

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Diwali Bonanza! Govt Reduces Excise Duty

Petrol To Get Cheaper By Rs 5, Diesel By Rs 10

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Buckling under pressure, the government on Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by a record Rs 5 and Rs 10 per litre to help bring down rates down from their highest-ever levels.

The excise duty reduction is effective from November 4 when petrol price will come down from the current rate of Rs 110.04 a litre in Delhi to Rs 105.04. Diesel rate will be reduced from Rs 98.42 per litre to Rs 88.42.

"Government of India has taken a significant decision of reducing Central Excise Duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 (per litre) respectively from tomorrow. Prices of petrol and diesel will thus come down accordingly," the finance ministry said in a statement.

This is the highest-ever reduction in excise duty and rolls back a part of the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected between March 2020 and May 2020 to avoid passing on to consumers the sharp fall in international oil prices.

That hike in excise duty had taken central taxes on petrol to their highest level of Rs 32.9 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 31.8 a litre. The statement said states are also being urged to commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers.

The reduction follows unrelenting hike in international oil prices pushing pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels. While petrol is above Rs 100-a-litre-mark in all major cities, diesel has crossed that level in more than one-and-a-half dozen states.

The total increase in petrol price since the May 5, 2020 decision of the government to raise excise duty to record levels now totals Rs 38.78 per litre.



Diesel rates have during this period gone up by Rs 29.03 per litre.

The relentless increase in fuel prices had been severely criticised by Opposition parties, particularly Congress which had demanded that the government reduce its excise duty.

Based on April to October consumption numbers, the loss of revenue to the government due to the excise duty cut will be Rs 8,700 crore per month. This totals to an annual impact of over Rs 1 lakh crore, industry sources said. For the remainder of the current fiscal, the impact would be Rs 43,500 crore.

The cut in excise duty will bring relief to motorists. The relief will be bigger for trucks and agri sector -- the biggest users of diesel.

"The reduction in excise duty on diesel will be double that of petrol. The Indian farmers have, through their hard work, kept the economic growth momentum going even during the lockdown phase and the massive reduction in excise on diesel will come as a boost to the farmers during the upcoming Rabi season," the statement said.

The ministry said in recent months, crude oil prices have witnessed a global upsurge. "Consequently, domestic prices of petrol and diesel had increased in recent weeks exerting

inflationary pressure."

The world, it said, has also seen shortages and increased prices of all forms of energy.

"The Government of India has made efforts to ensure that there is no energy shortage in the country and that commodities such as petrol and diesel are available adequately to meet our requirements," it added. "To give a further fillip to the economy, the Government of India has decided to significantly reduce the excise duty on diesel and petrol."

The reduction in excise duty will also boost consumption and keep inflation low, thus helping the poor and middle classes. The decision is expected to further spur the overall economic cycle.

Prior to the cut, the government's collection from levy of excise duty on petroleum products had risen 33 per cent in the first six months of the current fiscal when compared to last year and was 79 per cent more than pre-COVID levels.

Data available from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Union Ministry of Finance showed excise duty collections during April-September 2021 surging to over Rs 1.71 lakh crore, from Rs 1.28 lakh crore mop-up in the same period of the previous fiscal.

Vol:04 Issue:08 October 2021

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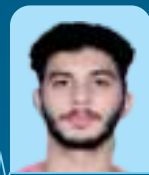
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672

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670

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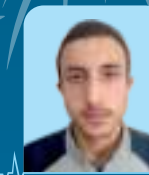
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660

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651

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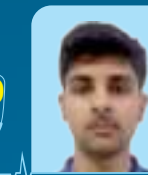
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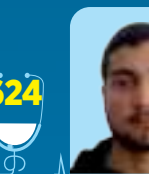
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624

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620

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Disclaimer: Though every possible care has been taken while compiling the result, the institute is not responsible for typos if any.

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انتقال پُر ملال

انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ یہ خبر دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی برکت حسین کشو ساکنہ نابدی پورہ گاسی یار (جڈی بل) مختصر علالت کے بعد مورخہ 03 نومبر 2021ء بروز بدھوار اس دارالفانی سے



رحلت کر گئے۔ (إِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَإِنَّا رَاجِعُونَ)۔ مرحوم ایک نیک سیرت، شریف النفس، ویدار اور محبت اہلیت تھے۔ اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جوار ائمہ میں جگہ نصیب فرمائے۔ مرحوم کے ایصالِ ثواب کے لئے اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ 05 نومبر 2021ء بروز جمعہ صبح 7:30 بجے آبائی مقبرہ بابا مزار علمگری بازار پر انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں تفریق مجلس دن بھر دولت خانہ پر جاری رہے گی۔

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ظہور حسین عالمگیر۔ ظفر حسین عالمگیر

NAME CHANGE NOTIFICATION

I, Aijaz Ahmad Lankroo father of Manal Aijaz Lankroo, holder of Indian Passport No S5788953, issued at Abu Dhabi, UAE on 20/06/2018, permanent resident of Upper Soura Near Petrol Pump Steel Factory Road Srinagar and presently residing at Villa 21B, Al Kawasir Street, MBZ City Zone 25 Abu Dhabi, UAE do hereby change my daughter name from Manal Aijaz Lankroo to Safiya Aijaz Lankroo, with immediate effect. TKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Sajad Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Diarora Shopian AST

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دراغتوئی مرکزی شرعی بورڈ اسلام آباد جموں و کشمیر

معاملہ نمول ۷۰۰ صفر ۱۴۴۳ھ مطابق ۲۵ ستمبر ۲۰۲۱ء درج ہوا ہے۔

مسئلہ اختلاف زمین نان و لکھنؤ فرجہ وغیرہ

با اجلاس مولانا مفتی طارق احمد کرمانی چیرمین شرعی بورڈ اسلام آباد فریق اول۔ نصرت جان دختر علی محمد پڑے ساکنہ چوکام پورہ کولگام فریق دوم۔ شہو از احمد پڑے ولد عبدالسلام پڑے ساکنہ بڑل لاند چوکام کولگام۔ نوٹس فریق دوم۔ شہو از احمد پڑے ولد عبدالسلام پڑے ساکنہ بڑل لاند چوکام کولگام چونکہ آپ کو بذریعہ اخبار مطلع کیا ہے فریق اول نے مقدمہ بعنوان بالا مرکزی شرعی بورڈ میں دائر ہے آپ کے Case کی جہلی سماعت 6/10/2021 ہوئی ہے آپ کی طرف سے کوئی گواہ پیش نہ ہوا ہے پھر دوسری سماعت 26/10/2021 کو ہوئی ہے اس وقت بھی آپ نے کوئی گواہ پیش نہ کیا ہو پھر تیسری سماعت 01/11/2021 کو ہوئی ہے اس وقت بھی آپ نے کوئی گواہ پیش نہ کیا ہو آپ کے فریق اول نے اپنے بیان پر ۵ گواہوں کو پیش کیا لہذا آپ سے التماس ہے ۵ اون کے اندر اندر اپنے بیان پر گواہوں اور تجویزی ثبوت پیش کرے پیش نہ کرنے کی صورت میں آپ کا کیا کیا جائے گا۔

بذریعہ مولانا مفتی محمد امین صاحب RNA مرکزی شرعی بورڈ اسلام آباد

از نیابت دیولگام با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی جھڑ پٹری دیولگام

درخواست نمٹانہ۔ محمد داؤد گوڑہ سردہ ولد عمار دین گوڑہ ساکنہ نالہ سہاری بھڑ پٹری تحصیل ST سرگلیٹ

اعتمادی مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بھڑ پٹری تحصیل ST سرگلیٹ بھڑ پٹری میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹری کے حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہہ بڑل افراد ہیں۔

اعتمادی مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بھڑ پٹری تحصیل ST سرگلیٹ بھڑ پٹری میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹری کے حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہہ بڑل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد داؤد ولد عمار دین	50 سال	مزدوری	4000/=
2	نبی بی دیو محمد داؤد	40 سال	گھر بیٹاکام	
3	امتیاز احمد ولد محمد داؤد	22 سال	مزدوری	4000/=
4	بال احمد ولد محمد داؤد	21 سال	مزدوری	4000/=
5	نصرت ناز دختر محمد داؤد	17 سال	گھر بیٹاکام	
6	اتر جان دختر محمد داؤد	16 سال	گھر بیٹاکام	
7	عنایت احمد ولد محمد داؤد	11 سال	زر تعلیم	
8	پروینہ جان دختر محمد داؤد	07 سال	زر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کہہ 08 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرگلیٹ ابراہم نے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض 108 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دو دن دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کٹھہ عنوان: مضمون درخواست مشتق احمد گوڑہ جیرو لی ولد محمد فرجہ گوڑہ لی ساکنہ بانڈی بالا برادو عطا جی ST سرگلیٹ تحت SRO294 جیج تینیل مشتق وصحت مشتق ماز یہ جان

اعتمادی مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دختر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ آلات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع بانڈی بالا کاکوٹ دار ہے۔ سالا آمدنی مبلغ 60000 روپے چنگ ہے کہہ بڑل افراد پر مشتمل ہے کہہ بڑل۔

مشتق احمد گوڑہ جیرو لی زمینداری 40 سال

قریبینیم زوجہ مشتق احمد گھر بیٹاکام 38

سرت دختر زر تعلیم 18

صحت دختر زر تعلیم 16

ستیل مشتق پسر زر تعلیم 13

نازیہ دختر زر تعلیم 11

ساقب پسر زر تعلیم 11

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلائی گئے۔ سرگلیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار AJJ

کمزور با اجلاس عید پیرزادہ

مضمون درخواست عبدالرشید بیٹہ ولد غلام محمد شمس ساکنہ لعلیہ روہ برادو عطا جی Death certificate سرگلیٹ

اعتمادی مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دختر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ آلات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع لعلیہ روہ کی رہائش پڑے پیر سائل کا ولد غلام محمد شمس مورخہ 2023-01-16 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ سرگلیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار ik

Public Notice

The Name & Parentage of my daughter has wrongly written in School records as Afreen Gulzar D/O Gulzar Ahamd Gasi While her correct name is Afreen Gul D/O Ghulam Mohammad Gasi which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Abu Turab Edu Institute Qamarwari Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ghulam Mohammad Gasi F/o Afreen Gul R/O Arampora Qamarwari Sriangar IKO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Nisar Ahmad Khanday S/o: Gh Ahmad Khanday R/o: Sebdan Budgam (Transferor) of LMV alto. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 5093. Chasis number 55756 Engine no. 4134125 Model 2006. in favour of Shri.. Owais Ahmad Shah Syed Bukhari S/o. Mohd Yaseen Shah Syed Bukhari R/o Nuner Ganderbal (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3729 Dated 02-11-2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir MCB

Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi, Srinagar

Corrigendum

Reference: e-NIT No: 22 of 2021-22 Dated: 29.10.2021

Please read: Valid agricultural licence holder supplier/ Dealer/ Firms for supply of Chemicals at RSGC Srinagar.

Instead of: Dealers/ firms/ Suppliers for supply of Chemicals at RSGC Srinagar.

All other terms and condition will remain same mentioned in bid notice vide endorsement No: RSGC/EE/2021-22/201-03 dated:- 29/10/2021.

DIPK-NB-4712/21

No:- RSGC/EE/2020-21/213-15

Dated:- 02.11.2021.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND TRAININGS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR.

Tel No: 0194-2952918

No: DIET/S/1476-4/21

e-mail: dietsr@gmail.com.
Dt: 02.11.2021

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY -2021.

ATTENTION ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF DISTRICT SRINAGAR.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India is conducting the National Achievement Survey (NAS) - 2021 on 12th of November 2021 for classes 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th.

In this context, all the **Principals, Headmasters and Head of the Institutions** of government and private schools, sampled for the survey, are communicated through this publication to ensure presence of students and staff and also provide all logistic support as admissible in accordance with the guidelines of CBSE for smooth conduct of the examination on **12.11.2021**. Defaulters, if any, shall be dealt with harsh administrative hands.

The HoIs of the sampled schools shall also put all the activities under stalemate and mentor the students of the aforementioned classes for the forthcoming assessment. Any guidance related to the assessment can be had from DIET Faculty, DRGs, ZRPs, CRPs.

The conduct of National Achievement Survey-2021 in a smooth and efficient manner shall be the **sole responsibility of concerned head of the institution in the sampled schools** by following all the required guidelines and as such they shall have to be in close liaison with the Principal DIET Srinagar/Field Investigators/ Observers engaged for the Sampled Schools for successful accomplishment of the task.

DIPK-11824/21

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL District Institute of
Education and Training Srinagar.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING ANANTNAG

e-Tender Notice No: 152 of 2021-22 Dated 29-10-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents	Class of Contract	Time for	Major Head	Panchayat/ Gram Sabha
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	C/O Drain from L/O Bashir Ahmad Wani to onwards Silligam Block Khoveripora	2.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Silligam
2.	Development of Shamsanghat at Srang-soo Badigam Block Khoveripora	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Badigam
3.	C/O Link road from transformer to onwards at Checki Srangsoo Badigam Block Khoveripora	1.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Badigam
4.	C/O Lane near H/O Bashir Bhat to Moham-mad Yousuf Bhat at Badaran Badigam Block Khoveripora	0.61	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Badigam
5.	C/O F.P.Bund NHO Abdul Rasheed Mir and others Salia B Block Khoveripora	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Salia B
6.	C/O Tile Lane different spots Sofi Mohalla Tangmarg Salia B Block Khoveripora	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Salia B
7.	C/O F.P.Bund near H/O Mushtaq Ahmad and others Salia B Block Khoveripora	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget (BDC)	Salia B

Position of A/A:

Position of T/S:

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-10-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	29-10-2021 from 4:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	11-11-2021 upto 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	12-11-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document Fee Receipt, Bid Security Self Declaration Form and other relevant documents in original shall be deposited before opening of online bids.	

Special Condition:

Only the eligible contractor of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process in light of the Government Order No. 251-FD of 2020 Dated: 17-09-2020. Bidders must upload a certificate from concerned Block Development Officer of residence proof that he/ she is residing in the respective panchayat. 1. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority). 2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids. 3. The LI is required to deposit a Performance Security @ 3% of advertised value in the shape of CDR in favour of allotting authority (Executive Engineer REW Anantnag) at the time of finalization of allotment/ agreement with the Department. 4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. 4.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. 4.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor. 4.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form. 4.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. 4.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1. 4.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-11680/21

No. REW-A/WS/NIT/2021-22/10714-23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Anantnag

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Ulfat Basheer W/D/O Umar Sharief R/o New Colony Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Regd. No. JK22 0107 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: ----- And

Javeed Ahamd Dar S/o Ab Majeed Dar R/o Below Dargund Pulwama (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement. Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the datte of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period. No : ARTO/Spn/892-2021 Dated 01-11-2021 S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian ako

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Bashir Ahmad Chopan S/o: Abdul Rehman Chopan R/o: Sail Kandoora Budgam (Transferor) of Scooty. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 1216. Chasis number 003357 Engine no. 11004 Model 2019. In favour of Shri.. Abdul Rashid Ganie S/o. Late. Assadullah Ganie R/o Namtehal Chadoora Budgam (Tranferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3341
Dated 03/11/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

24th year OF PUBLICATION

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Quote!
Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines
— Robert Schuller

NEWS DIGEST

LG Grooms People On Deepawali

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday extended his greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir on the eve of Deepawali. In a message, LG said that Deepawali, the festival of lights is a harbinger of joy, happiness and prosperity. **● More On P10**

Soldier Injured In Mine Blast

SRINAGAR: An army soldier was injured in a mine blast along Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu on Wednesday. Official sources said that the soldier, Havaldar rank, was injured in the mine blast during patrolling in the Kiri. **● More On P10**

Revenue Official Caught With Bribe

SRINAGAR: The sleuths of anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested a revenue department official from central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for demanding and accepting a bribe from a man for carrying out inheritance. **● More On P10**

Govt Renames LAWDA As LCMA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday renamed Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) as Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA). "In exercise of **● More On P10**

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Pak Denies Use of Airspace For Srinagar-Sharjah Flights

Unfortunate, Says Omar; Mehbooba Calls Not Seeking Prior Pak Permission 'Puzzling'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has denied use of its airspace for flights from Kashmir capital Srinagar to Sharjah in the UAE, which resumed after 11 years last month.

