player's investment is legitimate and has been declared to tax authorities. Shakira's attorney said the singer declared her companies, which the attorney said do not provide tax advantages. Schiffer's representatives said the supermodel correctly pays her taxes in the UK, where she lives," it notes.

On a world map highlighting the number of politicians linked with offshore dealings, India is shown

as having six and Pakistan seven.

"ICIJ's latest investigation, the Pandora Papers, brings renewed attention to the use of offshore companies by Pakistani political players. This time, the offshore holdings of people close to (Prime Minister Imran) Khan are being disclosed, including his finance minister and a top financial backer, the findings claim.

A spokesperson for Khan told a press conference that if any of his ministers or advisors had offshore companies, they will have to be held accountable.

According to the ICIJ, its secret documents expose offshore dealings of the likes of the King of Jordan, the presidents of Ukraine, Kenya and Ecuador, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The files also reveal financial activities of Russian President Vladimir Putin's unofficial minister of propaganda and more than 130 billionaires from Russia, the US, Turkey and other nations.

The ICIJ says the leaked records come from 14 offshore services firms from around the world that set up shell companies and other offshore nooks for clients often seeking to keep their financial activities in the shadows.

It says the global investigation provides an "unequalled perspective" on how the rule of law has been bent and broken around the world by a system of financial secrecy enabled by wealthy nations.

With You, SRK: Industry Supports Shah Rukh Khan After Son's Arrest In Drugs Case

Agenceis

Bollywood personalities like filmmaker Hansal Mehta, and actors Pooja Bhatt and Suchitra Krishnamoorthi have expressed their solidarity with Shah Rukh Khan after the superstar's son Aryan Khan was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with a drugs case.

The NCB busted a drugs party onboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast and arrested Aryan and seven others on Sunday. The 23-year-old was remanded to the custody of the NCB till October 4.

Hours after Aryan's arrest, close friend and superstar Salman Khan arrived at Shah Rukh's residence, Mannat, to pay him a visit.

While so far Salman has been the only one to visit the 55-year-old actor, colleagues of the superstar have rallied behind him on social media.

Mehta took to Twitter and wrote that it was "painful" when people arrive at judgements on children, adding he stands with Shah Rukh

during the difficult time.

"It is painful for a parent having to deal with a child getting into trouble. It gets compounded when people begin to arrive at judgements before the law takes its course. It is disrespectful and unfair to the parent and to the parent-child relationship. With you @iamsrk," the "Scam 1992" helmer wrote.

Bhatt, who worked with Shah Rukh in the 1996 film "Chaahat", took to Twitter late Sunday evening and wrote, "I stand in solidarity with you @iamsrk Not that you need it. But I do. This too, shall pass."

Hours before Aryan's arrest, Shah Rukh's "Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa" co-star Suchitra Krishnamoorthi tweeted that she is praying for the family.

"Nothing harder for a parent than seeing their child in distress. Prayers to all," she wrote.

In a subsequent tweet, Krishnamoorthi noted how the Hindi film industry ends up becoming an unfortunate soft target.

UP Violence: Priyanka, Deepender Hooda Detained; Akhilesh Stopped In Lucknow

Agenceis

LAKHIMPUR KHERI: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other party leaders were detained in Sitapur on Monday, with the party alleging they were not allowed to meet the victims of the violence that erupted during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri a day earlier.

Stopping them in such a way is "undemocratic", Congress state President Ajay Kumar Lallu told PTI.

Eight people were killed on Sunday as violence erupted during a farmers' protest, claiming the lives of both farmers and BJP workers ahead of a visit to Lakhimpur by Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

"Priyanka Gandhi, Deepender Singh Hooda and other leaders were detained in Sitapur around 5 am," Lallu said.

The Congress leaders had to take alternative routes to reach the bordering Hargaoon area in Sitapur as heavy security was deployed on the main roads amid tension in the violence-hit region of Lakhimpur.

"We are waiting outside Lakhimpur Kheri. We have been prevented by the police from entering. We have come here to meet the victims of the violence," Congress national secretary Dheeraj Gurjar told PTI over the phone at 4.30 am.

Gandhi's convoy was earlier briefly stopped by Uttar Pradesh Police officials in Lucknow, where the Congress general secretary had arrived on Sunday night, within a few hours of



violence being reported during an anti-farm laws protest here.

Demanding a judicial probe in the violence, BSP supremo Mayawati said her party's national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra was stopped in Lucknow to prevent him from reaching Lakhimpur.

"BSP's national general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP S C Mishra was placed under house arrest late last night at his residence in Lucknow. It is continuing so that the party delegation under his leadership cannot reach Lakhimpur Kheri to get the correct report of the violence. This is very sad and deplorable," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi.

"Due to the involvement of two BJP ministers in the Kheri case, a proper government investigation of this incident, justice to the victims and strict punishment to the guilty does not seem possible. Therefore, this incident in which eight people have been confirmed dead so far requires a judicial inquiry. This is the

demand of the BSP," she said.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up outside the residence of Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav, who had announced that he would visit Lakhimpur.