According to officials, Pakistan's refusal on Tuesday forced the Go First's Srinagar-Sharjah flight to take a longer route and fly over Gujarat to reach its destination in the UAE. Go First, previously known as GoAir, had started direct flights between Srinagar and Sharjah from October 23 and the service was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to the Valley last month.

According to officials, till October 31, the flight was going through Pakistan airspace.

However, Pakistan on Tuesday did not allow the flight to pass through its airspace, and therefore, the service had to take a longer route, going over Gujarat, adding around 40 minutes to the flight time, they said.

There were no specific reasons given by the Pakistan government



Representation Photo

as yet for refusing the permission to the flight, officials said.

Officials said the flight, which operates four times a week, did not face any issue when it used Pakistan airspace between October 23 and October 31.

There was no immediate statement or comment from Go First on the matter.

This is the first service between Jammu and Kashmir and the UAE after 11 years. Air India Express had started a Srinagar-Dubai flight in February 2009.

At the time, Pakistan had similarly denied access to its

airspace, making the flight take a longer route.

The flight became more expensive and less feasible for travelers, which eventually reduced demand and the service was halted.

The Srinagar-Sharjah flight duration is around 3 hours if the Pakistan airspace is used, however, with Islamabad refusing to allow the flight through its airspace, it will be nearly an hour longer as planes will have to fly to Sharjah via Udaipur and Ahmedabad and overfly Oman. **● More On P10**

Bus Crash Kills 22 In Pak Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: At least 22 people were killed and eight others injured on Wednesday after a bus carrying them fell into a ravine in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK), police said.

The accident occurred in the Sudhnoti district of the region when a passenger bus was going to Rawalpindi in Punjab province from the Baloch area of the district.

The bus apparently developed some technical fault and fell more than 500 meters down the road, killing 22 people, including **● More On P10**

PM May Celebrate Diwali With Soldiers At LoC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to celebrate Diwali with soldiers along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

While there is no official word on the possible visit by the Prime Minister, top defence sources said Modi could be visiting the forward areas along LoC in Jammu region.

This will be the fourth time that the prime minister is visiting Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Diwali with the soldiers since **● More On P10**

Centre Flags Spike In Corona Cases In J&K



File Photo

Govt Asked To Review Positivity Rates, Enhance Testing

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to undertake a review of rising COVID-19

cases and weekly positivity rates, and enhance testing.

In a letter sent to Jammu and Kashmir additional chief secretary of health, Additional Secretary, Union Health Ministry, Arti Ahuja highlighted the increase in weekly new Covid cases since last week (October 26-November 1) and early signs of rise in positivity rates since the past four weeks till October 31. **● More On P10**

J&K Logs 99 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 99 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while no Covid-19 related fatality was reported after six deaths in the last two days. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 91 new cases of coronavirus while the remaining 18 were detected from Jammu division. **● More On P10**

Dengue Cases Cross 1000 Mark In Jammu

With dengue cases in Jammu and Kashmir nearing the 1,000 mark, the authorities in Jammu region have scaled up efforts to check its spread, officials said on Wednesday. A total of 993 cases of dengue have been reported in **● More On P10**

Widespread Rain, Snow Predicted In J&K From Friday

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Wednesday predicted widespread rain and snow across Jammu and Kashmir from Friday, leading to landslides and shooting stones at many places along the highways and dip mercury further across the Union Territory.

MeT Deputy Director, Mukhtar Ahmad told Kashmir Observer that mild western disturbances—winds from the Mediterranean—were expected to hit the region on Friday.

"There is a possibility of light snow most likely over higher reaches of Gulmarg, Kupwara, Bandipora, Pahalgam and

Sonmarg including the Zojila pass, higher reaches of Drass & Zaskar and Leh-Manali Highway for Friday," he said.

Under the influence of approaching western Disturbance and lower level easterlies, Ahmad said, fresh spell of intermittent light rain with thunderstorm and lightning is most likely to occur in Srinagar city from the morning of 5th November to the evening of the same day.

The MeT Deputy Director said that there could be landslides and shooting stones over vulnerable areas of Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh highways besides other **● More On P10**

Army Chief Visits J&K For Second Time In 15 Days

Carries Out Aerial Reconnaissance Of Forward Areas, Reviews Situation

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Army Chief General M M Naravane carried out an aerial reconnaissance of forward areas on Wednesday and was briefed about the prevailing security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region, officials said.

This is his second visit to Jammu division in the past over two weeks amid an ongoing operation against militants in a forest belt in twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, which is the



File Photo

longest in the recent past that has entered 24th day on Wednesday.

Gen Naravane arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit to review the security situation and operational preparedness, and immediately flew to Rajouri district, the officials said.

"General MM Naravane #COAS (Chief of Army Staff) is on a visit to **● More On P10**

HC J&K, Ladakh Gets 2 More Judges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, on Wednesday appointed Mohan Lal and Mohammad Akram Chowdhary as judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

According to an order issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, the

appointments have been made by the President under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India. "Their appointment shall come into effect from the day they assume office," reads the order a copy.

With their appointment, the bench strength of the top court, common to J&K and Ladakh, shall go to 13.

Cheering For Contenders Isn't Sedition, Lawyers Debate Amid Din

Auqib Javed

As the censured celebrations are snowballing into the major controversy and putting three more Kashmiri families in the legal soup, a former Supreme Court judge has stated that celebrating a rival team's victory is "not sedition".

Justice Deepak Gupta said that celebrating a Pakistani victory over India may be offensive or unwise "but it is not a crime and illegal".

The legal luminary's comments came at a time when three Kashmiri students have been arrested in Agra for allegedly sharing pro-Pakistan posts on WhatsApp after India lost the T-20 World Cup match against Pakistan on October 27.

The trio—Arshed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Gilani—are students of Raja Balwant Singh Engineering Technical College in Agra.



File Photo

Following their campus suspension, they were booked for sedition by Uttar Pradesh Police on the instructions of Yogi Adityanath led government.

This cheering act has already whipped passions elsewhere, with BJP's Jammu leader calling for "skin alive" Kashmiris for their "pro-Pakistan" celebrations. Even as the leader has been booked and dismissed

from his party positions, the charges on celebration have already triggered a debate.

Legal experts argue that the cases are completely untenable and that celebrating the result of a cricket match cannot be a criminal activity.

"While authorities can decide what's lawful and what's not, but freedom of expression was never considered an offence,"

Mir Urfi, a Srinagar-based criminal lawyer, told Kashmir Observer.

"We're living in a democratic set-up and have been guaranteed freedom of expression. It can be in favour of the system or against the system."

The same freedom of expression came under radar after a number of videos of Kashmiri students celebrating Pakistan's

win against India went viral on social media and sparked an outrage in mainland India.

Police filed an FIR under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against this viral cheering act. Although the move was denounced as excessive, this was not the first time that Kashmiris were booked for cheering or celebrating the win

may be indiscretion, but surely not a crime. **● More On P10**

students who had cheered for Pakistan in Meerut were booked by the Uttar Pradesh government on charges of sedition, causing damage to property, and for promoting enmity between different groups. However, the charges of sedition were later withdrawn after a preliminary inquiry, while the others remained.

Advocate Urfi who has been handling UAPA cases for years now said the law under which the students have been booked is very harsh.

"UAPA is a specialised legislation to curb terrorism, you can't book anyone under the law. This law is being misused here. This will destroy their career entirely," she said. "One can cheer for any team living in the country."

Another Kashmiri lawyer, Haseeb Iqbal maintains that cheering or celebrating the win may be indiscretion, but surely not a crime. **● More On P10**

India-Pak Cricket Clash PDP Offers Help To Sedition Charged Kashmiri Students

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday said it will provide legal assistance to all persons booked under the UAPA in connection with the India-Pakistan cricket match in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

"PDP has resolved to provide legal assistance to all those booked under UAPA w.r.t. Indo-Pak cricket match and not able to have access to justice, PDP spokesperson Anil Sethi tweeted.

All those who are in need of any legal help may contact, he said in the tweet.

Three Kashmiri students were arrested in Agra for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans after India's defeat against its arch-rival on October 25.

A number of lawyers' associations in Agra **● More On P10**

Israel launches missile attack near Syria's Damascus

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel has launched an aerial attack with a number of missiles targeting an area on the outskirts of the Syrian capital of Damascus, Syrian state TV said early on Wednesday, citing a military source.

Syrian state news agency SANA confirmed the raids and said they caused only material damage.



"The Israeli enemy launched an aerial aggression with a number of missiles," the news agency quoted a military source as saying, naming the targeted area as Zakia. There was no immediate comment from Israeli officials.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the targets were army positions and arms depots belonging to Iran-backed fighters.

Last Saturday, Israeli also fired missiles towards the suburbs of the Syrian capital, although they were intercepted by Syria's air defences.

On October 14, an Israeli air raid on Iranian positions in central Syria also killed nine fighters allied to the Syrian government.

The attacks came days after Syria accused Israel of carrying out an attack in the country's south.

Israel, alarmed by Iran's growing regional influence and military presence in Syria, has launched hundreds of attacks in Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations.

The attacks on Syria usually happen during the night.

Israel has acknowledged it is targeting bases, weapon convoys and facilities linked to Iran-allied militias, such as the powerful Lebanese Hezbollah group.

It is also targeting arms shipments believed to be bound for the group.

Hezbollah is fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the civil war.

Key Taliban Commander Killed In Deadly Kabul Military Hospital Attack

Agencies

Kabul: A Taliban military commander in Kabul was among the fighters killed when his men responded to an Islamic State attack on a hospital, officials said Wednesday.

Hamdullah Mokhlis, a member of the hardline

hardline rivals, the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), on Kabul's main military hospital.

The attack began with a suicide bomber detonating his explosives near the facility's entrance before gunmen broke into the hospital grounds.

As part of the response, Ka-



Haqqani network and an officer in the Badri Corps special forces, is the most senior figure to have been killed since the Taliban seized the capital.

"When he got the information that Sardar Daud Khan Hospital was under attack, Maulvi Hamdullah (Mokhlis), the commander of the Kabul corps, immediately rushed to the scene," the Taliban media official said.

"We tried to stop him but he laughed. Later we found out that he was martyred in the face-to-face fight at the hospital," he added.

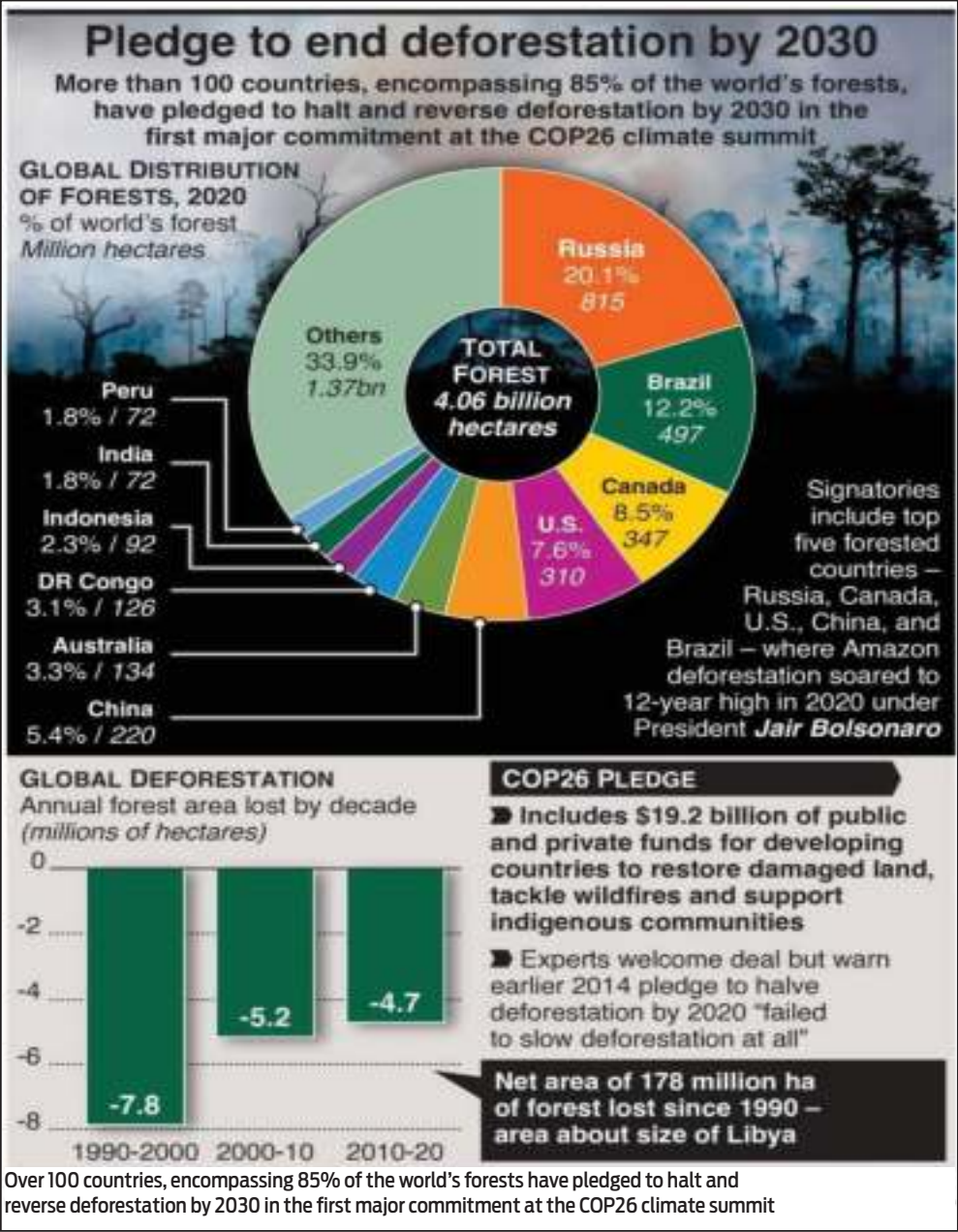
At least 19 people were killed on Tuesday in the attack claimed by the Taliban's

bul's new rulers deployed their special forces to the roof of the building in a helicopter captured from Afghanistan's former US-backed government.

Witnesses described to AFP a scene of terror, as patients and doctors tried to lock themselves in upper-storey rooms and gunfire erupted.

In a statement released on its Telegram channels, IS-K said that "five Islamic State group fighters carried out simultaneous coordinated attacks" on the site.

Taliban spokesman Zabullah Mujahid played down the death count, and said the attack was put down within 15 minutes thanks to the rapid intervention.



Delay In Communication Of Bail Orders Affects Liberty, Needs Redressal At 'War Footing': SC Judge

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice D Y Chandrachud has termed the delay in communicating bail orders to prison authorities as a very serious deficiency and stressed the need to address it on war footing as it touches the human liberty of every under-trial prisoner.

Justice Chandrachud was speaking at an online event organised by the Allahabad High Court to inaugurate virtual courts and e-Sewa kendras' to facilitate online legal assistance to litigants.

"A very serious deficiency in the criminal justice system is the delay in the communication of bail orders, which we need to address on war footing. Because this touches upon human liberty of every under-trial, or even a

convict who has got suspension of sentence," he said.

Recently, Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan, spend an extra day in the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, despite securing bail from the Bombay High Court in the drugs-on-cruise case.

Prior to this, a CJI N V Ramana-led bench had expressed strong displeasure over reports of delay in implementation of bail orders and had said it would set up a secure, credible and authentic channel for transmission of orders. Even in the digital age, we are still looking at the skies for the pigeons to communicate orders, the bench had said.

The Supreme Court had then ordered the implementation of a project – Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) – for faster

communication and compliance of its orders and had asked all states and union territories to ensure internet facility, with adequate speed, in every jail.

Speaking at the event, Justice Chandrachud referred to one of the initiatives of the Orissa High Court which provides for the grant of e-custody certificate to every under-trial prisoner and convict who is undergoing sentence of imprisonment.

That certificate will give us all the requisite data with regard to that particular under-trial or convict, right from initial remand to the subsequent progress of each case. This will also help us in ensuring that bail orders are communicated as soon as they are made, from the place they are communicated, to the jails for immediate implementation," he said.

IRGC Foils US attempt to Hijack Iranian Oil Shipment in Gulf of Oman

Agencies

Tehran: The Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) published scenes of the escape of a US warship whose boats were confronted in the Gulf of Oman, in response to its "unprofessional behavior."

The Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) forces in Iran have thwarted an American hijacking attempt to steal a cargo of Iranian oil in the Gulf of Oman, according to Fars News Agency.

On Wednesday, Iranian state TV announced that the United States failed to steal Iranian oil in the Gulf of Oman, the TV added that "the IRGC boats confronted the US ship, in response to its unprofessional behavior in Iranian water."

The IRGC said it will publish a video depicting scenes of the escape of a US warship in the Gulf of Oman, which was confronted by the IRGC boats.

The IRGC declared that "the Islamic Republic will protect its territorial waters and the security of maritime navigation," adding that Iran will stand against any violation of its national interests.

Iranian state TV announced that "the IRGC naval forces carried out a bold and resolute operation, during which they confronted a sea piracy operation to steal an Iranian oil shipment by the US forces in the Gulf of Oman."

WHO Grants Emergency Use Listing For Bharat Biotech's Covaxin

Aditi Tandon

Tribune News Service

New Delhi: The World Health Organization's technical advisory group met on Wednesday and approved for emergency use listing of India's indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin.

Covaxin has become the seventh vaccine to get WHO approval.

The technical advisory group had on October 26 met to consider emergency use listing for Covaxin and sought additional clarifications.

The WHO had been working closely with Bharat Biotech to complete the dossier.

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said that the WHO's goal was to have a broad portfolio of vaccines approved for emergency use and to expand access to populations everywhere.

WHO's emergency use licence to Covaxin to accelerate equitable access of vaccine: Bharat Biotech

Bharat Biotech, the Covaxin manufacturer, has been submitting data to the WHO on a rolling basis and submitted additional information at WHO's request on



September 27. WHO experts reviewed the information available and Bharat Biotech was learnt to have addressed most of the queries raised by the world body.

Covaxin is an indigenous Indian Covid shot, developed and produced here in private-public partnership by Biotech and ICMR.

Navy Info Leak Case

2 Naval Commanders, 4 Others Named In CBI Charge Sheet

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday filed two charge sheets related to the alleged leak of confidential information about two different naval projects, officials said.

This is one of the quickest probes in defence corruption cases as the agency filed charge sheet within 60 days of the first arrests made on September 3 to ensure that the arrested accused do not get easy bail.

In one of the charge sheets, the CBI named retired naval officers – Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander SJ Singh – while in the second case, besides these two, serving Commander Ajeet Kumar Pandey, and three executives of Hyderabad-based Allen Reinforced Plastics Ltd – executive director TP Shastri and directors NB Rao and K Chandrasekhar – have been listed.

The CBI has arrested six persons including the two accused retired officers, Pandey, another serving officer under him and two private individuals in an operation which started on September 3.

One of the naval officers under custody has not been named



in the charge sheet and may be listed in the supplementary charge sheet to be filed soon.

The CBI has to file a charge sheet within 60 days of arrest of accused in corruption cases, else they become eligible for bail. The limit for special crime cases is 90 days.

"We have filed two separate charge sheets as we are probing the role of the accused in the two different naval projects," an official said.

In its charge sheets filed before a special CBI court at Rouse Avenue, the CBI has slapped section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of Indian Penal Code and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act.

The case began when the agency received the input that some serving officers in the Western Headquarters of Navy working on retrofitting of Russian Kilo class submarines were allegedly being influenced by retired naval officers and were receiving pecuniary benefits, the officials said.

After registering a case on September 2, the CBI carried out searches the next day during which two retired officers Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander SJ Singh, who works for a Korean submarine company, were arrested, they said.

During the searches Rs 2.40 crore were recovered which included the trap money, the officials said.

NEWS MAKERS

Chinese Province Offers Year-Long Maternity Leave To Encourage Couples To Have Children

Beijing: A landlocked province in northwest China, in an effort to encourage couples to have children, is looking to sharply increase the duration of paid maternity leave to nearly one full year, putting it on par with some developed economies in Europe.

Shaanxi is seeking public opinion on allowing an additional half a year of maternity leave on top of the current 168 days. That would put the province in the same league as European nations like Germany or Norway.

Shaanxi is also considering doubling the length of paternity leave to 30 days for couples looking to have a third child.

China announced in May that married couples may have up to three children, after data showed a dramatic decline in



births in the world's most populous country.

The decision to let families have up to three children was initially met with doubts on whether it would make much difference. There were also calls for details on what supportive measures

would be included.

Since then, 14 provinces including Shaanxi have either amended local family planning rules or are seeking public opinion to make amendments to laws to confer extra maternity or paternity leave.

Some have even created a new form of leave – "child-raising leave" – for couples with children aged 3 or below, state media reported on Wednesday.

The southern island province of Hainan is offering one hour of child-raising leave each day, for parents with children under 3.

The province of Heilongjiang even allows couples in border cities to have four children, due to the below-average birth rate in China's remote northeastern region.

In 2016, Beijing scrapped its decades-old one-child policy and replaced it with a two-child limit to counter a rapidly ageing population.

But that failed to boost births, partly due to the relatively high cost of raising children in urban China – a challenge that persists to this day.

US: Dearborn, Michigan elects first Arab American mayor

A final unofficial vote count on the city's website shows Abdulah Hammoud defeated Gary Woronchak, a former state representative and former Wayne County commissioner, by a 55 per cent to 45 per cent margin in Tuesday's election.

Hammoud, who is Muslim, is serving his third term in the Michigan House. His parents immigrated to the United States from Lebanon.

Dearborn is a city of over 100,000 people and has one of the largest Arab American populations in the nation. But the city's past includes efforts by longtime segregationist Mayor Orville Hubbard to keep Black families from moving into the then-mostly white community.



Dearborn is a city of over 100,000 people and has one of the largest Arab American populations in the nation. But the city's past includes efforts by longtime segregationist Mayor Orville Hubbard to keep Black families from moving into the then-mostly white community.



DESPITE ‘MODERNITY’ KANGRIS selling like hot cakes in Srinagar outskirts as the winter approaches Kashmir: KO Photo Abid Bhat

Govt Renames LAWDA As LCMA

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday renamed the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) as Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA).

In an order, the government said that LAWDA has been renamed as LCMA under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 for all purposes of the said Act.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 (Act XIX of 1970),



the Government hereby re-name Lakes and Waterways Development Authority constituted vide notification SRO 109 of 1997 dated 27.03.1997 as Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) for all purposes of the said Act," read the order.

The order was issued on the directions of Jammu and Kashmir Lt, Governor, Manoj Sinha.

IN AN ORDER, THE GOVERNMENT said that LAWDA has been renamed as LCMA under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 for all purposes of the said Act.

Locals Appeal DC To Macadamize Road That Connects Lasjan With Railways



DC Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp/ Block Diwas At Soiteng

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of various areas of Srinagar district and held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp/ Block Diwas at Lasjan Soiteng, in Tehsil Pantha Chowk as a part of Public outreach Program.

The District Development Commissioner also inspected various ongoing works in the area.

Chairman, District Development Council, Srinagar, Malik Aftab, other PRI members and people of Soiteng, Waterpora, Padshibagh, New Colony Soiteng and other adjoining areas were part of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

While Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, District Programme Officer, ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar Panthachowk, District Panchayat Officer, Block Development Officer and other District Officers were also present on the occasion.

During the visit, the District Development

Commissioner interacted with the local people and received first hand appraisal about the public issues and demands.

On the occasion, scores of public delegations, individuals projected various issues and demands including completing construction work on Soiteng Bridge, upgradation of Middle School, earth filling and upgradation of playground, augmentation of water and power supply in New Colony Soiteng, cleaning of overhead water tank, providing Banking and ATM facilities, repairs and construction of drainage system.

Besides, they also demanded for macadamization of the road connected with the Lasjan bypass with Railways station. The people of the area also put forth a demand for opening of a Primary Health Centre and a Veterinary Centre in the area and addressing the jurisdictional issue of some villages of Soiteng.

The District Development Commissioner along with other officers gave patient hearing to the people and passed on the spot instructions to the concerned departments for time bound redressal of public grievances.

Responding to the demands of the people, the District Development Commissioner said that all their genuine demands and issues will be looked into on priority. He also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

With regard to supply of drinking water to the local habitations of New Colony Soiteng, the DDC set a timeline of 5 days to complete the balance works.

On the demand of local youth, the DDC announced an amount of Rs 15 Lakh for earth filling of the Playground, besides providing Grass cutter machine and roller for the maintenance of the ground.

Khanyar Public Park Turns Into Garbage Dumping Site

Agencies

SRINAGAR:--What was once a Public Park has now morphed into a dumping ground and parking area, with people alleging that the concerned department was watching all this as mute spectator.

The Baba Dawood Khaki Park located near Khanyar on the Baba Demb road is holding the importance of being the lone park in the area but has been turned into a garbage dumping site with no check or attention from the floriculture department despite three employees of the department posted there for the maintenance of the park.

Expressing their serious resentment against the authorities for failing to maintain the park, the locals said that the place must be maintained so that it can host more people in times to come as it used to in the initial days.

According to them, the park is of great importance not only for common people but scores of patients and their attendants,



Image for representation

who visit this park owing to scarcity of space in the nearby Gousia Hospital.

"I was a regular visitor to this park and families always preferred to spend time with their loved ones here after their hectic workload. But the negligence of local authorities has left the park to be used not only as a garbage dumping site but parking vehicles as well," social activist Zahid Farooq said.

"People throw waste including polythene etc in it and dogs are seen resting in it the whole day," they added.

They said the drain adjacent

to the park is in a bad condition, the obnoxious smell of which has made the life of the residents miserable. "It is difficult to breathe near the park now as pollution has destroyed it," said Riyaz Ahmad, a shopkeeper.

The aggrieved residents said that there is no other resting place within the area other than this park and it must be maintained and the work should start soon.

Locals urged the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to personally intervene into the matter and direct the authorities to maintain the park.(CNS)

'Students Should Listen To Inner Call While Choosing Careers'

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar's social start-up Move Beyond-A Career Counselling School, held a live interview with a renowned Kashmiri Mathematician, Professor M.A. Sofi as part of its online educational series- Career Chat.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal is the Chief Patron of the International Youth Outreach and Employability Program (IYOEP) under which all these programs are being organized. While Head IIEDC Prof Saad Parvez is patron

and Director Move Beyond, Sheikh Inayat Ullah is Program Director respectively; Career Chat is a part of IYOEP.

Professor M F Wani, who is In-charge Director of NIT Srinagar, said effective career counseling and guidance is the need of the hour. Our institution will conduct such interactive sessions with the experts so that the students will get befitted, he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said career counseling and guidance will help students in a larger way in choosing the right careers. It will help in boosting the confidence and morale of the student and the professional, he said.

DC Finalises Action Plan For Development Of Cluster Tribal Model Villages

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner Srinagar (DDC), Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday chaired an officers meeting to finalise the Draft Action Plan for Development of Cluster Tribal Model Village at Fakir Gujri, Dara and Mular in Srinagar District.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress with regard to the formulation of DPRs for the Development of Cluster Model Villages from the concerned officers of different Departments. He directed them to submit the DPRs for the projects within three days so that work can be started within the shortest possible time and the target population could be benefited.

The DDC said Rs.10 Crore plan is being implemented with focus on infrastructure and Income generation.

DIAL-EMMA



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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1968 - Battles between Jordanian army & Al Fatah-arm forces
- 1970 - Russian nuclear physicist Sacharov forms Human Rights Committee
- 1972 - Bangladesh adopts constitution
- 1993 - Bolivia becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 2002 Chinese authorities arrest cyber-dissident He Depu for signing pro-democracy letter to the 16th Communist Party Congress
- 2003 - The most powerful solar flare as observed by satellite instrumentation is recorded.
- 2008 - Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be elected President of the United States
- 2015 - Justin Trudeau sworn in as Canadian Prime Minister with a cabinet split equally between men and women
- 2015 - Plane crashes after take-off from Juba international airport, South Sudan, killing 37, 1 year old survives in father's arms
- 2016 - Paris Agreement on climate change becomes effective



HIJRI
CALENDAR

28

RABI
-UL-
AWWAL

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR

5: 28

ZUHR

12: 14

ASR

3:58

MAGRIB

5:39

ISHA

7:00

From KO Archives

Landmine Blast At Magam: Agha Mahdi Among 6 Killed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A former Congress leader and son of a prominent Shia Muslim cleric was killed with five other people in a landmine blast at Mazhama in the central district of Budgam Friday afternoon, a police spokesman said.

Agha Syed Mahdi (44) was travelling with five others including his security guards and his domestic servant when his bullet-proof jypsy was blown apart by the landmine at Mazhama near Magam on Srinagar-Gulmarg road at around 14:30 hrs.

Mahdi was the son of the prominent religious leader of Kashmir's Shia community, Agha Syed Mustafa al- Mo-sawi-al-Safawi. He was the younger brother of senior Huriyat leader, Agha Syed Hasan, and cousin of minister of state for education, Agha Syed Mehmood.

A caller identifying himself as a spokesman of Lashkar-e-Karbala rang up CNS news agency claiming responsibility for the blast. According to BBC, Hizbul Moomineen had owned the explosion.

Meanwhile, a late night KPS report said Hizbul Momin-een had denied its involvement in the explosion.

Quoting its chief, Shuja Abbas, who called the agency from Pakistan, the report also denied the existence of Lashkar-e- Karbala.