A large police force has been deployed on Vikramaditya Marg, and police trucks have been placed to block the entire road and restrict any possible movement.

Mobile internet services have been suspended in parts of the violence-hit Lakhimpur district, where restrictions under CrPC section 144 -- which prohibits assembly of four or more people -- has also been imposed, according to officials.

The UP Police took to Twitter early Monday to describe the incident as "unfortunate" and said eight casualties have been reported so far as per the district administration.

"ADG LO, ACS Agriculture, IG Range & Commissioner are on the spot & situation is under control. Adequate deployment has been done to prevent any untoward incident," it added.

Lakhimpur Violence: FIR Against MoS Mishra's Son, Several Other Persons

Agenceis

LUCKNOW: An FIR has been registered against Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son and several other persons in connection with the Lakhimpur violence that left eight persons dead.

Two FIRs have been registered but details of the sections under which the cases have been registered were not immediately known.

Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Kumar Awasthi, told PTI that "FIR has been lodged against several persons including Minister of state for Home, Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra".

He said as copy of FIR was not available yet, details of the sections on which it was registered were not known.



ADG, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, who is camping in Lakhimpur told PTI, "I am on the spot. Two FIRs from both sides have been registered in the matter. Detailed information in not available yet as internet is not working here."

"We will let the media know about it soon," he said. Eight people were killed on

Sunday as violence erupted during a farmers' protest, claiming the lives of both farmers and BJP workers ahead of a visit to Lakhimpur by Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Four of the dead were people in the cars, apparently a part of a convoy of BJP workers who had come to welcome the UP minister. They were allegedly thrashed to death. The four others were farmers, officials said.

Farmer leaders had claimed that the minister's son Ashish Mishra was in one of the cars which they alleged knocked down some protesters who were opposing the deputy CM's visit.

However, Ajay Mishra said he and his son were not present at the spot as alleged by some farmer leaders and he has photo and video evidence to prove it.

Can't Deny Rs 50K Ex Gratia If Death Certificate Doesn't Mention Covid: SC

Agenceis

The Supreme Court on Monday directed state governments to follow the Centre's guidelines for paying Rs 50,000 to family members of those who succumbed to Covid-19, and disburse the payment within 30 days of applying for ex-gratia, while asking the Centre and states to give wide publicity to the scheme.

A bench, headed by Justice M.R. Shah, said no state government should deny the Rs 50,000 benefit on the ground that cause of death on the death certificate is not Covid-19 and the district authorities should take remedial steps to have the cause of death corrected.

The bench, also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna, added that the ex-gratia assistance should continue to be provided for deaths, which occur post the date of judgment.

The top court said the grievance redressal committee can examine medical records of the deceased patient and take a call within 30 days on the compensation. In cases where death certificates have already been issued and the family members are aggrieved by cause of death mentioned on them, then they may approach the committee and submit documents seeking modification on the certificate.

The top court said that this Rs 50,000 amount will be over and above the amounts paid by the Centre and states under various



benevolent schemes.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, Rs 50,000 ex-gratia assistance will be paid to the families of those who died due to Covid-19 by the states from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The top court order came on an application seeking compliance of June 30 judgment, where directions were issued to the NDMA to frame guidelines to grant compensation to the families of those who died due to Covid, and the Centre was also directed to issue guidelines to simplify the process of issuance of death certificates in Covid cases.

The Centre has filed a compliance affidavit, where it informed the top court about the NDMA guidelines framed to fix the ex-gratia at Rs 50,000 and also guidelines framed to simplify the process of issuing death certificates.

The top court's June 30 judgment came on PILs which were filed by advocates Gaurav Kumar Bansal and Reepak Kansal seeking court's intervention for payment of Rs 4 lakh ex-gratia amount to the Covid victims' families.

Supreme Court Dismisses Plea Seeking To Cancel NEET Undergraduate Exam

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking cancellation of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, undergraduate, (NEET UG) held on September 12, 2021 on the ground that the examination was not conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

The top court dismissed the plea saying that cancellation of the exam cannot be at the cost of lakhs of students.

A bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, which stopped short of imposing 5 lakh cost, noted that the petitioner seeks setting aside the NEET-UG Exam and directing the National Testing Agency to conduct the exam afresh.

The basis is that CBI has registered 3 FIR's wherein it has stated that there has been impersonation of the candidates, the top court noted.

"What kind of writs are filed



under Article 32? Lakhs of people have taken these exams? When people come to you (advocate), don't you say that these will be dismissed with cost? You now want to cancel the entire exam? You argue, we'll deal with this at length and we'll deal with you specially," the bench also comprising Justice B R Gavai said.

Advocate Ninad Dogra, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that CBI has registered three FIRs and examination papers were leaked on WhatsApp

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Inkishaf

Unbearable Toothache At Srinagar Dental College— PART II

EXPLOSIVE REVELATIONS

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