Those killed in the blast apart from Agha Mahdi were identified as PSO Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, and constables Fa-rooq Ahmad Kuttay, Showkat Hussain and Muhammad Ja-far, and his domestic servant, Sajjad Hussain Mir.

Reports said Agha Mahdi was on his way to Sofi mohalla, Magam, to attend the Walima function of one of his disciples, Ghulam Ahmad Sofi. When his vehicle reached a point near a flour mill between Mazhama and Kawoosa villages, 5 km from the destination, it stumbled on the landmine. In the ensuing blast, Mahdi and others with him were blown, along with the vehicle.

Soon after the news reached nearby Magam, life in the township came to a standstill with shopkeepers pulling down their shutters and people converging on the streets to stage demonstrations. Tension also gripped in Budgam, the district headquarter, and thousands of abated people gathered outside the residence of slain leaders father, Aga Mustafa.

Reports of angry people taking to the streets have come from various places on Srinagar Baramulla highway. According to CNS, irate mobs at Hartrath Singhpora beat to death one Meraj-ud-din Dar and set ablaze six residential houses. Vehicular traffic on the highway was disrupted for several hours- Reports of stone pelting have also come from Saidakadal and Nigeen areas of the city.

Mahdi shot into prominence in 1997 when he, though a big crowd-puller because of his father's clout, unsuccessfully contested on Congress ticket against the National Conference candidate and chief minister's son, Omar Abdullah. Earlier, he had contested against the Muslim United Front (MUF) candidate as an independent from Budgam constituency in the rigged 1987 assembly poll. He also fought assembly elections in 1996 as 'Congress candidate but resigned before he contested parliamentary elections in 1998 as an independent candidate.

Another prominent pro-India Kashmiri Shiite leader, Maulvi Iftikar Hussain Ansari survived two attempts on his life this year.While Maulvi was slightly injured and three police personnel were killed in a powerful landmine explosion at Matipora village in September in an earlier attack 16 of Maulvi's followers were killed when a mine exploded in midst of a Majlis Hussayni at Gund Khwaja Qasim in June this year.

(Kashmir Observer, November 04, 2000)

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tels: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

DATE SHEET (IUST ENTRANCE TEST – 2021)

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that the Entrance Test (s) for admission to various B-Tech. programmes through lateral entry at Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) for the academic session 2021 will be held as per the following schedule.

Date & Day	Programme(s)	Timing
09-11-2021 Tuesday	B-Tech. Civil Engineering (Lateral Entry)	11:00 am
	B-Tech. Electrical Engineering (Lateral Entry)	
	B-Tech. Electronic & Communication Engineering (Lateral Entry)	
	B-Tech. Computer Science & Engineering (Lateral Entry)	
	B-Tech. Mechanical Engineering (Lateral Entry)	

Admit Cards can be downloaded from the University websites www.iust.ac.in from 04-11-2021.
No. IUST/Exam-Deptt/Entrance/21/1169
Dated: 01-11-2021

Sd/-

Controller of Examinations

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OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Winter Hope For Tourism

The Jammu and Kashmir tourism department has offered discounts to tourists as “a Diwali gift,” to draw them to the Valley. A 40 percent slash has been announced on the rates of hotels and houseboats. This is expected to bring more tourists to Kashmir much like the onset of winter did last year when a large number of tourists visited the region, aided by the successive heavy snowfall. According to reports, there is currently 50 percent occupancy in hotels in Kashmir and it could enhance going forward. The union home minister Amit Shah on his last week’s visit to the Valley said that from January to March this year the number of tourists stood at 1.13 lakh as against 36,000 tourists that visited in 2020.

The tourism department has already taken several measures to ensure that the fear of the Covid-19 contagion doesn’t scare away the visitors. According to government data, so far over 80 percent of its tourism service providers have been vaccinated and are safe to welcome travellers from far and wide. Over the last several months, the Government has also been in the process of identifying new tourist destinations to accommodate more tourists and offer them more places to visit.

Upcoming six months would be crucial. There are expectations that the arrivals will pick up as a result of the snowfall which is a novelty for most Indians. The tourism players, however, would be wary about the apprehended resurgence of Covid-19 which could act as a spoilsport.

To be sure, the Covid-19 pandemic has played both a beneficial and a baneful role: though the disease stopped the inflow of tourists to Kashmir during lockdowns, it also made it possible that more and more tourists come to the region. The ban on international travel ensured that Kashmir became a preferred destination for the tourists across the country. Had the second Covid-19 wave not intervened, the last winter’s tourist rush would have continued into the summer also.

But things seem to be looking up again. The international travel remains largely banned. Though the abating pandemic has given confidence to the union government to relax Covid-related restrictions and reopen its borders to foreign travelers, the country has only granted tourist visas to travelers arriving on chartered flights. If Covid-19 remains under control, the facility will be extended to those arriving on commercial flights from 15 November. But the uncertainty on this score offers hope that this winter too, the Valley would witness more tourist arrivals. The tourism sector forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir’s GDP and employs around 2 million people. So, it is critical that we have another bumper tourism winter.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Spooky Science

With little debate about its downsides, AI is becoming embedded in society. Machines now recommend online videos to watch, perform surgery and send people to jail. The science of AI is a human enterprise that requires social limitations. The risks, however, are not being properly weighed. There are two emerging approaches to AI. The first is to view it in engineering terms, where algorithms are trained on specific tasks. The second presents deeper philosophical questions about the nature of human knowledge. Prof Russell engages with both these perspectives. The former is very much pushed by Silicon Valley, where AI is deployed to get products quickly to market and problems dealt with later. This has led to AI “succeeding” even when the goals aren’t socially acceptable and they are pursued with little accountability. The pitfalls of this approach are highlighted by the role YouTube’s algorithm plays in radicalising people, given that there is no public understanding of how it works. Prof Russell argues, reasonably, for a system of checks where machines can pause and “ask” for human guidance, and for regulations to deal with systemic biases.

The academic also backs global adoption of EU legislation that would ban impersonation of humans by machines. Computers are getting closer to passing, in a superficial way, the Turing test – where machines attempt to trick people into believing they are communicating with other humans. Yet human knowledge is collective: to truly fool humans a computer would have to be able to grasp mutual understandings. OpenAI’s GPT-3, probably the best non-human writer ever, cannot comprehend what it spews. When Oxford scientists put it – and similar AIs – to the test this year, they found the machines produced false answers to questions that “mimic popular misconceptions and have the potential to deceive”. It so troubled one of OpenAI’s own researchers that no one knew how such language is being made that he left to set up an AI safety lab.

Some argue that AI can already produce new insights that humans have missed. But human intelligence is much more than an algorithm. Inspiration strikes when a brilliant thought arises that can’t be explained as a logical consequence of preceding steps. Einstein’s theory of general relativity cannot be derived from observations of that age – it was experimentally proven only decades later. Human beings can also learn a new task by being shown how to do it only a few times. Machines, so far, cannot. Currently, AI can be prompted – but not prompt itself – into action.

The Guardian

India-Pakistan-China-USA Relations
Changing Tunes Of Quartet

Saad Hafiz

THE ILLUSIONS
THAT PAKISTAN

has that the US will balance its relations between India and Pakistan should disappear. America’s bi-partisan embrace of arch-rival India is an enduring reality. Instead of expressing resentment or making it a point of friction with the US, Islamabad must recognise this reality and factor it into its calculations. The US can play a crucial role in ensuring that India-Pakistan tensions do not escalate into a dangerous conflict.



US President Biden/ On Top Right: Chinese PM Xi Jinping / Bottom Left: Pak PM Imran Khan/ Bottom Right: India PM Narendra Modi

The troubled US-Pakistan partnership has hit a new low in the aftermath of America’s cut and run from Afghanistan. Some US lawmakers want to punish Pakistan for orchestrating the Taliban takeover. Pakistan protests that it does not deserve to be the scapegoat for the US failure are not resonating in Washington.

Clashing interests, a lingering trust deficit, and unrealistic expectations have soured the complex relationship. But the swift rise of the Taliban has widened the schism between the two countries.

From Pakistan’s perspective, the benefits of dislodging a hostile India ‘friendly’ government in Kabul outweighed incurring US ire. Yet, by all measures, Pakistan needs the US. It has far more to lose if the relationship breaks down. The US has the economic, diplomatic, and military tools to make life hard for Pakistan.

Pakistan may avoid US sanctions for its actions in Afghanistan. But there is little doubt that US-Pakistan relations will look very different in the future. Can the US and Pakistan salvage the relationship or at the very least re-shape it to reflect present realities?

Right now, one feels that the onus is firmly on Pakistan to mend the relationship. The Biden administration does not see a ‘broad-based’ strategic partnership with Pakistan – a clear signal Washington has downgraded ties from the heady highs of the past.

Pakistan has said that the days of jumping hoops to meet the US demands are over. It dismissed concerns raised by some US think tanks over the increased risk of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists after the Taliban seizure of power in Afghanistan.

Still, if Pakistan seeks to have a healthier relationship with the US, a more calibrated response is desirable. It involves deeper introspection and less bravado.

US AND INDIA
HAVE A GROWING
strategic congruence on the threats from China and political Islam. A notable point of friction between the US and Pakistan. The US sees India as a natural ally and a counterweight to China

The illusions that Pakistan has that the US will balance its relations between India and Pakistan should disappear. America’s bi-partisan embrace of arch-rival India is an enduring reality. Instead of expressing resentment or making it a point of friction with the US, Islamabad must recognise this reality and factor it into its calculations. The US can play a crucial role in ensuring that India-Pakistan tensions do not escalate into a dangerous conflict.

US and India have a growing strategic congruence on the threats from China and political Islam. A notable point of friction between the US and Pakistan. The US sees India as a natural ally and a counterweight to China. India’s democratic credentials, trade potential, soft power, and influential diaspora in the US help. None of the advantages that Pakistan possesses.

Because of the US-India equation, the US will probably soft-pedal the

growing democracy deficit in India under the BJP. But the US may raise the heat on Pakistan’s own dismal human rights record and democratic slide.

After bitter experiences, Washington has realised that an aid-based relationship with Pakistan will not work. Over the years, big-ticket aid programs involving billions of dollars did not make Pakistan change course or make it a reliable ally.

While Pakistan has tried to reduce its dependence on economic and military help from the US, skewed national priorities have turned the country into a regional military power but an economic minnow. With self-reliance, a distant dream, and the ever-present threat of financial meltdown, Pakistan’s dependence on all-weather ally China has increased.

But China will not step in to rescue Pakistan through aid flows. Unlike the US, loans and trade are the way the Chinese do business. And the much-touted windfalls from loan-loaded CPEC and other Chinese investments are yet to materialise.

The fact is that Pakistan will feel the absence of US aid that has propped up the country since its existence for many years. It needs US support for continued IMF-led multilateral funding and removal from the anti-money laundering watchdog FATF’s grey list.

Finally, the US and Pakistan should keep expectations low going forward. Removing the mistrust in the relationship will not be easy. Quiet diplomacy can reduce friction and improve cooperation. Finding common ground on fighting terrorism and maintaining peace and security in the region is a start.

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

Saad Hafiz is a writer and columnist

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Shovels For Snow

Summers leave one with a lot of hope which one tried to retain through the gloomy months of winters. However, some unusual things in Kashmir always manage to dampen the mood of people as winter starts to set in.

A similar thing happened when sanitation workers in Zaina Kadal carried out a mock drill with shovels to clear anticipated “snow”. Even as Kashmir has always taught us to be humble in

EVEN AS KASHMIR has always taught us to be humble in our expectations, it was very disappointing to see that this is the preparedness of the departments.

our expectations, it was very disappointing to see that this is the preparedness of the departments. Even last winter, the administration

was called out for an absence of snow clearance machines which had made everyday life in Kashmir impossible. Now, with shovels being touted as our

tools for rescue, not much can be expected from the admin in the coming months.

One can only hope and raise the issue in the hopes that it might be taken up on an urgent basis to be resolved. SMC along with other concerned departments should make sure that apt and upto date resources are available for winters especially during the months that it snows.

Bisma Ali

Why COP26 Will Fail

MARK LEONARD

BERLIN – The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) now underway in Glasgow might conclude with a big international agreement. But whatever tactical successes are achieved at COP26, the results are likely to mark a strategic setback for humanity – at least when compared to the hopes of climate activists. The world is missing target after target. This should not be surprising; while a growing number of countries have set net-zero targets, for example, very few have credible plans to meet them. And even if we did meet existing targets, that would not be enough to achieve the 2015 Paris climate agreement's main goal: limiting global warming to 1.5 above pre-industrial levels.

In fact, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report warns that the planet is likely to reach the 1.5 limit in the early 2030s. As long as multilateral engagement is defined by nationalism, power politics, and emotion, rather than solidarity, law, and science, our future will continue to grow bleaker.

At the height of the Cold War, the American television series *The Outer Limits* told the story of an idealistic group of scientists staging a fake alien invasion of Earth, in the misguided hope that they could avert nuclear Armageddon by giving the world a common enemy against which to unite. When faced with the prospect of extinction, the logic went, the Soviet Union and the United States would turn their attention from competition to shared survival.

Today, nobody needs to contrive a common cause. Climate change poses as great a threat as any alien invasion. But, far from shocking national leaders out of their petty competition, it is being wielded as a weapon in a many-sided propaganda war. From Brazil and Australia to China and the US, countries are trying to game climate negotiations in order to shift the costs of adaptation onto others.

For example, the Brazilian government is trying to get the world to pay it to stop destroying the Amazon rainforest. Chinese President Xi Jinping will



THE WORLD IS MISSING TARGET AFTER TARGET. THIS SHOULD NOT BE surprising: while a growing number of countries have set net-zero targets, for example, very few have credible plans to meet them. And even if we did meet existing targets, that would not be enough to achieve the 2015 Paris climate agreement's main goal: limiting global warming to 1.5 above pre-industrial levels

participate in COP26 only by video link, and Russian President Vladimir Putin might not attend at all. Meanwhile, the advanced economies – including those that proudly claim to be committed to climate action – have broken their promise to provide \$100 billion annually to support the climate transition in the Global South. And even if they did deliver, it wouldn't be enough.

Developed economies are finding increasingly coercive ways of shaping other countries' behavior. Commitments by most of the Western and multilateral development banks to stop financing coal (now joined by China) restrict options for grid expansion in developing countries where demand for power is growing rapidly.

Influential countries have also urged

the International Monetary Fund to attach green conditions to debt relief for poor countries, as well as to its new allocation of special drawing rights (the IMF's reserve asset). And the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism – a non-trade barrier intended to force exporters to Europe to shift to green production – disproportionately hurts small emitters in Africa and Eastern Europe with a lot to lose.

This is not to disparage coal bans, green financing, and carbon pricing. On the contrary, these tools have a crucial role to play in changing how the global economy works. But that doesn't mean we can disregard the (very serious) consequences for developing economies. Instead, we need to create a new grand bargain focused on supporting

adaptation in the developing world.

More broadly, we must ensure that any multilateral agreement for tackling climate change is governed by international law, rather than dependent on the will of individual countries. And decision-making should be driven by scientific truths, not political slogans.

The Paris climate agreement's predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, was broadly in line with this approach: it was a multilateral treaty, with legally binding international targets determined by the world's best scientists. But the Protocol also had many flaws, and it didn't end up going far.

The Paris accord took a very different tack. It was hailed as a triumph, because hopes for any agreement were so low. But it entailed a major compromise:

it was based on non-binding commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions. Countries could simply pursue the energy policies on which they had already decided, while pretending they were working together to tackle climate change. Not surprisingly, current NDCs are wholly inadequate to achieve the agreement's stated goals.

To be sure, climate-change COPs have often made important – if often procedural, boring, and technical – contributions to the climate fight. But showboating and power politics have stood in the way of real progress. And the media and civil-society circus that surrounds the conferences – intended to enforce accountability and transparency – has often impeded negotiators' ability to get things done.

More fundamentally, COPs have failed to produce a model of global governance that can tame power politics, let alone forge a sense of shared destiny among countries. And there is little reason to believe this time will be different. Of course, the problem extends beyond UN Climate Change Conferences. While economic globalization has lifted millions out of poverty, it has fueled increasing concentration of wealth. In this context, efforts to advance shared interests can become less appealing, because they produce asymmetrical rewards.

Add to that the psychology of envy unleashed by social media, and it becomes all the more difficult to shift people's focus from their relative position in the global pecking order to the common good. These trends have undermined faith in the power of government, and fueled pessimism about the possibility that any solution will emerge.

The result is what social scientists call a collective action problem. Leaders and citizens alike conclude that the most rational short-term strategy is to pay lip service to the cause and hope others will solve the crisis. Meanwhile, the planet burns.

The author is Co-Founder and Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations and the author of The Age of Unpeace (Bantam Press, 2021). The article was originally published by Project Syndicate.

Atttempts by the Indian government to deport tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees have thrust the country's laws into the spotlight.

Lawyers representing the Rohingyas have reiterated the constitutional right (of citizens and non-citizens alike) to equality, life and personal liberty in India. Meanwhile, the government has claimed such refugees may pose a security threat to the state.

Both sides have been making their case at the Supreme Court.

What effect does this legal precariousness have on the ground? For one thing, it means the majority of refugees in India head for cities – where there is the possibility of anonymity and opportunities for work.

Delhi is often the preferred destination for refugee groups that fall within the UNHCR's mandate. In the capital, these groups have the possibility to get refugee certificates and access to certain support services, such as education, health, livelihoods, and legal counselling.

However, these services are limited in number, reach, and budget. They can also be curtailed at short notice. Often, refugees in urban India can only rely on themselves.

Self-help groups

Self-organised social safety nets look different for different groups. In the early 1990s, nearly 50,000 Sikh and Hindu refugees fled Afghanistan following a spike in ethno-religious violence. In 1992, a group of them in Delhi set up their own organisation – the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society (KDWS) – dedicated to the support of their refugee community. KDWS is funded through membership fees, and helps other Sikh and Hindu Afghan refugees (numbering around 15,000 in Delhi) struggling to receive the assistance they need from the Indian government.

It focuses on education and skills development, including teaching devotional music, language classes, stitching, and computer skills. More informally it offers reconciliation and support for domestic disputes and grievances. Because of their perceived resilience and community cohesion, they are viewed as a model refugee community. One of UNHCR's NGO partners has even used their facilities to run other refugee services.



Chin refugees from Myanmar, too, have their own community support systems. A minority religious and ethnic group persecuted by the Burmese military, they have fled to India in waves over the last four decades and are settled primarily in Mizoram, Manipur and Delhi. In Delhi they number around 4,000 and are largely clustered in the west of the city. The community has a hired floor in an apartment block where – with the support of their church and some NGOs – they run language, computer, and stitching classes, and also previously, their own clinic with a Chin doctor.

As a Christian community, the church is an important part of their urban social safety net. The same goes for

Christian Afghans, who number a few hundred in India's capital and live in the south of the city. "It's good," explained a young Christian Afghan to our research team, "because of the church I have some friends."

Some of the Rohingyas have also self-organised. A small number of prominent youths established a Rohingya Literacy Programme and women's empowerment initiatives, as well as actively networking with the aid community to augment support and services. Their football team the Shining Stars, is an important social initiative offering bridging opportunities to other groups in Delhi, as they play solidarity matches with other teams in the city.

State Of Refugees In India

Jessica Field

THIS INCREASED support requires the government to change its restrictive position on humanitarian and development NGOs. Too many, especially those with international connections, are being weakened or closed down with recent changes in laws regulating foreign funding. Many argue this is driven by ideological motives to quash dissent

Challenges

The existence of these community organisations speaks of the opportunities that exist in a city. Urban environments more readily provide enough working people in close proximity to enable a membership model (such as with KDWS). Cities also offer malleable spaces, for the transformation of apartments into community centres (such as for the Chins) or wasteland into a football pitch (for the Rohingya Shining Stars).

However, it would be a mistake to laud these community initiatives as solutions to the problem of ensuring adequate refugee protection in India. Many arise due to severe access gaps in Indian public services.

It was the discrimination they experienced in Indian schools and clinics that led the Chins to establish parallel

schools and a health clinic. Moreover, not only is sustainability precarious (the clinic run by a Chin refugee doctor had to close when he was resettled), it also reinforces segregation. The same Christian Afghan refugee who praised the support of his church network also spoke about such difficulties. He said: "It is unlucky to be stuck in such a situation [as a refugee] ... the loneliness is different."

The Rohingya youths have established their literacy and empowerment initiatives partly because of gaps in services and lack of staying power of many aid organisations. They describe a lack of funds as preventing sustainability and expansion. "The challenge with this job is that for me to help such people, it requires money," one explained, "but in my community people are illiterate and poor. How will they pay?"

Moreover, these self-organised communities can exacerbate – or create – community hierarchies, discrimination and exclusion. As another refugee in Delhi explained: "The community leaders are selected on the basis of their connectivity with the NGOs." This so often means men with a command of English.

While self-organised groups provide essential safety nets for refugees in Delhi, they are clearly not a replacement for governmental and NGO services. India not only urgently requires a robust, inclusive legal framework that protects refugees, the government and NGOs also need to re-approach how they can better support vulnerable communities to access wider public and aid services.

This increased support requires the government to change its restrictive position on humanitarian and development NGOs. Too many, especially those with international connections, are being weakened or closed down with recent changes in laws regulating foreign funding. Many argue this is driven by ideological motives to quash dissent.

This is exacerbating the pressure on already vulnerable refugee communities to make their own safety nets.

The author is an Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Maruti Suzuki Sales Fall; Tata Motors Reports 94 Per Cent Rise On Dhanteras

NEW DELHI: Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it sold around 13,000 units on the day of Dhanteras, lower than last year hampered by supply constraints due to semiconductor shortage, although Tata Motors stated its deliveries grew 94 per cent. Automobile dealers' body FADA on Tuesday termed the current festive season the worst in terms of business in a decade for its retail partners across the country as chip shortage impacted supplies in passenger vehicles creating a huge shortage of vehicles in SUV, compact - SUV and luxury segment.

"Demand and bookings have been good. We tried our best to deliver as many vehicles as possible. However due to supply side constraints, we closed a little lower than last year, at around 13,000 units," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava told PTI.

On the other hand, homegrown auto major Tata Motors had a good day on Dhanteras on Tuesday. "On the auspicious day of Dhanteras, our deliveries nearly doubled as compared to last year, owing to strong demand for our 'New Forever' range, including the newly launched Punch and the EVs. Across India, our deliveries grew by 94 per cent," Tata Motors President, Passenger Vehicles Business Unit Shailesh Chandra said.

FMD vaccination under NADCP-FMD Launched In Kashmir

SRINAGAR- The Director Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir, Purnima Mittal on Tuesday launched the prestigious Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccination Programme under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP-FMD) (Round -2nd) from Srinagar district.

The vaccination drive was also successfully launched in all districts of Kashmir Province.

Under the programme 'Free of Cost' FMD vaccinations is being carried out.

On the occasion, Health cards were also distributed amongst farmers whose animals were vaccinated.

Speaking, the Director Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir highlighted the importance of Vaccination for prevention and control of FMD among bovines.

She also interacted with the progressive dairy farmers/ entrepreneurs, who expressed their happiness and appreciated the efforts/ initiatives of the department with respect to various schemes / policies / guidelines.

India's Services Sector Activity Expands At Fastest Pace In 10.5 Years In Oct: PMI

Press Trust of India

New Delhi- India's services sector activity expanded at the strongest pace in ten-and-a-half years in October, driven by a substantial upturn in business activity amid favourable demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. Companies indicated that a notable pick-up in new business led to the fastest expansion in output in over a decade and as a result more jobs were created, even though business confidence remained subdued due to growing inflationary concerns. The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose from 55.2 in September to 58.4 in October, signalling the strongest rate of growth in ten-and-a-half years.

For the third straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "... The recovery of the sector entered its third straight month, with firms scaling up activity at the fastest pace in ten-and-a-half years and creating more jobs," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit. On the price front, with input costs again rising sharply, companies lifted their fees at the fastest pace in nearly four-and-a-half years. Monitored companies cited higher fuel, material, retail, staff and transport costs. "... Service providers were con-

cerned that persistent inflationary pressures could deter growth in the coming year. Business confidence remained subdued in the context of historical data," Lima said. On the employment front, services companies continued to hire additional workers in October. Although moderate, the pace of job creation quickened from September to the strongest since February 2020. However, the latest data continued to point to weak international demand for Indian services. New export business decreased in October, a trend that has been recorded since the COVID-19 outbreak, the survey said. Meanwhile, private sector output in India increased at a sharper rate in October as growth quick-

ened among both manufacturers and service providers. The Composite PMI Output Index — which measures combined services and manufacturing output — rose from 55.3 in September to 58.7 in October, signalling the strongest monthly expansion since January 2012. October data pointed to a second successive monthly increase in private sector employment, but the rate of expansion was only slight as growth among service providers was partly offset by job shedding at goods producers. Business sentiment among companies operating in the Indian private sector strengthened in October, owing to a notable rebound in optimism at goods producers, the survey said.

Netflix To Offer Mobile Games To Subscribers On Android Devices

NEW DELHI: Netflix is rolling out mobile games globally on its platform for members with Android devices, a move aimed at further enhancing engagement as the competition in the content streaming space heats up. The company is starting with five mobile games - Stranger Things: 1984 (BonusXP), Stranger Things 3: The Game (BonusXP), Shooting Hoops (Frosty Pop), Card Blast (Amuzo & Rogue Games), and Teeter Up (Frosty Pop). "We're excited to take our first step in launching Netflix games on mobile to the world. Starting today, members everywhere can play five mobile games. We want to begin to build a library of games that offers something for everyone," Netflix said in a blogpost.

Trade unions give call for 2-day strike during Budget session of Parliament

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A joint platform of central trade unions on Wednesday gave a call for a two-day strike during the Budget session of Parliament next year to protest against divestment of government stake in state-run firms and price rise, among other issues.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the forum on 1st November 2021 in Delhi to consider the situation arising out of the government's push to privatise and hand over all the national assets to the corporate sector, NMP (National Monetisation Pipeline) being the latest design, a joint statement said.

With a view to making people aware of the dangerous effects of this policy, it was decided to systematically reach out to people, starting with a national convention of trade unions in Delhi on 11th November.

This would be followed by state-level conventions, jathas, demonstrations, mini parliaments, extensive signature campaigns etc all over the country to be followed by a 2-day countrywide general strike during

the Budget Session in 2022. The meeting decided to observe 26th November, the anniversary of the National General Strike of trade unions and the Kisan March towards Delhi as a nation-wide protest day, it added. This forum also held a meeting



with the leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), in which both sides apprised the other of the struggles being planned ahead and were unanimous that worker-kisan unity is the need of the hour and to work to strengthen it through united struggles. The trade unions in the forum are INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AI-UTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC.

HCS distributes Improved Toolkits among embroidery Artisans

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL- The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Handicrafts Service Centre (HSC), Srinagar Wednesday organised an Improved Toolkits distribution camp under Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme in Embroidery Craft at Ganderbal. The distribution camp was attended by Assistant Director, Central Handicrafts Office Srinagar, Raja Rahil, officials of HSC and various ben-

eficiaries of the district. As many as 50 Improved Toolkits were distributed among various Embroidery Artisans by Raja Rahil in presence of local PRI and other local representatives. Further artisans were also sensitised about various schemes of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) including Mudra Loan, various marketing events organised by the office and other initiatives being taken by the Office for the upliftment of handicraft artisans particularly in Ganderbal district.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir
E-mail:ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of Registration Certificate of Restaurant “Tao Café” situated at Residency Road, Srinagar.
Public Notice
Whereas, Ms Batool Fatima W/o Late Mohammad Javid R/o Residency Road, Srinagar has applied to this office for change of registration certificate of restaurant under the name and style “ Tao Café” in favour of Legal heirs namely Mohsin Javid & Ms Anum Javid (son and daughter) of Late Mohammad Javid Wani.
Whereas, the unit registered with this office vide Reg. No. Reg./760/270/30/I/L-1-87 valid up to 31/03/2015 in the name of Mr. Mohammad Javid S/o Gh. Mohi ud din Wani R/o Residency Road, Srinagar.
Whereas, one of the legal heirs i.e. wife of Mohammad Javid Wani namely Mst Batool Fatima has submitted the below mentioned documents for change of registration certificate in favour remaining legal heirs namely Mr Mohsin Javid & Ms Anum Javid:-
1. Photo copy of Registration Certificate.
2. Death certificate of Mohammad Javid Wani (date of death 20/03/2020).
3. Legal Hire Certificate.
4. General power of Attorney
5. Irrevocable power of Attorney issued by New York Statutory Gifts Rider Authorization for certain Gift Transactions.
6. State subject &Adhar Card of both legal heirs.
7. Affidavit
8. Labor certificate & Food Certificate.
9. Photograph of legal heirs.
Whereas, transfer of registration certificate for the restaurant is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said restaurant and does not confer any right of ownership of the Restaurant upon the transferees.
Now therefore, before the request of the applicant for change in registration certificate of said unit is considered under Tourist Trade act and Rules. The matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc., that incase of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and the change shall be entertained under rules after submission of all documents/Formalities.
No: Reg./50/401/DTK
Dated:- 01/11/2021
sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism
Registration Kashmir
DIPK-11717/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES KASHMIR
E-mail:- ddestsgr@gmail.com - f - Tel / Fax:- 0194-2452435

Notice for Attendance Statement of Move / Non-Move Employees
Sub:- Attendance statement of Move / Non-Move employees lodged in Pvt. Hotels / Guest Houses and JKTC hotels for the session 2021 - required in connection with payment of catering charges to Hoteliers.

In connection with the official work or otherwise reportedly some employees have remained out of their headquarters whether on leave or otherwise and in this regard, all the Drawing and Disbursing officers are requested to furnish Leave Statement / Tour Diary of all their employees who are / were availing mess facilities in the hotels hired by the Estates Department and have remained out of their Head Quarters, whether on leave or otherwise enabling this office to make payment to the hoteliers in accordance with actual attendance of the inmates in their respective hotels after deducting leave period. The requisite information for the month of September and October, 2021 is required to reach the office of the undersigned by or before 15th November, 2021.
In case no information is received by or before 15th November, 2021, it will be presumed that no officer / official under your administrative control and availing Hotel / Mess facility has proceeded on leave and payment shall be released in favour of the hoteliers on your risk and responsibility. The information may please be ensured to be sent to this office through a special messenger under proper acknowledgement.
The matter may kindly be treated as most urgent.
No. DDES/Pvt.hotel/2021/2001-03
Dated. 03/11/2021
DIPK-11883/21
sd/-
Deputy Director Estates
Srinagar, Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Deputy General Manager
JKPCC Baramulla Unit
Press Note
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)
TWO COVER SYSTEM(Above Rs.2.50 Crores)
NIT No: 44/e-tendering/DGM/BARAMULLA of 2021-22 dated: 29-10-2021

For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPCC Ltd., e-tenders (In two cover system) are invited on Item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT,CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work.	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs.)	Time of completion.	Class of Contractor.
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Balance work for all works and external sewerage system Including RCC Main hole, Utilization Tank and Soakage Pits at Government Medical College Baramulla.	720.40	10000	120-days	Registered "A" Class Govt. / CPWD/

Position of AAA/TS :- Accorded
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of critical dates, qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in under PWD/MDJKPCC/Kashmir Circle.
Position of funds:- Available

sd/-
Dy.Gen.Manager
J&KPCC Ltd Btd Unit.
DIPK-NB-4676/21

Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd
Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government
Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K
E:jkhpmtcld@gmail.com T: 0194-2311312 (S)
W: www.jkhpmmc.jk.gov.in F: 0194-2311420 (S)
T/F: 0191-2476079 (J)

Pre-Notice Inviting Tenders Conference
No.: JKHPMC/MD/21/2988 Dated: 02-11-2021
Reference: "General Instructions on Procurement and Project Management", issued vide No.F.1/1/2021-PPD, dated: 29-10-2021, by Procurement Policy Division, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India.
JKHPMC Ltd. has embarked on establishing a few post-harvestAgri/Horti infra-projects for the benefit of the connected stakeholders in the Agri/Horti eco-system of the UT of J&K. The related infrastructure likely to be established would largely entail Cold Stores, CA Stores, Integrated Pack Houses, Food Clusters and Common Incubation Centers.
At present JKHPMC is engaged in post-harvest management of horticultural produce of the UT of J&K and it is in the process of facilitating the fruit industry of J&K to transition to mechanized grading & scientific packing of fruits, substitution of conventional wooden cases by tray-packed telescopic cartons, manufacture of apple juice concentrate and development of a sound base for the export of apple & other fruit products.
In the same sequel, as part of "Pre-Tender Activity", a "Pre-Notice Inviting Tenders Conference" has been envisaged to seek inputs from the industry, wherein potential suppliers and/or contractors would be invited to share with the Corporation, latest Industry standards in this regard and the means to achieve them in a cost effective and time-bound manner.Interested Agencies may like to share their inputs to enable the Corporation to understand the current and relevant technological trends. The Agenda of the Conference would largely focus on Cold Chain Infra and Integrated Packaging of Fruits & Vegetables.
The tentative date of the proposed 'Conference' is 6th of November, 2021 at 11am, IST. The Conference would be in, in person mode at JKHPMC's Corporate Office, Rajbagh, Srinagar, J&K. However, for the sake of the interested Agencies who wish to join in virtual mode,VC option would also be facilitated.
sd/-
Managing Director
JKHPMC Ltd.
DIPK-NB-4711/21

NEET 2021

Ladakh Girl Among Five Muslim State Toppers All Over India

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A Ladakh girl is among five Muslim aspirants in as many states and union territories to have emerged as the state toppers in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test this year, the result of which was decalred on Monday evening.

Among the five, three students topped in the country while two students topped the NEET overseas. In total, the highly competitive exam is divided into 38 states, Union Territories, and overseas clusters.

Scoring 596 marks, Zarina Batool topped the exam in the Ladakh Union Territory, which was carved out from Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and its statehood.

Besides Batool, the only second female Muslim student to have emerged as a state topper is Farzina Yasmin Laskar who bagged 573 marks in the north eastern state of Mizoram.

Mohammad Zeya Belal scored a staggering 715, just five short of the total 720 marks evaluation in the test, and topped the Bihar state — one of India's most populous and poor. Belal also figured in the list of NEET 2021 Top 20.

Shafeek Ahamed AM scored 489 and topped the exam in Lakshadweep, incidentally a Muslim majority region in southernmost India.

In the overseas examination centres, Arsalan Mosaddiq secured 690 marks. It isn't immediately clear where Mosaddiq had appeared for the exam.

The NEET exams were conducted on September 12 with over 16 lakh students appearing at over 3,800 centres across 202 Indian cities.

Previous year, six Muslim students had topped the NEET state results. This year, the top three All India Ranks — scoring 720 out of 720 — were won by students from Telangana, Delhi (NCR), and Maharashtra.

J&K Gets First Gujar Judge In High Court

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Wednesday appointed two judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, including Mohammad Akram Choudhary, the first from the Gujar community to be appointed to the prestigious position.

According to a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, the President has also appointed Mohan Lal as a judge of the High Court.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri (I) Mohan Lal and (II) Mohd. Akram Choudhary, to be judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, in that order of seniority, with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices," read the notification.

In December 2020, the High Court's collegium had recommended the names of these two judicial officers. Subsequently, on September 01, this year, the Supreme Court Collegium had

approved these names for elevation as judges.

The collegium also reiterated the names of Moksha Kazmi (Khajuria) and Rahul Bharati as judges of the High Court. The collegium reiterated the recommendation after Centre returned Kazmi's file to it for reconsideration without stating any reasons. In March 2019, the J&K High Court collegium, led by then Chief Justice Gita Mittal, had recommended Kazmi's name for appointment as judge of the High Court.

Subsequently, the SC collegium approved the proposal for appointment of Kazmi as judge of J&K High Court and sent it to the Centre for appointment. The recommendation for appointment of another lawyer Sadiq Wasim Nargal is also pending with the Centre. Nargal's name was recommended by the J&K High Court collegium on August 24, 2017.

With the appointment of two judicial officers as judges, the strength of judges in the top court of J&K has gone upto 13, leaving four vacancies as the court has a sanctioned strength of 17 judges.

Last Date For ST Graduate Scholarship Extended

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In view of the bianual migration of the transhumant Gujar-Bakarwal population in Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has extended the last date of submission of applications for the Post-Matric/

Graduate Scholarship for the members of the Scheduled Tribes upto November 20, 2021.

The extension in applications for the year 2021 - 2022 through the National Scholarship Portal was granted in an order issued by the Directorate of Tribal Affairs on Wednesday.

Summoning Sajjad Kargili, Students Shows Extreme Authoritarianism: Kargil Democratic Alliance

KO NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: The Kargil Democratic Alliance has condemned the Ladakh Police over its summon to political activist Sajjad Kargili — for his tweet on the violence in Tripura — and some student leaders in Kargil as "extreme authoritarianism by the authorities."

The alliance, an amalgam of various political and religious parties based in Ladakh's Muslim majority Kargil district, in a statement issued on Wednesday, said the summon was tantamount to "suppression of voices against violence in any form."

Kargili's tweets on the tensions in Tripura, the alliance said, "was a condemnation of an act of violence, which was not in any way undemocratic or unconstitutional."

"This violates the basic constitutional rights of freedom



of expression and liberty of thoughts in the democratic set up of our nation," the alliance said. "The very reason that India is being referred to as a mature democracy, is that it values dissent."

"We strongly condemn the unfortunate action of the local police," the alliance said.

The police had on October 29 summoned Kargili to the Baroo police station in Kargil. According to the order, he was accused of "spreading hatred" and was directed to "produce

reliable, trustworthy and concrete evidence to show that such an incident has actually taken place [in Tripura]."

Several mosques and Muslim-owned properties had been destroyed by Hindu mobs in the north eastern state, according to reports in the international press. The violence and heightened tensions in the region has largely been overlooked by the national media.

"Further Kargil Democratic Alliance condemns the summon of student leaders by local police Kargil for supporting the peaceful march organized by the different students associations," they said. "This is not the way to deal with a democratic protest as peaceful demonstration is an elementary right in a democratic society. This shows extreme authoritarianism by the authorities."

Bypoll Results Show People Are Fed Up With BJP: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Wednesday claimed that the bypoll results in Himachal Pradesh and other states are a clear indication of change as people are fed up with the BJP-led government at the Centre.

The BJP and its allies won 14 assembly seats on Tuesday, while the Congress bagged eight out of 29 seats in the latest round of bypolls, with results mostly favouring ruling parties in the states except in Himachal Pradesh, where the BJP lost all three assembly seats

and the prestigious Mandi Lok Sabha constituency to the Congress, and Telangana.

Celebrating the victory of the party candidates, the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) said BJP national president J P Nadda has badly lost his home state.

"The people of Himachal Pradesh besides other states have given a clear indication of change as people are fed up with the performance of the BJP government at the Centre, the JKPCC said in a statement here.

It said the writing is on the wall as the BJP national president and the "double engine

government in Himachal Pradesh have been totally rejected".

"The winds of change are blowing in the country because of large scale unemployment, unprecedented price hike and the dictatorial policies of BJP. The BJP will face the same music in Jammu also as people of Jammu have seen the real face of BJP and its leaders," it said, asking the local cadre to be ready for the "big battle".

The JKPCC leaders congratulated the national leadership, including party president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi, for the victory.

Centre Rushes Team To J&K As Dengue Cases Soar

KO NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry has sent teams of experts to nine states and union territories including Jammu and Kashmir, which are reporting a high number of dengue cases, to support them in public health measures for control and management of the disease.

This is in accordance with the directions issued by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya during a review meeting on the dengue situation in Delhi on Monday, a health ministry statement said.

These nine states and union territories are Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

Mandaviya had directed the ministry to extend help to states and union territories that



have a high incidence of dengue cases, the statement said.

It said that 1,16,991 dengue cases have been reported by states and union territories across the country. The statement said that a significantly higher number of cases in some states have been reported in October as compared to the number of cases during the same period in the previous year.

Fifteen states and union territories are reporting their maximum cases in the current year. These states have contributed to 86 per cent of the country's total dengue

cases till October 31, it stated.

In view of this, central teams, comprising experts from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and Regional Offices, have been sent to the nine states and union territories that have reported more cases in October compared to September, the statement said.

The teams are tasked to assist and support these states and union territories to mount an effective public health response. They have been asked to report on the status of vector control, availability of kits and medicines, early detection, availability and use of insecticides, status of anti-larval and anti-adult vector control measures, among others, the statement said.

They will also brief state health authorities about their observations, it said. (PTI)

HATE SPEECH

CPI (M) Calls For Arrest Of BJP Leader For Hate Speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir unit of CPI(M) on Wednesday demanded the arrest of a senior BJP leader for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through his remarks.

The National Panthers Party (NPP) activists staged a demonstration against the BJP here, accusing it of promoting communal divide in the Union Territory ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

Police have already booked senior BJP leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa after his video surfaced online purportedly showing him making "disparaging" comments over the incidents of celebration of Pakistan's win over India in the T20 world cup cricket match last month.

J&K BJP Unit has already served him a show cause notice for his hate promoting remarks and also relieved him of all his posts, including the post of J&K Secretary.

In a statement, the CPI(M) Regional Secretary, Jammu on Wednesday asked the government why it was not taking action against Randhawa under stringent laws for his hate speech and call for violence against Kashmiris?

Even after exhorting his supporters to beat up Kashmiris and skin them alive which is an open call to violence, he has not been even arrested so far while some students who had reportedly cheered for Pakistan over cricket match victory have been charged with sedition and put behind

bars, the statement said.

Demanding his arrest, the CPI(M) said it is imperative upon the authorities to take action against Randhawa as per the law so that such incidents of spreading hatred can be stopped.

Earlier in the day, activists of NPP led by their chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh staged a demonstration against BJP outside Press Club here, accusing the party of engineering communal divide in J&K ahead of elections and promoting hatred on the basis of caste and religion.

The protestors raised slogans in support of their demand for appropriate punitive action against all those who were trying to polarise the society on communal lines to subserve their vested political interests and other nefarious designs.

Dubbing the statement of Randhawa against a particular community as an absurd act of histrionics, the NPP chairman said BJP owed an explanation to the entire citizenry for such divisive and profane remarks made by its senior leader.

Singh said anyone promoting communal hatred should be tried for conspiracy to destabilise the nation and vitiate peace besides offences relating to restoration of public order.

But since it was a part of BJP's machiavellian designs and a political strategy, it was being downplayed and trivialised by making causal statements of removal of BJP leader from party positions merely to buy time and allow the tensions to subside, he alleged.

974 Kanals Of Land Identified For New Airport Terminal At Jammu

KO NEWS SERVICE

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will soon hand over 122 acres of land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to build a state-of-the-art 25,000 square metre new terminal building at the airport here, officials said.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langer informed about the development during a meeting to review the progress on demarcation of land for the new terminal, they said. The 122 acres or 974 kanal of land has already been identified, the officials said, adding that it will soon be handed over to the AAI to build the terminal.

The runway at the Jammu airport has been expanded and the 30 percent load penalty has been removed. It will bring huge relief to airlines and passengers, the officials said.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed the animal husbandry department to immediately shift its animals and its office buildings to other locations

as over 100 acres of its land has been identified for the expansion of the Jammu airport, they said.



The Jammu Deputy Commissioner has been asked to demarcate the land and handover the same to airport authorities so that work can begin. The DC informed that land at Nagrota has already been allotted to the animal husbandry department for relocation of offices and poultry.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the alignment of the Delhi-Katra expressway stretch from Satwari to Fourth Bridge. The expressway will be constructed from Delhi to Katra via Kunjwani and Satwari Chowk to Bhagwati Nagar Fourth Bridge to link it with the Jammu Akhnour road project, they said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER.

e-NIT No.- ED-III / 56 of 2021-22

Dated:- 02-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for "Creation of 100 KVA Sub Station along with HT/LT network for the inhabitants of Syed Colony, Palpora Srinagar pertaining to ESD Nawakadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)" as details below.:

Name of the work.	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Status of funds
Creation of 100 KVA Sub Station along with HT/LT network for the inhabitants of Syed Colony, Palpora Srinagar pertaining to ESD Nawakadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)	4.29	Rs. 500/-	15 days	Authorized under Capex Budget

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 02-11-2021; 02:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	02-11-2021; 02:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	20-11-2021; 02:00PM
D	Clarification start date	03-11-2021; 10:00 AM
E	Clarification End date	20-11-2021; 02:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05-11-2021; 10:00AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	20-11-2021; 04:00PM.
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	22-11-2021; 02:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only).

No.- ED-III/TS/
Dated:-02-11-2021
DIPK-NB-4716/21

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 3rd



A YOUNG GIRL HARVESTING saffron from her field in Pampore town of south Kashmir.

Abid Bhat/KO

COVID-19 Vaccination Drive Needs To Be Taken Door-To-Door Now: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the COVID-19 vaccination drive needs to be taken door-to-door now and stressed the importance of completing the inoculation by taking the second dose.

Cautioning against any laxity after surpassing the milestone of 1 billion vaccine doses, Modi said "a new crisis can come" and quoted a saying to assert that one should not underestimate "diseases and enemies as they should be fought till the very end".

He called for equal attention to taking the second dose of the Covid vaccine, noting that whenever the cases of infection start decreasing, the feeling of urgency among people decreases.

Modi made the remarks as he interacted with district magistrates of over 40 districts spread across Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and other states with districts having low vaccination coverage.

Talking about the issue of rumours and misunderstandings about Covid vaccination, he said awareness is the only solution for this and asked the state officials to take help from religious leaders in this regard.

The prime minister noted that religious leaders are very enthusiastic about the vaccination campaign.

Recalling his meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican a few days ago, he called for a special emphasis on taking the message

of local religious leaders on vaccines to the public.

"Make short videos of them (local leaders) of 2-3 minutes and make their videos popular, make them reach every house," Modi said.

Speaking to the officials, he urged them to change gears from making arrangements earlier for taking people to the vaccination centres and getting them safely vaccinated to now administering vaccines door-to-door.

Modi urged the health workers to reach every house with the passion of 'har ghar tika, ghar-ghar tika' (vaccine at every doorstep).

He also urged the officials to work with the spirit of 'har ghar dastak' (knocking on every door) to ensure full vaccination of both doses.

"Now we are preparing to take the vaccination campaign to each household. With the mantra of 'har ghar dastak', every household lacking the security net of a double dose of vaccine will be approached," he said.

The prime minister cautioned that while reaching out to every house, equal attention needs to be paid to the second dose along with the first dose of the vaccine.

"You will have to contact those people who have not taken the second dose despite the stipulated time on a priority basis...ignoring this has created problems for many countries in the world," he said.

He said Diwali is being celebrated after the important milestone of administering 1 billion

doses and people should move forward with the resolve that they would celebrate Christmas after achieving new goals.

Immediately after returning from his visit to Italy and Glasgow to attend the G20 and COP 26 meetings, the prime minister held the review meeting which included officials of districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of Covid vaccine.

During the meeting, the district magistrates gave an account of the issues and challenges being faced in their districts, which has resulted in low vaccination coverage, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

They highlighted issues like rumours resulting in vaccine hesitancy, difficult terrain, and challenges created due to prevailing weather conditions in recent months, it said.

The officials also presented an account of the steps that have been taken by them till now to overcome these challenges and also shared good practises adopted by them which has led to increase in coverage.

During the interaction, the prime minister also discussed the issue of vaccine hesitancy and the local factors behind it in detail.

He discussed a wide array of ideas that can be implemented for ensuring 100 per cent vaccination coverage in these districts.

Modi spoke about maximising community engagement through religious and community leaders, the statement said.

He exhorted all officials to ensure that the country widens its vaccination coverage by the end of the year and enters the new year with renewed self belief and confidence.

At the meeting, the Union Health Secretary gave an overview of the vaccination coverage in the country and also an account of balance vaccine dose availability in the states.

The official also talked about special vaccination campaigns being run in the states to further improve vaccination coverage.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister thanked the present chief ministers and said that their attention will encourage the district to work with more determination.

Modi said in this biggest pandemic of the century, the country faced many challenges, but added that "one special thing in the country's fight against Corona was that we found new solutions and tried innovative methods".

He urged the administrators to work more on new innovative ways to increase vaccination in their districts.

Modi noted that even the better performing districts had similar challenges but they were met with determination and innovation.

He asked the officials to develop micro strategies, keeping in mind the experience so far to go for saturation of vaccination by addressing the gaps at the local level.

Modi asked the district officials to make different strategies for each village, each town in the

districts, if need be.

"We all have many months of experience related to vaccination. We have learned a lot and even our Asha workers have also learned how to fight with an unknown enemy. Now you have to move ahead while making micro-strategy.

He suggested this can be done by forming a team of 20-25 people depending on the region. Modi also suggested trying to have a healthy competition in the teams that have been formed.

Exhorting the officials to prepare region-wise timetables for local goals, the prime minister said, "You will have to do your best to take your districts nearer the national average."

Modi also asked officials to take the help of NCC and NSS volunteers.

The prime minister suggested to the officials that they could take the help of women workers in the government, and women police personnel in the vaccination drive and sometimes take them along for this work for 5-7 days.

He emphasised that under the 'Free Vaccine for all' campaign, India created a record of administering about 2.5 crore vaccine doses in a day, and said this feat bears testimony to India's capabilities.

He asked the district officials to learn from good practices of their colleagues in better performing districts and emphasised approaches suitable for the local needs and the environment should be adopted.

Dalit Man Beaten Up By Wife's Brother Reportedly For Not Converting To Christianity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A man belonging to Dalit community has been admitted to the Government Medical College hospital here with serious injuries after he was allegedly beaten up by his wife's brother, who is a doctor, for reportedly refusing his demand for converting to their religion -- Christianity -- in this south Kerala district, police said on Wednesday.

Police said the incident occurred on October 31, two days after the woman left her home and married her lover against the wishes of her family.

According to the husband's mother, the police did not act on their complaint.

The allegation has been denied by the police which said that an FIR, under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, was lodged the same day the complaint was received.

The incident came to light after the TV channels telecast the CCTV visuals of the violent assault on the man by his wife's brother after allegedly inviting them to his residence in Chirayinkeezhu to persuade the man to change his religion.

Police said an investigation has been launched to nab the accused who is absconding following the incident.

According to an official of Chirayinkeezhu Police Station -- where the complaint was lodged -- initial probe has revealed that someone from

the husband's side allegedly spoke inappropriately to the wife's mother, while at her residence, which provoked the incident.

The police said it is the version of the couple and the husband's family that he was beaten up for not converting to Christianity.

The woman's brother, a doctor who runs a hospital in Ernakulam, is on the run and his mobile usage has been detected in Tamil Nadu, police said.

Narrating the chain of events leading up to the incident, police said that the couple got married on October 29 at a temple and following that the woman's father lodged a complaint that his daughter was missing.

Subsequently, when the couple came to the police station, the father asked the daughter to come back with him and promised to get them married properly later, the official said and added that she, however, left with her husband.

Next day, the woman's father and brother met her husband's family and they also went to a church to discuss holding a wedding there.

Later the same day, they also went to the woman's home to meet her mother and while there, someone from the husband's side allegedly spoke inappropriately to the woman's mother leading to things getting heated up and her brother beating up her husband, the official said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Pak Denies Use

The passengers will also have to spend more money as the journey is going to be more expensive, media reports said.

ANI quoting an unnamed government source reported that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of External Affairs, and the Home Ministry were looking into the matter.

Modi Used Pakistan Airspace

Interestingly Pakistan had allowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's VIP flight to use its airspace when he recently flew to Europe for the G20 and the COP26 summits.

Modi's flight was also allowed access when he flew to the US in September.

Earlier this year, Pakistan PM Imran Khan's flight was allowed to use the Indian airspace for his Sri Lanka visit.

Reacting to Pakistan's action, former J&K chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted "very unfortunate, Pakistan did the same thing with the Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-2010. I had hoped that @GoFirstairways being permitted to overfly Pak airspace was indicative of a thaw in relations but alas that wasn't to be."

Blaming the Centre, PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted "puzzling that GoI didn't even bother securing permission from Pakistan to use its airspace for international flights from Srinagar. Only PR extravaganzas without any groundwork."

Bus Crash Kills 22

women and children, they said.

Dawn newspaper reported that a roadside vendor nearby saw the accident and informed a prayer leader of the local village mosque over telephone about it.

The prayer leader then made announcements on the loudspeaker of the mosque, asking the villagers to rush to the accident site to aid in the rescue.

PcK is a mountainous region with treacherous roads. The carelessness of drivers and faulty vehicles combined with the road situation cause frequent accidents.

Four students and as many passengers were killed and 32 others injured in two road accidents in PcK's Poonch and Neelum districts last month.

PM May Celebrate

2014. After the abrogation of Article 370, Modi had visited Rajouri border in Jammu region in October 2019 and celebrated Diwali with soldiers.

Modi's visit comes at a time when India and Pakistan are holding a ceasefire along the LoC. The armies of both nuclear-enabled neighbours on February 25, 2021 announced to work according to the 2003 ceasefire agreement.

While the LoC has been silent for the past eight months, the army lost 11 of its men in the line of duty in Rajouri and Poonch districts last month.

Centre Flags

Ahuja also stressed on strict enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour, especially during festivities.

Previously on October 30, Ahuja had written to West Bengal and Assam, expressing concerns over the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the states.

As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, Ahuja stated that the union territory has shown an approximately 61 per cent increase in weekly new cases 1,354 the week of October 25-31 as against 843 cases in the week of October

18-24.

Although the weekly positivity is less than one per cent, there has been a 67 per cent increase in positivity since the last two weeks from 0.3 per cent in the week of October 18-24 to 0.5 per cent in the week of October 25-31.

Ahuja said the UT has also witnessed a decline in tests conducted and underlined that because of the rising positivity, it needed to conduct enhanced testing.

"One district of the state Kathua has been identified as a district of concern due to high quantum of cases and positivity over 2.5 per cent. The district had high quantum of cases in the week ending October 31.

"Kathua has reported a positivity rate of more than five per cent in the week ending October 31 i.e., 8.13 per cent along with an increasing trend in the weekly positivity rate over a period of last three weeks," the letter stated.

"It has been observed that COVID-19 cases surge exponentially where basic public health strategy (Testing, Tracking, Treatment, COVID appropriate behaviour and Vaccination) is not followed rigorously," Ahuja wrote.

The officer also stressed on proper implementation of containment zones, increased focus on house-to-house search for active cases within these zones, strict and daily monitoring of cases under home isolation and their referral to hospitals, and strengthening contact-tracing of positive people and review of containment zones.

Besides, there should be a detailed district-wise and facility-wise analysis of deaths including a review of fatalities that happen within 24 and 72 hours of hospitalisation to resolve problems related with late hospital admission and the need for monitoring treatment practices, the letter stated.

It also underlined the importance of strict adherence to National Treatment Protocols, augmenting ICU, oxygen beds and ventilator capacity, and ramping up testing figures, while maintaining the share of RT-PCR tests, besides aiming for 100 per cent first vaccine dose coverage of the eligible population and increasing the pace of the second dose.

As far as super spreader events and places are concerned, there should be strict surveillance and monitoring as per SOPs of the ministry and testing as per ICMR guidelines, besides, ensuring COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, the letter added.

It emphasised on routine submission of RT-PCR positive samples from international travellers as well as those from the community for genomic analysis at the designated INSACoG network laboratory as per laid down protocols.

Ahuja also sent separate letters to the Himachal Pradesh health secretary, Andhra Pradesh principal secretary of health on the Covid situation.

In her letter to Himachal Pradesh, Ahuja pointed that there has been a nearly 22 per cent increase in weekly new cases since last week 1,468 infections in the week of October 26-November 1, as against 1,201 in the week of October 19-25 and that there are early signs of increase in positivity since the past four weeks 2.7 per cent in the week of October 4-10 to 3.3 per cent in the week of October 25-31.

"Three districts of the state Kangra, Bilaspur and Shimla have been identified as districts of concern due to high quantum of cases and positivity more than 2.5 per cent," the letter read.

"It is reassuring to note that the state has witnessed a gradual increase in the tests conducted from 38,726 in the week of October 4-10 to 44,549 in the week of October 25-31. Although because of the rising positivity, the

state needs to conduct enhanced testing while maintaining the required RT-PCR share as it will aid in early identification of infection in the state," Ahuja said.

Andhra Pradesh, she pointed out, has shown a high quantum of weekly new cases over the past four weeks, and although the weekly positivity is less than 2.5 per cent, it has stayed stagnant for the past two weeks.

The state has also witnessed a decline in tests conducted from 2,82,959 in the week of October 04-10 to 2,41,838 in the week of October 25-31, she said.

"East Godavari district has been identified as a district of concern due to high quantum of cases and positivity over 2.5 per cent. The district had a high quantum of cases in the week ending October 31," the officer highlighted.

J&K Logs 99

taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 332556.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 48 cases, Ganderbal 12, Baramulla 11, Kupwara 4, Budgam 3, Bandipora 2 and Anantnag 1 new case of virus. No cases were reported from the three south Kashmir districts of Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of nine cases, Doda 4, Ramban and Rajouri two each and Reasi one new case of virus. Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar and Poonch registered no fresh cases.

"Moreover, 69 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, seven from Jammu Division and 62 from Kashmir," they said.

Meanwhile, the death toll due to Covid-19 in J&K remained 4438--2176 in Jammu and 2262 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported on Wednesday.

Dengue Cases

the Union Territory with Jammu (639 cases), Kathua (172) and Samba (87) districts in Jammu Division accounting for majority of the cases till Tuesday, the officials said.

"The office of the State Malariologist in Jammu has scaled up preventive activities such as vector-control activities (bio-larvicide fish, spraying and fogging) and information education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) activities," an official spokesman said.

On-the-spot visit was conducted to the areas having a high number of reported cases. Radio talks to increase awareness among the masses regarding preventive measures have been aired periodically by senior officers of the department, the spokesman said.

In collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), he said, thermal fogging has been conducted to kill adult mosquitoes in Jammu urban areas.

Similar activities were carried out in Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said 10 sentinel surveillance hospitals with diagnostic facilities are functional to treat dengue patients.

"Keeping in view the upsurge of cases, 155 beds have been dedicated for dengue patients at Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu and all district hospitals and new GMCs in Doda, Kathua and Rajouri," the spokesman said.

Widespread Rain

hilly roads as well as possibility of dip in day temperature.

"Moderate rainfall activity is most likely over Pir Panjal range of Jammu, mainly the

Bhaderwah- Banihal axis during the given period," he added.

Meanwhile, night temperature fell further across Kashmir Valley even as sub-zero conditions prevailed in Pahalgam and Gulmarg, officials said.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 2.0 degree Celsius against 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 1.6 degree Celsius against the previous night's 1.9 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.0 degree Celsius against minus 1.0 degree Celsius on previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 1.2 degree Celsius against 2.2 degree Celsius on previous night, the official said. Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 1.2 degree Celsius against 1.9 degree Celsius on the previous night.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 1.6 degree Celsius against 2.0 degree Celsius on previous night, the official added.

Army Chief Visits

Jammu region wherein he will be given an update on security situation & operational preparedness. "COAS will visit forward areas & interact with troops and commanders on ground," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted.

The ADGPI said the chief of Army staff carried out an aerial reconnaissance of forward areas in the Jammu region and was also briefed by the commanders on ground on the prevailing security situation along the LoC.

Earlier, the Army chief conducted a two-day tour of the Jammu region on October 18 and 19, and reviewed the ground situation and the ongoing counter-infiltration operations.

He had also visited the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where a massive operation to track down militants hiding in the forest areas of Mendhar, Surankote and Thanamandi has been going on since October 11.

The operation started in Surankote forest on October 11, following the killing of five soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), and was subsequently extended to Mendhar to neutralise the fleeing militants where another encounter took place on October 14, leaving four soldiers, including another JCO, killed.

Pakistani militant Zia Mustafa, who was shifted from Kot Bhalwal Central Jail Jammu to Mendhar on police remand for questioning in connection with the operation, was killed when the security forces accompanying him to identify a hideout came under fire from hiding militants on October 24.

Police have arrested an alleged militant associate allegedly having links with Mustafa and the militant handlers across the border, while over a dozen others are also being questioned in connection with providing logistic support to the militants in the forest belt.

Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine militants in separate encounters.

Cheering For Contenders

"Court has time and again said that chanting a slogan like these is not a crime," advocate Habeel told Kashmir Observer.

When asked if there was a judgment already, why didn't the judge in Uttar Pradesh refuse police remand to students, the young advocate

Rahul Dravid Named Head Coach Of Team India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former captain Rahul Dravid was on Wednesday appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team by the BCCI, a development that was expected after the batting great was convinced by the board's top brass.

Dravid, who was working as the head of National Cricket Academy, has been appointed for a period of two years till the 2023 50-over World Cup in India.

The 47-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest to have played for India, was the only choice for BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, who had called him in Dubai and convinced him to apply for the position.

Once Dravid had applied, the BCCI didn't even need to look at any other application.

"The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ms Sulakshana Naik and Mr RP Singh on Wednesday unanimously appointed Mr Rahul Dravid as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men). The former India captain will take charge from the upcoming home series against



New Zealand," the BCCI stated in a media release.

The BCCI had invited applications for the said position on October 26 to appoint incumbent Ravi Shastri's successor, whose term gets over after the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup.

"It is an absolute honour to be appointed as the new head coach of the Indian cricket team and I am really looking forward to this role," Dravid said.

He also thanked his predecessor Shastri for his role in shaping the current Indian team.

"Under Mr Shastri, the team has done very well, and I hope to work with the team to take this forward."

Babar Azam Regains No.1 Spot In ICC T20 Rankings

Rohit Sharma in 23rd, Bumrah up 10 places

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has reclaimed the top spot in the latest ICC Men's T20 International (T20I) Batting Rankings.

India's senior opener Rohit Sharma moved a place up to 23rd in the batting chart while pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah jumped 10 places to be joint 24th in the ICC Men's T20 rankings issued on Wednesday.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam's two successive half-centuries in the T20 World Cup have helped him overtake England's Dawid Malan and grab the No. 1 position for batsmen in the latest chart.

Babar, who scored 51 against Afghanistan and 70 against Namibia to lead the 2009 champions into the semifinals in the ongoing T20 World Cup in the UAE, is at the top for the sixth time in his career. The 27-year-old had first attained top position in January 28, 2018. He is presently also ranked No. 1 in ODIs.

Babar's tally of 834 rating points keeps him 36 points ahead of Malan but Babar's career-best remains 896 rating points that he achieved after scoring 65 against England at Cardiff on May 5, 2019. Malan



had been at the top since November 29 last year.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has topped the bowling chart for the first time in his career after two successive three-wicket hauls against South Africa and England. He replaced South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi, who was at the top since April 10 this year.

The top four bowlers in the rankings are all wrist spinners, with England's Adil Rashid overtaking Afghanistan's Rashid Khan to take third place with a career-best 730 rating points. A fast bowler who has made rapid rise is South Africa's Anrich Nortje, who has gained 18 slots to reach seventh position.

At the top of the all-rounders' table, Mohammad Nabi has caught up with Shakib Al Hasan on 271 rating points. Hasaranga was fourth in this list.

Ronaldo Double Earns United Late Point At Atalanta

AGENCIES

BERGAMO: Cristiano Ronaldo scored two, including a stoppage-time equaliser, as Manchester United came from behind twice to earn a 2-2 draw away to Atalanta in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old Ronaldo has now scored five goals in this Champions League campaign and has nine in 11 outings for the club this season. His outstanding finishing secured a vital point for United, who were minutes away from slipping to third in the group but instead find themselves top on seven points.

Atalanta took a 12th-minute lead when burly striker Duvan Zapata, a thorn in United's side all through the match, cut in from the left and fed Josip Ilicic and the Slovenian's low drive crept under the body of United keeper David De Gea.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side had found a system and style that looked effective in their 3-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Saturday but their adoption of three central defenders had to be abandoned in the 38th minute when French centre back Raphael Varane suffered an injury and had to be replaced.

With Eric Bailly starting for the injured Victor Lindelof, United had no choice but to revert to an orthodox four-man defence and they once



again struggled in that formation. But just before the break, United produced a superbly worked goal with a flowing passing move ending with a clever back-heel from Bruno Fernandes to Ronaldo, who buried the chance.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta were well on top after the break and they restored their advantage in the 56th minute when Zapata broke past Harry Maguire, burst into the box and beat De Gea. The linesman's flag was raised for offside but after a lengthy VAR review the decision was over-turned and the Italian side had the lead. United desperately searched for an equaliser but they were ragged and lacked any sort of fluency in midfield or attack or solidity at the back. But right at the death, Ronaldo pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the box and with his trademark technique and precision blasted home a low volley to earn a precious point.



In Premier League, ARCO FC & AG's XI Register Wins

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Premier Division League 2021, two matches were played on Wednesday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

In the first match, ARCO FC took on Sports Council Football Academy (SCFA) XI. ARCO, who were strong favourites against the young JKSC Academy team, scored early on in the 12th minute. Ishfaq Teli seized on the opportunity to give his team the lead.

SCFA played well and created some chances in both halves of the match. However, ARCO defended astutely and retained possession of the ball regularly. The match ended 1-0 in favour of ARCO FC and the team's Kamran was awarded man of the match.

The second PDL match of the day was played between the two departmental teams of J&K Accountant General's (AG's) XI and J&K Forest XI.

The AG's XI proved its class once again as they thumped Forest XI for five goals in the match. Shahnawaz Bashir opened the flood gates by scoring the first goal for AG's XI in the 12th minute. Amanjot scored the team's second in 42nd minute. At half-time the score read 2-0.

Shahnawaz then scored two



more goals in second half minutes of 45 and 71, completing his hat trick in the process. Ifham scored the fifth goal for AG's XI in the 77th minute.

Naseer Ahmad of J&K Forest XI made it 5-1 before the referee blew the final whistle. The match ended AG's XI 5 - J&K Forest 1. Shahnawaz Bashir was

awarded man of the match for his brilliant performance.

Meanwhile, in the Pele of Kashmir KO tournament, Old City FC defeated Court Road FC 1-0 in the knockout rounds on Tuesday. The Pele of Kashmir tournament is being organised by Player Welfare Forum Idgah in collaboration with JKFA.

8-Year-Old Practices 6 Hours Daily To Bowl Yorkers

Inspired by J&K players in IPL, trains under Umar Nazir

AGENCIES

ANANTNAG: With J&K players being selected for Indian Premier League (IPL) and national team level for the past few years, there is a cricket fervour among the youth in J&K who want to make their future in sports as well.

Adnan Bashir Dar (8), a 4th class student, and resident of Halmulla in Sangam area of Anantnag district besides spending time on his studies is focused to give around six hours daily for bowling practice. Adnan revealed that he wants to become an international bowler.

Adnan said that he has passion towards sports and from the last two years he is continuously



spending six hours practising.

Adnan said that his idol is Jasprit Bumrah and wants to bowl yorkers with high speed at international level.

His father, Bashir Ahmad Dar,

said that contrary to other parents who want their children to become doctors and engineers, he wants to make his son a cricketer. "My son is good at studies as well and I want him to continue studies but make a future in sports," he said.

Dar said that he has been taking him to the sports academy in Pulwama on a daily basis for about six hours where Ranji player Umar Nazir has been training him since last one year.

"I have to take him for practice on a daily basis about 30 kms to Pulwama, and wait there for hours and later bring him back," he said.

"If we want to make our society drug free then we must engage our youth in sports activities," Dar added. (KNO)

India Beat Afghanistan By 66 Runs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI: India beat Afghanistan by 66 runs in their Super 12 match of T20 World Cup here on Wednesday to keep their slim chance of reaching the semi-finals alive.

Openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul hit half-centuries to help India post 210 for 2 after being invited to bat and then restricted Afghanistan to 144 for 7 in their 20 overs.

Mohammed Shami took three wickets while Ravichandran Ashwin got two. Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja grabbed one wicket each.

For Afghanistan, Karim Janat

top-scored with 42 not out while Mohammad Nabi contributed 35.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma brought his carefree elegance to the table while KL Rahul was classy as ever in India's imposing total of 210 for 2 against Afghanistan in their must-win Super 12 game of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

While they would still have to bear the criticism of having flattered to deceive against Pakistan and New Zealand, Rohit (74 off 47 balls) and KL Rahul (69 off 48 balls) made a mockery of Afghanistan's inexperienced attack, putting up a record 140 runs for the opening stand.

6 Pakistan Women Cricketers Test COVID-19 Positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI: Three more Pakistani women cricketers tested positive for COVID-19 to take the total count to six as country's cricket board is in a limbo to assemble a proper squad ahead of its home series against West Indies.

Earlier, three other players also had tested positive for Covid and are already in quarantine from the rest of the squad in the camp set up in Karachi.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said that currently 12 out of the 18 players announced for the series are training at the National stadium where the first ODI is slated on November 8.

The West Indies women's team led by Stephanie Taylor have already reached Karachi and are presently undergoing a three-day isolation at the team hotel and they will start training from Friday.

The official said the PCB was carrying out PCR tests on a daily basis in the Pakistan women's camp so the six positive cases had come as a surprise.

"All possible bio-secure bub-

ble regulations are being implemented and enforced but in the existing circumstances cricket has learnt to co-exist with Covid-19," he said.

Pakistan and West Indies will play three ODIs in Karachi and these matches will serve as an opportunity for both teams to get the desired competitive match practice ahead of the ICC World Cup Qualifier.

Pakistan's seasoned all-rounder, Nida Dar said she was looking forward to the opportunity of playing international cricket in times of pandemic.

"We are getting some great practice ahead of the three ODIs against the West Indies. The pitches here are great for cricket and the weather is also great for the game. This series is very important for us to prepare for the World Cup Qualifier."

Interestingly, West Indies women have only once before played at the National stadium in Karachi, that too way back in 2006.

Nida will also be playing her first ever International match at the NSK.



T20 World Cup

Guptill's 93 Helps New Zealand To A 16-run Win Over Scotland



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Opener Martin Guptill's blistering 56-ball 93, which was built around monstrous sixes and authoritative batting, set up a 16-run win for New Zealand over a spirited Scotland in the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

In all, Guptill smashed seven sixes and six fours as New Zealand posted 172 for five in the Group 2 Super 12 match. Scotland replied with 156 for five in their allotted 20 overs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Michael Leask blazed away to an unbeaten 42 off 20 balls, but his effort was not enough for the Scots.

One of New Zealand's prolific run-scorers over many years, Guptill added 105 runs for the fourth wicket with Glenn Phillips (33) to put his team in a commanding position.

Kiwis collected a productive

52 runs during power play, with 16 of them coming in the sixth over.

With that big hit, Guptill became only the second batter after Indian captain Virat Kohli to cross 3000 runs in T20 Internationals.

Skipper Kyle Coetzer (17) started the proceedings for Scotland in earnest, hitting New Zealand's lead pacer Trent Boult for fours on either side of the wicket.

Munsey smashed Ish Sodhi for two sixes but in trying to hit one too many, he got out soon thanks to a fine running catch by a sliding Southee, who came back to knock Cross' stumps to leave Scotland at 76 for three as the 12th over approached.

From there, the Scotland innings could not gather the momentum required to mount a challenge to their fancied opponents, despite Michael Leask's lusty hits.

Bayern, Juventus Through To Champions League Knockout Rounds

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Robert Lewandowski missed a penalty on Tuesday but still got a hat trick.

The Poland star dominated on his 100th Champions League appearance to lead Bayern Munich into the last-16 after a 5-2 rout of Benfica.

Juventus also booked its place in the knockout rounds with a 4-2 win over Zenit St. Petersburg.

They're the first teams to progress this year with two games to spare from the group stage of Europe's premier football competition.

Barcelona had goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen to thank for securing a nervy 1-0 win at Dynamo Kiev. The 19-year-old Ansu Fati's 70th-minute goal means the struggling Spanish giant can secure its progress with a win at home over Ben-



fica in its next game.

Paulo Dybala scored twice, including a retaken penalty, as Juventus reached the last 16 with its win over Zenit St. Petersburg.

Dybala was given another opportunity from the penalty spot after he fired wide as visiting 'keeper Stanislav Kriznyuk had moved off his line. Dybala, who opened the scoring, made no mistake with his second chance before Federico Chiesa and Alvaro Morata sealed the

Italian giant's win.

Juventus has now won all four of its matches to lead the group by three points ahead of Chelsea.

Hakim Ziyech's goal was enough for defending champion Chelsea to win 1-0 at last-place Malmö.

Ziyech's goal early in the second half was enough for Chelsea to eliminate the Swedish champion and move closer to the knockout rounds, but the visitors missed the clinical finishing of the injured Romelu Lukaku. French champion Lille kept the group wide open with a 2-1 comeback behind win at Sevilla.

Lille's first win gives it five points after four games. It's two points behind group leader Salzburg, which lost 2-1 at Wolfsburg earlier. Wolfsburg also has five points, while Sevilla stayed on three points.

Vaccination: Modi Bats For Door-To-Door Approach, Enlisting Religious Leaders

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that the COVID-19 vaccination drive needed to be taken door to door and asked officials of districts having low inoculation rates to adopt innovative ways to boost the campaign.

Modi made the remarks at a meeting, held via videoconferencing, with district magistrates of over 40 districts having low vaccination coverage.

Pointing out that he recently met Pope Francis at the Vatican City, the prime minister said special emphasis was needed on taking the message of religious leaders spreading awareness and encouraging the vaccination drive to the people.

He urged the district officials to take the help of local religious leaders to spread aware-



ness about COVID-19 vaccines and fight rumours.

Modi stressed that there is a need to adopt innovative ways to increase vaccination in districts with low coverage.

"So far, you've been working to take people to vaccination centres, now it's time to reach every house and work with 'har ghar dastak' campaign," he said.

"Ensure that the first dose is given to unvaccinated people,

but also give equal attention to second dose," the prime minister told the officials.

The districts in focus at the meeting were those with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of vaccine.

The 40 districts are spread across Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya, among other states, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

Chief ministers of these states, including Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray and Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel, were present at the meeting.

Prime Minister Modi held the meeting immediately upon his return from abroad after attending the G20 and the COP26 meetings.

Winds Will Blow Against Bjp In 2022: Chidambaram After Bypoll Results

NEW DELHI: Buoyed by the by-poll results, Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Wednesday said that the electoral winds were now blowing against the BJP.

Taking to Twitter, he said: "Here is a thought provoking analysis of the results of by-elections in 30 Assembly constituencies, BJP won seven seats and its declared allies won eight seats."

"Congress won eight seats, Non-BJP parties won 7 seats of which only one seat was won by a crypto ally of the BJP, namely YSR Congress. The other six seats were won by parties opposed to the BJP."

"The honours are even today. Which way will the wind blow in 2022?"

Results of the bypolls to three Lok Sabha seats and 29 Assembly constituencies, announced on Tuesday, have been encouraging for the Congress in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh



and Karnataka where the party is now better placed than the BJP.

In the three Lok Sabha seats, the result shows that the BJP has won in Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh), Shiv Sena in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Congress in Mandi (Himachal Pradesh).

In Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Shiv Sena candidate and the widow of late Mohan Delkar, Kalavati Delkar won by more than 50,000 votes.

The Congress won all three Assembly constituencies of Arki, Fatehpur and Jubbal-Kot-

khali of Himachal Pradesh.

It has also won both the seats of Vallabh Nagar and Dhariyawad in Rajasthan.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress swept all four seats, while the BJP and allies have gained grounds in the northeast.

In three of the four Assembly constituencies in West Bengal, the security deposit of BJP candidates has been forfeited.

The security deposit of the BJP candidates in Gosaba, Khardha and Dinhat have been lost, raising a huge question mark on the party's performance.

The JD(U) has won in both the seats of Bihar-- Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur. The candidates of the ruling National People's Party (NPP) and ally United Democratic Party (UDP) were leading in the Mawryngkneng, Rajabala and Mawphlang Assembly seats in Meghalaya.

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